



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

10 October 2025

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

I'm pleased to be able to share with you an update on the research that AEC is currently commissioning. As you now know, the results of this research will be shared at the National Cathedrals Conference in Bristol next May, and will form the basis of our reflections and discussion over the course of the conference.

Our first piece of research is being undertaken by **THEOS** and is kindly funded through the **Cathedral Sustainability Fund**. THEOS are working with six case study cathedrals (Derby, York, Rochester, Carlisle, Exeter and St Albans) to conduct in depth interviews with staff, volunteers and visitors. The quantitative and qualitative results from this diverse group of cathedrals will give us an insight into the spiritual, social and cultural impact of cathedrals. This research was commissioned due to the tremendously positive impact of THEOS's 2012 Spiritual Capital and our strong desire to update that work. For those not familiar, you can find out more about that report [here](#).

Secondly, we have had confirmation of a successful grant application this week for a piece of research to be undertaken by **State of Life** into the economic impact of cathedrals. This work is kindly funded by **The Julia Rausing Trust**. We are excited to be building on the *National Churches Trust's* groundbreaking research and tools - *House of Good*. I am delighted that 36 of our member cathedrals have already completed the House of Good survey, and we will be using that data to support the next phase of research.

If you have any queries about this research, I'd be only too happy to share more detail individually and will use this newsletter for regular updates as and when we reach significant points in both projects.

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

1. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

We held our monthly online comms drop-in this week. We shared tips and tricks for organ/music fundraisers and talked about the comms difficulties we are all facing navigating the Israel/Palestine situation. We're collecting Harvest stories and hoping some of these might feature in a harvest wrap-around in Church Times next week.

News from Art in Cathedrals Advisory Board

An opportunity from Art and Christianity:

A+C Awards for Art in a Religious Context

The time has come to get your entry ready for the A+C Awards.

Entries are welcomed for The Art Award, for either temporary or permanent works of art in a religious context £3,000 for each category.

The artwork submitted must be within the building or grounds owned or leased to an active faith community and completed in the last five years (since January 2020). The commission must be exemplary in its relationship to its context, its capacity to engage in the particular modes of worship and activities taking place within its environment. It can be in any medium.

Entry details and forms are available at artandchristianity.org/awards

Deadline: 5pm 31 October 2025.

The judging panels for the Awards are:

For the Art Awards:

Bryan Biggs (Chair) – Director of Cultural Legacies, Bluecoat, Liverpool

Dr Maddie Hewitson – art historian specialising in nineteenth-century British art and a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the University of Birmingham.

The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett – Bishop of Croydon (Church of England)

Nigel Prince – Director of Artes Mundi, Cardiff

The Singh Twins – contemporary British artists, film-makers and curators

2. Vacancies and Appointments

Lincoln Cathedral is advertising for an HR Business Partner and a HR Administrator. Please see the link below. Closing date is 24 October.

<https://lincolncathedral.com/current-vacancies/>

3. Training & Conference Opportunities

Bates Wells are hosting an in person training event in London on 6th November on **Charities, Copyright and Creativity**. More info [here](#).

Also on 6th November, the **Heritage Alliance** are hosting their annual **Heritage Debate** <https://bit.ly/HeritageDebate2025>

The Charity Tax Group have a number of online hour-long training sessions coming up covering a range of topics from VAT to Gift Aid via Corporation Tax. Details can be found here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/charitytaxgroup>

4. Interesting Reports & Information

ALVA Heads of HR Met earlier this month and the resources are available [here](#).

The Cathedral Archives, Libraries and Collections Association (CALCA) are seeking contributions for their winter newsletter. These could include updates from your cathedral/institution or notices of forthcoming events. Images are welcome. Please send contributions to Cressida Williams at Cressida.Williams@canterbury-cathedral.org by 31st October.

5. 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

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