



150th anniversary programme

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St Nicolas' Church, Guildford

St Nicolas' Church sits across the bridge at the bottom of Guildford High Street. The present building dates from 1876 but there has been a church on the site for nearly 800 years. This programme of lectures explores the long, rich history of St Nicolas' churches and parish.

St Nicolas' parish was one of the three ancient parishes of the borough of Guildford but had a hinterland reaching as far as Godalming, encompassing St Catherine's Hill and its Chapel.

The present church is Victorian but contains elements of the medieval church (demolished 1836). The 16th century Loseley Chapel contains the tomb of Arnold Brocas d. 1395, the oldest monument in Guildford, alongside those of the More and More Molyneux family of Loseley. Their interesting histories can be traced through the Loseley Archives in the Surrey History Centre, revealing connections to Donne, Pepys, Shakespeare and Elizabeth I.

St Nicolas' today, formed under the influence of the Oxford Movement, contains a wealth of colour and artistry in wall paintings, stained glass, carvings and local metalwork, revealing strong Arts & Crafts connections. The Woodyer font and decorated west wall are spectacular.

Programme

(all lectures are free and held in church or the parish centre, starting 7.30pm)

Tuesday 13 January	Lecture: Dr Catherine Ferguson FSA, ' The long history of St Nicolas: three churches and one parish'
Tuesday 3 February	Lecture: Dr Catherine Ferguson FSA, ' The Loseley Chapel'
Tuesday 10 March	Lecture: Canon Jeremy Haselock FSA, ' The theology of the Oxford Movement and its influence on church architecture'
Thursday 7 May	Lecture: Dr Michael Shapland, ' The Hill of the Dragon: A medieval wayside shrine and regional assembly site by St Catherine's Chapel'
Tuesday 8 September	Lecture: Charles O'Brien FSA, ' “The Ugliest Church in Surrey?” – a reassessment of St Nicolas’ and its Victorian designers’
Tuesday 10 November	Lecture: Canon Nicholas Thistletonwaite, ' Victorian Church music’
January 2027	Lecture: Dr Catherine Ferguson FSA, ' The art of St Nicolas’ and its place in the Arts and Crafts movement’