

## Sts Thomas



**The Church at the Heart of the Island**

Spring  
**07**  
Campaign  
Newsletter 5

**150 Years 1857-2007**

### Medieval Church Revealed



Thanks to further English Heritage support of £140,000 now confirmed, the first phase of repairs starts shortly for completion this Summer with the second phase now able to follow straight on.

Meanwhile we have cleared choir stalls and re-floored an experimental open space to accommodate larger choral and orchestral performances in the church. During the excavations, builders uncovered 800 year old remains of the medieval church of St Thomas of Canterbury, exciting much interest in the IW County Press!

The new space greatly improves visitor circulation around the church-just in time for the thousands of extra visitors expected for the 150th Anniversary Year events.

### Lloyds TSB to sponsor new Gala Concert : Saturday 21st April



The extra performance space has already helped us to secure this month's IW Festival Instrumental Competition for a second year. Now Lloyds TSB and other Spirit of 150 member have agreed to sponsor a major new Gala Concert to be given by star singers, dancers, actors and musicians selected from the 2007 Festival.

Tickets are £7.50 each (under 14 free) and can be bought at all this month's Competition venues, online from the campaign office [campaign@saintstthomas.org](mailto:campaign@saintstthomas.org) or directly from the Gala Concert sponsors Lloyds TSB St Thomas Square from 12th April.

### Spirit of 150 Group



Promises from business donors are coming in fast. We have just passed the £50,000 barrier and a number of other well known Island companies have expressed definite interest in signing.

Each 150 Group donor commits to support the Renewal Programme for three years and so enable Sts Thomas to become a major new focus for Island community and cultural activity.

The Group will be actively involved in the Anniversary Programme, either as sponsors, or by using the auditorium for their own events or by just giving their time to help organise one of the public events in the church. Public recognition will be given to each business donor over the three year period.

If your company would like to come to one of our lunch presentations about the 150 Group, please contact Campaign chairman Michael Kier [campaign@saintstthomas.org](mailto:campaign@saintstthomas.org)



### Advent Calendar Success



If you were one of two thousand or more people who bought the Southern Vectis/Sts Thomas Advent Calendar you will know what a beautiful and unusual Christmas surprise it proved to be.

Many of its admirers have congratulated Mary Case for her idea of bringing together images of 25 beautiful Island parish churches in the true spirit of Christmas. If your favourite church was missed out this time, you'll be pleased to know that Mary is already collecting new images for the next Calendar.

### Get ready to Cycle for Sts Thomas on the Spring Bank Holiday



Now is the perfect time to get fit for the Spring, support the renewal Appeal and give your friends & family a lot of fun in the process! Organisers Nick Dorley Brown and Nick Hayward are hoping to raise £10,000 in the second year of this great event.

We are expecting a big turnout on Sunday 6th May . If you want to bring a group please mail Email Joan Biggs without delay on joanvabiggs@hotmail.com

You'll get a poster by return, plus your Cycle the Wight team list form and your personalised team shirts order form.

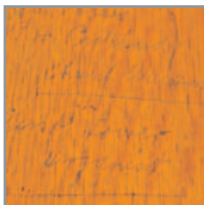
If you don't feel able to manage the cycling, don't worry! You can still support our effort by sending your gift on [www.justgiving.com/ststthomas/donate](http://www.justgiving.com/ststthomas/donate)

### 150th Anniversary Diary Dates : Summer events in the church



- March 15-16th IW Musical Festival: Instrumental
- April 16/30th IW Art Exhibition
- April 21st IW Musical Festival Gala concert
- May 6th Cycle the Wight for Sts Thomas
- June 30th Summer Fair (Church Litten)
- July 2nd-28th Sculpture and Music at Sts Thomas
- July 6th Isle of Wight College Degree Ceremony

### Postscript



This interesting message from the past was found written beneath one of the oak boards lifted in the church last month!

Jan 1945

Repaired under War Conditions by C.W.Alee

under Mr. C.J.Milgate Arch., Canon W.B.Hogg Vicar, O.C.Veness & R.H.Pritchard Church Wardens, Miss K.Lower Organist, M.Odell Verger

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