



# Keeping you connected

Newsletter

12 September 2025

## From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

This week's newsletter comes with my invitation and encouragement to book your places for the National Cathedrals Conference, 18-21 May 2026 at Bristol Cathedral.

Bookings are open and we have been encouraged by several cathedrals already booking their places for a full team of colleagues this week.

Please see this [video message](#) from our chair, **Dean Jo Kelly-Moore** where she talks about the independent research that the Association has commissioned on the **spiritual, social, cultural and economic impact of our cathedrals**.



The research will be shared at the conference, and which we will be inviting contributors to reflect on, is well underway.

My thanks go to the teams at Rochester, St Albans, Exeter, Carlisle, York and Derby who have embraced the opportunity to be case study cathedrals and are working closely with THEOS on their research into the spiritual and social impact of cathedrals.

Some of you will remember THEOS's Spiritual Capital Report of 2012, and the impact it had on our conversations in the secular space, our confidence in reaching out, and the demonstrable impact when applying for local funding. Our ambition is that this new research will be equally compelling in the narrative of our sector's impact.

Having attended the last two national conferences in Manchester and Newcastle, I can attest to the real value in learning alongside colleagues, time for networking, an opportunity to actively listen and engage with the bigger themes and conversations away from the day to day operational life of a cathedral. I hope that you will recognise that value too, and you are excited to be part of the conversation.

Early bird booking rates are available until 31 December and you can book your places [here](#).

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

## 1. News from the Comms Support Project:

The latest cathedral statistics story got reasonable pick up in the church press and a small piece in the Times. It wasn't the best time of year for us to take full advantage locally.

[https://edition.pagesuite.com/popovers/dynamic\\_article\\_popover.aspx?artguid=3a223ae8-5e2a-46fe-b7d5-f00d2a56c014](https://edition.pagesuite.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=3a223ae8-5e2a-46fe-b7d5-f00d2a56c014)

**Communications Support Project Board.** We met as a project board this week. Agenda items included the Volunteer Awards and how our summer campaign, WYWH landed and a look forward to a new Advent campaign based on Janet Gough's latest book *Divine Light* which features stained glass from all our cathedrals and tells their stories. We will be using the content from that as we did with her Cathedral Treasures book which worked really well for us in 2022.

A reminder of that campaign here: <https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/cathedrals/50-top-cathedral-treasures/>

Janet will launch *Divine Light* with a talk at the V&A at 7pm on Thursday 2 October. This can be joined online at £6.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/9k33ebOQmz/divine-light-livestream>

**Heritage Open Days returns 12-21 September** - The annual free festival that celebrates history, architecture and culture is back and we have shared content on this, encouraging people to visit our cathedrals to see what they might discover.

**Freelance comms and marketing available** - Caroline Sanger Davies has just finished supporting Wells with comms while they recruited for a full timer and they were very happy with her. She is available to support with marketing planning and delivery, remote or hybrid, experienced in working with cathedrals, visitor attractions, cultural organisations:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/carolinesangerdavies/>

[caroline@experience-marketing.co.uk](mailto:caroline@experience-marketing.co.uk): Mob: 07854 835171

Do contact Nerys Watts, COO at Wells if you want to know more.

[Nerys.Watts@wellscathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nerys.Watts@wellscathedral.org.uk)

This week we were pleased to partner with the **Community Safety Trust** to offer training in 'Security Minded Communications' with 25 Comms colleagues from across the sector.

## 2. News from the Arts in Cathedrals Advisory Board

The second Arts in Cathedrals newsletter has just landed. Please do be in touch if you have any comments or would like further information. Please do share with your teams and let [susan.chapman@englishcathedrals.co.uk](mailto:susan.chapman@englishcathedrals.co.uk) know if others would like to receive a copy directly.

You can read it or download it on the website here: [Art in Cathedrals, Late Summer 2025](#)

## 3. Vacancies and Appointments

Guildford Cathedral are recruiting a new COO as Matt O'Grady retires shortly after 12 years in post! The closing date is 12 noon on 26 September. You'll find the candidate information document here:

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

The Cathedral Music Trust are seeking two new trustees; Chair of the Development Committee and Chair of the Grants Assessment Panel. More information can be found here: <https://www.cathedralmusictrust.org.uk/new-trustee-appointments/>

Birmingham Cathedral are seeking to appoint a Fundraising Manager. More details can be found here: <https://birminghamcathedral.com/vacancies/>

Derby Cathedral is looking to appoint a Canon for Worship & Music, a Strategic Fundraiser, and a Project Officer to support The National Lottery Heritage Fund Resilience Project. You'll find details and job descriptions on the cathedral website <https://derbycathedral.org/about/vacancies/>.

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/>

## 4. Training & Conference Opportunities

**CAFA Conference 2025: Hearts for Mission, Minds for Money, Peterborough Cathedral, 22-24 September 2025.** The conference brochure is now available to download from the [CAFA website](#) - under CAFA/Conferences. We look forward to meeting up with colleagues from all our English Cathedrals and associated partners then.

**ALVA** are running a series of one day conferences for a spectrum of Heads of Department roles as mentioned last week. So far I have had no uptake for the day sessions with Heads of Finance, Heads of Public Engagement, Heads of Education and Learning, Heads of HR and Heads of Sustainability. Please be in touch if you or a colleague are interested in attending.

**Net Zero Carbon Neutral:** a reminder that bookings are still open for this one day event on Sept 25 open to a wide range of delegates from across cathedral estates to look at how to meet the net zero challenge. Cathedral case studies from architects and consultants alongside the Cathedral Works Fellowship and contributions from HE, CFCE, CCBD

**An updated header and programme can be found at that website address - use password to access.**

**Contact:** [www.jonathanlouth.co.uk/arcathedral](http://www.jonathanlouth.co.uk/arcathedral)  
**Password:** ZERO25

Stephen Oliver has worked with Historic England to produce guidelines on how to evaluate the **environmental conditions in historic buildings** and their impact on the conservation of the building fabric and the furnishings and collection within. These have now been published online:

[Understanding the Environmental Performance of Historic Buildings for Conservation | Historic England](#)

There will also be a CPD webinar on **14<sup>th</sup> October** which you might find interesting.

[Technical Tuesdays: Technical Conservation Webinars | Historic England](#)

## 5. Interesting Reports & Information

Following last week's announcement of the death of the **Late Duchess of Kent**, we have received the following guidance; Union flags will be flown at half-mast from 08:00 on the 16 September until 08:00 on the 17 September to mark Her Late Royal Highness' Requiem Funeral Mass will take place at Westminster Cathedral at 14:00 on Tuesday 16 September.

There is no expectation of formal acts of mourning or commemoration. Churches and Cathedrals may wish to also participate in flying flags at half-mast but there is no obligation. Similarly, there again will be no formal pattern of bell-tolling but we would advise doing what feels appropriate for your community and congregation. There is an online book of condolence available via The Royal Family website [Book of Condolence | The Royal Family](#) should individuals or communities wish to send a message or pay their respects but, there is no obligation or need for Churches and Cathedrals to use physical books of condolence during this time.

**The Heritage Alliance** is planning to publish a report on Heritage and PLacemaking. AEC will contribute to their survey data, and if you have a good case study exemplifying heritage-led regeneration, engaging local communities with heritage, and/or growing local capacity in heritage skills then you can contribute directly here:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=ux7APM1htE2ogBjlz4AD3kAEgN4PTqJGtpm4cJcVhLRUMUcwWDIQTlpDTTIOV0xXSEc2Mk5HNEJWUy4u&route=shorturl> and indicate that you are a 'member organisation of a THA member'

**The Royal Voluntary Service** have launched a new, free, online platform for volunteer recruitment which may be of interest to colleagues in charge of your volunteers.  
<https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/volunteer-revolution/charities/>

## **6. 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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