



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

19 December 2025

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

This will be our last newsletter for 2025, and you can expect to hear from us again on Friday 9th January 2026. I've been so grateful for the support and enthusiasm for this newsletter, please continue with your helpful feedback - the newsletter is about gathering helpful information and signposting into one place. Your views on how to develop it as a useful tool are welcome.

Since February, I have had the pleasure of visiting 11 of our member cathedrals, and what a pleasure it has been. I must remark on the consistency of warmth and welcome. We've enjoyed engaging with the Volunteer of the Year award, and all the opportunities that were presented for celebrating the heartbeat commitment of the army of cathedral volunteers.

As we look forward to 2026, our focus continues to be on our **THEOS** and **State of Life** research, and the final planning for the **National Cathedrals Conference**. In addition, we'll be working on an internal governance audit building towards a strategy development day in September 2026. We are also working with **Cathedral Music Trust** to deliver a series of webinars aimed specifically at the music provision in cathedrals.

Many thanks for all the support I have received in my first year as Exec Director, and for the patience as we have transitioned into a new phase of work. It remains a true privilege to work alongside the wonderful team at AEC and to work with and for our marvellous cathedral sector. My main reflection of the year is the fine balance between delving seriously into the issues of sector-wide funding and financial stability, and at the same time celebrating the joy of cathedral ministry, serving the community, growing disciples and bringing the good news into the lives of increasing numbers of people. As we wait for Christmas, and I know you will be welcoming huge numbers of visitors and worshippers, I hope now is a time for joy and celebration amongst the busyness.

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

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



BURSARIES: remember that with generous support from CCLA and CAFA, we will have enough bursary funding to support every Cathedral that requests a bursary with at least one funded place. You can find the bursary application form alongside the booking form here: <https://www.nationalcathedralsconference.org/book-now/>. **Bursary forms need to be submitted by 5 January 2026.**

EARLY BIRD BOOKING RATE: the early bird booking rate ends on **31 December 2025** so please make sure you book in time to secure this for your delegates. Thank you.

2. Vacancies and Appointments

The Revd Canon Dr Stephen Evans has been appointed as the new Dean of Southwell. Dr Evans has been Rector of St Marylebone in central London for the last sixteen years, and before served as Rector of Uppingham and the Rural Dean of Rutland. He will be installed in April.

St Paul's are seeking to recruit a **Worship Support Assistant**. Full details are available via the website: <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/work-with-us>, and you'll also find the job description on the CAFA website. The closing date for applications is 9 January 2026.

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

Great to see the new Advent stations in Chelmsford Cathedral in the Church Times last week.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2025/12-december/books-arts/art/art-review-12-advent-stations-chelmsford-cathedral>

Great to see the Rochester Cathedral package on The One Show on Tuesday too!

Thanks as always to all those involved making time and space to accommodate media inquiries, I know how busy and time-consuming that can be.

Events - The events page on our website attracts over 2.5k visitors every month. Please keep us updated regarding your events via our [Event Capture Form](#). We love to showcase the vast array of events taking place across our network with the aim of amplifying your event and driving more people there and to your website. The form is quick and easy to complete - and please remember to include an image or two. Thank you!

4. Training & Conference Opportunities

The first **AEC / CMT Lunchtime Webinar** on the topic of **Fundraising for Music** will be held on **Wednesday 21st January 12-1pm**. The zoom link will be <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88201050022> - please share with colleagues.

There are still a couple of spaces available on the first **AEC Introduction to Cathedral Governance training of 2026**. The date is **24 February (10.30am-4.30pm)**, and the venue is **St Martin's House, Leicester Cathedral**. If you have members of Chapter, SMT or other governance committees who have been appointed in the last 2 years and who have not attended one of our training events, please do encourage them to join us. Full details and a link to the booking form, can be found on the AEC website here: <https://englishcathedrals.co.uk/resources/events/>

5. Interesting Reports & Information

Church Times printed an interesting article by Canon Leslie Francis, one of our National Cathedrals Conference Panellists, which may be of interest (page 13): <https://cloud.3dissue.com/1541/2008/9124/CT8491YHJKF/index.html?r=15>

AEC are members of the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA), and as such, all of our members are entitled to sign up for **ALVA newsletters**. Their distribution lists are segmented as follows: Membership, HR, Education, Events, Finance, Fundraising, Security, Sustainability, Marketing, Public Engagement, Ticketing, Catering, Council Meeting & Benchmarking and you can **follow this link to sign up** and select your preferences: Link: <http://eepurl.com/cD61Kv>

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

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

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