

### THE SHRINE OF ST CHAD



Photo: Simon Jones



#### **The Re-instatement of the Shrine of St Chad, Lichfield Cathedral** by **The Dean of Lichfield Cathedral**

Lichfield Cathedral Chapter has been considering, since the 1980's how best to mark and honour the Cathedral's legacy as the site of St Chad's Shrine and foster the spiritual discipline of pilgrimage. Reinstatement of the Shrine was going to require theological and broad ecumenical consideration.

By 1931 it had become customary to put the St Chad's Gospels on display behind the reredos of the high altar on 2 March each year. The physical site of the medieval shrine east of the high altar was marked, modestly, with a stone slab, commemorating the nineteen-hundredth anniversary of the death of Chad and unveiled by the Duchess of Gloucester and dedicated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.<sup>1</sup>

Further embellishment of the shrine was added through the commissioning of an icon of St Chad in 1998, with provision for the lighting of candles nearby. A final part of the renaissance of St Chad's shrine has been spoken about for some years. In the late 1990s plans were discussed for the commissioning of a shrine-like structure.

Chapter has (since 2010) ensured the Lady Chapel and the shrine site are used exclusively for prayer, worship, leaving intercessions and visits. Unaccompanied Evensong takes place every Friday in the Lady Chapel. The Altar is used as the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday for the vigil and at Christmas it becomes a special place for collecting prayer requests, candle-lighting and the setting for the Nativity scene.

<sup>1</sup> The Very Reverend Michael Tavinor, the former Dean of Hereford, in his study of shrines "Shrines of the Saints in England and Wales" (Canterbury Press, Norwich 2016)

Given the pattern of recent use, the Diocesan Bishop's eagerness for the Diocese as a whole to re-embrace its founding Bishop (and learn from his zeal and holiness), manifested in the new Lichfield statement "Come follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad", important ecumenical pilgrimages involving church leaders and people in the region, and now the gift of a relic from the Archdiocese and the Catholic Cathedral of St Chad Birmingham, the case for the shrine became increasingly compelling.

It was decided to honour the 1350th anniversary of St Chad's death by reinstating the shrine during 2022.

It was recognised that the reintroduction of the shrine and an actual relic of St Chad qualifies the iconoclasm of the Reformation and some of the resulting strands of piety and theology. Nonetheless, the Church of England is also a beneficiary of the Catholic revival in the nineteenth century and is fully committed to seeking unity with the whole of the Church; the Catholic Church is a key partner in that search. Our understanding of Authority, the Eucharist, Justification and Grace are much clearer as a result of 50 years of dialogue between Anglicans and Catholics.



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers

The Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham, with the support of the Cathedral of St Chad, Birmingham were able to transfer part of the relic of St Chad to the site of the first shrine here in Lichfield. This is a sign of our common patrimony and a token of the way our two churches can walk together, pray together and share the riches of our traditions. St Chad's Cathedral had a special reliquary made for Lichfield. It is silver, in the shape of the St Chad Cross. This is a distinctive and special gift; precious because it symbolises a road travelled together and our togetherness in Christ.

The new shrine strengthens the Bishop's ministry as the successor to St Chad and enables the charism of St Chad to be encountered and appropriated in our time. Chad's charism and sanctity was grounded in real missionary zeal. He was approachable, travelling mostly by foot, living in community, organising and overseeing the church with care for its growth and mission. The shrine is of a timber construction (oak) with gilding and incised texts around the edge, also in gilt. Choosing wood echoes the original shrine referred to by Bede as "a wooden house" that housed Chad's remains. Four tall candlestands in oak stand at each corner of the Altar platform with small altar candles sitting in oak and gilt bowls.



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers

The shrine altar proclaims the work of grace in one of Christ's saints. The end of all Christian life is to find ourselves in Christ, crowned with the glory only he can bestow. As Christ wears the victor's crown so his followers are promised a share in that same dignity. For this reason a corona is suspended over the shrine altar hanging from the bosses where the Medieval Shrine canopy hung. It is an oval shape symbolising in Christian iconography the glory of Christ.





Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers

The glass in the Lady Chapel tells the story of Christ's Passion Death, Resurrection and Ascension. The shrine's reinstatement gives us the opportunity to evoke some of the highlights of Jesus's ministry, the luminous moments when his stature and nature are revealed: his Baptism in the Jordan, his Temptation in the Wilderness; his first miracle at Cana in Galilee, his preaching of the Kingdom; his Transfiguration; his institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Icons were commissioned of each. These are hung in alternate arcade spaces on the North arcade of the Lady Chapel, each with a lamp. The commission was given to the Bethlehemites involved in the previous icon projects. The icons will help the Cathedral celebrate the liturgical year and also provide, with the rest of the Lady Chapel's iconography, a complete telling of Christ's life whom Chad sought to imitate.

To emphasise the accessibility, presence and closeness of Jesus Christ to his Church in word and sacrament and the distinct Anglican emphasis of the inextricable link between the two, two mandorla (vesica) shaped "houses" for the reserved sacrament and the book of the Gospels used in procession and proclamation each week have been created.

The Interpretation of the East End of the Cathedral will be expanded to include an explanation of the Shrine and Lichfield's place as a pilgrimage Church. By bringing together practical, aesthetic, historical, theological and liturgical considerations the Shrine makes a beautiful contribution to the Cathedral enabling Lichfield to have a stronger connection with its founding Saint and to have an outward and visible sign of all the stages of faith life in Christ takes us on: conversion, sanctification and glorification.

Adrian Dorber



## The Shrine Services



Photo: Simon Jones

Monday 7 & Tuesday 8 November saw two moving services as the Shrine of St Chad was consecrated and reinstated at Lichfield. 484 years after the original shrine was destroyed, a new Altar Shrine was built and a relic of St Chad translated from St Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Birmingham.

In a historic moment and deeply poignant ecumenical service, Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop Michael Ipgrave gave a heartfelt address.



Photo: Simon Jones

The address can be viewed here:

[Address given by Archbishop Bernard Longley and Bishop Michael Ipgrave](#)



# **The Translation of a Relic of St Chad to Lichfield Cathedral**

## **By The Dean of St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham**

### **St Chad's, Cathedral Birmingham**



Photo: St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham

Tuesday 8th November 2022 was set as the date for an historic event with much significance between St Chad's Cathedral (and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham) and Lichfield Cathedral (and the Anglican Diocese of Lichfield).

Some people associated with both Cathedrals can recall conversations about the possibility of entrusting a relic of St Chad (which always remains the possession of St Chad's Cathedral) to Lichfield Cathedral. Perhaps the length of time that these discussions have taken to come to fruition reflects something of the patience that characterises ecumenical dialogue.

Before by time as Dean of St Chad's, my predecessor Canon Gerry Breen had arranged for a replica reliquary to be created (silver, in the shape of the St Chad's Cross) so that our Archbishop and Chapter of Canons might entrust this reliquary while retaining one for portable use, in addition to the main golden reliquary remains above the High Altar in St Chad's Cathedral.

Many conversations took place about the sense of entrusting a relic as there is a range of views on relics in the Church of England.

In recent years, when there was an ecumenical walk from St Chad's Cathedral to Lichfield Cathedral, I carried the small relic of St Chad on the 17 mile journey, and it was very moving to see the reaction of clergy and laity alike at Lichfield Cathedral when this small relic arrived at Lichfield Cathedral. For them, it was a return of the presence of St Chad to what had been his original shrine and his Cathedral site. This confirmed the spirit of our shared devotion to the Saint that we share as a Patron.

Archbishop Bernard sought the permission of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, in Rome, which has competence in these matters, and this permission was given.

Dean Adrian Dorber of Lichfield Cathedral came to meet with the Chapter of Canons of the Archdiocese to make a presentation on the re-establishment of a shrine altar with a Corona overhead in Lichfield Cathedral. This presentation was met with enthusiasm and gratitude and the long-discussed proposal became real for us.



Photo: St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham

### **The High Altar, St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham.**

The bones of St Chad were placed in a shrine, designed by Pugin, above the High Altar on the day of the Cathedral's consecration 21 June 1841.



The shrine altar has a grate at its base which allows for the reliquary to be visible but also removable. It is understood on both sides that the entrusting of this relic is good for its time and will hopefully be an enduring sign of our co-operation. If there comes a time that future personnel at Lichfield Cathedral no longer wish to house this relic, it is foreseen that the relic can be returned to St Chad's.

Tuesday 8th November saw Lichfield Cathedral full and joyful with both Anglicans and Catholics as well as representatives of many other Christian churches for this celebration of the translation of the relic.

Archbishop Bernard and Bishop Michael Ipgrave spoke beautifully, with great respect and sensitivity, about what we were celebrating and I invite you to read these words, and even to look at Lichfield Cathedral's YouTube channel which has a recording of the event.

Any concerns about divisions on the subject of relics seemed to evaporate on the day at Lichfield as the strongest dynamic was Christian worship of God through the intercession of St Chad.

Those of us who participated in the day enjoyed the moment but became so aware during the day of the many people – both Catholic and Anglican – who were really emotional that this was not a solution to ecumenical differences, but was certainly the answer to prayer and the fruit of many patient ecumenical discussion and dialogue over decades.

In July 2021, an impressive new outdoor statue of St Chad, youthful and energetic and 'on the move', was unveiled. As part of the translation of a relic of St Chad to Lichfield Cathedral, Dean Adrian Dorber wished to reciprocate by giving the Catholic community a prototype of the statue of St Chad outside Lichfield Cathedral. As we already have a statue of St Chad in the Cathedral and there was not an obvious place for another statue, I decided that this 3-foot statue of a young St Chad would rightly find a new home at our parish school, St Chad's Catholic Primary School in Newtown.

Dean Adrian came to visit St Chad's Catholic Primary School, Newtown, Birmingham, on Thursday 9th February. We had the opportunity to thank him and he saw little St Chad in his new habitat!

**Mrs Martina Parker, Head Teacher, Dean Adrian  
Mrs Maria Ryan, Deputy Head Teacher. Mgr Timothy**



Photo: St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham  
St Chad Statue © Peter Walker Sculptor

In reflecting on the November ceremony, I would like to mention Canon Garry Byrne, a priest of our Archdiocese, whose death has been announced very recently. Canon Garry came to the translation of the relic and spoke warmly about the event, its significance, and the welcome that we as a Catholic community received from our Anglican brothers and sisters on that day.

I encourage you, next time you might be near Lichfield, to visit the Cathedral – which is not far from Lichfield City Railway Station – and to say a prayer at the shrine altar and see the reliquary in the base. The shrine altar is situated at the far end of the Cathedral from the main doors. The statue of St Chad can be found outside, and round to the right of the Cathedral.

As the relics of St Chad are now housed in both Cathedrals, let us praise God for his goodness to both communities and endeavour to work together for Christian Unity especially through prayer and friendship.

Mgr Timothy Menezes  
Cathedral Dean & Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, Aston



# Lichfield Cathedral School

## St Chad's Procession

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, it was St. Chad's Day and we, Lichfield Cathedral School, had the honour of taking part in a procession to St. Chad's Well. We began the day by visiting Lichfield Cathedral where we visited the new St. Chad Shrine. We were accompanied by Bishop Michael and Canon Stead, which showed it was a momentous occasion. During our time at the shrine, Bishop Michael (the 99<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Lichfield) held a short service and blessed our brand new St Chad Banner which was specially made for the day.

After this, we took a 15-minute walk past Stowe Pool to St. Chad's Church, led by our beautiful new banner. Luckily, the weather was fine and we saw lots of dogs and cyclists on the way!

When we arrived, we walked to St. Chad's Well and lined up with Year 5 at the front and Year 6 and 7 behind. We were then joined by Reverend Rod, a priest at St. Chad's Church. A short reading was read by Canon Stead from Luke 2:1 and then we were invited to receive water from the well. Water was poured into our hands and then the priest made the sign of the cross on our heads. The water was very cold but it was an honour to take part in such a special service. After this, we all walked back to school. On the way, we met a member of public who asked us about our banner and checked if we knew what our school motto meant. Inservi deo et Laetare – Serve God and be joyful.

Francesca Year 6

**Headteacher - Mrs S Hannam  
with the new St Chad Banner**



Photo: Peter Harris

## St Chad's Anglican Church, Huapai, New Zealand

### St Chad's Day



Photo: St Chad's Huapai

We tried to explain to the children quite how long ago AD672 was by using a timeline with the children's birth years in a clump on the right! The boy holding 1923 was celebrating the birth of parishioner Rev Peter Stead (whose 100<sup>th</sup> birthday we celebrated on 26<sup>th</sup> February). Adam, in the blue shirt, was at the foundation of modern New Zealand at The Treaty of Waitangi in 1840. April, in the green top at the far end, was at the birth of Jesus and Clive, in the black shirt and shorts, was marking the death of St Chad. It was a hugely successful service enjoyed by young and old alike! Of course we were also in the second Sunday of Lent which we mark with the "rocky road" in front of our St Chad's kneeler beneath the altar.

Colin Newel



Photo: St Chad's Huapai



Photo: Simon Jones

## The Bishop of Lichfield's St Chad's Day Message

[Click here to view](#)





## Dean Adrian

The Very Rev'd Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield retired on 31 March 2023, following seventeen and a half years in the role. The Cathedral and the wider community including the St Chad Network wish to give thanks for his commitment and creativity during his tenure.

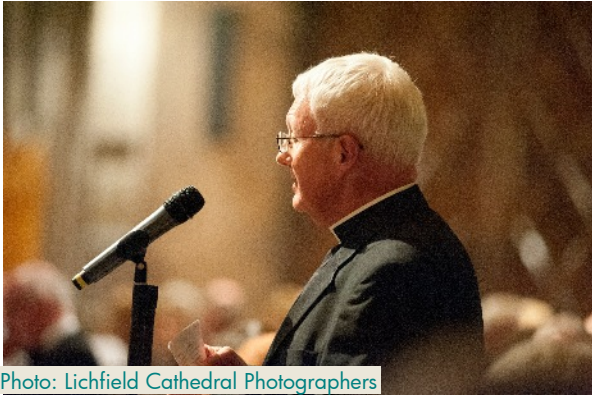


Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers

During his time, Dean Adrian made an enduring impact on the Cathedral and its community. His energy and creativity brought about innovative art programmes, icon projects, restoration of the famous Herkonrode Glass and, most recently, the reinstatement of the Shrine of St Chad.

He was a staunch advocate for Cathedrals, taking on the chairmanship of the Association of English Cathedrals (2015-2022), the National Cathedrals Conference (2018, 2022). Dean Adrian also worked to raise the profile of Cathedrals nationally and help Cathedrals understand the vital role they play as beacons of faith, offering hope and hospitality to those in need, and being places for pilgrimage and prayer.

His service leaves a legacy that has put the work of the Cathedral at the heart of local community, helping as vaccination clinic during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering events for all such as The Great Exhibition and Christmas light shows, and in 2022, becoming a Healthy Healing Hub.



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers

He also spent much time working towards building better ecumenical relationships, becoming an Ecumenical Scholar at Tantur Ecumenical Institute in 2012, and making a way for the translation of the relic of St Chad and the reinstatement of the Shrine of St Chad to its original location at Lichfield Cathedral.

Dean Adrian instigated the St Chad Network in 2021. He hoped it would be: 'the beginning of an exciting association and network that would bring alive the riches of the tradition of St Chad in such a way that we honour him, and continue his work of healing, faithfulness and building unity and community in an imaginative way'. Over the past two years the Network has grown and is fulfilling these hopes of Dean Adrian.

At the very heart of Dean Adrian's ministry was been his enthusiasm for the gospel, sharing the message of love that Christianity has at its core, and teaching followers to walk in the example of Christ.

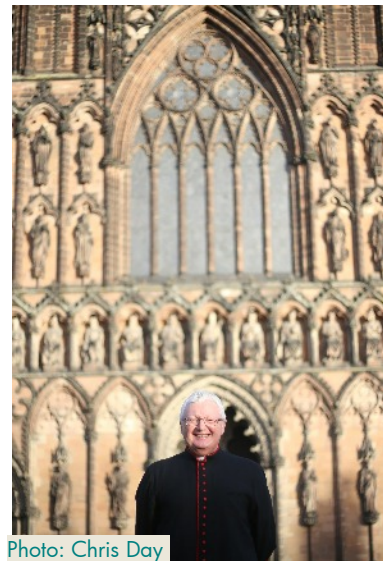


Photo: Chris Day



## Garden of St Mary and St Chad

The booklet about the garden may still be downloaded from the link below or from Lichfield Cathedral website by entering 'Herb Garden' into the search box in the top right corner of the Welcome page. [The Garden of St Mary and St Chad Booklet](#)

## A Garden in Honour of St Chad

A leaflet with some ideas of how to get started with plants connected with St Chad can be accessed here: [St Chad Herb Garden](#) – if you encounter difficulties accessing either leaflet contact [chadnetwork@lichfield-cathedral.org](mailto:chadnetwork@lichfield-cathedral.org)

Please send photos and tell us how you get on.

## The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester Visit Lichfield

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester visited Lichfield Cathedral on Thursday 16 March for a tour of the Cathedral. The Royal couple then went on to visit Derby Cathedral that afternoon.



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers

Upon arrival The Duke and Duchess were greeted by the Dean of Lichfield, The Very Revd Adrian Dorber, who will retiring at the end of the month, along with the Chair of Lichfield District Council, the Mayor of Lichfield, the Sherriff of Lichfield and the Bishop of Lichfield. After an organ fanfare, children from the MusicShare schools singing programme treated the visitors to a short performance as a welcome to Lichfield.

During their visit Their Royal Highnesses were given an overview of the Cathedral's work to reach the whole community and enable participation and active engagement. The Duke who has a particular interest in art, architecture and pilgrimage was introduced to Robert Kilgour, the architect who designed the new Shrine of St Chad and a team of craftspeople involved in its creation. Peter Walker, Artist-in-Residence at Lichfield Cathedral between 2015-2021, talked through his work with the Cathedral and the local community with the arts.



Photo: Kathryn Walker

St Chad Statue © Peter Walker Sculptor

The Duchess, who is patron of the Cathedral Music Trust, was introduced to some of the choristers from Lichfield Cathedral Choir, who later sang at a short service of prayer to bring the tour inside the Cathedral to a fitting close.

On their way to a private reception at the Deanery, The Duke and Duchess were introduced to members of the cathedral staff team and two of the younger choristers Quinn Foster & Henry Keay presented the Duke and Duchess with a posy and memento of their visit.



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers

The Dean of Lichfield shared his thoughts on the visit: "It was a great pleasure to welcome TRH The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester to Lichfield Cathedral. The Duke has been a great supporter of the Cathedral, having served as our Royal Patron for the campaign to repair and conserve the Lady Chapel windows and the surrounding stonework. He has also supported the national programme to enable Cathedrals to develop new patterns of pilgrimage and spiritual engagement. The Duchess is the current patron of the national Cathedrals' Music Trust. The Trust promotes everything that enables our rich music tradition to attract new singers, develop musical talent and help music education and performance. The visit was a real encouragement to all of us. We appreciate the warmth, knowledge and friendliness of the Duke and Duchess and we were honoured to be the first Cathedral to receive them on their new round of visits to other Cathedrals across the English regions. It's been a memorable day."



Photo: Lichfield Cathedral Photographers



## St Chad's Rochdale



Photo: St Chad's Rochdale

My apologies that this photo was incorrectly labelled in some copies of the last Newsletter. The window is in fact in St Chad's Rochdale and depicts St Chad preaching in Rochdale. Next year, St Chad's Church Rochdale will be celebrating its 830th anniversary. I am looking to include something about this fascinating historic church and parish in the next newsletter.



## Snowdrops at St Chad's Longford Derbyshire



Photo: Angela Churchill

The snow drops in the churchyard at St Chad, Longford began to appear in February. They are the start of a display that lasts almost unbroken until May. The snowdrops are followed by daffodils, which in turn are followed by bluebells.



Photo: Angela Churchill

Angela Churchill

## Pilgrimages

Last time we included a piece about The Two Kingdoms Way - a new pilgrimage route from Holy Island to Lichfield.

I am keen to include something about The Two Saints Way in the next Newsletter which links Chester with Lichfield.

If anyone has walked this it would be great to be able to share your experiences.



Photo: Peter Harris

I recently visited Wybunbury in Cheshire which is on The Two Saints Way. I was given a warm welcome by the Headteacher of the school Mrs Chesters and Church Warden Kathy Percival. I hope to include more information from Wybunbury in the next Newsletter. Both the church and school have interesting histories.

### St Chad's, Wybunbury

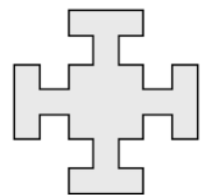


Photo: Peter Harris

If you know of any pilgrimage routes that pass close or near to a St Chad church or through your city, town or village. It would also be good to hear of them.



## St Chad Cross



We are keen to encourage younger members in the St Chad Network to get involved in activities. We thought one way to do this was by getting young members of your church or school pupils to create a St Chad Cross. This could be made in any way you wish outdoors or inside.

Ideas for an outside cross might involve using plants or pebbles or any natural materials. Inside crosses could be a collage or what ever inspires you!

If you wish to share your results please send photos to:

Peter Harris: [chadnetwork@lichfield-cathedral.org](mailto:chadnetwork@lichfield-cathedral.org)  
Remember to share results on our Facebook Page.

## Facebook Group

We invite anyone with a St Chad Network connection to join our closed Facebook Group! You will be asked a verification question before joining. We would love more posts from around the Network. Posts should be relevant to the fellowship of the Network. Self-promotion, spam and irrelevant links aren't allowed.

We want to keep it a safe, closed environment to be enjoyed by all members.



**St Chad Network**



## Visits

It has been good to meet many Network members in person both in Lichfield and around the country as well as via 'Zoom'. I enjoyed giving a talk about the Network to St Chad's Episcopal Church, Albuquerque. I have plans to get out and about to visit more places this year. I would love to do more 'Zoom' talks with places further away from Lichfield too.

If you come to, or are planning to visit Lichfield Cathedral, do make yourself known or let me (Peter Harris) know in advance.

Churches around the Network would welcome visits from you also. These multi-way links are important. A list of member churches and schools is being put together, which will be sent to the contact for your organisation. I will try to include it in the next Newsletter also. If you wish to contact anyone, I can then ask permission if the relevant contact is not on their website or Facebook page.

St Chad's, Hanmer

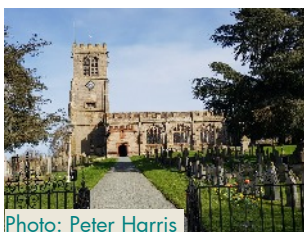


Photo: Peter Harris

The Orthodox Church of The Ascension & St Chad, Rugby

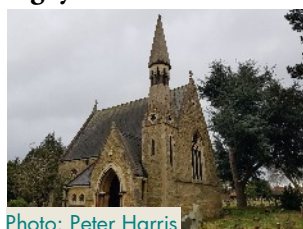


Photo: Peter Harris

## Websites - links to places mentioned in this Newsletter

[Lichfield Cathedral](#) [Lichfield Cathedral School](#)

[St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham](#)

[St Chad's Albuquerque](#) [Saint Chad's, Huapai](#)

[St Chad's, Rochdale](#) [St Chad's, Longford](#)

[St Chad's, Wybunbury](#) [St Chad's, Hanmer](#)

[The Orthodox Church of The Ascension & St Chad, Rugby](#)

## 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 show or hide the places within that layer. I am trying to add extra pieces of information to this map. The ancient



Map data ©2012

### St Chad Places

Google Map Legend	
	Church of England
	Church in Wales
	Roman Catholic
	Orthodox
	World
	Closed

St Chad's layer is still undergoing research and purely based on what I have found on websites etc. I have added a few closed or demolished churches. Let me know of other places that I have missed or any extra information.



Peter Harris

## Next Newsletter - Autumn 2023

This Newsletter has been rather full of Lichfield items. I am hoping to include articles from more places in the next issue, for which plans are already taking shape. I am gathering information about why dedications to St Chad were given. Also, I am keen to hear of any local stories connected with St Chad himself. If you know of any stories that have passed down within your community about St Chad or the origin of the dedication to him, please send them to me so that I can include some in the Newsletter.

In the next issue it is hoped to include articles spotlighting a few places around the world representing all denominations.

Discussions are taking place about developing St Chad Walks. We welcome your ideas too!

Peter Harris: [chadnetwork@lichfield-cathedral.org](mailto:chadnetwork@lichfield-cathedral.org)

Please could I have any contributions by 25 September.

Please share this Newsletter with members of your church, school or organisation.



## Details update and contacts

Please use the form below to update any changes to the contact details we have for you, either individual or organisation contact. This is often difficult with positions changing or waiting to be filled. Having an email contact so that information can continue is very useful. Hopefully this will not be too time-consuming.

[CONTACT FORM](#)