

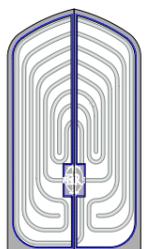
Artist impression

WE NEED YOUR CHURCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO A DIOCESAN WIDE ART PROJECT

A sculptural bronze porch with ceremonial glass doors for the west end of Chester Cathedral will be unveiled in 2022 as part of the Queen's platinum Jubilee celebrations.

The artwork within the glass will encapsulate a selected photograph of a significant and meaningful element from your church.

Our vision is to include all our worshipping communities in the diocese.



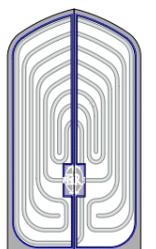
It is our hope that this short booklet will explain exactly how you can get involved and add your contribution to the Pilgrim Porch project.

You can also visit the website www.broadbent.studio/pilgrim-porch and if you have any specific questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with:-

pilgrimporch@broadbent.studio

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INTRODUCTION

The Pilgrim Porch at Chester Cathedral

Chester Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese – a Christian community encompassing 273 parishes – and the seat of the Bishop of Chester. Despite being one of the most important medieval buildings in the north west of England, we have a problem with visibility. Visitors – both tourists and worshippers – to our building are often unsure about where to find us, what we do, and whether they can come in.

The Pilgrim Porch will address these issues of visibility. As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, this project will see a set of interior transparent doors being installed at the west end of Chester Cathedral in 2022. Once complete, the Pilgrim Porch will allow our arresting medieval wooden doors to remain open to the city, and allow a view of the interior of the Cathedral church from the outside: reinforcing the idea that we are an open, welcoming Church, guided by the mission 'Discovery, Encounter, Faith'.

The relationship between Cathedral and Diocese is at the heart of this project. Artist Stephen Broadbent - renowned for his sculpture and artwork across the country, and in Chester for The Celebration and The Water of Life, located in Chester Town Square and Chester Cathedral Cloister Garden, respectively – has designed the sculptural bronze porch with ceremonial glass which will feature, etched in the design of a labyrinth, images significant to churches across the diocese. As visitors gaze on our impressive church interior, they will get a sense of the communities across Cheshire invested in heritage and faith and will begin their own journey of pilgrimage in Chester Cathedral.

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford
Dean of Chester

Forward from Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester

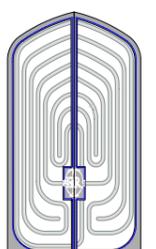
I am delighted to commend the Pilgrim Porch project, and really looking forward to seeing it unveiled later in the year.

It is relatively rare that an artist is commissioned to create a new permanent fixture for the interior of a Medieval Cathedral. Even more special, though, that such a project can mark and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of a reigning monarch. We hope that this project will be a fitting tribute to the remarkable reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a permanent enhancement to the fabric of our Cathedral.

These are some of the reasons that I write to commend the Pilgrim Porch project and to invite all parish churches to contribute to it. Together we will create a snapshot of worshipping life in the Diocese in 2022 and write today's story into the fabric of Chester Cathedral.

I am very grateful that artist Stephen Broadbent has been able and willing to give of his time and skill for this project.

With my thanks,
+Mark



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Stephen Broadbent brings together a small team of artists, designers and makers, who together respond imaginatively and authentically to place and people. His background is as a sculptor and maker being trained by Sculptor Arthur Dooley.

Over the last forty years, Stephen has successfully completed many public art projects, private commissions and exhibitions.

Through artistic and community collaborations the team designs each piece in response to its unique location, so that it becomes an integral part of its surrounding environment.

Stephen is passionate about creating 'artworks that connect to a community or place' helping reveal collective meanings or stories through permanent sculptures within the landscape.

These interventions offer a quality and understanding of materiality, which as a maker, he then finds ways to beautifully craft that story in a wide range of materials that not only endure but aim to be integrated into the built environment. Consequently, each artwork is entirely unique as a direct response to that place.

More information can be found on the website www.broadbent.studio

A selection of Public Artworks



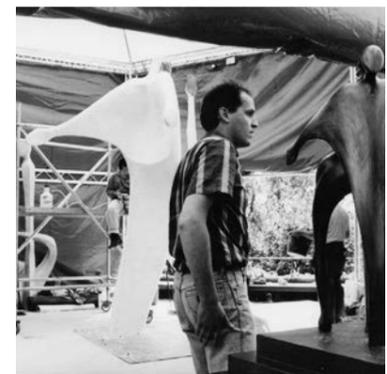
The Water of Life
Chester Cathedral, Cloister Garden



Sheppard Memorial,
Liverpool Anglican Cathedral,



The Celebration of Chester
Chester Town Square



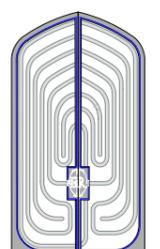
The making of the Celebration of
Chester in the park - 1992



Coming Home
Gleneagles



Propellers of the City,
Sunderland, Keel Square





THE PROJECT

Entitled the **Pilgrim Porch**, these doors will enable the medieval wooden doors to open, allowing visitors to step into the porch and view the Cathedral interior.

WE NEED YOU

I am asking every church in the diocese to share an image that is significant to their community.

This image; perhaps of a piece of stained glass, a carved detail, or symbolic object, will, along with almost 400 other photographs, help create a unique artwork.

The artwork will form a Labyrinth design, symbolically connecting every church to each other and to the Cathedral.

The Pilgrim Porch will be unveiled in 2022 as part of the Queen's platinum Jubilee celebrations.

An interactive web-link will allow people to view each image, along with a supporting image that shows it in its context, learning something about its story, and the church.

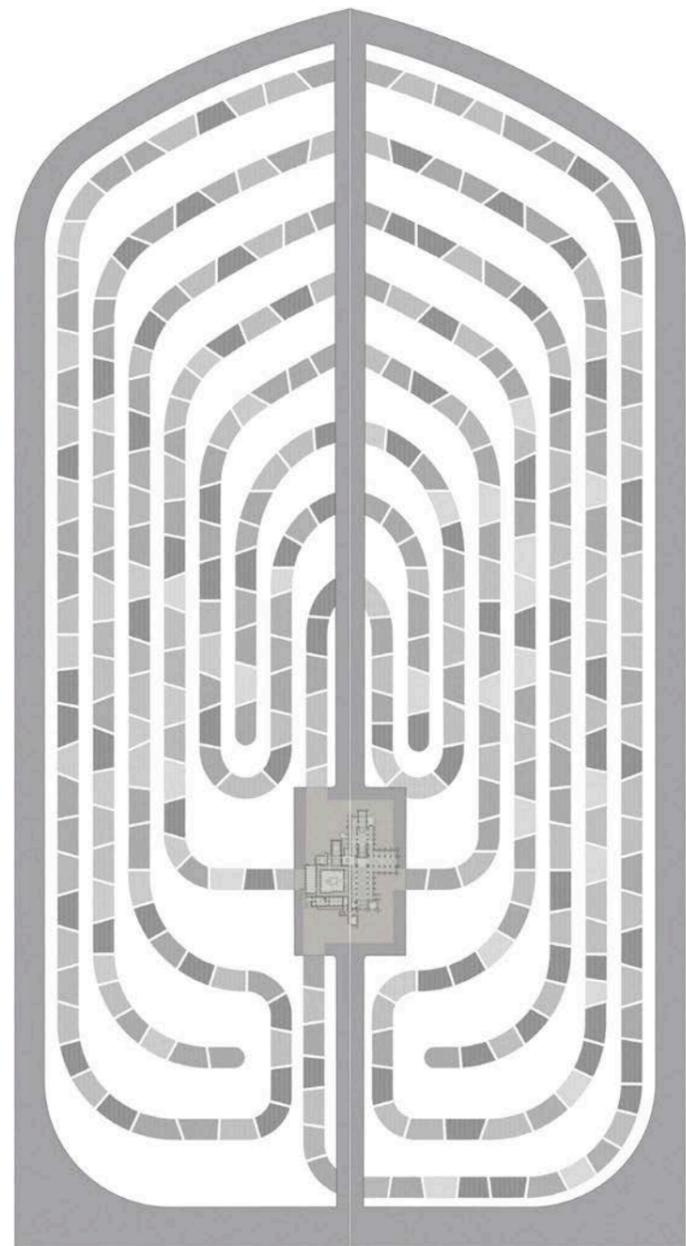
For any questions please do make contact
Thank you

Stephen Broadbent

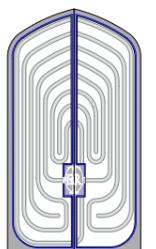
Artist

t. 01829 782822

Email: pilgrim.porch@broadbent.studio



Each segment represents a church within the diocese



YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Without your valuable contribution this unique landmark will not fully be realised - and it is very easy and rewarding to be involved.

Example photographs for a sample



STEP ONE - DECIDE

Within your congregation decide which symbol, item or image has meaning and significance to your church and give a short written explanation for this decision.

STEP TWO - PHOTOGRAPH

We need 2 photographs - one to show the detail of the item or glass element, the second to show the wider context within the church. If unsure you can send a selection and we can choose the best for each category.

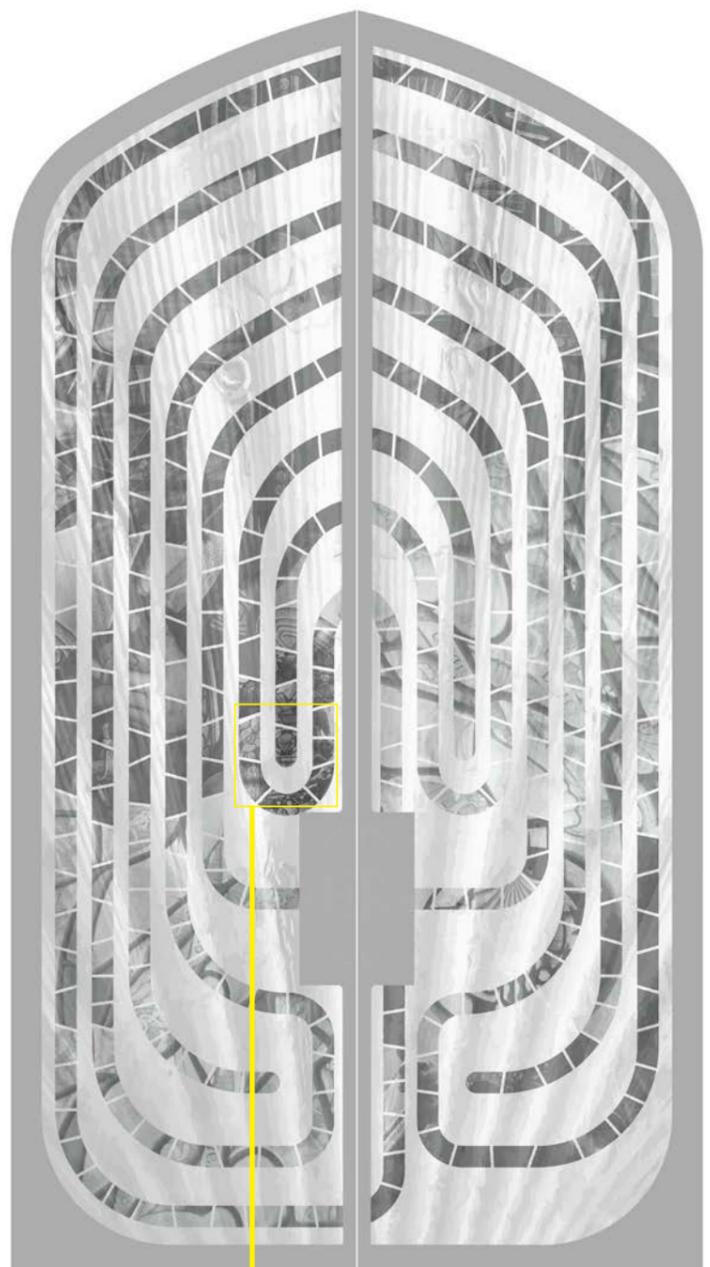
Photograph the detail making sure there is enough light for a clear, bright picture. We need a good quality, large size JPEG.

It may be helpful to find someone within your church or community who is a keen photographer or a photography club happy to help.

STEP THREE - EMAIL

Email your contributions to pilgrimporch@broadbent.studio

If the size of the images are too large for normal email they can be sent for free via [wetransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) to our email address above.



THE ARTWORK

A detail of your chosen image will become a permanent part of the new glass doors, which along with the images from each one of the churches in the Chester Diocese, will form a labyrinth design leading to the cathedral at the centre.

The detailed section here shows how the contributed photographs, including the Church's name, come together to form the labyrinth.



Showing photograph within artwork

CHECKLIST

1

TWO HIGH QUALITY IMAGES are needed from every church community in the Chester Diocese

1. A close-up detail photograph of your chosen object or glass.
2. A wider photograph that shows the object or symbol in it's context, that can be used on the interactive web-link

2

THE CHURCH

The full name and title of your church, along with any website links for further information.

3

THE STORY

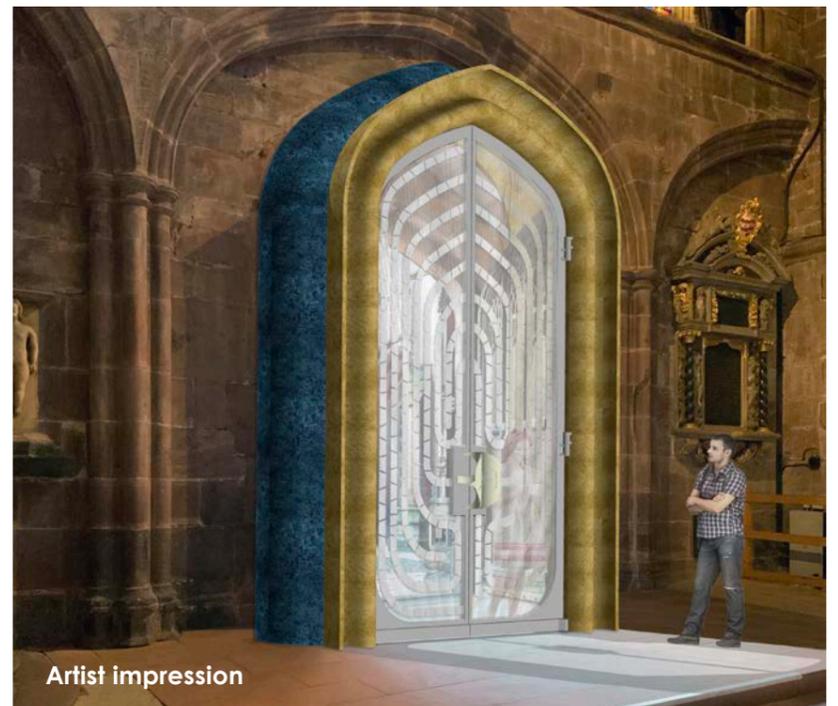
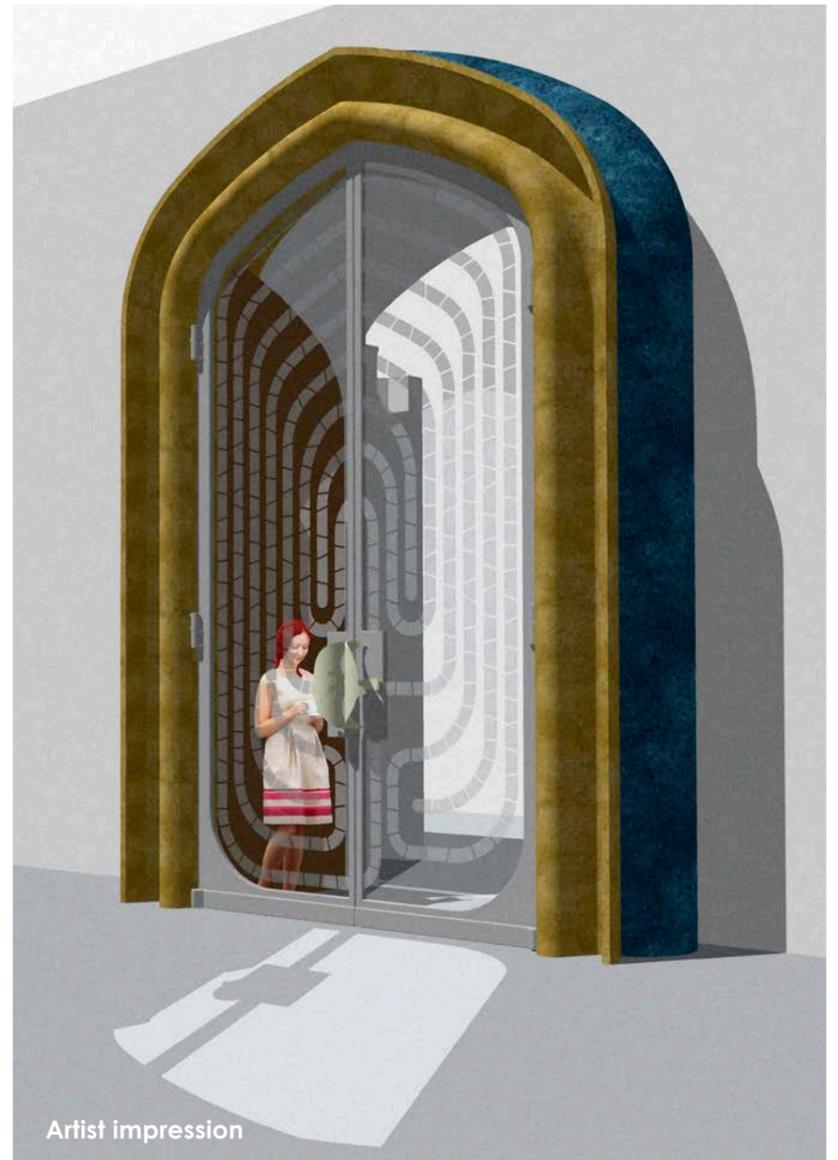
We would like you to share the story behind the image and the reasons why you have selected this particular object to represent your church.

This supporting information will be read on the interactive web-link.

4

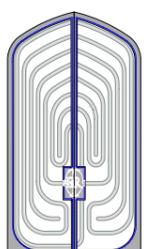
LOCATION

We need the full postal address for your church. This will enable people to explore an interactive map of the diocese and encourage people to make their own pilgrimage to your church and the others.



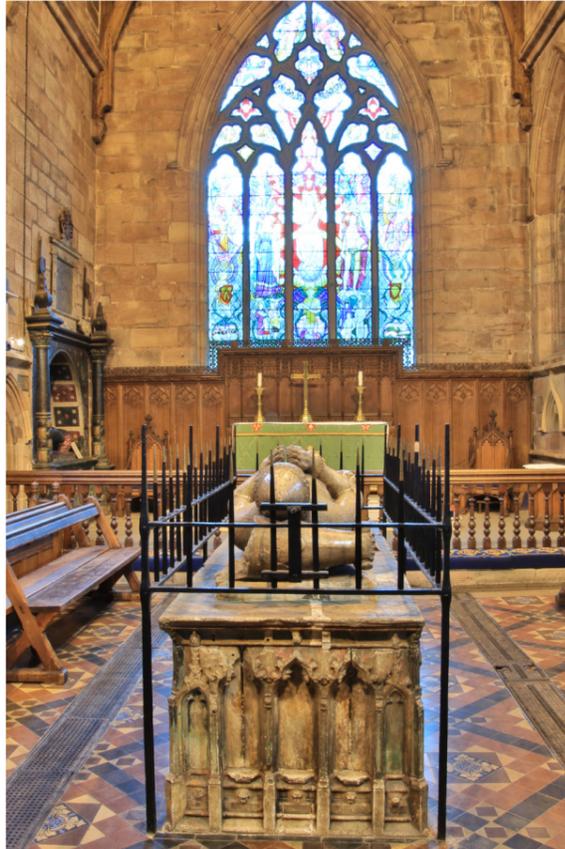
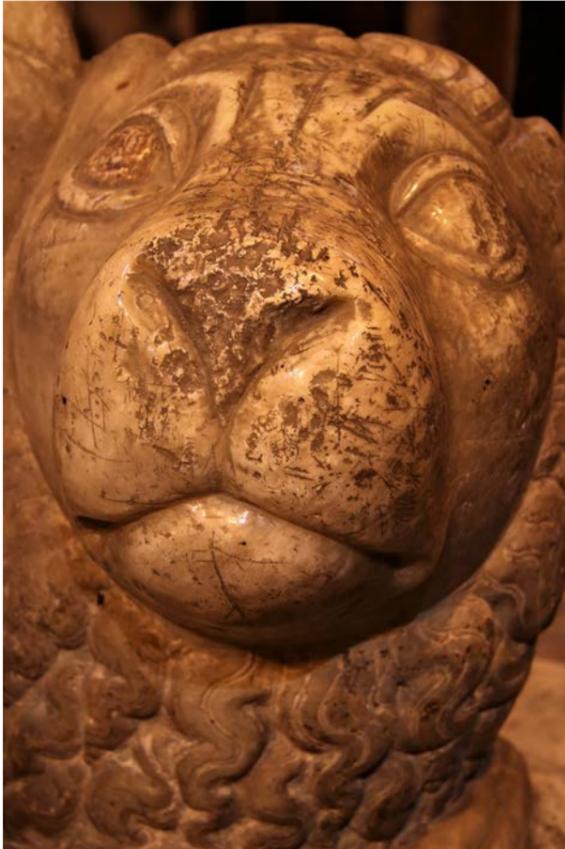
YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Email your contribution to pilgrimporch@broadbent.studio
If the photographs are too large for normal email, they can be sent, without cost, through [wetransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) to our email address above.



CHURCH CONTRIBUTION CASE-STUDY

1 TWO QUALITY IMAGES



2 THE CHURCH

St. Boniface Bunbury

3 THE STORY - *'Sir Hugh de Calveley, a giant Cheshire knight, large in stature as well as heart'*

More... Firstly, just to say St Boniface Bunbury is delighted to take part in this special Pilgrim Porch project.

Our church's history and lifeblood is founded in pilgrimage and sharing the good news of God's love. It's in our DNA. There has been a church on this site in Bunbury for over 1000 years, and I often say to visitors when they first step foot into this place- "if walls could talk they would tell you a thousand stories!" The Celts would call this a thin place - a place where you can sense the presence of God. It's in the walls soaked with the prayers and praise of people who have called this their church for centuries. We are surrounded by magnificent sandstone from the medieval period - precious stones brought here along the canal from local quarries carved and carried, erected and inspired with great dedication and love 700 years ago. The building is a true labour of love.

The church is dedicated to St Boniface who was a fascinating figure, born Wynfrith in 675 at Crediton in what was then Wessex, and he only

took the name Boniface much later in life. He entered the monastic life and he was a man so consumed by the love of God, he gave up the chance of a bishopric to become a missionary. He left this country in his forties, never to return. Travelling was not easy in the early middle ages - countless missionaries were killed on the continent or slain by robbers as was St Boniface in the end. But he gave his life for the gospel because all he wanted to do was to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom to the people of Holland and Northern Germany. St Boniface was to become the patron saint of Germany, such was his impact and influence. And there's a stained glass window in our chancel which depicts the fearless St Boniface felling a mighty oak tree dedicated to the worship of Thor.

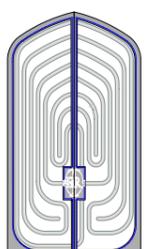
However the image we have chosen to represent our church is that of Sir Hugh de Calveley - a giant Cheshire Knight who takes pride of place in our chancel. It was Sir Hugh's generosity that paid for this medieval collegiate church to be built. Sir Hugh was large in stature as well as heart - 7ft tall in

the days 5'2 was the norm and legend has it he was travelling back from one of his crusades on a ship with 3000 men when a storm whipped up and destroyed the vessel with only 8 men surviving. Sir Hugh one of them! He clung to the mast of the ship for dear life and prayed to God, "if you save me from this storm I will build you a church in my beloved Cheshire!" What he thought might be the end of him is actually the beginning of our story. And what was it that made him keep that promise to build this church - it wasn't fear, for the storm had passed - it was love, love for his beloved Cheshire that enabled him to keep his promise and be faithful.

And so 700 years on Sir Hugh continues to speak to us today. He asks of all who worship or visit this place, what are you willing to do for love. Be consumed by God's love. Dedicate your life to building God's kingdom in this beautiful part of Cheshire. Be part of God's story and give your life to the service of others and your community.

4 LOCATION

Vicarage Lane, Bunbury, Tarporley CW6 9PE



CHURCH CONTRIBUTION CASE-STUDY

1 TWO QUALITY IMAGES



2 THE CHURCH

St. Luke's Brinnington

3 THE STORY - 'Scrap materials transformed into something of such spiritual significance'

More... At St Luke's we're bound up in reflecting on our past, present and future.

Past: we now inhabit the parish centre, the church building itself having been demolished a few years ago. This caused much sadness within the wider community.

Present: the congregation have moved forward with hope and made the building 'church'. The faith community here is growing wonderfully, with a significant proportion now being children.

Future: the congregation are working with architects to vision a redeveloped building with the community.

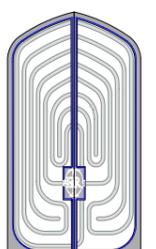
Jeremiah 29 vs 11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

And our ritual object adopted by the church community as a focus for their worship (and placed on the altar in preference to the more formal cross) is the set of three crosses, hand-made from doweling and an off-cut of wood several years ago by a previous Vicar of St Luke's for an Easter garden.

The simple form and base/scrap materials transformed into something of such spiritual significance, is powerful and speaks of God's ability to raise up that which is considered lowly and of little worth in the eyes of the world, to something of significance, merit and power. A message that needs to be consistently heard and shared in Brinnington.

4 LOCATION

Northumberland Road, Brinnington, Stockport, SK5 8LS



CHURCH CONTRIBUTION CASE-STUDY

1 TWO QUALITY IMAGES



2 THE CHURCH

St.Oswalds, Lower Peover

3 THE STORY - 'A medieval chest bearing silent witness to the complete history of our ancient Church.'

More... This incredible ancient chest has resided at St. Oswald's Church, Lower Peover since its arrival here over 800 years ago, and during that time it has been much used, loved and admired. It has borne silent witness to the complete history of our ancient church from its very beginnings in 1269 to the present day. As such it is unbelievably precious to us.

According to research, the chest arrived at St. Oswald's, from Norton Priory. The Priory had been established near Runcorn on the bank of the river Mersey in 1115, at a point narrow enough to operate a ferry from. The chest had been hewn out of the heartwood from the trunk of a gigantic oak tree, estimated then to be over 800 years in age. It is banded with steel strips which are held in place with handmade nails. Its design and crude construction, indicates it was possibly constructed in early medieval times (475-1432 AD). It is probable that the chest could have been of extreme antiquity already when it arrived at the Priory, then in the early stages of construction. It is possible too that during the 153 years the chest remained there, the great wealth that the priory must have

accrued through operating the ferry across the river, meant it was probable the chest would have been superseded by a far more secure chest which was more convenient to use.

Medieval chests by 1200 had both ornate metal work and far more sophisticated locking mechanisms. By 1269 it may well have been languishing in a corner of the Priory, unwanted. The fledgling St. Oswald's church, being much in need of such an item, offered the perfect opportunity for the Priory to be able pass it on. The chest is essentially a wooden safe for holding the church's valuables and vestments. The central lock face hides a simple cog type mechanism, which would have originally been operated with a crude key. Turning it would have moved two opposing bars to engage through a single loop forged on to each of two metal slats that, when in place, fitted neatly through the narrow slits on either side of the keyhole. These slats were originally hinged from the lid. With careful observation, the anchor points of the hinge bases for the slats can still be seen as two sets of three dimples on the lid, directly above the corresponding slits. The tip of the left locking bar can also be seen, tucked back behind the left hand slit. They were

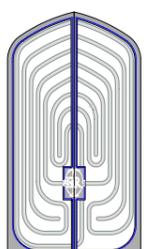
designed, as the chest's original three lock system had been, to give a group of people the opportunity to each hold a key. This ensured all were present at the same time, to enable the chest to be opened and the valuables held within it to be accessed.

A lovely local story goes with this chest, residing as it does in our rural community; that should a maiden wish to marry her farmer, to prove her strength and suitability for her forthcoming life of labour, she had to lift the lid using one arm. As the lid is so heavy, it showed some feat of strength. At least one lady, living in our parish today, succeeded in doing just that, before marrying her farmer husband in 1972.

An interesting thought now prevails, if this ancient chest was created in early medieval times, before being transferred to Norton Priory, and as it had been created from an ancient oak tree, itself spanning over 8 centuries of life, it poses this question; did the acorn from which the tree grew germinate, or was the young tree already a sapling, whilst Jesus walked on earth?

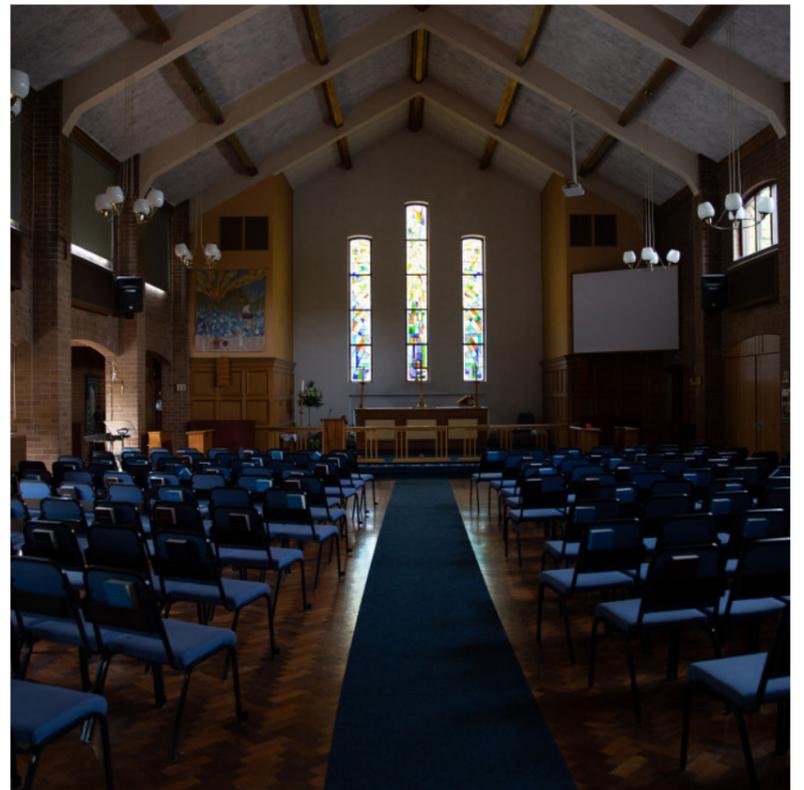
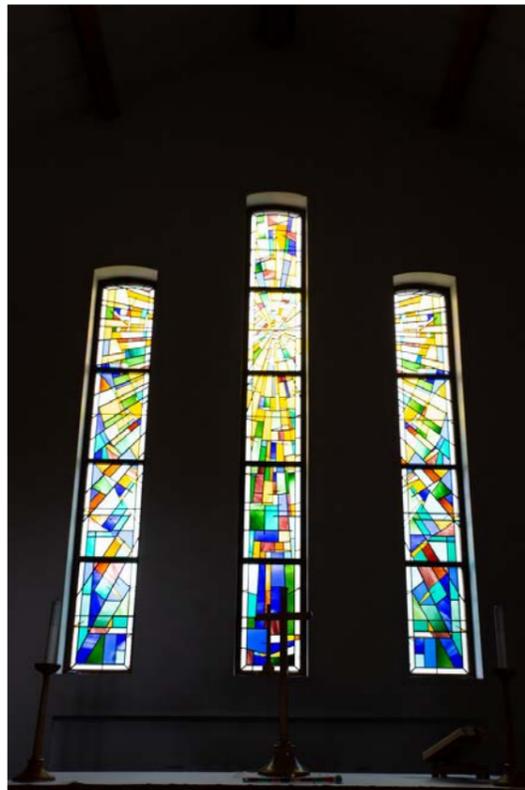
4 LOCATION

The Cobbles, Lower Peover, Nr Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 9PZ



CHURCH CONTRIBUTION CASE-STUDY

1 TWO QUALITY IMAGES



2 THE CHURCH

St Thomas & All Saints Ellesmere Port Parish

3 THE STORY - *'The saints of God, all different, as represented by panels of glass of different shapes, sizes and colours.'*

More..

The west window stained glass triptych has special significance to Saint Thomas & All Saints. It represents the saints of God, all different, as represented by panels of glass of different shapes, sizes and colours. They are radiating from the centre of the cross, representing their connectedness to Christ, and their common mission of bringing the good news to the world.

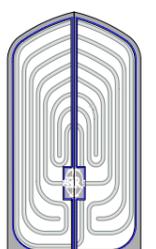
At the bottom of the stained-glass the colours are darker, representing those that have yet to be brought into the light, and the warm welcome of God's family. Although the name of the artist and title have been lost, hopefully they can be rediscovered.

The glass window is still inspirational and a pictorial representation of our parish mission statement:

Christ in the Centre of the Church, the Church at the Centre of the Community

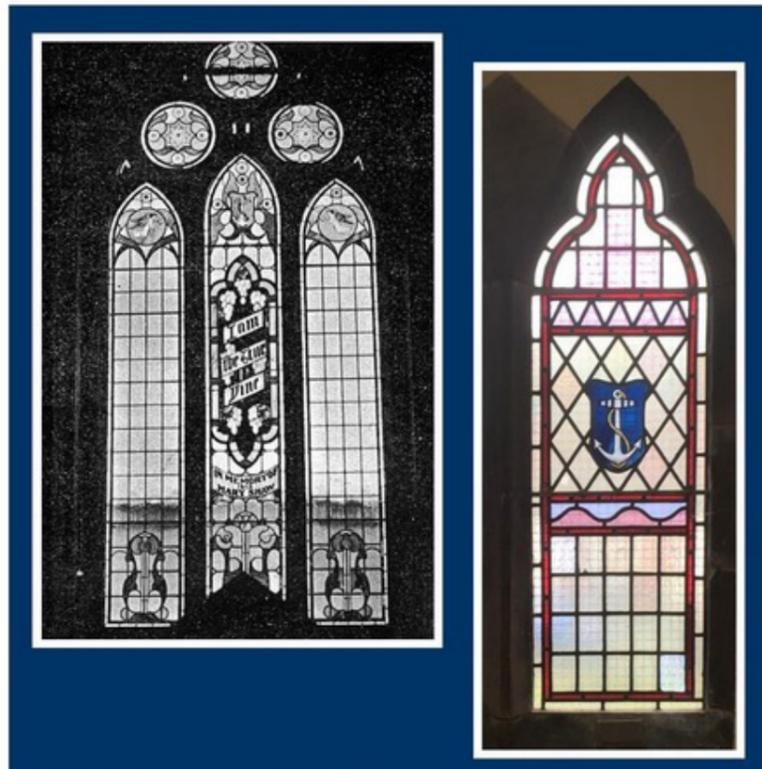
4 LOCATION

Parish Office, Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port CH65 6UW



CHURCH CONTRIBUTION CASE-STUDY

1 TWO QUALITY IMAGES



2 THE CHURCH

St. Michael & All Angels, Runcorn

3 THE STORY - 'We have an anchor that keeps the soul Steadfast and sure while the billows roll'

More..

Runcorn was built in 915 AD by Ethelfrieda as a fortification against the Vikings - this being a good position at the narrowing of the estuary of the River Mersey.

Since that time Runcorn has a great Sea faring history. The Runcorn Coat of Arms is a ship on the sea and the motto in latin translates "Fill their boats with goods", which is what happened. Goods were brought in by sea and transferred to canal narrow boats, which meant that there were a lot of seamen and their families in Runcorn at any one time.

In the late 1880's the Liverpool Seaman's Mission decided to open a mission in Runcorn. William and Mary Shaw came as Missioners to look after it and gave their lives to this work. There was much poverty and they established soup kitchens and also a recreational centre in the base meant of the church. They also had a flourishing Sunday school, with more than 250 children registered.

In 1946 the Liverpool Seaman's mission withdrew support and the Bishop of Chester asked the vicar of St. Michael's to look after the mission as a daughter church.

In 1955 the Liverpool Mission sold the building and the anchor medallion - a small piece of Mary's window, was brought to St. Michael's church.

The anchor medallion is a reminder of the old hymn chorus -

We have an anchor that keeps the soul Steadfast and sure while the billows roll Fastened to a rock which cannot move Grounded firm and deep in the Saviours love

The anchor symbol has many meanings -

Firm and deep as Jesus' love

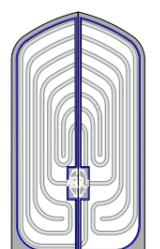
A link to the sea faring history of Runcorn and it's community

A link to the Seaman's Mission Now embedded in a window in St. Michael's



4 LOCATION

Greenway Road, Runcorn WA7 5BS



CHURCH CONTRIBUTION CASE-STUDY

1 TWO QUALITY IMAGES



2 THE CHURCH

St.Anne's, Sale

3 THE STORY - *'Cast Iron railway pillars standing strong and sure in our lives of love, service and hope.'*

More..

St.Anne's is a Christian community, whose values and foundations are grounded in relationship with Jesus and a deep sense of unity with our creator God, who calls us to live riskily for other people in lives of service, love and hope.

St Anne's Church was built in 1854 to serve the growing town of Sale following the arrival of the railway connecting the town to central Manchester and beyond.

The picture we have chosen to represent our church are the pillars which are known as 'railway pillars' and are a unique feature of this Victorian church.

These pillars in church were introduced when the building was extended not long after it was built (in the 1860s). They are made of cast iron and local folklore tells that they were probably made to the same standard as railway stations.

Our Christian Spirituality underpins our work, worship and commitment to our community.

4 LOCATION

Church Road West, Sale, M33 3GD

