

## RHYTHMS OF GRACE

In company with the Community of Saint Chad we recall that Jesus says: 'Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace'. (Matt 11.38 Message)

**Rhythm One:** *By God's grace, I will seek to be transformed into the likeness of Christ.*

- R1 Jesus lived a life of perfect love and was the light that no darkness could quench.
- R2 Chad was a channel of God's grace to all he met, and Christ's light shone through him.
- L Will you work daily with God so that you will be transformed into the likeness of Christ?

**I will. Come, gracious Spirit, come**

**Rhythm Two:** *By God's grace, I will be open to the presence, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.*

- R1 Jesus prayed "Not my will but yours be done".
- R2 Chad went wherever God led, even into difficult situations.
- L Will you be open to the presence, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit?

**I will. Come, sustaining Spirit, come.**

**Rhythm Three:** *By God's grace, I will set aside time for prayer, worship and spiritual reading.*

- R1 Jesus made time to pray daily and joined others for worship on the Sabbath.
- R2 Chad recognised the interdependence of private and corporate prayer.
- L Will you set aside the time for prayer, worship and spiritual reading?

**I will. Come, encouraging Spirit, come.**

**Rhythm Four:** *By God's grace, I will endeavour to be a gracious presence in the world, serving others and working for justice in human relationships and social structures.*

- R1 Jesus laid aside his majesty, took the form of a servant and shared our human life.
- R2 Chad forsook a privileged future for a life of prayer, ministry and mission.
- L Will you be a gracious presence in the world, serving others and working for justice? **I will. Come, generous Spirit, come.**

**Rhythm Five:** *By God's grace, I will sensitively share my faith with others and support God's mission both locally and globally.*

- R1 Jesus sent his disciples out and commanded them to preach the gospel to all nations.
- R2 Chad's obedience led him from Northumberland to Ireland, Yorkshire, Mercia and Lichfield.
- L Will you share your faith with others and support local and global mission?  
**I will. Come, empowering Spirit, come.**

### COMMUNITY COLLECT

**Be with us Lord as we seek to follow in the footsteps of your servant Chad, whose humility and prayerfulness attracted so many to your kingdom. Let our lives, like his, reflect the light of Christ and the hope of faith. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**



## Praying in the Footsteps of Saint Chad



Please feel free to use these resources from the Community of Saint Chad to assist your prayers at the five stations marked out in the Lady Chapel: Discipleship, Vocation, Evangelism, our Direction of Travel and at the Shrine of Saint Chad.

**COLLECT:** Almighty God, from the first fruits of the English nation who turned to Christ, you called your servant Chad to be an evangelist and bishop of this people: give us grace to follow his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life, that we may truly commend to others the faith which we ourselves profess, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Whittington,  
Weeford and Hints

Making God's Love Real  
Loving God.  
Loving Our Community & World.  
Loving One Another.

## Discipleship

CHAD forsook a privileged future for a life of prayer, ministry and mission. He resigned as Bishop of York in favour of the other candidate Wilfrid. As a disciple of Aidan he in turn disciplined countless others.

Give us we pray that same humility and commitment to grow in the knowledge and likeness of Christ, who washed his disciples' feet. May we know him more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly. **Amen**

**Symbolic act:** Take a cross from the basket. As you hold it in your hand, reflect on your journey of discipleship and what the cross of Christ means for you.

## Vocation

CHAD's obedience led him from Northumberland to Ireland, Yorkshire, Mercia and Lichfield. Chad made himself available to you and thereby became your instrument of transformation throughout Mercia.

God of All Nations, we place ourselves before you to seek your way for us. Awaken in us a longing for our true home and teach us obedience to our calling. **Amen**

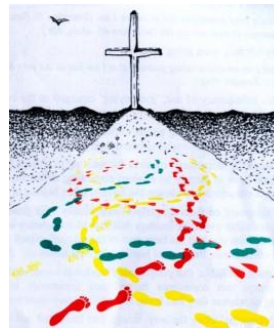
**Symbolic act:** Anointing your hand with oil and the prayer of blessing symbolize God's call on your life and willingness to respond.

## Evangelism

CHAD loved to evangelise by walking the length and breadth of Mercia, and crossing boundaries as he did. As Chad travelled on his pilgrimage he shared the wonderful story of God's love in Jesus, his care for each of us and all of us, and the promise of His Kingdom.

As we travel on our pilgrimage  
May we invite others to join us on the journey.  
Guide us as we walk in the steps of Chad and Werburgh  
and in the steps of all holy men and women before us,  
that we may play our part in God's mission  
with feet fitted with readiness  
that comes from the gospel of peace.  
**Amen.**

**Symbolic act:** As you stand in the sand, reflect on the ground that you are called to walk and the people you are called to walk alongside. Pray that God will give you the presence, actions and words to share the Good News.



## Direction of Travel

CHAD crossed over from Lindisfarne to Ireland for further education. As Abbot in Northumbria he became known as an admirable teacher.....

May we be ready to learn new truths today, to uncover your generous purposes for us as individuals and as a Diocese; to go beyond the safe and familiar as we follow in the way of the Cross.

**Symbolic act:** You are invited to write a prayer on none of the footprints and to place it with the others.

## Shrine of Saint Chad

Here in Lichfield where CHAD made his headquarters, he retained a simple way of prayer. He built some cells nearby to which he and eight brethren would regularly retreat.

Lord, teach us to pray alone and with others, in hunger and in plenty, morning, noon and night, that your Kingdom may come and your will be done. **Amen**

**Symbolic act:** As you reflect on the icon of St Chad, light a candle and commit to one aspect of discipleship, evangelism or vocation that you will pray for every day for the rest of May.