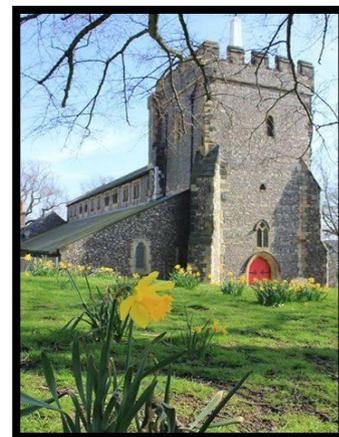


THE FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS BRIGHTON

Patrons: His Grace the Duke of Wellington
The Bishop of Chichester
President: Lady Bryson
Chairman: Cllr Bill Randall

Registered Charity No 1046054



NEWSLETTER 2 April 2015



Bill writes:

Greg and Stig: at work on the never-ending restoration

Greg Howarth and Stig Evans have been restoring St Nicholas', bit by bit, since 2005. At the moment, they are up on a scaffold restoring the elaborate Victorian mural on the West wall of the church. Damaged by rainwater, the wall was made watertight and left to dry for two years before Greg and Stig could start their painstaking task.

During the past ten years, their work has included the restoration of the East wall of the nave, the 15th century rood screen, the ceiling panels in the Lady Chapel, the chancel ceiling and, most recently, the beautiful triptych behind the altar.

In 2009 the church received a Sussex Heritage Award for their excellent work. Stig also works on the restoration of the Royal Pavilion and the city's art collection, but St Nick's has a special place in his heart. 'It is good and very rewarding to have done all this work

on the church,' says Stig.

Greg is from Canada, where he learned his conservation skills. "I love the church, and the people and the parish," he says, "and I have become a Christian since I became involved with them. Working here changed my life."



The lion's share of the conservation and restoration work is paid for by the Friends of St Nicholas. They are currently raising money to pay back a £12,000 interest-free loan, which helped pay for the recently completed tower restoration.



Looking after the fabric of Brighton's 900-year-old mother church is a never-ending and expensive task, and we have just launched a programme of urgent repair work. Many thanks to all our Friends who support the work. Do you know somebody who might become a Friend? If so, please sign them up. If each Friend could recruit just one new member, it would make a huge difference to our work.

The new membership rates are:

Annual: £20 individual (£30 joint)

Five year: £50 individual (£70 joint)

Lifetime: £100 individual (£140 joint)

Please contact Paula Nash, Secretary, paula_lloyd@btinternet.com

Please return your 'St Nicholas' to the Parish Office hopefully filled to the brim with coins!
Thanks so much.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Friends' fundraising events 2015

Saturday, 6th June, 2015 at 11.00am Friends AGM to be held in St Nicholas' Church, Brighton. Followed by refreshments.

Saturday, 5 September, 2015 Summer Party

Saturday 10th October 'Friends Supper Quiz Night' with a two-course meal at 7.30pm.

2015 Friends Annual Dinner on Saturday, 28th November, at 7.30pm. This candlelit, black-tie, culinary delight is an extremely popular event in the Friends' calendar. Book the date now.

December 10th at 7.00pm is the Friends' Concert of Carols by Candlelight when we are entertained by St Nicholas' Church Choir in the beautiful setting of the ancient parish church.

More details about these events will appear on the Friends' Page : www.stnicholasbrighton.org.uk



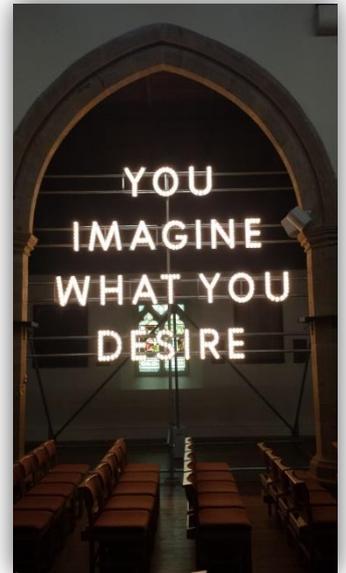
HOUSE Festival at St Nick's

During the Brighton Festival, St Nick's is hosting a major art installation by Tate Prize finalist Nathan Coley: "You imagine what you desire." It is part of his exhibition for HOUSE 2015, a visual arts festival, which runs alongside and in partnership with Brighton Festival in non-gallery spaces to compensate for

the absence of a major dedicated contemporary visual arts gallery in the city.

We are looking for volunteers to act as stewards at the church during the exhibition. The dates and times are: 2 – 24th May Wednesday-Sunday Noon till 5.30pm. If you would like to help, please contact joanne.morrell@ntlworld.com

The theme of HOUSE 2015 is *Edge and Shift*. Nathan is also creating "Portraits of Dissension" at Hove's Regency Town House, which looks at the history of buildings and events in Brighton. HOUSE also includes a pop-up cinema in The Old Wood Yard, 2 Clifton Street, and Outside In at Phoenix Gallery, which provides a platform for artists who have overcome barriers to the art world presented to them by their health, disability, social circumstance or isolation.



Event: Nathan In Conversation Nathan Coley in conversation with Louise Purbrick

St Nicholas Church, Church Street, Brighton, BN1 3LJ Tuesday 12 May, 7 - 8pm £6/£5

Tickets available from: www.housefestival.org/

Support the Friends: Support the church; Support the community

Restoring the church is not an end in itself. The oldest centre of worship in the city, St Nicholas' is also a community hub. During 2014/15, for example, more than 16 community groups used the church in any one month; between 55 and 60 young children fill the church at St Nicholas' Nippers on Tuesday mornings in term time and children up to the age of 11 attend the Wednesday Youth Clubs. On Friday evenings 'Faithbook' offers a mixture of socialising and exploring Christianity to young people up to the age of 18.

The church is filled with the sound of music each Wednesday at the lunchtime recitals, the annual Festival of Music, and each Sunday with the church choir and the youth choir.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to seeing you at St Nicholas'.

Bill

