



Photo by David Iliff (Wikimedia Commons)

## The Society for Church Archaeology Annual Conference 2026: Call for Papers

*Church Archaeology in 2026: a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special*

**Chester Cathedral**

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2026**

2026 marks 30 years since the founding of the *Society for Church Archaeology*. During this time, the field has become increasingly diverse. New techniques and technologies have combined with traditional approaches and resulted in ever-increasing knowledge about ecclesiastical sites of all denominations.

In our anniversary year, the society wants to celebrate and reflect this diversity by considering 20-minute papers on all aspects of church archaeology. These will be presented in-person at the society's annual conference on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2026. All topics related to church archaeology will be considered, including:

- Reflections on the changing field of church archaeology
- New approaches and discoveries at ecclesiastical sites
- Recent work on material culture, including memorials, bells and furnishings
- The use of heritage and community archaeology in engaging new audiences

Please email abstracts of no more than 250 words, to [churcharchconference@gmail.com](mailto:churcharchconference@gmail.com). The same address can also be used for expressions of interest or general enquiries. The deadline for papers is **30<sup>th</sup> June 2026**.

The conference will be held in Chester Cathedral (see website for details), and a tour of ecclesiastical sites will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. Speakers will have their conference fee waived and there is also a budget to cover travel expenses. Please contact the above email for more information.