



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

23 January 2025

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2026, and there is plenty to share with you. Please continue to share this email with colleagues and chapter members who might find elements of interest.

You will receive this email on the day that myself and others, most notably the team from Wakefield Cathedral will be attending the funeral of Rachel Copley, Wakefield Cathedral's COO who sadly died just after Christmas. I knew Rachel to be a really enthusiastic and generous contributor to the wider network; Wakefield Cathedral have lost a gifted colleague and a warm friend, and I'll be honoured to represent the wider Cathedral network, particularly Rachel's CAFA colleagues today.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Cathedrals Plus conference in Dublin, and for the first time visiting two of our member Cathedrals; Christ Church Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral. Two Anglican Cathedrals within a mile of each other in a country where only 2% identify as Anglican. Their work is a testament to partnership, community and with a heart for the people of the city. We learnt that the Cathedrals collectively feel they contribute to the 'Soul and Stones of the City' and the generous Dublin welcome was certainly soulful. I was delighted to share time with colleagues in education, learning, outreach and visitor engagement - what an enthusiastic and engaged group of people!

Today we also received news of the government's new £92 million Places of Renewal Scheme. You can read more here: <https://ow.ly/9eST50Y1zCQ>. It is still too early to know the finer details of the fund, or how it will benefit our sector in comparison to the LPWG Scheme which it replaces. Our fine colleagues in the Cathedral and Church Buildings Team have campaigned alongside others for support to replace LPWG Scheme, and they are to be applauded for their advocacy and consistency.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



2. Vacancies and Appointments

Appointments:

Hereford Cathedral is pleased to announce that Andrew Reid will become the cathedral's new Director of Music following the retirement of Geraint Bowen. Andrew will also hold the position of Conductor of Hereford Choral Society and Artistic Director of the Hereford Three Choirs Festival, and will be responsible for programming the 300th edition in 2028.

Prior to his current position, Andrew was Managing Director of Harrison & Harrison Organ Builders (2017–22) and also Director of the Royal School of Church Music. He worked in cathedral music between 1996 and 2012 as Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral, Sub Organist of Westminster Abbey, and Assistant Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral. In the latter two positions he played for the funerals of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and Cardinal Basil Hume and accompanied various critically acclaimed recordings on the Hyperion label. While in Peterborough he directed the Northampton Bach Choir and instigated choral and orchestral concerts in the cathedral.

Andrew is originally from Kent and educated at Cambridge. He is married to Louise, and they have four children, who have all been cathedral choristers. He also once performed the complete organ works of JS Bach in a single 25-hour recital!

Guildford Cathedral announced on Wednesday that Katherine Dienes-Williams, their Organist and Master of the Choristers, has been appointed Director of Music at **Winchester Cathedral**.

The Dean of Guildford, the Very Reverend Bob Cooper, said: "We offer Katherine our warmest congratulations on this wonderful appointment. Winchester is gaining a truly gifted musician and an inspiring leader. Whilst she will be deeply missed by all of us at Guildford, we send her with our heartfelt thanks for everything she has given to this cathedral community and our prayers for this exciting new chapter in her ministry."

Vacancies:

Lincoln Cathedral is seeking to recruit two members to its Fabric Advisory Committee starting Friday 1 May. They are particularly interested in applications from those with expertise in the following areas: Liturgy and the use of Liturgical Space, Cathedral

Architecture, Urban Planning and Master Planning. Closing date: Midday, Wednesday 11 February. Details here: <https://lincolncathedral.com/current-vacancies/>

Lincoln is also looking to recruit a Director of Fabric & Estates. Details can be found on the cathedral website here: <https://lincolncathedral.com/current-vacancies/>. The closing date for applications is 5pm on 2 February 2026.

Lichfield Cathedral is recruiting a Canon Precentor. Full details, including the application pack, can be found via the cathedral website here: <https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/get-involved/precentor>. The closing date is 9.00am on Friday 30 January 2026. Interviews will be on 23 and 24 February.

St Paul's has a vacancy for a full time Assistant Safeguarding Officer. Full details can be found via the cathedral website here: <https://www.stpauls.co.uk/vacancies/assistant-safeguarding-officer>. The closing date is 25th January 2026 at 23:59pm

Sheffield Cathedral are seeking to appoint a Canon Chancellor to join their team. Details can be found here: www.sheffieldcathedral.org/recruitment

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

Divine Light - over 3,000 people have already voted in this public competition to find the people's favourite stained glass from the top 12 most liked/engaged stained glass images we shared during our winter Divine Light campaign. Voting is open until Candlemas.

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 - please send through information regarding your events, exhibitions and special services. The AEC events page attracts over 2.5k visitors every month. You can keep us updated 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

AEC/CMT Webinar on Fundraising for Music has been rescheduled to **Wednesday 4th February at midday** and a webinar link will be shared soon.

AEC Introduction to Cathedral Governance Training

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/>

The other training dates for 2026 are 4 June at Sheffield Cathedral and 15 October at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London E14. The course on the 4 June is currently full (waiting list open) but there is space available in October.

Historic England is offering free 2-hour online training workshops to help heritage organisations measure and reduce their carbon footprint as part of their 'Sector to Net Zero' programme. These practical, beginner-friendly sessions are designed to support micro, small and medium heritage organisations, including volunteer-led groups and freelance heritage professionals.

- How to Write a Carbon Reduction Plan: Multiple dates: 21 January, 28 January

<https://historicengland.org.uk/education/training-skills/training/training-courses/carbon-reduction-training-for-the-heritage-sector/>

The Charity Tax Group are offering the following training sessions:

Gift Aid Practical Issues Working Group:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/charitytaxgroup/2033127>

VAT Practical Issues Working Group:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/charitytaxgroup/2033128>

5. Interesting Reports & Information

The **National Churches Trust's** Day Conference - Great Expectations - is available now available as a full recording:

Hosted by the National Churches Trust in partnership with The King's Foundation and the Churches Conservation Trust at the V&A on 21 October, the event brought together heritage experts, policymakers, craftspeople, volunteers, faith leaders and community voices to explore the challenges and opportunities facing church buildings today. You can now link to a YouTube playlist with recordings of all the sessions from the symposium. Watch the full playlist here

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7fyRQWbDgzd_f5PhNPB0JFr3vB00vkJD

You can also find more about the event here:

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/GreatExpectations>

Are you a pilgrim place? New resources for churches in the northern province unveiled.

<https://faithinthenorth.org/northern-churches-invited-to-become-pilgrim-places/>

Faith in the North is inviting churches across the Northern Province to consider becoming a 'Pilgrim Place' - welcoming spaces where people can pause, pray, reflect and connect with God - a resource pack that includes prayer cards, signage, trails and

resources for children & young people to help churches become more pilgrim-friendly and to support individuals on their journeys of faith are available.

From Tuesday 20 January 2026, churches will be able to register as Pilgrim Places, with introductory webinars running on 20 and 21 January. <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/faith-in-the-north-113244574611>

The Tru Vue Exhibition and Conservation Grant Scheme are now open through ICON. Under the scheme, small heritage institutions can apply for funding of up to £3,000 to support the delivery of conservation projects that enable the safe display of an object within their collection. Applications are open until 27 February.

Further information, including details on how to apply, can be found on the Icon website here:

<https://www.icon.org.uk/resource/tru-vue-conservation-exhibition-grant-scheme.html>

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

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