

## Accessing Alcuin

This bibliography was compiled in the course a decade of research for my two books, *Alcuin: his Life and Legacy* and *Alcuin: Theology and Thought*, published in 2013. The purpose of the entire study is to do justice to Alcuin primarily from his own writings, drawing on the wealth of scholarship from several academic disciplines that has been generated since the end of the Second World War on the Continent as well as in the English-speaking world. These titles therefore embrace history, theology and liturgy, Latin literature and poetry, linguistics and early medieval philosophy.

Consideration of Alcuin is a good example of a multi-disciplinary study that is well supported by primary texts and secondary scholarship of high quality. Although the picture that emerges is inevitably limited and selective, it is nonetheless a rich panorama of Christian culture during the reign of Charlemagne. This culture is portrayed most vividly by the art and architecture that remains from that time, which is the visual back-drop to the picture that emerges from the study of Alcuin's own activities.

My study of Alcuin is structured to enable teaching and further research in this area of early medieval history and theology, bridging the linguistic gap that can sometimes hamper students on both sides of the Channel in their reading and their unfamiliarity with Latin. It was also intended to prompt a fresh evaluation and appreciation of the foundations of Christian culture in Europe. It is highly unusual to be able to relate so closely to such a significant figure from this early period of medieval history, and to sense in the process Alcuin's immediacy and warmth as a person. This full bibliography is now being made available as an e-resource for anyone teaching or researching this subject in schools and universities.

*Douglas Dales*