

Come follow Christ *next steps*



As we seek to
"Follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad"
and to focus our prayers and
thoughts on the three key areas of discipleship,
vocation and evangelism,
what can we learn from
the example of St Chad?



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



Come follow Christ *in the footsteps of St Chad*

Learning from St Chad

What we know about Chad is largely drawn from Bede's *A History of the English Church and People*, written in 731 - some 60 years after Chad's death.



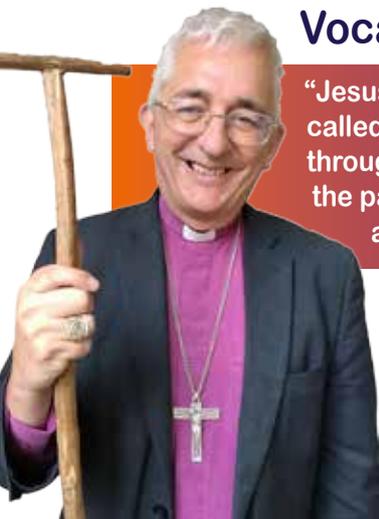
Discipleship

"Jesus calls you and me, as he called Chad our first bishop, to walk with him as disciples, in trustful and joyful confidence." +Michael

Throughout his life Bede tells us that Chad followed Christ in "humility, right preaching, prayer and voluntary poverty." As a boy, Chad heard the call to be a disciple or "learner" of Christ and, with his three brothers, was nurtured in the monastery at Lindisfarne under the guidance of St Aidan. For Chad, discipleship was always lived out in community. Whether as abbot of Lastingham monastery in Yorkshire or then as bishop of the Mercians, Chad sought to follow Christ in the company of his fellow sisters and brothers in Christ. Bede tells us that, when he came to Lichfield, Chad "built a house near the church, where he used to retire privately with seven or eight others in order to pray and study whenever his work and preaching permitted". His diocese was huge and its challenges many but Chad understood the need to follow Christ through hospitality and fellowship and by prayer and meditation on the scriptures.

Vocation

"Jesus calls you and me, as he called Chad our first bishop, through discipleship, to discover the particular vocation to which we are summoned." +Michael



Having heard Jesus' call to be a disciple, Chad had to find out what this meant for him. What was God

calling him to do in particular, in his own time and place? We know that Chad was an abbot and a bishop but his calling was not always straightforward and took at least one strange turn. He was briefly bishop of Northumbria at York but was asked to stand down by Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, who, doubtful that Chad had been properly consecrated, appointed Bishop Wilfred in his place. York's loss however was Lichfield's gain. So impressed was Theodore with Chad's graceful willingness to step down that he appointed him to the see of Mercia. Throughout his life, Chad responded to God's call to him amidst of the political and religious upheavals of his day. Through travel, study, prayer, community life, wrong turns and reversals and inspired by the example of Christians past and present, Chad heard God's call on his life and responded faithfully.



Evangelism

"Jesus calls you and me, as he called Chad our first bishop, to walk with him and as we walk along the way, to invite others to join us in our pilgrimage." +Michael

Chad is noted both for his passion for the gospel and for the humility with which he shared it. Though rooted in a Christian community in Lichfield, his was a travelling, pilgrim ministry. He took to the road to share the good news of Jesus with the Mercian people. The word Mercia means "border people" and Chad was a pioneer bishop crossing boundaries and borders and establishing new Christian communities across his vast diocese. He preached everywhere and anywhere "in towns or country, in cottages, villages and strongholds". He was famously reluctant to use a horse in his travels preferring to

go by foot "after the example of the apostles". Chad's style of evangelism was rooted in a belief that the gospel was for everyone - whoever they were and whatever their stage in life - and that people will only hear that gospel if it comes to where they are and with humility and grace.

