



# Keeping you connected

Newsletter

23 May 2025

## From the Interim Executive Director

*A message from Anna Pitt*

Dear colleagues and friends,

I am delighted and privileged to be writing to you for the first time in the permanent role as Executive Director of AEC. Thank you all for your warm wishes, encouragement and prayer. I am really excited for the role that AEC has to play as we partner with you to offer support, training, resources and collaboration. In November the AEC Exec will meet to review the strategic direction and I really look forward to working with the staff, trustees, partners and members as we enter the next season in the life of AEC.

You have my commitment that I recognise wholeheartedly the challenges that you are facing in your local context, not least the real issues of persistent structural deficit, and the requirement for a review of the national funding model, and in this regard, I will work hard to advocate and speak into the national conversations on your behalf.

You also have my commitment that I will never stop finding the joy in our beautiful cathedrals and will always seek to share the joy and beauty of the stories they hold. AEC has a role to communicate the good news and tell the wonderful stories of cathedrals, and you can consider me your biggest cheerleader!

I really welcome your engagement, feedback and reflections on how AEC is supporting our member cathedrals - so this is a genuine invitation to keep in touch.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt

Interim Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

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## News from Our Project Boards

### This Week's Highlights

#### Communications Support Project

##### Sharing stories and making memories: English Cathedrals launch summer campaign #WishYouWereHere

This week we are launching our summer campaign #WishYouWereHere inviting our visitors to make our cathedrals part of their story this summer.

Free *Wish You Were Here* postcards are available in every cathedral to send to family and friends or capture those magic moments, and there are selfie portrait frames for people to share their memorable cathedral stories on their social media too with posts or reels or videos using the hashtag #WishYouWereHere.

#### And they're off!

Cathedrals Cycle Route Relay starts from Bradford Cathedral this Saturday (24 May) The third national Cathedrals Cycle Relay will see cyclists collectively visit forty-two cathedrals over forty-two days, each travelling some of the 2000-mile course and passing on the baton from cathedral to cathedral, returning to Bradford on the afternoon of Saturday 5th July 2025.

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## Vacancies and Appointments

- **Rochester Cathedral** are recruiting for a Learning Manager with a deadline of 22 June 2025 <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/job-vacancy-input/learningmanager>
- **Peterborough Cathedral** are seeking to recruit a Fundraising Officer (0.5,1 year Mat Cover). Closing date 30 June. <https://peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Fundraising-officer-0.5-FTE-MAT-cover.pdf>
- **News from Portsmouth Cathedral:** The Cathedral has appointed Zoë Colbeck as Chief Operating Officer. She will begin work on Monday 30 June. Zoë joins the Cathedral with a wealth of expertise and experience, most recently from the Strawberry Hill House Trust as Executive Director. The Dean says, *"I am delighted to welcome Zoë as our new Chief Operating Officer. She comes to us from the heritage sector with an impressive range of skills and experience well fitted to the next phase in our life and work as we move towards our centenary in 2027."*

Don't forget, all of the job descriptions you share with us are uploaded to the CAFA website and can be accessed here: <https://cathedralcafa.org/request-login/>

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## Interesting Reports & Information

The Charity Commission have this week published new guidance on Finding and Recruiting Trustees. You can read this on the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/finding-new-trustees-cc30>

Within the guidance is a link to some helpful resources on skills audits, including templates and practical support: <https://www.gettingonboard.org/free-resources-for-charitable-bodies>

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## Training & Conference Opportunities

Upcoming events and learning opportunities:

- NCVO offer extensive training opportunities. Of interest may be their upcoming webinars on Finance Strategy, Fundraising Strategy, Measuring Outcomes and Imp
- CAFA Conference 2025. We're delighted to say that bookings are now open for this year's CAFA Conference at Peterborough Cathedral, *Hearts for Mission, Minds for Monday*, 22-24 September. Please book by **30 June 2025 at the latest**. You'll find the conference programme below:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQbfBtmTfRHGWMDtsJKWmZfGSGX?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

And the booking form below:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQbfBtmTfRHGWMDtsJKWmZfGSGX?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

Please save the date for the **AEC AGM on 17th June in London**. More information to follow, together with information on proxy voting arrangements.

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## Don't Forget...

- The CAFA website is an excellent portal for the storage of bespoke and template policies, job descriptions and plans. Any number of colleagues from your cathedral can register for free: <https://cathedralcafa.org/request-login/>

## Stay Connected

Have news to share in next week's edition? Let us know by Wednesday at midday.

Contact: Anna Pitt – [anna.pitt@englishcathedrals.co.uk](mailto:anna.pitt@englishcathedrals.co.uk)

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