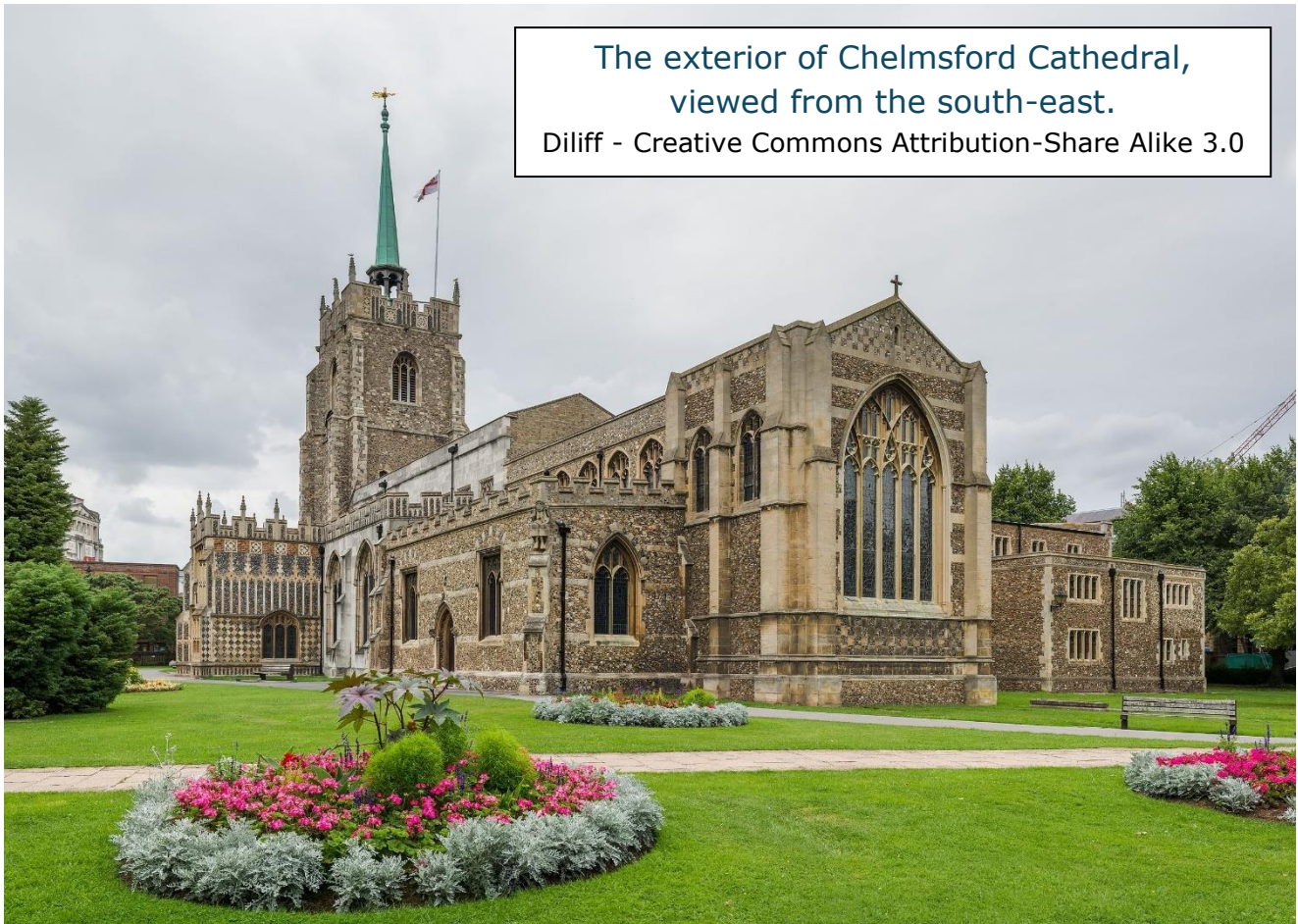


Chelmsford Cathedral

St Mary, St Peter and St Cedd

Chelmsford Cathedral web page - <https://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/>



The exterior of Chelmsford Cathedral,
viewed from the south-east.
Diliff - Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0

Below are two YouTube links of the cathedral.

A short video (about 3 minutes) around the CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

Produces by MARCUS TDM.

This video does not have a commentary just gentle background music as the camera moves around the cathedral.

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/v6oT7Rs8waA?si=Zv-uDI4VnTySsG5q>

A complete tour of the Chelmsford Cathedral (about 14 minutes)

Produced by Ugly And Traveling. There were a couple of requests to subscribe that flashed on the screen. You do not have to subscribe to watch the video.

Like the shorter video, this does not have a commentary just gentle background music as the camera moves around the cathedral. You get a greater sense of the changes in architecture over the centuries

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/TyrnTkPVoI4?si=3VHTTV47J1GDrsG->

Simon Jenkins in England's Cathedrals (page 51) refers to a guidebook and comments that the selection of Chelmsford for the site of a new cathedral was a 'bad tempered contest'. There was to be no new cathedral, rather the Parish Church of St Mary was elevated to a cathedral church.

Over the centuries, the building underwent change being rebuilt in the 15th century, which is largely the building we see today. Although in 1800 the nave collapsed, reportedly after accidental damage caused by builders undertaking repairs. Fortunately, no one was hurt, and the nave was rebuilt.

There were to be further developments to the building, with the installation of stained glass windows in the 19th century and in the 20th century the interior was reordered.

In 1953, the cathedral added Saints Peter and Cedd to the dedication. St Cedd was a monk from Lindisfarne, brother of St Chad, Cedd was sent to the East Saxon kingdom, (Essex area). He built a small church (at Bradwell near the Essex coast) in 654 dedicated to St Peter. This is the oldest church in England that is in continuous use as a place of worship.

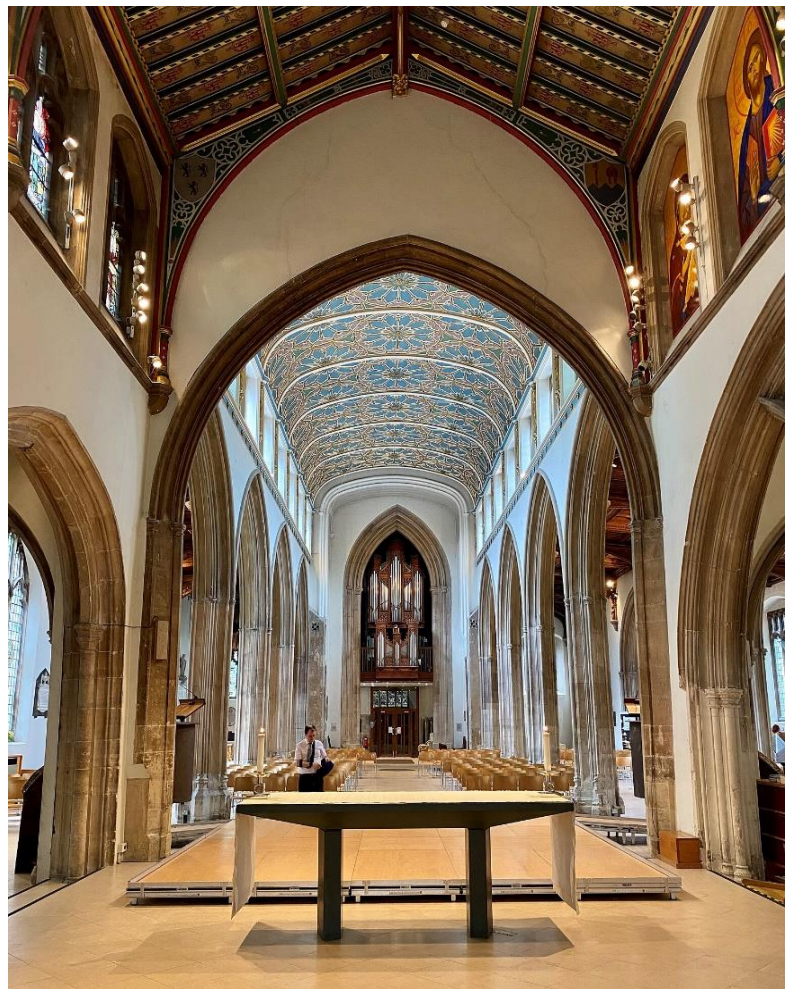
For musicians and lovers of the pipe organ, Chelmsford Cathedral is unique amongst English Cathedrals. It has two independent mechanical action organs one in the Nave and the other in the Chancel, playable from one console. See link below for more details.

<https://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/worship/music-in-the-cathedral/organs>

Whilst Chelmsford is the second largest diocese in England, covering Essex and East London and covers an area of more than 1,500 square miles, it also has the second smallest cathedral in England.

The link below takes you to more information about the building and its artwork. Also there is more information of Mark Cazalet Tree of Life (and a slightly larger image than below) and the Icons featured below .

<https://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/explore/visiting-the-cathedral>





Left – Interior looking across the altar to the Tree of Life

Photograph from

<https://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/explore/visiting-the-cathedral>

Below – The Tree of Life

Basher Eyre

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0

The photographer has captured so much in the image to the left.

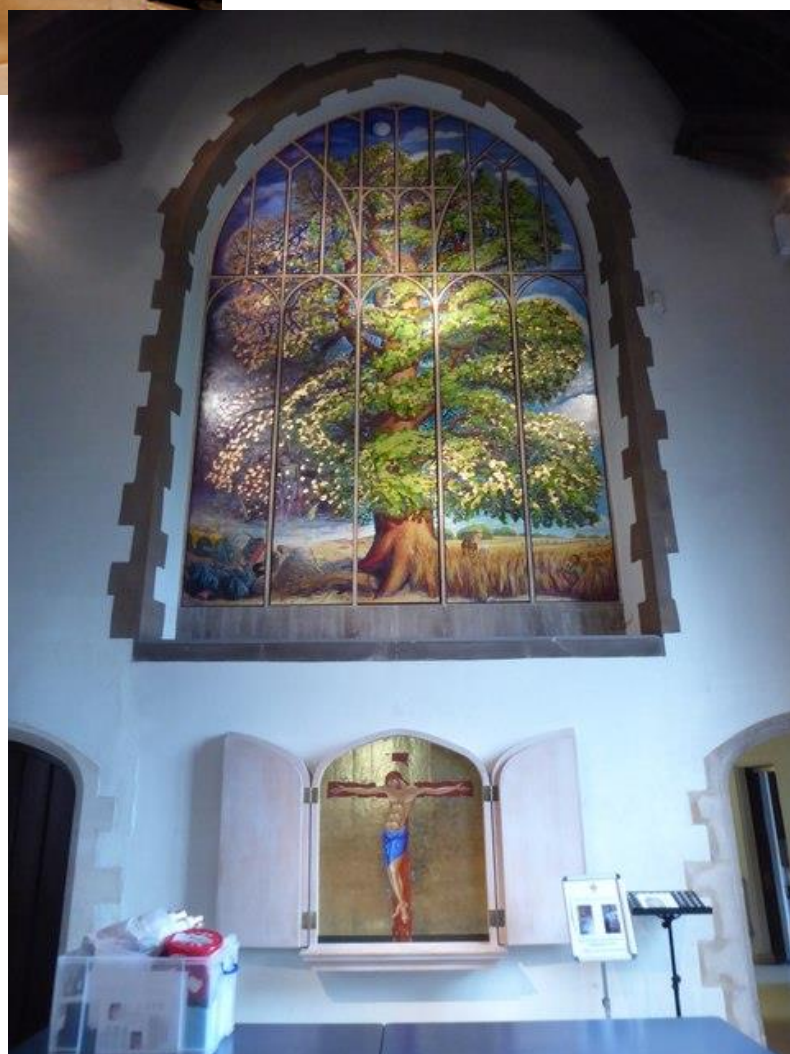
At the bottom center, the Altar, Communion Table. The focus for the celebration of the Eucharist. The sacrament that draws so many Christians together week by week.

Your eyes are drawn to the Tree of Life by the artist Mark Cazalet.

The artist depicts both the bursting into life and the dying back. Mark Cazalet's favourite part although difficult to see in this image 'is Judas resurrected and the idea of the possibility of Judas being resurrected and spending a long time (hence the sandwiches and thermos) at the top of the tree and in turn that we too can be fully forgiven'.

As we move back and look up we see the icons painted by Orthodox Nuns. Icons of St Mary, Jesus, Peter and Cedd.

A poignant photograph to reflect on.



Find your favourite space for this time of prayerful reflection

light a candle

Slow down, breathe calmly, be comfortable and relax.

Set aside time

Sense the presence of God in this stillness.

We open our time of reflective prayer with



Here within the cathedral is an area of stillness, sit quietly and relax.

I have not been able to find hymns from Chelmsford Cathedral so given the Celtic influence of St Cedd I have selected music with a Celtic touch.

We listen to or join in with 'Be thou my vision'.



<https://youtu.be/WTJUIYTtLv4?si=nHHumznN8x48LCEr>

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

But those who wait on the Lord
Shall renew *their* strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 New King James Version)

Let us thoughtfully pray:

- ❖ *for those who work and worship in the cathedral.*
- ❖ *For those who bring beauty and art into our lives.*
- ❖ *for the warm and brightness of colour that enriches our daily life.*
- ❖ *for those who seek peace and sanctuary within the cathedral.*
- ❖ *for our local community*

A prayer for cathedrals

*Loving God, draw us on the journey
to the places of holiness,
the places of peace,
the places of encounter,
the places of beauty,
the places where faith has been lived,
your love made known,
your hope held out in the past,
for the present, into your future.
Amen.*

Let us pray in confidence using the words our Saviour gave us:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen*

We close with John Rutters - Deep Peace



https://youtu.be/Eve2y-P-Zjk?si=MdbBsAC_0Z7DeCi-

Fr Derek Akker

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(Derek is a retired Anglican Parish Priest and a member of the congregations of All Saints & St James. Prior to his ordination he was accredited as a Methodist Preacher in 1968 and served within the Methodist Church until returning to the Anglican Church in the mid 1980's)

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Parish of Kirklees Valley, Bury, (All Saints, Elton & St James, Woolfold) - In the Diocese of Manchester
While I seek to use only reliable sources when using websites, I cannot guarantee that the content on these websites is or will remain accurate or appropriate.

A prayer for cathedrals is provided by the Association of English Cathedrals

Side Chapel Photograph by Basher Eyre - Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0

Cathedral Interior photograph by No Swan So Fine - Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0

Comments on Mark Cazalet's Tree of Life

<https://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/explore/visiting-the-cathedral>