

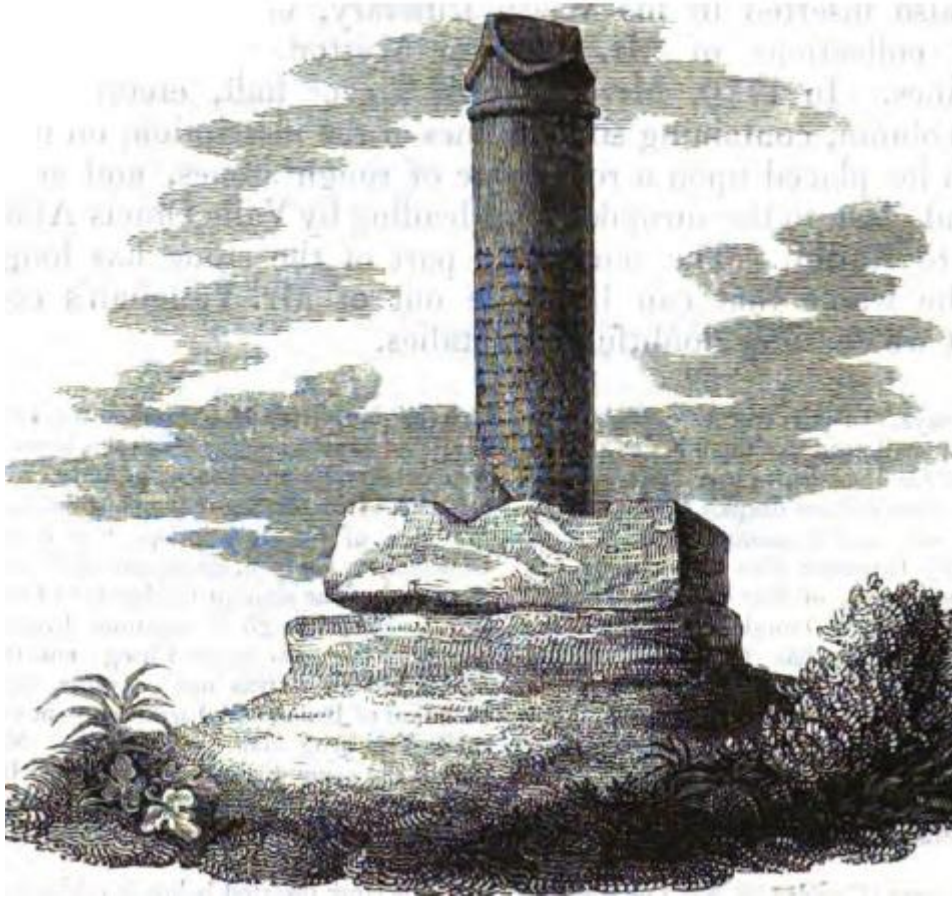
SOCIETY
for
CHURCH
ARCHAEOLOGY

THE SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY
THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF
EARLY CHRISTIANITY:



University of
Chester

CHESHIRE AND THE PILLAR OF ELISEG



FEATURING NEW RESEARCH FROM THE COUNTY, TOURS OF THE CATHEDRAL
AND VISITS TO SITES OF EARLY CHRISTIAN
ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE REGION

SEPTEMBER 6TH & 7TH 2014
AT CHESTER CATHEDRAL CHAPTER HOUSE

<http://www.archaeologyuk.org/socchurcharchaeol/conferences.html>



CONFERENCE DETAILS



The conference will be held in the mid-13th-century chapter house of Chester cathedral, an Anglo-Saxon church which was rebuilt as a great Norman monastery from 1092 and established as a cathedral in 1541. Since the 10th century it has housed the relics of the Anglo-Saxon royal saint Werburgh (*d.* 699), daughter of the first Christian king of Mercia and a princess of the royal Kentish line. Her milieu was the conversion of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, the authority they drew from the ancient places of Roman occupation, and their often warlike interactions with the existing Christian kingdoms of the British west. These foundations of Christianity in the North-West, and their powerful resonance through the succeeding centuries, provide the theme for this year's conference.



Chester Cathedral

- ❖ David Stocker and Paul Everson, *Transactions on the Dee: the 'exceptional' collection of early sculpture at St John's, Chester*
- ❖ Alan Thacker, *The cults of early English saints in the North-West Marches*
- ❖ Simon Ward, *Early Archaeology & Christianity in Chester*
- ❖ Ruth Nugent, *The Memorials of Chester Cathedral*
- ❖ Howard Williams, *The Pillar of Eliseg & the Archaeology of Early Christianity in North-East Wales*

This will be followed a guided tour around the cathedral and a visit to the church of St John the Baptist, reputedly founded by King Aethelred in 689, and Chester's first cathedral, and the city's Roman amphitheatre, which remained a focal point of Roman authority in the early medieval city.

We will then meet that evening for the annual SCA conference dinner in a converted church on Chester's Newgate Street.





CONFERENCE DETAILS



On the Friday before the conference proper, delegates will have the opportunity to join a tour of Chester's famous city walls and castle, with the expert guidance of Simon Ward (Grosvenor Museum), meeting at Queen Victoria's statue outside the castle. We will then gather for an informal dinner at the King's Head, a cosy Jacobean inn on Lower Bridge Street.



Chester City Walls at The Bridge of Sighs

On the Sunday, we will be visiting a number of important sites relating to early Christian archaeology in the Chester area. We are delighted to be able to join with Professor Howard Williams of Project Eliseg, a research project into a great stone cross raised on an earlier Bronze Age burial mound by King Concenn of Powys (d. 854) to honour his great-grandfather Elisedd. The monument was of enduring importance to the local ritual landscape, giving its name to Valle Crucis Abbey, a Cistercian monastery founded adjacent in 1201 whose substantial ruins we will also visit.



St Chad's church and churchyard, Farndon

We will then travel east to the site of one of the more famous interactions between early British and Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, at the monastery of Bangor-is-y-Coed on the banks of the River Dee. Established c. 560 by St Dunawd, Bede records that this was an enormous British monastery of several thousand monks, 1200 of whom were massacred by King Aethelfrith of Northumbria after the Battle of Chester in 616.

We will continue on to Farndon – the death place of King Edward the Elder in 924 – whose 14th-century church of St Chad lies within a circular churchyard indicative of much earlier Christian practice on the site. The opportunity will then be given to walk cross the medieval bridge to Holt, whose medieval church and castle saw intense fighting during the English Civil War, before returning to Chester in good time for onward travel home.



TIMETABLE



Friday

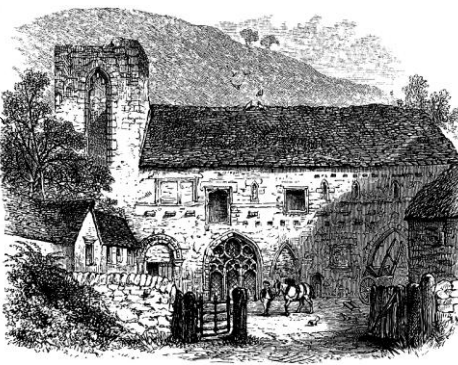
- 18.00 – Meet at Queen Victoria's statue (outside the castle) for guided tour around city walls and castle
- 19.30 – Informal dinner in the King's Head, 48 Lower Bridge St

Saturday

- 09.30-10.00 – Registration; tea and coffee
- 10.00-10.40 – Simon Ward, *Early archaeology & Christianity in Chester*
- 10.40-11.15 – Howard Williams, *The Pillar of Eliseg & the Archaeology of Early Christianity in North-East Wales*
- 11.15-11.45 – Tea and biscuits
- 11.45-12.20 – Alan Thacker, *The cults of early English saints in the North-West Marches*
- 12.20-13.00 – David Stocker and Paul Everson, *Transactions on the Dee: the 'exceptional' collection of early sculpture at St John's, Chester*
- 13.00-14.30 – Lunch & AGM
- 14.30-15.00 – Ruth Nugent, *The Memorials of Chester Cathedral*
- 15.00-16.30 – Tour of Cathedral
- 16.30-18.00 – Tour of St John's church and the Roman amphitheatre
- 18.00-19.30 – Spare time
- 19.30-21.00 – Conference Dinner at 'The Church' restaurant on Newgate St



Valle Crucis Abbey



St John's Chester



Sunday

- 09.30-09.45 – Pick up outside cathedral (St Werburgh Street)
- 09.45-10.30 – *Journey to Llantysilio through the Horseshoe Pass*
- 10.30-11.00 – Tour Pillar of Eliseg (Howard Williams)
- 11.00-12.00 – Tour of Valle Crucis Abbey (Howard Williams)
- 12.00-13.00 – LUNCH at the Abbey Farm Tea Rooms
- 13.00-13.30 – *Journey to Bangor-is-y-Coed*
- 13.30-14.00 – Tour of St Dunawd's Church (Michael Shapland)
- 14.00-14.15 – *Journey to Farndon*
- 14.15-14.30 – Visit to St Chad's, Farndon (Paul Everson)
- 14.30-15.00 – Walk across the medieval bridge to Holt's 13th-century church and castle
- 15.00-15.30 – *Drive back to Chester*



Venue

The Chapter House, Chester Cathedral, St Werburgh Street, Chester CH1 2DY.

Delegates are encouraged to park at their accommodation: disabled parking is available on St Werburgh Street itself and in the Kale Yard car park on Frodsham Street.

Accommodation

Travelodge Chester Central 0871 984 6363 (£30-40)

Lloyds Hotel 01244 325 838 (£40-60)

Holiday Inn Express 0871 423 4942 (£90)

The Coach House Inn 01244 351900 (£90)

Or visit <http://www.visitchester.com/accommodation> for details of local B&Bs

Booking

- *Delegates may wish to note that SCA membership starts at £12*
- *University of Chester Students are eligible for a 2/3 discount on their booking!*

Saturday conference, lunch and tours of cathedral, St John's church and amphitheatre

SCA/ADCA members £45

Non-members £60

Conference dinner

SCA/ADCA members £20

Non-members £25

Sunday coach tour

SCA/ADCA members £20

Non-members £25

Will you be attending the Friday evening dinner and tour of Chester city walls and castle?

Tour

Dinner £12

(nb: there will be a small cash surcharge for the tour)

Name _____

Contact email _____

Contact phone _____

Please cut out and return with a cheque (payable to The Society for Church Archaeology) to our conference secretary: Michael Shapland, 18 Garden St, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1TJ

m.shapland@ucl.ac.uk
