



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

1 August 2025

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

We come to you with a packed newsletter this week, reflecting the continued pace of life and activity across our sector. Please look at some of the **excellent training opportunities** and do share the vacancies with your contacts and colleagues if they may be of interest.

Can I draw your attention again to the **CAFA Conference** taking place at Peterborough Cathedral from 22-24 September, if you haven't yet booked tickets, please contact Anthony O'Connor - anthony.o'connor@manchestercathedral.org

As the school holidays are upon us, please don't forget to make use of the [#WishYouWereHere](#) resources that we have sent out to each cathedral. Please encourage your welcomers to invite visitors to use the selfie frames and make use of the postcards.

These national campaigns have proved really successful in the past, so we are hopeful that everyone can get behind this with cheery positivity!

Our Comms team also continue to curate all your events via the events page on the English Cathedrals website, so do please keep sending your events through to us.

We have increasing traffic through our website with people looking to be directed to their local cathedral and the services and events happening there, so please do let us know what is happening! Here's the form – [submit your events](#).

Warm wishes, Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

This Week's Highlights

News from the Comms Project:

VJ Day - the 80th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ Day) is **Friday 15 August**.

National Two-minute silence at 12 noon There's a request for iconic buildings to light up white or use searchlights from 21:00 on Friday 15th August with a recommendation for two hours if appropriate in your context.

More here: <https://ve-viday80.gov.uk>

News from the Art in Cathedrals Advisory Board

CROSSROAD – THE PRICE OF CHOICE - A Conceptual Exhibition by Dian Kostov and Milena Tashkova - available to host in our cathedrals.

The Price of Choice merges the sacred art of iconography with a profound psychological exploration of the contemporary human experience. Through painting, mural techniques, and spatial installations, the exhibition creates an immersive environment for contemplation and asks: To what extent do our choices shape who we are? And what is the true cost of the decisions we make?

Dian Kostov is an iconographer and muralist with extensive experience in sacred and monumental art. Milena Tashkova is a psychotherapist with long-standing experience and the author of the exhibition's conceptual framework. In each setting, the exhibition is thoughtfully adapted to the architectural and emotional context of the space.

The exhibition is seeking new venues that can amplify its message and impact. The architectural grandeur of cathedrals provides a powerful backdrop for engaging with themes of decision, faith, and the human journey. The project is open to adaptation and collaboration with institutions that recognize art as a space for spiritual and intellectual awakening.

For more information and inquiries, please contact UK representative:

Rosie Badman

Phone: +44 7492 185848 Email: rosiebadman@gmail.com

Cathedral and Major Church Projects Support Panel

If you had a day or two of free advice from an expert on an issue your cathedral faces, what would you ask them? The Cathedral and Major Church Projects Support Panel offers cathedrals free advice and consultancy from its 70 or so volunteer experts, including several highly experienced former cathedral COOs. It aims to help cathedrals at the early stages of projects. Panel expertise includes architecture, conservation, fundraising, heritage interpretation, grant applications, project management, strategic planning, legal issues and many more areas. It's run by the Association of English Cathedrals, funded by the Church

Commissioners and since its launch in 2017 has dealt with over 200 requests from cathedrals, with Coventry, Chester and Blackburn the most frequent clients.

Contact Cathedrals Coordinator Anne Locke for more information or to make a request. She will aim to link you up with a suitable expert or team of experts for an initial discussion, possibly followed by a site visit – travel expenses are paid by the project. If the panel can't help, she may well be able to signpost you to another source of assistance as she previously worked for the CFCE Secretariat and ran cathedral grant schemes. Anne will be at the CAFA conference in September if you'd like to discuss in person anne.locke@englishcathedrals.co.uk or 07908 472082.

Vacancies and Appointments

Ripon Cathedral are looking to recruit for three new roles:

Fundraising Manager: Ripon Cathedral is looking for a creative and experienced Fundraising Manager to join our friendly and growing team. This exciting new role will lead on creating and implementing a Fundraising Strategy, applying for grants from trusts and foundations, growing our existing Patrons programme, increasing visitor donations and leading a legacy giving programme. Full details via the cathedral website: <https://riponcathedral.org.uk/fundraising-manager/>

Digital and Social Media Co-ordinator: Ripon Cathedral is recruiting for an imaginative digital and social media professional to take charge of our website and digital channels. <https://riponcathedral.org.uk/digital-and-social-media-co-ordinator/>

Events Co-ordinator: as its event programme grows in number and variety, Ripon Cathedral is looking for a practical, enthusiastic and organised part-time Event Co-ordinator to work in our events team. <https://riponcathedral.org.uk/events-co-ordinator/>

The closing date for all of the above is 11 August 2025.

Christ Church, Oxford, have a vacancy for a Cathedral Safeguarding Officer. This is a full time position. The deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday 8 August . You'll find further information here: <https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/vacancies/cathedral-safeguarding-officer-0>

We have been advised of a **new internship scheme on Holy Island** which is being jointly organised by St Mary's Church and Marygate Retreat House. To request a brochure please contact incumbentholyisland@gmail.com.

Hereford Cathedral are looking to appoint a CFO: [**Chief Financial Officer Job Pack**](#)

Tewkesbury Abbey are recruiting for a full-time COO: <https://www.gatenbysanderson.com/job/GSe123474>

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/>

Training & Conference Opportunities

Liverpool Cathedral would like to extend an invitation to the wider cathedral network to an event to spotlight the ***Insights KTP project***. This is being held on **Monday 29 September 1-4pm in Liverpool Cathedral**. The Insights project is a groundbreaking collaboration between Liverpool Cathedral and Bishop Grosseteste University, supported by Innovate UK, which has looked to assess the social impact of the Cathedral. This unique partnership has brought new insight, research, and innovation into the Cathedral's work, supporting wellbeing, community engagement, and spiritual development.

This event is free to attend and all are welcome. You can book tickets [here](#).

Net Zero Carbon Neutral: options for cathedral estates
Thursday 25th September 2025: 9:30am - 5:00pm

Online registration will open on or around 20th July. UK professionals, academics and others from a wide range of fields working in the historic built environment sectors will cordially be invited to book places at this technical seminar.

Considering five salient topics for preparing cathedral and other large historic estates to meet the low carbon energy challenge, cathedral case studies from architects and consultants alongside the Cathedral Works Fellowship will accompany contributions from Historic England, Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, Cathedral & Church Buildings Division:

Regulatory Framework, Climate Challenge, Policy & Consent, Strategies & Options and Technologies/Fabric & Sun.

Find out more and register here: www.jonathanlouth.co.uk/arcathedral

Password: ZERO25

Information about the Cathedrals Plus Conference being held in Dublin in January can be found here: <https://cathedralsplus.org.uk/news/conference-booking-dublin2026/>

Lambeth Palace Library's collaboration project on Cathedral Collections is open for applications until 4th September. Each Cathedral is entitled to apply once per funding round, though it is a competitive process, so you are encouraged to make contact with the team to discuss. More details: <https://www.lambethpalacelibrary.info/cathedral-library-collaboration/>

Interesting Reports & Information

Dame Caroline Dineage, Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee has written to Baroness Twycross calling for the LPWG Scheme to be made permanent and highlighting the impact on Churches and Cathedrals. You can read her letter here:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/49047/documents/257714/default/>

ALVA have shared the presentations from their recent Heads of Security Forum. Please circulate to colleagues: [https://alva.us6.list-](https://alva.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=504ba12a92055630afa9a57d2&id=e244228daf&e=cd07ad2ff8)

[manage.com/track/click?u=504ba12a92055630afa9a57d2&id=e244228daf&e=cd07ad2ff8](https://alva.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=504ba12a92055630afa9a57d2&id=e244228daf&e=cd07ad2ff8)

Help with Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity risks (e.g. ransomware attacks on M&S and the Co-Op) have been in the news this summer, and the government has recently announced that it will ban public bodies from paying ransomware demands and strongly discourage others from doing so through a mandatory reporting system <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-to-lead-crackdown-on-cyber-criminals-with-ransomware-measures>

Cathedrals are encouraged to join their regional Cyber Resilience Centre (CRC), part of a network of nine across England and Wales which provide free and affordable, high-quality cyber resilience help and services to smaller organisations in their locality, working with the police <https://nationalcrcgroup.co.uk/regional-centres/>

While it may feel unlikely that cathedrals would be targeted for money, the experience of the British Library and parts of the NHS shows that any kind of organisation could be seriously affected. If you have a particular query, Dr Tim French, the cybersecurity expert volunteer with the Cathedral and Major Church Projects Support Panel, may also be able to help - contact Anne Locke anne.locke@englishcathedrals.co.uk to be put in touch with him.

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

[Visit](#) the AEC website for the latest news from your fellow cathedrals.

[Follow us](#) on social media.