

## **ST CHADS CATHEDRAL ASSOCIATION**

Formed, in 1993, as a result of increased awareness and interest in the Cathedral during the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal, the Association exists to support the Archbishop, Dean and Chapter by providing funds for special projects and activities within the Cathedral

Members receive the Basilican Magazine twice a year, copies of the Cathedral Diary and Music List (with information about services and events), an invitation to the Civic Mass, Annual Association dinner and other events. This gives members an opportunity to become involved in the life of the Cathedral.

Since its formation the Association has supported the Cathedral by funding:

* increased security provision	£1000
* closed circuit television for the organ loft	£1300
* a ciborium, monstrance and chalice	£1276
* sets of vestments	£3536
* rebinding of Cathedral Registers	£2120
* restoration of the High Altar Tabernacle	£4080
* a new lectern and railings	£12450
* Cathedral Web Site	£3836
* Font cover and lining	£1350
* Refurbishment of the Narthex	£13000
* Chamber Organ	£6000
* Lighting Refurbishment	£2000
* Cottas and booklets	£800
* Printer	£2600
* Induction Loop	£800

With your help we could do so much more to preserve and enhance this unique church.

ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL was designed by Augustus Welby Pugin (1812-1852) and completed in 1841. St Chad's Cathedral has a unique place in the history of England. Pope Pius XII made St Chad's a Minor Basilica in 1941.

Major changes were made to the interior in the late 1960s to adapt the sanctuary to the requirements of the reformed liturgy. The early 1990s brought a restoration which highlighted the outstanding characteristics of Pugin's design and which included hanging in the chancel arch the crucifix which had been removed in the 1960s and laying a tiled floor with underfloor heating.

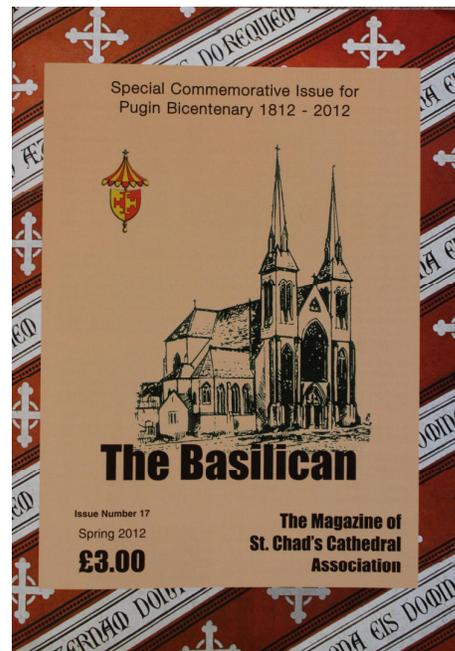
A new organ was built in 1993 which has won recognition as a fine mechanical instrument. It is located at the West end in a gallery so that choir and organ are together again, where Pugin had originally decreed that they should be. The Cathedral's fine acoustics make it an ideal venue for concerts and the liturgy is enhanced throughout the year by the Cathedral singers. Seat of the Archbishop of Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese which covers the West Midlands, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire and

Oxfordshire. It makes an important contribution to the spiritual and cultural life of the City and the Diocese. Although it has only a small residential parish, the Cathedral is a place of worship for many city centre workers during the week and visitors from near and far at weekends, in addition to those who make it their regular church.

2012 was the bicentenary of Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin. To start off the celebrations in the Cathedral the Association published a special commemorative edition of its Basilican Magazine. It includes a variety of articles on Pugin highlighting his unusual life and some of his immense contributions to English Architecture in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



**The Sanctuary**



**Commemorative  
Basilican Issue**

The Association has worked with the City of Birmingham Museum Heritage Department to create a "Pugin Trail". The Cathedral is the hub of the trail as it is the finest example of A W Pugin's work in the Midlands. The Cathedral is an internationally significant building being the first R C Cathedral to be built in the UK since the Reformation. Bishop's House was one of Pugin's important domestic buildings. It was situated opposite the Cathedral in Bath Street, was knocked down in 1960 to make way for the new ring road development. Some of the contents were sold and, quite recently, one of the corona ceiling lights was up for auction at Bonhams, with the asking price of £10 – 15,000.

Apart from the Cathedral being of Pugin design, internally the building is awash with Pugin delights. The altar and reredos of the Lady Chapel were designed by A W Pugin as was the tabernacle. The windows were designed by A W Pugin and made by Warringtons. The oak statue of Our Lady is a 15th century German work and was a personal gift from Pugin. It is claimed to be the first statue of Our Lady erected for public veneration since the Reformation.

The gilded casket above the Shrine Altar was designed by Pugin from the Venerable Bede's description of the original Lichfield Shrine. Windows in the apse were designed by Pugin, made by Warringtons, and paid for by the Earl of Shrewsbury. The oak Archbishop's throne or 'Cathedra' was designed by Pugin circa 1850 and first used for the enthronement of Bishop Ullathorne.

Pugin provided the Cathedral with some fine Medieval furnishings which he had acquired on his Continental 'jaunts'. The 15th Century German Canons' stalls came from a church in Cologne. They have misericords under the seats with fascinating carvings. The Rood Screen, embellished with Medieval carvings, was yet another Pugin item and was a subject of much controversy. Bishop Walsh gave way to Pugin and it was installed but removed in 1967 when the Cathedral was reordered. All that remains is the huge Crucifix which is suspended over the Sanctuary steps.

Beneath the Cathedral is a spacious Romanesque style crypt, containing several chantry chapels which can be reached by a staircase next to the font. The cloth-of-gold vestments worn by Bishop Walsh at the consecration were designed by Pugin as were the cope and plate and these are held at the Cathedral.

**St Chad's Cathedral Association**

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 St Chad's Queensway,  
 Birmingham B4 6EU  
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