

FRIENDS OF
ST MARY'S CHURCH

2020 PROGRAMME

INSPIRE

150

DICKENS



ST MARY'S CHURCH

JAZZ



PONDDAY



GUIDED
NATURE
WALK

THE THREE MUSKETEERS



WWW.STMARYSCHURCHHIGHAM.COM
EMAIL: FRIENDS@STMARYSCHURCHHIGHAM.COM
PHONE: 07813 934684



Churches
Conservation
Trust

Welcome to our new exciting programme of events for 2020 to be held at St Mary's Church. This pretty church which sits on the edge of the Higham marshes offers a lovely and unusual venue for our events.

In this programme you will find details of the interesting and varied programme we will be running during the Spring and Summer. All events – except the Spring Dance – are in St Mary's Church, Church Street, Higham, ME3 7LS.

The church is rarely used for services nowadays but as St Mary's is of historical importance and dates back to Roman and Saxon times, it is now looked after by the Churches Conservation Trust. But like all old things, time, weather (and wood chomping insects) have taken their toll on St Mary's and especially the spire. As you may be aware, the oak shingles have been falling off for a while, so the Friends of St Mary's have been working with the Churches Conservation Trust to help raise funding to repair the spire.

In the past our events have helped to raise £5250 towards the INSPIRE Higham. This Project aims to maintain and improve this ancient building to keep it open for everyone to visit and continue to act as a place to draw people together to enjoy the church and its surroundings.

The Friends of St Mary's would like to thank Higham Parish Council for their continued support to our work. In 2019 the Parish Council provided a grant towards publicity costs. This helped to promote our events to a wider audience and raise further funds for the INSPIRE Higham Project. In 2020 the Council will also support our major fund raising event - the Spring Dance on the 25th April to be held in the Memorial Hall in Higham (see programme for further details).

Thanks to Gad's Hill School for supporting the Friends of St Mary's by allowing their minibus to be used to transport people to the church.

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THE INSPIRE HIGHAM PROJECT

The ancient and delicate fourteenth century wooden belfry and spire structure of St Mary's Church, which is a grade 1 listed building, has significantly decayed due to water penetration and beetle infestation. The spire shingles have severely decayed and structural timbers have been damaged. Other elements of the roof and spire need replacing due to age. In addition, improved lighting is needed to support future events and activities.

It is estimated the project will cost around £200,000. The funds will be sought from various sources including the National Lottery Heritage Fund, local trusts and foundations, appeals and community fundraising. The project is in its early stages and is of course dependent on the success of funding bids.

Information on progress is available at: stmaryschurhigham.com



View from the Spire –

this will be an exciting new section of the website which will follow the progress of the

project, including updates on fund raising and images of the church and surrounding area as work is carried out.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Come along to our events – all profits will go towards The INSPIRE Higham Project
- Volunteer to help with our events
- Donate directly to the Friends of St Mary's – contact us via email friends@stmaryschurhigham.com or phone **07480 518493**
- Become a Friend of St Mary's – complete the form on the back of the programme

EVENT

POND DAY

SATURDAY 28 MARCH 11AM - 3.00PM

CALLING POND-LOVERS!!

Did you know there's a big pond near to St Mary's Church?

Come to our Pond-ilicious event (which is twinned with Waterweek in East Sussex which has been running since 2014)

TIMINGS FOR THE DAY:

11am	Meet at the church for a guided walk of a nearby pond - with Pete the Pond.
12-1.15pm	Talk in the church, with Pete and his pond menagerie.
1.45-3pm	Artists, Clare Whistler and Charlotte Still, who are passionate about water and ponds, will talk about their inspirational award-winning Waterweek project.

Dip in and out of any of the sessions or join us for the whole day. If you have your own pond, bring along some photos and any pond-making or pond-keeping tips to share.

Browse the stalls and meet the experts:

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- The Bumble Bee Conservation Trust
- Higham Village History Group

Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and home baked cakes to buy.
Free event - donations welcome!

All profits go to the INSPIRE Project
No need to book

For more information:
Email friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com or
Phone 07900 473043



HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP



www.waterweekeastsussex.wordpress.com

EVENT *To be held in Higham Memorial Hall*

SPRING DANCE

SATURDAY 25 APRIL AT 7:30PM

An evening of jazz, swing, jive, boogie, and rock & roll at Higham Memorial Hall (School Lane Higham ME3 7JL).

Come along to dance the night away, or sit and tap your feet, to the wonderful sound of the Dave Bowdler Quartet.

Tickets: £12.50

There will be a licensed bar for drinks and light snacks.

All profits go towards the INSPIRE Project - repairing the spire at St Mary's.

To Reserve Tickets:

Email friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com or phone **01634 712217**



WALK

GUIDED NATURE WALK

Higham Marshes

SUNDAY 31 MAY

MEET AT THE CHURCH FOR A 10AM START

Connect to nature with a guided ramble over the Higham marshes to see what flowers, insects, animals, and birds are making their homes on the marshland.

David Saunders from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) local Medway group will lead a 2 hour (max) circular walk out across the marshes and down to the River to see what marsh life can be found, and if fortune favours... you might even hear a nightingale sing!

After the walk, meet the local RSPB Warden to hear about work they are doing on the marshes.

Tea, coffee, cold drinks and cake will be available to buy in the Church.

Sensible walking shoes are essential as we will be walking over uneven ground and climbing over styles.

To reserve a place:

Email: friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com or phone: **07960 942044**

COST: £5



EVENT

DICKENS 150

SAT 27 JUNE - 7PM

A special evening to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of Charles Dickens. Dickens spent his last years living in Higham, where his daughter Kate was married in St Mary's Church in July 1860 to the brother of the famous author Wilkie Collins.

There will be performances from students from Gad's Hill School and local poet and performer James McKay.

There will be a licensed bar for drinks and light snacks.

Tickets: £5 each

To reserve:

Email friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com or phone **07480 518493**



HIGHAM CHORAL GROUP SUMMER CONCERT

**SAT 18 JULY
7.30PM**

Come along and enjoy the beautiful music of the Higham Choral Group which was founded in 1962, performing in local venues to raise money for charity.

For more details please go to: highamchoral.org.uk

THEATRE

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

FRIDAY 21 AUGUST - 7.30PM

When young D'Artagnan travels to Paris to join the king's musketeers he uncovers a plot to discredit Queen Anne in the eyes of King Louis XIII and the country. With Athos, Porthos and Aramis, D'Artagnan now must help to defeat the evil Cardinal Richelieu and Milady de Winter, but their quest will not be easy...

An action filled adventure brought to life in a lively staging of this much loved novel complete with unexpected plot twists, romance and of course epic fights.

TICKETS: £12.50.

CONCESSIONS UNDER 16s £5,
FAMILY TICKET FOR 4

(2 Adults 2 under 16s) £32

AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM:

thisismytheatre.com/tickets

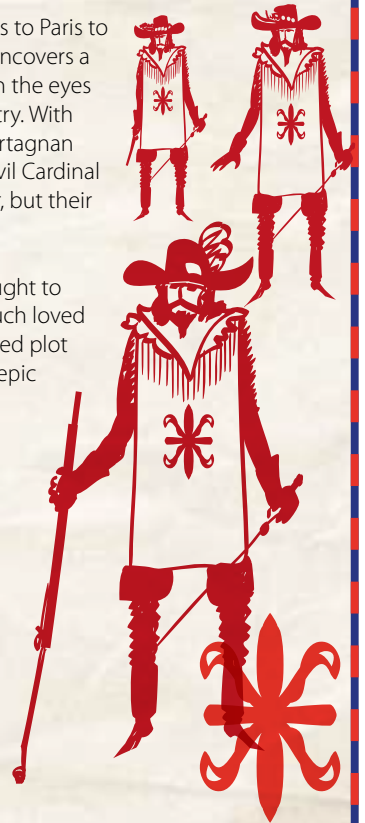
Email: friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com

stmaryschurchhigham.com

Phone: **07762 054688**

Soft Drinks and Home-Made

Cookies available to buy



EVENT

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER



As part of this National Programme the church will be open between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Free Historic Tours by members of the Higham Village History Group will run at 11am 12 noon 2pm and 3pm – no need to book just turn up.

All Donations will go to the INSPIRE Higham project.
Hot drinks and home-made cakes available to buy.

ENQUIRIES: Email: info@highamvillagehistory.org.uk
or phone **01634 718285**



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HIGHAM VILLAGE
HISTORY GROUP

HOW TO BECOME A FRIEND



Annual Membership is £6 per person – it's simple to join - just fill in the form on the back of this programme.

Then return the form with payment to the Membership Secretary: Irene Godfrey 29 Bull Lane Higham ME3 7LT

By completing the form, you agree that the Friends of St Mary's Church Higham may process your personal information for statistical purposes and to keep you informed about the church. You have the right to withdraw your consent and request that you are removed from our records.

A full version of our privacy statement can be found on our website www.stmaryschurchhigham.com
A paper copy is also on display in the church.

If you are interested in volunteering to help out at our events or with cleaning the church please contact us at:

Email friends@stmaryschurchhigham.com
Phone **07762 054688**



MEMBERSHIP FORM 2020

NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

EMAIL ADDRESS

MEMBERSHIP IS £6 PER PERSON
CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
THE FRIENDS OF ST MARYS CHURCH HIGHAM KENT
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM PLUS PAYMENT TO
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Irene Godfrey 29 Bull Lane Higham ME3 7LT

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