

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

Newsletter 5

Newsletter Winter 2024

Welcome to this, the 5th St Chad Network Newsletter. I did not imagine that when, during lockdown, my curiosity about the location of St Chad churches, would result in the St Chad Network that we have today!

Having initially set out to map out St Chad churches, I soon realised that, as well as churches, there are many schools and a few colleges with St Chad dedications.

Dean Adrian Dorber wished to invite places with St Chad connections to attend, or watch online, the dedication and blessing of Peter Walker's new statue of St Chad. I volunteered to contact the places that I had found and out of this, the St Chad Network began. From these beginnings the Network has now grown to a worldwide network of 86 church, school and college members representing Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox Christian denominations.

I thoroughly enjoy my role as Network Coordinator. I am very grateful for the support that I have received, particularly from Canon Gregory and the whole Cathedral team. Bishop Michael Ipgrave has also closely followed the development of the Network. His knowledge and input has been helpful on many occasions.

Making personal connections has been a highlight of my role. Visiting churches and schools around the country and meeting with church and school communities has shown a real sense of fellowship. I have also had the pleasure of meeting Network members who have visited Lichfield.

I hope that I can enable the Network to continue 'St Chad's work of healing, faithfulness and building Christian unity and community in an imaginative way.'

May this Christmas be filled with love, joy and peace for you and your loved ones.

Peter Harris
St Chad Network Coordinator



Photo: Lichfield Diocese

Saint Chad's Anglican Church, Huapai New Zealand

Saint Chad's Anglican Church in Huapai (about 25km north west of Auckland, New Zealand) were delighted to welcome Bishop Michael Ipgrave and Julia to their morning service on 10th November. Bishop Michael spoke for a short while at the end of the service about the Saint Chad Network and Julia brought greetings from Saint Chad's Church, Lichfield.

We discussed Saint Chad's Huapai's upcoming Centenary in September 2025 and hope that we may continue contact between the two churches. After the service Michael and Julia met many of the congregation over Saint Chad's rather famous morning tea.



Photo: Colin Newal

Our presiding priest that morning was Rev Carolyn Newel, who with her husband Colin had emigrated to New Zealand from rural Leicestershire some 17 years ago. Over lunch at their home all four were fascinated to find that they had several friends in common in the UK. It is indeed a small world!

Bishop Michael and Julia Ipgrave with Rev Carolyn Newel at Saint Chad's Anglican Church, Huapai, New Zealand. They are pictured in front of one of the beautiful stained glass windows. This window, installed in 2019, depicts some of the local wine makers who were at the forefront of the birth of the New Zealand wine industry in this area. It also shows by the local Kumeu River, with New Zealand birds and the Southern Cross constellation in the sky.

Colin Newal

Out and About - Thank You

I want to say a huge 'Thank You' for the wonderful welcome I have received when attending services at St Chad churches this year. I enjoy getting to meet congregations and making a personal connection. I have a few 'local' St Chad Churches still on my list to visit. Hopefully I will get to them in 2025.

Whenever I am travelling a bit further afield, I try to combine a visit to a St Chad Church if I am going to be close by.

Peter Harris

St Chad and All Saints Church, Sedgley West Midlands

In the summer I visited Sedgley, where I attended Mass.

It was good to make a personal connection and

lovely to meet such a friendly congregation.

The Catholic church in Sedgley has a long history. The first mission was established in 1786, and the first chapel opened in 1789 and was dedicated to the patron saint of St. George.

Today's church was first used for Mass in August 1823 and was called All Saints Church. When the church was consecrated in 1891, a saint's name had to be added. So the church was dedicated to St. Chad and All Saints.

Peter Harris



Photo: Peter Harris

St Chad's, Erdington, Birmingham



Photo: Peter Harris

In July, I travelled over to Erdington, not far from Spaghetti junction. I received a very friendly welcome from the congregation here.

The first church on

this site opened in 1914. It was dedicated to St Chad and was an Anglican Mission Church, part of All Saints, Gravelly Hill. It became a totally independent parish church in 1967.

St Chad's Church in its present form was created in 1974 by the joining together of local Anglican and Methodist Churches. It is one of the earliest Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs), governed by a special Constitution, and part of both the Church of England and The Methodist Church.

In 2014 they celebrated their Centenary as a church on the site, and their 40th Anniversary as a joint Anglican/Methodist LEP.

Peter Harris

St Chad and St Mark, Wolverhampton

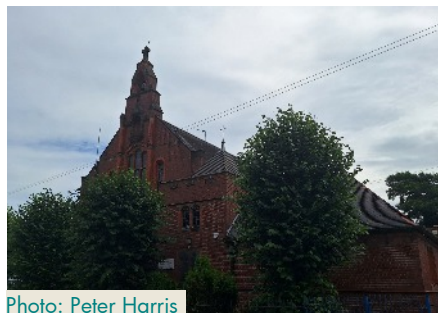


Photo: Peter Harris

I was warmly welcomed to share fellowship and join the congregation at this central Wolverhampton church for worship.

Following the service, I was kindly invited to stay for the community lunch, which was very enjoyable!

St Chad and St Mark is a very diverse inner-city Christian community with people of different cultures, faiths and backgrounds living side by side.

The church was originally a mission church. The main building (the original St Chad's) opened in 1908.

Over the years, it has been internally altered and adapted to meet today's needs. A large and very well used community room has been created out of what was the West End of the church. It is used for many important community projects.

There was a lot happening in this lively, friendly church!

Peter Harris

St Chad's Longford, Derbyshire

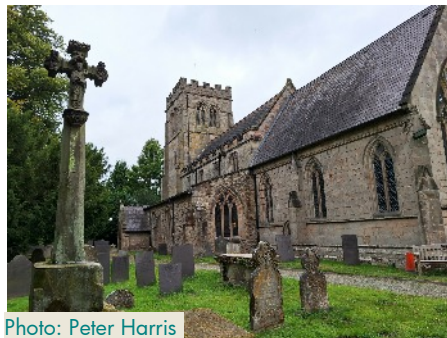


Photo: Peter Harris

In late summer I went to this lovely village church, set away from the village in parkland alongside Longford Hall. I

was greeted by a friendly congregation - slightly depleted due to holidays. Services are held here twice a month.

St Chad's Church dates from the 12th century, with original Norman features and later additions in the early Decorated style and during the Perpendicular period. It is a Grade I Listed Building. Inside the church are five alabaster effigies of various members of the Longford family, dating from the 14th to the 17th centuries, and elaborate memorials to the Coke family (Earl of Leicester) from the 19th century. There is also a Grade II listed sandstone cross in the churchyard, dating from the 15th century.

Peter Harris





➔ Out and About continued

St Chad's, Over, Winsford, Cheshire

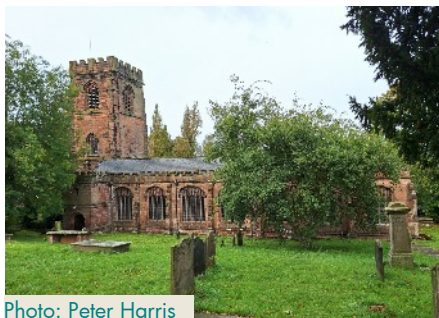


Photo: Peter Harris

While en route to a stay in Chester I received another warm welcome at St Chad's Church in Winsford, Cheshire.

I attended their Harvest Festival and Communion. The church, which is situated in countryside away from the modern centre of town, originates from the 14th century and it has been modified on a number of occasions.

As well as a wonderful needlework hanging, made to commemorate the church's 700 anniversary, there are three windows depicting scenes from the life of St Chad.

Peter Harris

St Chad's, Boningale, Shropshire

In early November I was welcomed at St Chad's, in the small parish of Boningale, which lies between Wolverhampton and Telford. It is in the broad area, to the north-west of Lichfield, where the majority of St Chad churches are to be found. The Grade II listed church was mentioned as a chapelry of Stockton (near Shifnal) in 1291.



Photo: Peter Harris

There were several Victorian restorations which included: adding the south aisle, re-tiling the nave, repairing the inside of the old carved roof and adding a new porch. In the vestry there is an old oak parish chest. There is a Norman window in the nave and the remains of another on the north wall of the chancel.

In the churchyard is a very old yew tree and a sun dial with the motto "Sine Sole Sileo" (Without the sun I am dead)

During early 2015, after consultation with church members and the local community, the church was extensively re-ordered to provide a more uniform, flexible space for worship and a new mission of providing quiet days for spiritual refreshment & reflection.

Peter Harris



St Chad's Church, Holt, Wales



Photo: Peter Harris

We have welcomed Rev'd Vicki Burrows to St Chad's Holt as our first woman priest. Her licensing took place in Gresford on 27 November as Vicar of St

Chad's, and of All Saints' Gresford, with the additional challenge of being Leader of the Alyn Mission Area. Please hold her in your prayers. as she starts her ministry in this part of North East Wales.

Brian Goodwin



Photo: Peter Harris

I think that St Chad's in Holt has the closest St Chad's neighbour. St Chad's Farndon, England is just 350m away (in a straight line) over the River Dee which forms the border between England and Wales.

Peter Harris



St Chad's Church, Tushingham



Photo: Peter Harris

Christmas Market



Photo: Peter Harris

At our Christmas Market, held on 30 November, we had a steady flow of people, served bacon baps outside for lunches and hot drinks and cake inside. Reverend



Photo: Louise Mountford

Veronica lead some carol singing. Father Christmas dropped his reindeer off for a rest, then walked up the road to great honking of horns on the busy A41! His grotto was set up for the children

between the choir stalls. With local cider, crafts, gardening stall, toys and decorations on sale, plus a grand draw, we raised around the £1700 mark. Our church stall and the



Photo: Louise Mountford

bell appeal raised some welcome funds too. We now have a regular team of bell ringers. This got us all in the mood for Advent and our Christmas services. This is the 6th time we have run this event and everyone says what a great atmosphere we get in the church.

Louise Mountford

The small parish of Tushingham-cum-Grindley, Macefen and Bradley has two St Chad Churches. The 2021 census recorded a parish population of 367.

Peter Harris

The Lichfield Angel



Photo: David Keith Jones

Discovered in 2003 the Lichfield Angel is a remarkable survival of early medieval sculpture. The carved limestone panel, which is dated to around 800 A.D., comprises three separate fragments which are thought to have formed the corner of a shrine chest, possibly that of St Chad (d.672).

In the summer of 2003, archaeological work in the nave of the Cathedral was undertaken prior to the installation of a retractable platform. Little or nothing was known about the archaeology of the nave although it was generally thought that the Anglo-Saxon Cathedral must have been located west of the Church of St Mary, evidence for which exists under the choir. Dr Warwick Rodwell, the Cathedral Archaeologist, undertook the excavation and the results were extraordinary.

Shrine of St Chad?

Evidence of the Anglo-Saxon Cathedral was found, the north and south lines of the Norman nave were confirmed (the second of the three cathedrals on the site) and a number of burials were uncovered. But most significantly at the east end of the site a sunken chamber was discovered with the subsequent embellishment of a canopy marking its honour and reverence. Such a structure suggested a shrine or grave and the position and the description accorded with the description by Bede that leads us to believe that this is the original position of the shrine of St Chad, built by Hedda early in the 8th Century.

Furthermore, recovered from the excavation were three fragments of an Anglo-Saxon sculptured limestone panel. The pieces together form a half of one side of a hollowed limestone block. The carving depicts an angel, his right hand raised in blessing and the left bearing a foliate sceptre. The decoration is of the highest quality with excellently preserved Anglo Saxon surface pigment. The figure of the angel is red and the feathered wings coloured red with white tips. The background seems to be pure white.

Almost certainly the figure is that of the Archangel Gabriel and speculation leads us to believe that this is one half of an Annunciation scene – the other part, possibly still beneath the floor, being the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A Remarkable Survival

Professor Rosemary Cramp and Jane Hawkes describe the Angel as "a remarkable survival – of European importance when considered in the context of Early Medieval sculpture. Technically the quality and assurance of the carving is outstanding and one is able to appreciate this fully because of the lack of weathering and the unusual survival of so much surface pigment." They continue: "this carving is crucially important for the light it throws on the chronology of Anglo Saxon sculpture ... panels of single or paired standing figures of angels or saints, or rows of the apostles with Mary and Christ under floriated arcades, are a feature of Mercian carvings which have usually been dated c800 and associated with the aspirations of King Offa to rival the artistic achievements of the Carolingian world".

The Angel was publicly unveiled in the Cathedral in February 2006 and displayed for a month before further research was undertaken to gain a better understanding of the panel's condition. Following minimal conservation work, the Angel returned to the Cathedral in June 2007 for permanent exhibition alongside the St Chad Gospels.



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral

In 2023, The Lichfield Angel made it to the final of a competition to find Britain's favourite cathedral treasure.

The Lichfield Angel has gone on tour and is not currently on display in the Cathedral. We are delighted, though, that because he is such an important piece of religious treasure, he was invited to be part of an exhibition at the British Museum in London, and Chapter agreed. He will appear in their flagship Silk Roads exhibition, from 26th September 2024- 23rd February 2025 and you can see him there.

Lichfield Cathedral

St. Chad's Anglican Church, Fullarton, South Australia



Photo: St Chad's Church Adelaide

Very briefly the establishment of an Anglican Church in the suburb of Fullarton was a project mooted during the First World War. After a great deal of discussion led by senior members of the Anglican Church, Adelaide and people living locally a church was built and its name St. Chad's. Since its inception St. Chad's has been a place of worship and dedication to God led most ably by Anglican priests each of whom left their imprimatur on the church and its congregation.

In the early hours of Palm Sunday morning, 8th April 1990 a fire consumed the church. This was a tragedy of huge proportions. Despite the devastation the fire had caused the usual 8.00 am and 9.30 am services were held that day in the Parish Hall.

To rebuild or not to rebuild the church! Lively discussion took place for and against a rebuild. Finally a decision was made to accept the insurance company's offer of reinstatement of the old building with some minor architectural changes. An excellent decision. Consecration of the new building took place on the 18th October 1992.

Over the years St. Chad's has proceeded with its dedicated worship, to reach out to the local community and to support overseas missions. Today our priest, the Rev'd Dr Jo Armour, leads us on our spiritual journey with great dedication, scholarship and learning



Photo: St Chad's Church Adelaide

St. Chad's is a most inclusive church where people of every nationality or gender are warmly welcomed. Services are held at 9.30 each Sunday, on a Thursday morning prayer is said at 10.00 am followed by Holy Communion at 10.30 am. A period of meditation is

held each Thursday at 1.00 pm.

Christmas is celebrated with carols in the garden on a Sunday preceding the 25th December: a service at 7.00 pm on Christmas Eve and a service on Christmas Day at 9.00 am.

A number of events are held regularly each year including a Church Forum (with a guest speaker addressing the audience on a topic of current interest and importance); and a Quiz Night.

The St. Chad's Fayre is held annually in November which is a

great community event. A live band plays during the event, which includes as it did this year, a bishop, two priests, a young parishioner and a singer! It is a great fund raiser but above all it attracts people from far and wide who enter into the fun and enjoyment of the day.

Our priest the Rev. Dr. Jo Armour (known as Jo!) retires at the end of the year which is a source of huge regret by parishioners. We will miss her beautiful weekly services, her humour and above all her spiritual support for each of our parishioners.

St. Chad's will continue its Christian journey confident that God will provide a spiritual leader for the years ahead.

A wonderful Church, an inspiration to those who worship in it and to those who visit.

Gay Gardner - St Chad's Adelaide



The Orthodox Parish of St Aidan & St Chad (Ecumenical Patriarchate) Nottingham



Photo: The Orthodox Parish of Saint Aidan & St Chad

We are part of the Orthodox Church in Great Britain and Ireland, under the jurisdiction of The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. Although our principal language is English, we follow the Russian Tradition.

The parish is a part of 'The Deanery' and is directly under his Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of

Thyateira, with Father Patrick

Hodson as the Dean. Our Priest in Charge is the Reverend Father Julian Lowe

We are part of the worldwide Orthodox Church, which can trace its history back to the very beginning in the historical events related to the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles. It is the continuation of the original Church of Christendom and was the Universal Church until the Great Schism in 1054.

We exist to love and worship God and joyfully to do His will for us, and for each other, in all situations, as revealed in Christ and in ongoing Tradition.

The parish began in late 1994 when Metropolitan Anthony of Blessed Memory invited our founder members to be part of his Archdiocese. Fr John Lee, Dean of the Cathedral in London was our first priest, giving us our first instruction and beginning to serve The Divine Liturgy regularly from January 1995.

Later the same year Father David was made Priest, and in due course Fr Peter Brameld became Deacon and then Priest in 2002. At that time, we were within the Moscow Patriarchate, in the Diocese of Sourozh.

Soon after our establishment we were joined by many who had formerly been members of the earlier Russian and Belorussian Eucharistic Communities which had worshipped in Nottingham since at least the early 1950's.



Photo: The Orthodox Parish of Saint Aidan & St Chad

For the first few years we were able to worship in St Mary's Church in the Lacemarket, an ancient and beautiful place of worship in the centre of Nottingham a very suitable place to begin our outreach.

In 1999 we purchased part of a Methodist building in the Carlton area of Nottingham, and, with the help of many generous and regular donors, we were able to convert the former hall into a beautiful temple area.

In June 2006 our then bishop, Bishop Basil of Amphipolis, left the Moscow Patriarchate and was received into the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

From 14th September 2009 we ceased holding services at the Church in Carlton and, for a number of years, established a regular pattern of worship at St Leodegarius Church in Basford. Our services are now generally held at the sister church of St Aidan, also in Basford.

Bishop Basil was our local bishop until his retirement in October 2009. From that time we were under the care of Archbishop Gabriel of Comana until his retirement due to ill health in January 2013. Subsequently Archbishop Job of Telmessos was elected in

November 2013. Two years later Archbishop Job moved on to other duties and his successor Bishop John of Charioupolis was enthroned.

We continue to be organised as a Deanery in the United Kingdom within the Ecumenical Patriarchate, now under the care of Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira.

Our members include people from many Orthodox countries as well as British people. We continue to be open to all Orthodox and all who wish to embrace or learn of the Orthodox Faith.

Our parish name preceded our location at St Aidans church by a number of years!

St. Aidan of Lindisfarne is a saint recognized by the Eastern Orthodox Church, and is considered the Apostle of Northumbria. He is important to English Orthodox Christians because he is credited with converting the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity in Northumbria and beyond.

Our father among the saints Chad of Lichfield and Mercia is also important to English Orthodox as a missionary, bishop, healer, and wonderworker who spread the Christian Faith throughout the British Isles.



Photo: The Orthodox Parish of Saint Aidan & St Chad

Fr Julian Lowe

The Kingdom of Mercia

When Chad became Bishop in 669 AD, he did not journey to what we now recognize as the Midlands or Staffordshire; instead, he arrived in the Kingdom of Mercia. If this sounds reminiscent of a Game of Thrones setting, you're not far off—minus the dragons.

Mercia was one of seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, alongside Northumbria, East Anglia, Kent, Essex, Sussex, and Wessex. These kingdoms were formed by Germanic tribes migrating from present-day Denmark, the Netherlands, and northern Germany beginning in 425 AD, after the Roman legions withdrew.

Among the last Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to emerge, Mercia derives its name from Old English, meaning "border," likely due to its position as the westernmost frontier of the Anglo-Saxon tribes. Long before the Anglo-Saxons arrived, the region was inhabited by the Britons, with the Cornovii tribe predominantly settled in areas now known as Shropshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Cheshire, Clwyd, and eastern Powys.

The kings of Mercia claimed descent from Icel, said to be the son of the king of the Angles. In 515 AD, Icel led his people across the North Sea to Britain. By his death around 535 AD, he had gained control over significant portions of both East Anglia and the Midlands.

Mercia rose to prominence under King Penda, who allied with the Welsh ruler of Gwynedd defeated the Northumbrians, killing their king Edwin and liberating Mercia from their control. Penda then expanded Mercian territory through wars against Wessex and East Anglia, ultimately transforming it into one of the largest Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. Centred on the River Trent, Mercia encompassed much of South Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, and North Warwickshire.



Mercia in time of Chad - Wikipedia

The Anglo-Saxons who settled in England were predominantly pagan, yet they encountered Christian Britons who had retained their faith after the Roman departure. A new wave of Christian missionaries was also arriving in Britain. In 563, St. Columba established a monastery on Iona in Scotland and began his missionary work across Scotland and northern England. In 597, Augustine arrived from Rome, commissioned by Pope Gregory to convert the Anglo-Saxons, starting with the royal household of Kent.

While many Anglo-Saxon kings converted to Christianity, King Penda—who claimed to have killed at least five Christian kings—remained pagan. Interestingly, all his children were Christians, and his daughters, Cuneburh and Cyneswith, later became revered as saints. After Penda's death in battle, his son Paeda became a puppet king under Northumbrian control. He converted to Christianity as a condition for marrying Oswiu's daughter, Ahlflaed, who brought four monks from Lindisfarne to Mercia, including Diuma, who became the first bishop of Mercia in 656, and Cedd, Chad's brother. Paeda died by 656, allegedly poisoned by his wife—adding a touch of intrigue that wouldn't be out of place in Game of Thrones. Following his death, King Oswiu ruled Mercia directly for a few years until Paeda's brother Wulfhere ascended to the throne, expelling the Northumbrians.

King Wulfhere embraced Christianity, likely influenced by the missionaries who accompanied Ahlflaed. He married Eormenhild, a Christian princess from Kent, and was eager to promote Christianity in Mercia. In 669 AD, Chad arrived in Mercia as Bishop, establishing his church in Lichfield.

Both Paeda and Wulfhere are immortalized in sculptures on the West Front of Lichfield Cathedral—Paeda stands beside Chad, holding a cross, while Wulfhere is depicted next to him, holding Peterborough Cathedral.

Dr Marie Janson



Photo: Peter Harris

Where Angels Tread

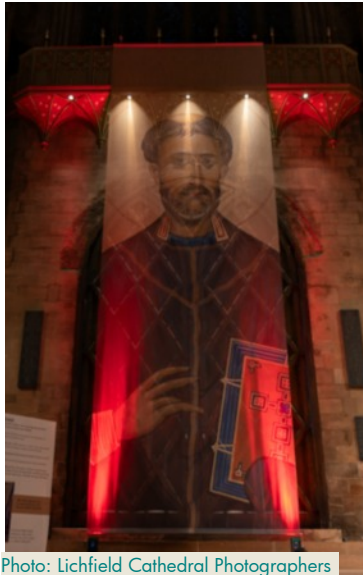


Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers

On 6 October 2024 a new installation 'Where Angels Tread' opened in Lichfield Cathedral. Featuring choirs of angels suspended across the Cathedral on voile panels, the installation aimed to take visitors on a journey through the life of St Chad, patron of Lichfield Cathedral, whose life was marked by visions of angels.

In addition to the usual visitor hours, the Cathedral was open on selected evenings for visitors to experience the angels in their glory: lit up and accompanied by an angelic soundtrack, offering space to reflect.



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers



Icon written by Aidan Hart

St Chad, the Apostle of the Midlands, was born in Northumbria, educated partly at Lindisfarne under St Aidan and partly in Ireland. He became Bishop of Mercia in 669 and Wulfhere, the first Christian king of Mercia, gave him land to establish his see at Lichfield.

Chad is known for his humility and simplicity of life and being devout, zealous and apostolic. Venerable Bede recounts how he was visited by choirs of singing angels, foreshadowing his death, which came of the plague on 2 March 672.

On his death, Chad was venerated as a saint and a Shrine to him made, in Lichfield Cathedral.



The story of St Chad's encounter with the angels



Angels are actually organised into ranks, their nine ranks are each called 'choirs', and include seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominions, and archangels. Each one has a distinct divine duty and role. There are named angels in the Bible, like Michael, the

The Venerable Bede tells us that one day, a monk, Owini was outside the oratory where Chad was alone, praying, and both heard:

"a sweet sound of singing and rejoicing descend from heaven to earth."

When Owini asked him what had happened, the bishop answered:

"... they were angelic spirits, who came to call me to my heavenly reward, which I have always loved and longed after, and they promised that they would return seven days hence, and take me away with them."





→ Where Angels Tread continued

"Angels transcend every religion, every philosophy, every creed. In fact Angels have no religion as we know it... Their existence precedes every religious system that has ever existed on Earth"

Thomas Aquinas

The idea of angels has endured and been beloved throughout the centuries to those of faith but also to those of none. The fond recognition of something other-worldly delivering messages of love, protection and hope continues today in both religious and popular culture.



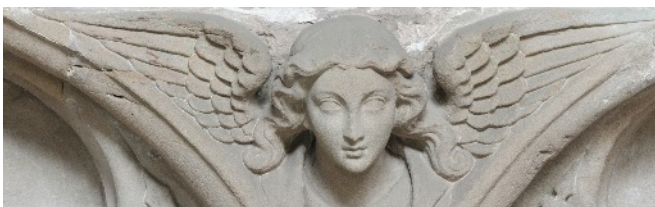
In Christian thought, angels are slightly mysterious, spiritual beings created by God to serve His will. They are primarily seen as messengers, reflecting the original meaning of the word "angel" (from the Greek 'angelos', meaning messenger).

Lichfield Cathedral

The concept of angels pre-dates most religions; throughout humanity there has been the idea of other-worldly guardian entities looking after the lives and well-being of those on earth. Where this idea comes from human culture and experience, we thought it would be interesting to use AI- essentially the most extensive collection of all human information, to generate something ethereal from our collective knowledge. The results were beautiful and encapsured what we felt an angel was- the interesting dynamic of machine creating art added to its intrigue.

Suzie Santomassimo

All of the images of angels in this article are to be found in Lichfield Cathedral and reproduced with permission. They are carved in the stonework, depicted in stained glass, rendered in gold and in the stories told in the icons. The voiles contain both AI images and images found within the Cathedral.



St Chad's School, Hanmer - Wrexham

Every half term, the students at St. Chad's participate in a 'Know Your Church' workshop held at the school.



Photo: St Chad's School Hanmer



Photo: St Chad's School Hanmer

The Mother's Union organises activities related to our current school topic, which is 'Tell Us a Story' this term.

The workshops focus on Bible stories.



Photo: St Chad's School Hanmer



Photo: St Chad's School Hanmer

We start with a whole-school session and then divide into smaller classes. This half term, we explored the stories of Noah's Ark, Joseph and his dream coat, the Good Samaritan, and David and Goliath.

We're thankful for this connection with our community.

Harvest Festival



Photo: St Chad's School Hanmer



Photo: St Chad's School Hanmer



Photo: St Chad's School Hanmer

The children of St Chad's school led St Chad's Harvest Service on Sunday 20 October on the theme of our Local farmers.

Nicola Locker
Headteacher

St Chad's Church buildings that have been moved.

I have, as you know developed an interest in St Chad churches which have either disappeared or are closed for various reasons.

I have also been fascinated to hear about several St Chad's where the buildings themselves have been moved for various reasons.

I have articles about two of them in this newsletter...

St Chad's College Durham Chapel is my starting point and I am grateful to Jenny Parker, St Chad's College Librarian & Archivist for providing me with information about this.

The chapel was originally erected on the lawn behind 1 South Bailey in Durham in 1909. It was then transferred down to its later position on the river towpath in 1913 before being dismantled once the current chapel building was erected behind 18 North Bailey, Durham in 1927.

From Durham the story of this chapel moves to **Sunderland.**

Peter Harris

St Chad's Church, Sunderland



Photo: Herrington Heritage

The beginnings of St. Chad's, Sunderland
There was no Anglican church building in the villages of Middle Herrington and East Herrington (then situated in County Durham, now in Sunderland) up to 1930. There was only a small Methodist Chapel in Crow Lane, Middle Herrington. The two villages were in the parish of St. Aidan's, New Herrington. Residents also travelled to the surrounding parishes of West Herrington, Houghton-le-Spring and Newbottle. The first mention of the need for a church building in Middle Herrington is found in the minutes of the Annual General meeting of St. Aidan's Parochial Church Council in March 1927.

However, by March 1928 plans had been put in abeyance, possibly due to the cost of a new building.

There is a tradition that Deaconess Strikeman (a Londoner working in Durham city who retired to Herrington) with her Methodist counterpart knelt at the top of Durham Road and prayed for a Mission Church to be found. This prayer was answered as St. Chad's College, Durham at that time had decided to replace its wooden chapel and the remains of the building were going to be used as firewood. But in the end, the College deconstructed their building, moved the materials to Sunderland and reconstructed the chapel as the Mission Church in East and Middle Herrington. The College also did the same with a building that had been a hall of residence which became the Church Hall. The Mission Church was dedicated on the 26th February 1930.

The early mission church and church hall



Photo: Herrington Heritage

In the early days of the Mission Church, students from St. Chad's College helped to sing Evensong at this new venture in Herrington.

The new Mission Church was a great success and by 1938 the congregation had outgrown the buildings so a new hall had to be added. After World War Two, housing in East Herrington, Middle Herrington and many of the surrounding estates grew dramatically in size, especially Farrington, such that the Mission Church could no longer serve the local population sufficiently.





→ St Chad's Sunderland - continued



Photo: St Chad's Sunderland

Plans were made in the 1950's to build a new church out of brick to serve the area. Funds were received from the Sunderland (New Estates) Church Building Fund and local people fundraised. The new Church, which is the building still in use today, was consecrated on the 6th December 1961 and the old Mission Church became redundant.



Photo: St Chad's Sunderland

Today, the site of the Mission Church is now in private hands. But we remain grateful and appreciative to St. Chad's College for enabling the life of our parish to begin. And we attempt to live by the example of St. Chad, as well as Deaconess Strikeman and those who founded our parish, as we continue their work today.

Adapted from material in 'The History of St. Chad's Church, Sunderland from 1930' by Dr. John Conn

With thanks also to Rev'd John D'Silva



Photo: St Chad's Sunderland



I came upon this next church while searching for a picture of a 'tin mission church'. I was surprised to see that the image I found was of a St Chad Church I did not know about! I obviously needed to find out more and I am grateful for the help given by Sarah Roberts and Lauren Collier of Ironbridge Gorge Museum for their help with this.

Peter Harris

Blists Hill Victorian Town Ironbridge

Missions for Morality



Photo: Ironbridge Gorge Museum

At Blists Hill Victorian Town in Telford you will find St Chad's Mission Church. This small, corrugated iron hut was rebuilt at the museum in 1977 but was originally constructed as a mission church in 1896 at Lodge Bank, near to the present-day Granville Country Park, Telford. It served the scattered mining community that grew around Granville Colliery, which opened in the mid-19th century.

In the Victorian era, many workers felt alienated from the Anglican Church. Its tone catered to the middle and upper class and the expense of renting church pews had priced the poor out of the church. Alongside this, migrating workers and the development of new industries caused populations to explode in towns and cities, overpopulating existing churches, and new communities to grow in remote areas with limited access to an Anglican church. Consequently, there were growing fears amongst the middle class for the religious and moral wellbeing of the working class. As a result, a vast missionary effort was undertaken into 'Darkest England' which appeared uncivilised, backwards and lacking Christian faith or beliefs.





Missions for Morality - continued



Photo: Roger Marks

It likely cost less than £100 and would have been erected over a series of weekends by the congregation. It would have been intended to be a temporary building that was put up whilst funds could be raised for a stone or brick building, although this was never achieved. This mission church, like many others across Britain, provided a sense of community to the scattered villages that grew around rapidly developing industry, and brought together migrating workers from varying backgrounds. Throughout the 20th century many of these churches lost their congregations as the population shifted again and as Britain became less religious, but the surviving churches act as a reminder of strong working-class communities that grew from the religious and moral anxieties of the middle class in the 19th century.

Granville Colliery in the 1940's



Photo: Ironbridge Gorge Museum

Lauren Collier
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust Limited



Lost and Closed St Chad's Churches

St Chad's, Derby

I have included links here to some photos of St Chad's Derby:

[St Chad's Derby - Interior](#)

[St Chad's Derby - Exterior](#)

This was a late Victorian Church which was demolished in 1996.

I am still searching for photos and information about the St Chad's Church which was near Plymouth Dockyard.

I have found reference to a St Chad's Church near the centre of Bristol and another near Preston. I hope to be able to include information about these in the next newsletter.



From the Archives..



You might remember that in previous newsletters I included extracts from the archives in Leeds and Lasingham.

I am hoping to see if there is anything in Lichfield that would be interesting to share.

Please let me know if you have anything you would like to include.

Peter Harris



Facebook Group

Our Facebook group is steadily increasing in numbers. We invite anyone with a St Chad Network connection to join our closed Facebook Group! You will be asked a verification question before joining.

Posts from around the Network are very welcome! They just need to be relevant to the fellowship of the Network. Do share posts and photos about anything that would like us to know about.



[St Chad Network](#)



Lost and Closed St Chad's Churches

Chester

I am grateful to Cathryn Eales and her colleagues at the Grosvenor Museum and West Cheshire Museums for doing some research on our behalf.

Peter Harris

St Chad's Blacon, Chester



Photo: The History Hub at the Grosvenor Museum Cheshire Imagebank Collection

The foundation stone for St Chad's Church was laid by Dr Paget, Bishop of Chester on 11th June 1929.

It was built on land donated by Lord Houghton, later Marquis of Crewe for the building of an Anglican church. St Chad's was a popular place of worship for the people of Blacon until the new parish church of Holy Trinity was built in the 1960's.

Grosvenor Museum



Photo: The History Hub at the Grosvenor Museum Cheshire Imagebank Collection



St Chad's, Chester City Centre

I am grateful to the archaeologist at the Grosvenor Museum for providing information about the St Chad's Church that was in Chester city centre.

Peter Harris

'The Linenhall was the site of the Franciscan friary and St Chad's is thought to have been a bit further north in the area that became occupied by the Royal Infirmary. We can pinpoint the Crofts in the north-west corner of the city between the Walls and the area covered by St Martin's Way, more or less the site of the Royal Infirmary, it was the site of orchards and vegetable gardens (sort of market gardens for the city) and the great barn of the abbey.

As far as I am aware the location of the chapel has not been found during any excavations, yet.

The part of modern St Martin's Way that had previously been known as the Crofts, was later referred to as St Chad's Lane or 'Sant Chadde Layne', in 1574.

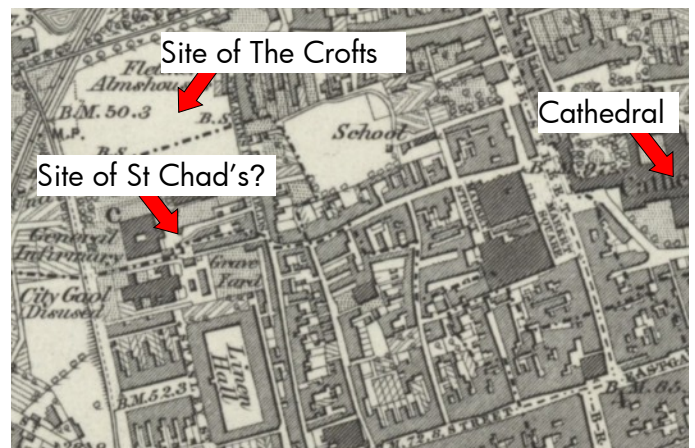
Summary

St Chad's was a small church or chapel that existed by c1250, and may have been established by Henry III c1217. No longer extant, it lay in the area in the north-west of the city known as the Crofts, the site of the present Royal Infirmary and although its status is uncertain it may have been parochial with a conventual establishment attached, but the order of this group is unknown.

According to documentary research, the church had probably disappeared by the 1530s.'

Grosvenor Museum

North-West Chester c1870



Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

Google Map

Here is the link to the Google Map I made showing the places I have found connected with St Chad. It is arranged in layers so that by ticking the box by the layer title will either



St Chad Places



show or hide the places within that layer. This is still a 'work in progress! Extra pieces of information to this map. I have update the map to include 'new' places that I discover. There is still a lot of research to do and information to add.

Please let me know of anywhere you know of that I might have missed.

Peter Harris



St Chad's Day 2025

I would like to include articles and photos about how you celebrate St Chad's Day. In particular I would like schools to share any ideas that they have.

Peter Harris



Website Links

Several places have included links to our newsletters on their websites and have included information about our Facebook group. It is hoped that links and information will also be available on the Lichfield Cathedral website in the near future.



Websites - links to places mentioned in this Newsletter

St Chad's, Huapai

St Chad and All Saints, Sedgley

St Chad's, Erdington

St Chad's School, Hanmer

Orthodox Parish of St Aidan & St Chad, Nottingham

Ironbridge Gorge Museum

St Chad and St Mark, Wolverhampton

St Chad's, Adelaide

Lichfield Cathedral

St Chad's, Sunderland

St Chad's, Longford

St Chad's, Tushingham

St Chad's, Holt

Grosvenor Museum, Chester

St Chad's, Winsford

St Chad's, Boningale

St Chad's College, Durham

Visits

If you are planning a visit to Lichfield please let us know. It would be good to be able to meet you in person.

Other St Chad churches would welcome you to visit too!

You can contact me if you need any information about the Network or making visits

chadnetwork@lichfield-cathedral.org



Next Newsletter Spring / Summer 2025

I am always happy to include articles, photos and news from St Chad Network members. These could be about special events happening in your church, school or college or a general article telling us about you.

It is always good to have articles from schools.

The Network is a great way of sharing ideas. In order to do that, we do rely on contributions from our members.

So, please let me know if you have anything that you think might be of interest, whether it be about services, history, pilgrimages, images, stories, traditions or just something you feel could be shared across the Network.

Has anyone got a St Chad Well in their area?

Stories connected with St Chad are also always welcome.

Peter Harris

Please could I have any contributions by the end of May 2025.

chadnetwork@lichfield-cathedral.org

Please share this Newsletter with members of your church, school or college via any method you wish.



Details update and contacts

Please use the form below to update any changes to the contact details we have for you. We like to have a main contact for each church or school but individual members are welcome too. I know that updates to contacts are often difficult with positions changing or waiting to be filled. It is very useful having updated contacts so that information can continue between us.

Peter Harris

[CONTACT FORM](#)