



# Keeping you connected

Newsletter

03 October 2025

## From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

It was such a pleasure to see so many of the COO/CFO network and others at the CAFA Conference last week, and a particular pleasure to welcome new members and especially those very new in post. My first CAFA conference was back in 2014, and was jointly hosted by **Newcastle Cathedral** and **Durham Cathedral**, and I remember being a little overwhelmed at the level of knowledge and experience in the room! I'm pleased to say that the network remains one of the most skilled and competent groups of people I know, with a real heart for sharing knowledge, supporting each other and driving important conversations. The CAFA Exec, and particularly Jan Armitage and her team at **Peterborough** did a sterling job of organising and hosting.

This week I had the pleasure of visiting **Liverpool Cathedral** for the first time, experiencing the full warmth of their welcome and hearing in detail about their experiences of a very successful Knowledge Transfer Partnership with Lincoln Bishop University. The partnership focuses on demonstrating social impact, and has close resonance with the THEOS research currently underway. I was also able to visit **Durham Cathedral** - what a joy to see 740 brand new students entering the cathedral for their matriculation service! It was great to hear about the long-term estate planning and the ambition to create a permanent pilgrimage resource at the cathedral, as well as an opportunity to enjoy the current Magna Carta in the North exhibition.

Visiting three cathedrals in three weeks, and a host of wonderful colleagues along the way has reminded me of all the things cathedrals are seeking to be: Places of worship, pilgrimage, gathering, celebration, lament, sanctuary, learning, debate, encounter and belonging. I remain in awe of all you do to serve in all these ways!

Warm wishes, Anna Pitt

Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

## 1. News from the Chapter Training Board:

We held an Introduction to Cathedral Governance training session at Southwark Cathedral on 25 September with 25 delegates from 13 different cathedrals. The next session, planned for 22 November in Leicester has been postponed but we can now advise that the 2026 dates are:

- Tuesday 24 February, St Martin's House, Leicester Cathedral
- Thursday 4 June, Hilton & Town Trust Rooms, Sheffield Cathedral
- Thursday 15 October, St John Groser Room, The Royal Foundation of St Katherine, Limehouse, London

Further details and a booking form can be found on the AEC website.

Here: <https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/resources/events/>

The AEC's Introduction to Cathedral Governance training sessions are primarily for those without previous cathedral experience – new members of cathedral Chapters, lay and ordained, newly appointed administrators/COO/CFOs, new residentiary canons and deans.

The course may also be relevant for Chairs of advisory bodies, Senior Non-executive Members, Chairs of Nomination Committees and Chairs and newly appointed members of any governance committee of Chapter.

The sessions are designed to complement each cathedral's own induction process and include reflection upon the legal and financial responsibilities of Chapters as charity trustees, the relationship of Chapter to the rest of the cathedral, fabric and property matters and the role of cathedrals as centres of worship and mission.

## 2. Vacancies and Appointments

### **Redress - Governance Board - message from Bev Bickley (Redress Church Relations Manager)**

Redress is setting up a new governance board which will be held about once a month (90-minute meetings) to review a few outstanding policy questions and some operational decisions, and to help ensure Redress lands well in diocese and cathedral settings. We want the Board to be representative of the Church and so I am reaching out to you to ask if you can utilise your network to ask for expressions of interest for a Chief Operating Officer who would be able and available to join the Board.

A few things to note:

- The Terms of Reference will be agreed as a group.
- There will be 2 survivor representatives sitting as full members of the Board.
- We will likely start the Boards towards the end of October, for about 6 months.
- Other representation will come from clergy and senior clergy, Dio Secs Archdeacons and Bishops Chaplains.
- The Board will be staffed by the Redress project team and subject matters experts from legal, finance etc.

If you or anyone in your network have any questions or wish to discuss this request, please contact [bevickley@churchofengland.org](mailto:bevickley@churchofengland.org)

### **3. Training & Conference Opportunities**

The Charity Commission have an opportunity for a training session which might appeal to your Comms colleagues:

#### **Charities and Social Media**

Date/Time: Tuesday 4 November 2025, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

For more information and to register to either watch live, or receive the recording of this webinar, please use this link: [Charities Engagement Team Events – Booking by Bookwhen](#)

#### **CAFA Conference 2025 - Hearts for Mission, Minds for Money**

It was great to see so many friends from the cathedral network at last week's CAFA conference in Peterborough. PDF copies of the presentations are now available to view on the CAFA website.

We are also delighted to share the link to a video of Mike Greene's presentation (Strategy, Sustainability & Sacred Legacy).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2lks2r02DNk>

Mike is also happy for his contact information to be shared: [mike@mikegreene.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikegreene.co.uk)

### **4. 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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