

Hundreds of people convene inside Chichester Cathedral to make the shape of the number 950

The official launch of Chichester950, the year-long celebrations to mark Chichester Cathedral's 950th anniversary, has taken place.

Hundreds of people convened inside the cathedral to make the shape of the number 950. The group included volunteers, children from Prebendal School, elected officials from Chichester District Council and Chichester City Council, members of their congregations and other local supporters.

This striking image of unity commemorates an extraordinary 950-year milestone, highlighting the historic grandeur of the cathedral's ancient nave and the vibrant community that is so integral to Chichester Cathedral's enduring legacy.

"With a year of remarkable events planned to celebrate Chichester950, it felt right to begin by coming together to create a lasting visual that captures not just the fabric of the cathedral, but the people who bring it to life – our staff, volunteers, congregations, local residents, schoolchildren as well as the wider community who we serve," said Dean of Chichester, The Very Reverend Dr Edward Dowler.

At the heart of the festivities is the compelling Religion, Rebellion & Reformation exhibition, which runs from February 14 until November 15. Featuring artefacts and treasures contributed by local parishes and community groups across Sussex, each item represents a century of local heritage.

In honour of the cathedral's renowned musical heritage, a special concert marking the 60th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms will take place on Saturday, May 17. Together in Unity will also feature an exciting new choral composition which has been specially commissioned for the 950th anniversary.

Ending a momentous year of festivities under the banner of Chichester950, visitors are invited to delight in an immersive light and sound installation by the internationally-acclaimed artistic collaboration Luxmuralis from October 24-31. To find out more about Chichester950 and the programme of events, visit www.chichester950.org.uk.

The cathedral's world-class Cathedral Choir will also perform in a special candlelit gala concert in the company of much-loved British composer Sir John Rutter on Saturday, October 11.

TrinityFest on the Green on Sunday, June 15 is a vibrant celebration marking the Feast of the Holy Trinity, to which the cathedral is dedicated. This special day will see Chichester city centre come together for festivities and street parties, celebrating music, food and culture.

