

You are warmly invited to our 2025 tour of historic churches **Saturday Oct 4th from 11:00 am**

We look forward to welcoming you to Hampshire's coast line and lost seaways, salted with just a dash of Shakespearean mystery as we explore three of Hampshire's oldest churches.



Starting at ***Crofton Old Church Lychgate Green, Fareham PO14 3HA***

We will be welcomed by church historian Gary Willcocks who will guide us around this tiny jewel of a church – mentioned in the Domesday book and surrounded by Sarcen stones, this church may well have been built over an earlier circular henge. We will be provided with tea/coffee/toilets. There is nearby parking.

We then move to

St Peter's Church Titchfield PO14 4AG

Less than two miles from Old Crofton we will have a chance to explore this beautiful church with the help of David Mugford. It has strong links with Shakespeare's patron, the Earl of Southampton, this church is the oldest working church in Hampshire with links to King Ethelred and St Wilfrid. We will have time to look around this market village as we will lunch at The Bugle that is just a stone's throw from the church. Parking in village.





Our final stop is ***St Nicholas Church WICKHAM Southwick Road, PO17 6HP***

We continue our link with St Wilfrid who founded this church, look for star signs carved into the wall and enjoy a talk by local historian. The church will provide tea/coffee/toilets and there is off road parking behind the church.

All three churches are mentioned in the Domesday book and are closely linked to each other with shared histories.

Please bring cash for the donations you may like to make. We are told that they do not all take card payments



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More information



It was once possible to sail from The Solent into Titchfield and the area became wealthy as a result. Today we will use Titchfield lane from St Peter's church to St Nicholas and you may want to take the time to drop into Titchfield Abbey en-route. Now in ruins the Abbey is a candidate for the first staging of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. Internal references in this play match the layout of the old abbey's rooms.

On the right just before the abbey you will see Place House Cottage and there is a tradition that Shakespeare once lodged and/or taught there.(not open to the public).

Lunch:

The Bugle Titchfield

We will have our own reception room in the hotel for lunch and there is a good standard menu with GF, Vegan and Vegetarian options. Once you have registered we will ask you to make your menu choice in advance.

Alternatively if you prefer to combine the trip with some plant shopping, Garsons Garden centre has a very good self service café Titchfield Lane.



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Please reply **BEFORE 1st SEPTEMBER.**

To Keith Miller

By post: Hihct Event 36 Swanwick Lane, Swanwick Southampton Hants SO31 7HF

Or email: hihctmembership@outlook.com

Once we have confirmed numbers we will be in touch with more information about times, lunch menu costs and parking information.

We very much look forward to seeing you again soon.