

The Organ

St Nicolas has a single manual pipe organ with mechanical action, built by Charles Martin of Oxford in 1883 and largely unchanged since then.

If you play the piano and have always secretly wanted to try the organ, please get in touch with the organist, Peter Stutfield, to arrange a visit. Or look out for our 'Open Organ Mornings' on Saturdays during the summer.

Weddings

If you are planning a wedding or wedding blessing at St Nicolas, we will be delighted to help you choose and organise the music for your ceremony.

Visit www.stnicolasforesthill.org for more information.

Concerts

St Nicolas has an excellent acoustic for small scale performances, with a subtle 'bloom' to the sound which gives great clarity and enables words to be easily heard.

On one Saturday or Sunday in June, July, August and September we serve Cream Teas in the church garden, followed by an early evening concert in the church. Core repertoire tends to be broadly classical with a focus on

vocal or chamber music, but we are open to more or less any style of music as long as it is suitable for the space.

During Cream Teas, we also provide a gazebo in the garden and invite local musicians to give more informal performances, as pictured below:



Our 'Far from Home' concerts on Remembrance Sunday evening, at which we raise money for war-related charities, are another regular event.

Details of past and future concerts can be found at www.stnicolasforesthill.org.

If you would like to receive regular updates on these and other musical events at St Nicolas, or if you have any questions, please contact Peter and Julia Stutfield.

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Music at St Nicolas, 2024



Music is very important to us at St Nicolas Church, not only as part of our worship, but as a way of enhancing our beautiful building.

We aim to share our love of music with everyone, regardless of whether they would normally consider attending our regular church services.

This leaflet provides some information about our musical activities and aspirations.

St Nicolas Choir

The St Nicolas Choir in its present format was established by Peter and Julia Stutfield in 2017. Peter is the Organist at St Nicolas and Julia directs the choir.

The choir's main purpose is to sing Choral Evensong on the 2nd Sunday of each month and to lead special services at other times of the year. Singers sign up for individual services and there is absolutely no pressure to do every single one.

We also like to have a few singers to lead the music at our monthly Benefice Children's Service at 4pm on the 1st Sunday of the month.

The choir rehearses from 7.15 - 8.30pm on Wednesday evenings and for about 45 minutes immediately before each service. Specially recorded rehearsal tracks are usually provided on our website, and singers are expected to use these to practice at home if they need to do so.

As an example, the list of choir activities for 2023 included:

- Epiphany Carol Service (Jan)
- Candlemas (Jan)
- Monthly Choral Evensongs from Feb
- Ash Wednesday (Feb)
- Easter Day (Apr)
- Summer Concert (Sep)
- Remembrance Sunday Concert (Nov)
- Advent Carol Service (Dec)
- Nine Lessons & Carols (Dec)

If you love singing, why not talk to us to find out more about what is involved? Singers of all ages* and abilities are welcome, as long as they have the basic skills needed for singing in a choral environment, and we will always do our best to ensure that everyone has a rewarding experience.

* Children over 8 are welcome to sing in the choir but must be accompanied by a responsible adult



St Nicolas Church
Forest Hill with Shotover
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www.stnicolasforesthill.org