

Welcome to St Nicholas-at-Wade



Photograph courtesy of Sarah E J Smith

A place to belong

Community information
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St Nicholas village – view from the church tower

Photograph courtesy Graham Jackson

Welcome to St Nicholas-at-Wade! We are a small village with a big heart and we hope that you settle in quickly and feel at home.

Our church stands at the heart of the village and is always open during the hours of daylight, as a regular gathering place for people young and old, for seasons, festivals, worship and for moments of special significance in the lives of families, couples and individuals. You are welcome to visit the church at any time, including our regular services (see back page).

Our junior and adult church choirs and bell-ringers welcome new members. Throughout the year the Friends of the church organize concerts and charity events. We support our local Food Bank and Oasis (women's refuge). Regular church coffee mornings, a Friendship Café, Messy Church and a Toddler Group provide opportunities to meet neighbours and make friends. Our thriving school community has strong links to the church including Pop-up Cafés. We welcome families and provide age-appropriate activities to help everyone to enjoy services in church. I am often around and about in the village – please introduce yourself. I hope you will find St Nicholas a warm and enriching place.

Revd Karen Gooding:

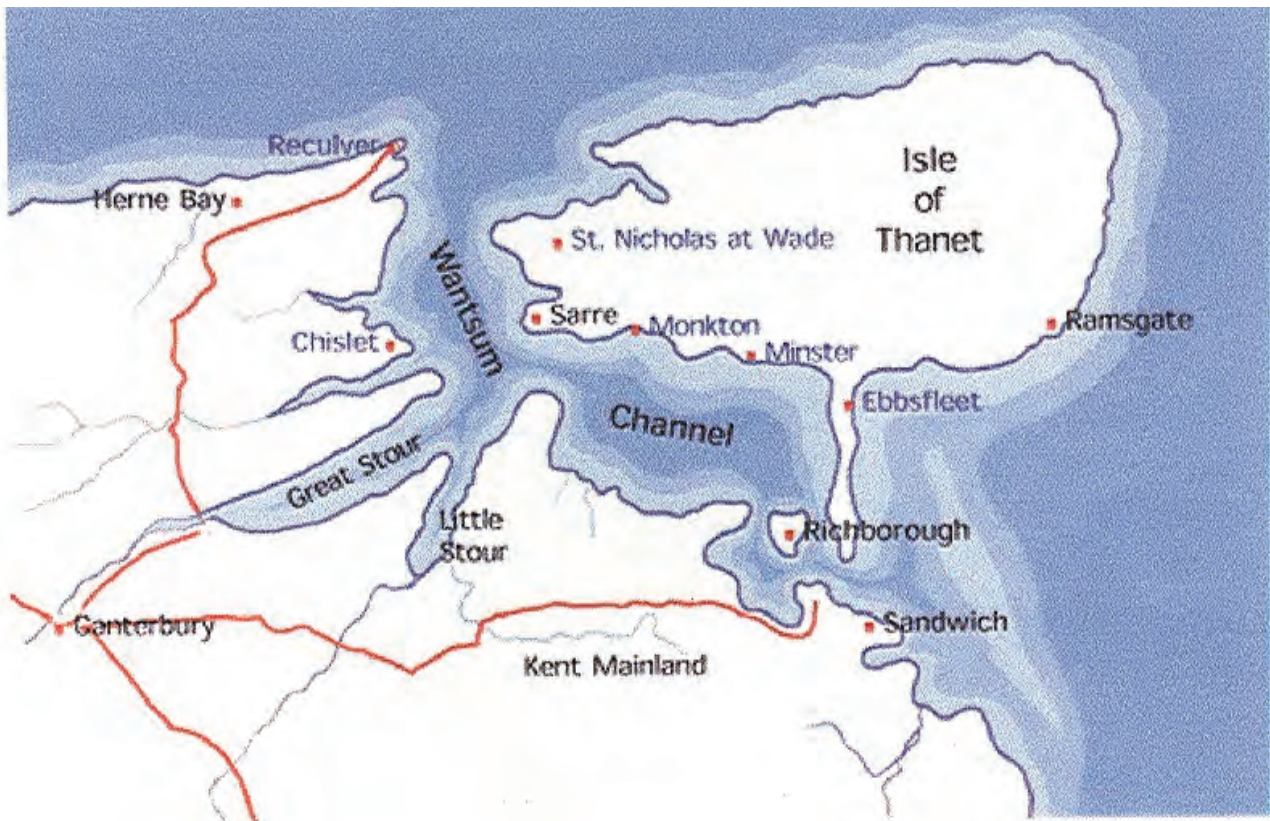
karenanngooding@gmail.com



Revd Dr Richard Braddy is vicar of the Wantsum Group and Co-Area Dean, based at Minster: arichard.braddy@gmail.com

The village of St Nicholas-at-Wade has grown up around its church since the 12th century, progressively forming part of the parish “St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre”, then the Wantsum Benefice (together with Chislet, Monkton & Minster), and now the Seamarsh Group (with Birchington & Westgate St Saviour's).

The map of Thanet in Roman times shows that Thanet really was an island then, and later St Nicholas got its name at Wade because it was the point to wade across the Wantsum to Reculver.



The Wantsum Channel Roman times (about A.D.450)

The village has a central core but if you cross the A299 ‘Thanet Way’ and explore the many footpaths, you’ll find the parish covers almost 6 square miles, extending to the sea and across ‘the marshes’ that were once underwater, separating the Isle of Thanet from the mainland. This band of water has now shrunk to become the rivers Wantsum and Stour. There were harbours at Down Barton Road and Shuart, and a ferry crossing at Sarre. There were churches at Shuart (All Saints), Sarre (St Giles), and a chapel at Chambers Wall, as well as a Methodist Chapel in Down Barton Road. Built under the personal influence of John Wesley, in the 1970s this became a youth club, and is now a private house.

Until comparatively recently it was an agricultural village, with many cottages belonging to the eight farms within the village. However, pressures of modern life and technological progress have meant there are now only a few highly mechanised farms with few

jobs, and the village has become more of a ‘dormitory’ community, with many retired parishioners, and others working elsewhere and from home. Despite new building developments, we still retain our country nature: you’ll often see horses on the roads, hear cockerels crowing in the morning, and the church bells on numerous occasions.



The church is over 800 years old, and its architecture and monuments are a wonderful record of the community’s history. The stained glass of the beautiful East Window was paid for in 1912 by The St Nicholas Mothers Union, whose restored banner stands in the Chancel.

This window was completely restored in 2018 by Canterbury Cathedral Glass and a generous grant from Church Commissioners. St Nicholas is of course the patron saint of children and sailors, and the tower has long been used as a marker for shipping.



The village used to have various shops including two grocers, a baker, and a butcher, but social change means that now there is just the Post Office/ general store and an antique shop. However, St Nicholas boasts two excellent village pubs, both serving food, and also the Wantsum Brewery at St Nicholas Court.

Social activity tends to focus on the church, the school (a popular C of E primary school with 210 pupils – contact Head teacher Mrs Heather Kemp on 01843 847253), the pubs, and three further community centres: The Village Hall, Manor Hall and Bell Meadow Pavilion. See below for more information on these.



The church itself remains the centre of the village, and as well as family friendly services, hosts coffee mornings specifically to meet and greet new people, frequent concerts, fundraising and charitable activities. Everyone is welcome at all of these; and of course, our clergy are happy to talk to anyone on pastoral and theological matters.

The standard source of information on what is happening in the village is the monthly parish magazine, which is delivered by subscription, but can also be purchased at the post office or in the church. It contains contact details for all the various people and organizations mentioned in this booklet. In addition, there is a website www.stnicholasatwade.org.uk (with ‘news’ accessible via <http://bit.ly/StNicknews>), and various village groups/pages on social media, including @StNicholasAtWadeChurch on Facebook.



Our beautiful medieval church has been welcoming people for over eight centuries, as well as serving as a superb location for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The church is Grade 1 listed, built of Kentish stone and flint, with the interior made of Norman stone from Caen. The most important 12th century work to survive is the south aisle arcade, whose arches and capitals are stylistically similar to work at Canterbury Cathedral. The north aisle arches are said to have been the inspiration to Pugin when he was designing the Palace of Westminster. Almost all of the east end was added in the early 13th century. The tower was constructed in about 1310 of knapped flint,

while the upper sections were added in field flint and rubble as a navigation aid to shipping. Guides are available in the church. Due to the wonderful support of past generations of the community our church building is in good condition as the centre of its community.



The Friends of St Nicholas Church

(charity no. 249972), together with local businesses, have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds over the years, putting on events and concerts which bring people in from miles around. We always need more 'friends' and fresh ideas (you don't need to be a churchgoer, and there's no regular commitment).

Contact Amanda Lynch:

thefriendsofstnicholaschurch@gmail.com

Events run by the Friends

Charity and Craft Day: this takes place in the lead up to the festive period, when a variety of charities and crafts people are invited to hold stalls selling gifts and cards. This is the perfect place to purchase charity Christmas cards, and craft type gifts. It also raises much needed funds for the church via the sale of ploughman's lunches, coffees teas and cakes.

Trash and Treasure sale: this takes place on a Saturday in February, where people are invited to donate unwanted goods in reasonable condition, again to help raise funds. Coffee, tea and cakes are also available.

Concerts: a wide range of concerts are staged in the church at regular intervals, organized by the organist, the Friends, and members of the congregation. St Nicholas is renowned for its hospitality and delicious cakes and snacks provided during the interval of these concerts.



Open Gardens: our village's Open Gardens are held in June every odd-numbered year. The whole village takes part with over a dozen gardens open, as well as the church. Visitors come from all over the area to enjoy the flower festival, art, photographic exhibitions, music, refreshments, and more. This is a major fundraising event for the Friends and a great celebration of village life.



Our beautiful medieval church sits physically and emotionally at the heart of the rural village of St. Nicholas At Wade. It looks lovely, doesn't it? Maintaining a building as old as this costs money.... Lots of money. Every year, we spend thousands and thousands of pounds on the upkeep of the building itself... the windows, the brickwork, the tower... the whole church needs to be kept in a safe and working order for YOU, and our entire community, to enjoy.

Would you like to help?

Find out more about how you can become a Friend of St Nicholas at Wade Church, and help us to help this glorious church.

Contact The Friends of St. Nicholas Church on thefriendsofstnicholaschurch@gmail.com



Our choir is an important part of the church services and always ready to welcome new members (you don't need to be able to read music), so if interested, please let us know – or simply come and chat after a service.

Contacts: Stuart McIntosh our choirmaster on 01843 825696 or smacmus@gmail.com and Ben Jones our organist on 01843 847701 or ozaru@ozaru.net

Children are always welcome in church and there is a colourful children's corner with plenty of toys at the back.



Our weekly Toddler Group meets on Wednesday mornings 10am – 12pm in Church and always welcomes new members.

The school holds pop-up cafés throughout the year, and also welcomes older parishioners to a tea party after Harvest Festival.

Coffee mornings are held on the first Saturday of every month as a means of getting to know each other in a friendly atmosphere, as well as raising money for the church. There are also additional coffee mornings in private houses.

In addition to the usual weekly services, you are welcome to special services at Candlemas (February), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Harvest (September), the Pet Service St Francis Day (October), Armistice Day (November), Christingle, Christmas Eve (crib service and midnight mass), and Christmas Day.



The Sunday nearest December 6th is our Patronal Festival – St Nicholas Day – and a special service during which toys and gifts for needy children are given. This is a well-supported service and the toys and gifts much appreciated by the recipients.

Manor Hall, in Manor Road, was originally built as a place of worship by the Plymouth Brethren (the current hall is the second one on the site). It is now run by trustees and is let out for various activities during the week, as well as being available for special events by clubs and groups.



is held at Manor Hall and run by St Nicholas-at-Wade Church. Messy Church is a nationwide and international initiative for children and families to learn about Jesus Christ through craft activities, fun,

friendship and food! Our Messy Church has been established now for 6 years and has good attendance from children in the village and from further afield. Children must be accompanied by an adult(s)!

We meet every second Saturday in the month from 3pm until 5pm with a meal being served at 4.30pm. (Excepting January and August) There is no charge for this event but donations may be made. Come along and join in the fun! For more details please phone Vanessa on 01843 847012 or just come along and see what we're all about!

The Waders: this quilting group meets on the first Friday of each month, 10am – 4pm.

Village Hall

The hall was built in 1930 as a general-purpose centre of activities for the village. Over the years it has been the venue for discos, dances, parties, beetle drives, whist drives, fairs, exhibitions, playgroups, keep fit, coffee mornings, quizzes, art groups, gardeners' club, and many other events. It is run by the Village Hall Committee and can be booked through them. Current activities are listed in the Parish Magazine.

Events at the village hall

Doctor's Surgery: every Friday at midday. Appointments can be booked via the main surgeries at Minster 01843 821333 or Birchington 848818.

Art Group: Thursday morning 10.30-1.00pm.

Dance: see parish magazine.

Gardeners' Club: first Wednesday of the month; see parish magazine.

Bell Meadow / Pavilion

The Pavilion was constructed when Bell Meadow started being used as a sports ground, and now has a kitchen & bar in addition to changing rooms and showers. Both the Pavilion and the meadow itself can be booked for private/public events through the Parish Council – contact Sara Archer on 01843 821989.

The November firework display is held here, with the Pavilion providing refreshments.

Christmas at St Nicholas-at-Wade

In addition to the popular church services, our village has some unique forms of celebration.

Hoodening is an ancient East Kent tradition. In the week before Christmas (or the winter solstice), the Hoodeners and their Hooden Horse visit several local pubs as well as private houses, performing a humorous and topical play in aid of charity. “Never knowingly over-rehearsed!”



Santa Claus and his team tour the village on a sleigh on Christmas Day, spreading good cheer and delivering small gifts to residents of all ages. Presents should be handed to the Post Office in advance, together with the small fee (donated to charity).



Carol Singing normally takes place around the village tree a few days before Christmas, with seasonal refreshments.

Wantsum Morris Dancers do a traditional tour on Boxing Day, performing in the road between the pubs before travelling on to join the Mummers in Marshside.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS-AT-WADE WITH SARRE, PART OF THE WANTSUM BENEFICE

info@wantsumchurches.org
www.wantsumchurches.org

Monthly Services

First, Third and Fourth Sundays

10.15am Sung Eucharist

Second Sunday

10.15am Village Worship (no Eucharist)

Fifth Sunday

10.15am Benefice Service

N.B. this rotates among the various churches of the Benefice

Everyone is always welcome.