



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

6 February 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

This week saw 53 of us gather online for the 'Fundraising in Music' webinar. If you were unable to join, a link to the recording will be circulated at some point today. It was a great opportunity to share best practice and learnings, and my thanks go to Portsmouth Cathedral and Wells Cathedral for generously sharing their experiences. Our speakers articulated so well the power of music in supporting worship and the collective flourishing and growth of cathedral communities through engagement with music at all levels.

Announced today : the winning window in our Divine Light campaign to find the Nation's Favourite Stained Glass Window campaign. Who won and who was in the top 5? Find out [here](#).

Also, this week, we gathered to share experiences across the Cathedral Audience Research Network, with our partners at Audience Agency. We learnt how cathedrals are using audience segmentation data to confirm anecdotal evidence, to inform decision making and programming, and to gather knowledge and data on audience preferences. As part of our Comms network earlier in the week, we heard from the team at Durham Cathedral about their award-winning 'Magna Carta and the North' marketing campaign, and how audience data had helped them run a targeted campaign to invite visitors to the exhibition.

The balancing of the sacred and secular has been at the forefront of a number of our engagements this week; the requirement to increase income to drive financial stability, balanced with the priority of our cathedrals as sacred spaces of prayer and worship. We are pleased to be able to explore this issue further with our panels and workshops at the National Cathedral Conference in May.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



2. Vacancies and Appointments

Appointments:

Salisbury Cathedral has announced the appointment of The Revd Neil Traynor as the new Canon Treasurer, and the installation will take place at evensong on 27th April.

St Albans has appointed Emma Mullen as the new Cathedral Architect this week. Emma is also Cathedral Architect for Newport Cathedral and Portsmouth Cathedral.

Vacancies:

Wells Cathedral: The team are seeking a content creator and marketing assistant to join them: <https://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/your-cathedral/vacancies>

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

The winner of our Divine Light competition has just been announced - congratulations to Carlisle and their Great East window.

It has been a super successful campaign - over 2.1m people saw it, with an engagement rate of 10 percent across all our platforms. It drove traffic to our website - which saw almost 25,000 visitors in January with the top three most visited pages being Divine Light related. The top page was the voting page which attracted 12.5k people which equated to just under 7,000 votes.

The campaign, as our successful Cathedral Treasures campaign in 2022, was based on Divine Light, the latest book by Janet Gough. It is available to buy here or to stock in your cathedral shops.

We held our monthly comms drop in this week and heard from the team at Durham who have just won marketing campaign of the year (Not For Profit) for their Magna Carta in the North in the North East Marketing Awards. The take-away from that: Tell your story, tell it again, and then tell it some more. We have lots to be proud of.

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. Arts in Cathedrals Advisory Board

Our latest arts newsletter will be out next week - if you are not signed up to get it - do drop a line to Susan.chapman@englishcathedrals.co.uk

A reminder that our arts curator Jacquiline Creswell has let us know that this work is available for tour

Halima Cassell, Virtues of Unity <https://www.virtuesofunity.com/home>

Ben Edge – Two works are available from this work Children of Albion -
<https://www.benedge.co.uk/latest-paintings-2021-2022>

Renaud Muraire – Sacred Resonance - <https://www.renaudmuraire.com>

Do get in touch with Jacquiline to find our more and/or express interest:
jacquiline@visualartsadvisor.org

5. Training & Conference Opportunities

Our partners at The Audience Agency are running an online training session on using audience answers to increase loyalty and frequency on Thursday 12th February:
<https://theaudienceagency.org/en/event/seasonal-bookers-year-round-audiences>

6. Interesting Reports & Information

EXHIBITION INFORMATION: **Primate of All England: The Archbishop of Canterbury Through Time, Lambeth Palace Library, 28 January-4 May 2026**

Lambeth Palace Library presents a new exhibition, *Primate of All England: The Archbishop of Canterbury Through Time*, exploring the legacy and influence of the archbishops of Canterbury, of whom there have now been 106. This free exhibition traces the archbishop's role across centuries of English and global Anglican history.

<https://www.lambethpalacelibrary.info/primate-of-all-england/>

Clergy Support Trust - annual Festival service at St Paul's Cathedral, 5pm Tuesday 12 May 2026 with the choirs of St Paul's Cathedral, St Albans Cathedral and Blackburn Cathedral

Our Festival, one of the oldest choral music events in the world, is unique and extraordinary. In 2026, it celebrates 371 years, running continuously since 1655 with only two breaks; during the pandemic (2020) and the London Blitz (1940).

The Service is a key date in the Church, City of London and choral music calendars, and over the years composers including Edward Elgar have written music especially for the event. It includes a majestic procession of Bishops, Masters of Livery Companies, representatives of the City of London, Stewards of the Festival and other dignitaries.

The Service brings together three exceptional cathedral choirs to perform as one, under the magnificent dome of St Paul's Cathedral. This year, we welcome the cathedral choirs of Blackburn and St Albans, alongside the St Paul's Cathedral Choir, for what promises to be a majestic act of worship.

Find out more: www.clergysupport.org.uk/festival

7. 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.