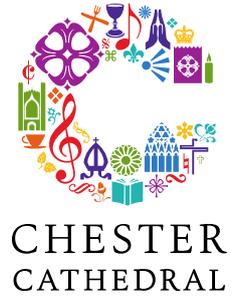


CHESTER CATHEDRAL PRESS RELEASE



Cycling tour of historic churches is launched

A 40-mile cycling trail of historic churches around Chester has been organised to encourage people to get out and explore the countryside and heritage.

The Tower & Spires tour starts at Chester Cathedral and then takes in St John's church, Chester, which is the oldest standing building in the city still in use for its original purpose.

The next stop on the route is St James' church, Christleton, which had Anglo-Saxon beginnings but was extensively rebuilt in the Georgian and Victorian periods.

The trail also takes in the Anglican churches in Waverton, Hargrave, Bunbury, Tattenhall, Fardon, Aldford and Bruera.

The cycle tour project has been organised by the Diocese of Chester with funding from Cheshire West and Chester Council and Active Cheshire (an organisation which seeks to enable people to get active on a regular basis).

It will be the fifth in a series of cycle trails designed by the sustainable transport charity Sustrans in partnership with the Church of England.

Emily Allen, Church Buildings Development Officer for the Diocese of Chester, said: "It's been great working with the nine churches on the trail, and the cathedral, on developing this project. We hope people will enjoy visiting these fascinating places of worship."

A map of the route has been produced and will be available free from the Chester Cathedral welcome desk, and various churches along the Tower & Spires route, from Saturday 30 April 2016 onwards.

As well as the full 40-mile route, there is a 28-mile option, and a rural-only ride with details given on the map.

The Tower & Spires trail will be officially launched at the Dean's Field by Chester Cathedral Falconry and Nature Gardens on Saturday 30 April, 10am to 2pm.

Groups of cyclists will be setting off from Dean's Field as well as a fun event for families, with stalls promoting local bike shops, cycling clubs, healthy living and local charities. Our main aim is to encourage people to get on their bikes and explore the local area. Attending the event will be MP Chris Matheson; Vice Dean of Chester, Peter Howell-Jones, and Ian Bishop, Arch Deacon from the Diocese of Chester.

ENDS

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