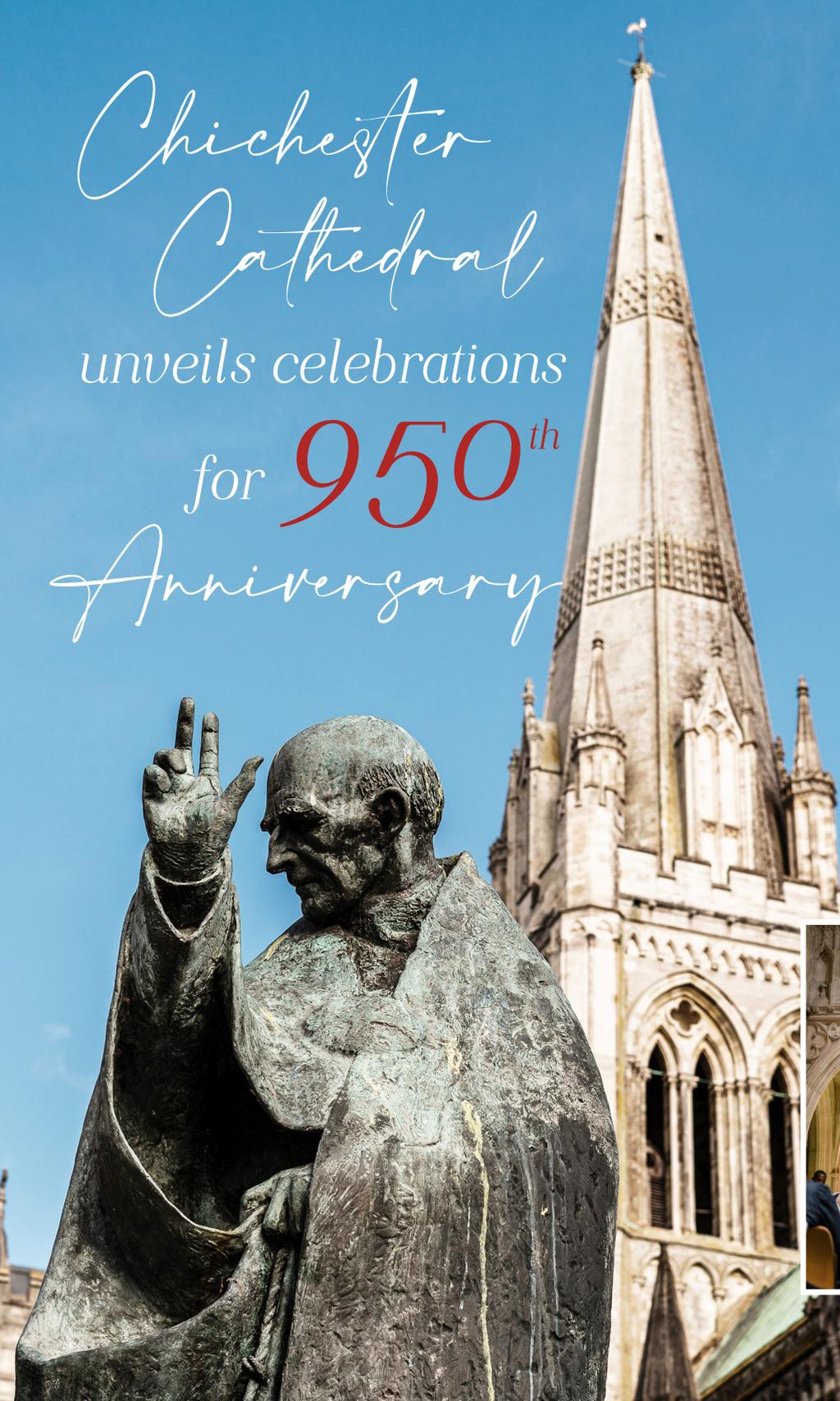


Chichester Cathedral unveils celebrations for 950th Anniversary



Standing proud in the heart of West Sussex, Chichester Cathedral has long resonated as a magnificent beacon of faith, spirituality, and community. This iconic and much-loved landmark is cherished not only by those local to Chichester, but by visitors from afar, each drawn to its rich tapestry of history, architectural grandeur and faith.

As we embark on 2025, a monumental milestone beckons - Chichester Cathedral's 950th anniversary.

It was in 1075 that the decision was made to move the seat of the Bishop from Selsey to the larger town of Chichester, and it was this move that led to the construction of the stunning Cathedral, a wonderful piece of Norman and Gothic architecture that has witnessed centuries of history unfold within its walls. Imagine if the walls could talk - what stories would they tell us about the past 950 years?

Far from just being a celebration of stone and mortar, the anniversary will reflect and celebrate nine centuries of the Cathedral's storied past and its historical and cultural significance in Sussex.

The celebrations promise to offer a calendar full of wonderful culture, and inspiration.



Under the banner of Chichester950, the year-long programme of festivities promises visitors captivating exhibitions, soul-stirring musical performances, special services, community events and guided tours that reveal the Cathedral's fascinating stories and secrets.

A Tapestry of Events

Central to the celebrations will be an exhibition named Religion, Rebellion & Reformation, running from 14th February to 15th November 2025. This exhibition will display nine fascinating artefacts from East and West Sussex, each a representation of a bygone century, and highlighting the influence of Christian faith on both the Cathedral's history and the region's cultural landscape.

And for music lovers, the Cathedral's renowned musical heritage will be honoured through a special anniversary concert, Together in Unity, which will celebrate the 60th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's 'Chichester Psalms'. This powerful and stirring piece of music was commissioned by the Cathedral in 1965 and showcases the cultural exchange between the US and the UK, highlighting how the Cathedral has been a significant patron of the arts. Welcoming visitors on 17th May, Together

in Unity will also feature a newly commissioned choral composition. Another musical event in the programme will see the world-class Cathedral Choir perform in a special candlelit gala concert in the company of much-loved British composer Sir John Rutter on 11th October.

This will be followed by Trinity Fest on the Green, which is set to take place on 15th June. This outdoor celebration commemorates the Feast of the Holy Trinity, to which the Cathedral is dedicated. It will transform the city centre into a vibrant hub of music, food, and culture, reaffirming Chichester Cathedral's pivotal role as being at the heart of the community.

A wonderful piece of architecture that has witnessed centuries of history unfold within its walls.

Concluding the Chichester950 celebrations, a breathtaking light show will take place during the October half term. From 24th to 31st October, the light show will offer a sensory feast for adults and children alike, casting new light on the ancient stones and bringing nearly a millennium of history to life!

The celebrations and festivities promise to offer a calendar full of wonderful culture, history and inspiration, inviting us all to become a part of Chichester Cathedral's remarkable story.

For more details about Chichester950, visit www.chichester950.org.uk.