



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

27 October 2025

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

This week, the National Churches Trust's 'Great Expectations' Conference was held in person and online and I was able to dial in for the afternoon sessions. It was inspiring to hear the collective voices in unison making the case for more support for churches and cathedrals, with a strong acknowledgment of the value of these buildings as community assets.

Speakers including Dame Fiona Reynolds and Stephen spoke of the value of churches and cathedrals as national treasures for the common good, with Dame Fiona acknowledging the need for people to experience beauty and spiritual succor, even if they don't worship. We know that our cathedrals are capable of that beauty and nourishment for worshippers, visitors, pilgrims and more.

There was a specific call from the conference for a separate government fund to secure the financing of change in churches and cathedrals. We will of course continue to seek every opportunity to be part of that conversation, share evidence and advocate on your collective behalf.

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

1. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

Good to see our harvest round- up got a good pick up and show in the Church Times.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/17-october/news/uk/harvest-festivals-still-plentiful-in-the-church-of-england>

News from Art in Cathedrals Advisory Board

You might be interested to listen in a debate on Radio 4 from last week on art in cathedrals in light of Canterbury's new exhibition.

2. Vacancies and Appointments

- Rochester Cathedral is looking to recruit a Cathedral Safeguarding Officer (p/t 21 hours). Here is the necessary link for further information <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/work-with-us>. The deadline for applications is midnight 2 November 2025. The candidate information pack is also available via the CAFA website.
- The Heritage Alliance is seeking two new Trustees to join our Board in 2026 following two long-serving members of our Board reaching the end of their terms. [Learn more and apply here](#). **Closing date:** 11:59pm, Sunday 2 November
- Winchester Cathedral is recruiting for a Director of Music; Closing date: 17th November 2025. For info <https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/director-of-music/>
- St Eds Cathedral have a number of vacancies. Please see below:

Non-Executive Safeguarding Chapter Member -

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7383778213136588801>

Cathedral Safeguarding Officer -

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7384882019010359297>

Cathedral Architect and Surveyor of the Fabric-

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7379415043077095424>

Risk, Audit and Review Committee Member:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7384882513191579648>

Organ and Choral Scholar

For full details please see the link below to our website. Please do share with others who may be interested and repost on LinkedIn.

[Join The Team: Vacancies | St Edmundsbury Cathedral](#)

3. Training & Conference Opportunities

Information on the next Quarterly Briefing from CCLA (intended for trustees, finance committees, COOs and CFOs) can be found here:

https://ccla.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rQy-p0P0THSd77ZvKEMyhQ#/registration

4. Interesting Reports & Information

Please note that the minutes of the CAFA AGM held on Tuesday 23 September at Peterborough Cathedral are now available to view on the CAFA website. Thank you.

Message from GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) - It's time to act

Recent ransomware attacks at Jaguar Land Rover, Marks and Spencer, The Co-Op, NHS suppliers and The British Library among others are warning that organisations need to have well thought through plans for continuity and recovery in place. Although cathedrals may not seem an obvious target, they are high profile, and malicious attacks can't be ruled out. Our cyber security expert on the AEC's Cathedrals and Major Church Projects Support Panel, Dr Tim French, has recommended you work through the NCSC's advice and guidance for SMEs here <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/small-medium-sized-organisations> - this includes links to their **free Cyber Security Toolkit** and to sign up for their regular **small organisations newsletter**.

Tim also recommends considering taking out some form of cyber insurance; he gathers from his industry contacts that several of the recent victims either had no cover or were underinsured. He reports that other key points emerging from recent experience are:

- A detailed viable recovery plan is critical in the event of an attack - and needs to be available on paper to those who need it.
- Never pay a ransom.
- Take out a level of cyber security insurance that fits both your budget and risk appetite.
- Test your recovery plan's effectiveness before and not after an incident.
- Take special care and consider additional safeguards both to comply with GDPR and pre-identify & fully secure all personal data sets.
- Training staff in cyber basics and scams is effective - see free toolkit link above

Read more about the NCSC in their Annual Review

https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/files/ncsc-annual-review-2025.pdf#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=8a4802dd-d555-42f8-bb39-609926d40100

If you have a specific concern please do contact the Support Panel Coordinator Anne Locke anne.locke@englishcathedrals.co.uk and she will put you in touch with Tim.

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

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

[Follow us](#) on social media.