



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

13 February 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

This week, we have been sharing the early headlines from our **THEOS** and **State of Life** research in conversation with parliamentarians. An engaged small group of MPs and their Deans met to discuss these early headlines, together with the indicative results from Project Narthex and the broader context and landscape for the Cathedral sector. We are delighted to have the support of this group, and with their support will be hosting an event at Westminster for 'Deans and Parliamentarians'. Please, Deans, save the date of 9th June with a formal invitation and more detail to follow from Dean Jo. This will be an opportunity for AEC to advocate at the highest level for support that the sector needs.

What a joy it has been to see so much positivity around the [Divine Light](#) campaign and the aftermath of incredibly positive emails I've been receiving. At a time when the news seems relentlessly awful, people have been drawn to a campaign of such visual beauty, sharing stories of their own personal memories, their sense of belonging and connection to their local cathedral, and their journey to faith. We are blessed to have this national treasury of art as aids for worship, and heritage assets.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



2. Vacancies and Appointments

Appointments:

Bradford Cathedral: Reverend Canon Jonathan Triffitt has been appointed as Interim Dean for a period of 3 years.

Vacancies:

Birmingham Cathedral: Are seeking to appoint a Verger and a Visitor Experience and Volunteer Co-ordinator. Details of both posts can be found:

<https://birminghamcathedral.com/vacancies>

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

Wonderful to report the outpouring of support and goodwill following the announcement that Carlisle's East Window won the public vote in our Divine Light competition. Other cathedrals also announced similar responses with visitors seeking out their stained glass. There was a fabulous two page spread in the Daily Express last Friday - a boost to all our cathedrals and there has been a steady stream of media heading to Carlisle from local news and media outlets including ITV/BBC/Freeview as well as varied as Country Life Magazine to The Salvation Army's War Cry.

Huge thanks to the team at Carlisle and Janet Gough for her tremendous support (and travel) to make these media segments work.



Following the hugely successful media campaign around Divine Light, and the wonderful public engagement it has generated, CPO are offering all four of Janet Gough's books at a **50% trade discount**, regardless of order size. This is for the next two weeks only - until Friday 27 February. The four titles are:

- Divine Light: The Stained Glass of England's Cathedrals (RRP 14.95)

- Director's Choice: Cathedrals of the Church of England (RRP £12.95)
- Director's Choice: Churches of the Church of England (RRP £12.95)
- Deans' Choice: Cathedral Treasures of England and Wales (RRP 14.95)

The 50% discount applies to all cathedrals, all four titles, and any size of order, but only until **Friday 27 February**.

Congratulations to Winchester and Chichester Cathedrals who both picked up a winner's award at the ACE Cultural Enterprise Awards held in Birmingham this week.

Thanks, as always, to all those involved in 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 is out! <https://englishcathedrals.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Art-in-Cathedrals-Winter-2025-Newsletter.pdf>

If you are not signed up to get it - do drop a line to Susan.chapman@englishcathedrals.co.uk

Latest opportunities from our arts curator, Jacqueline Creswell

The [Royal Society of Sculptors](#) need a place to host their Summer Exhibition. Open Call is currently in progress, so no idea on numbers or detail of pieces. Dates are flexible. There will be no or very limited costs for the cathedral. They would arrange the transport and installation as well as sorting out loan agreements. They would also provide a handheld guide for visitors to the cathedral.

The RSS is currently working with Brompton Chapel for a display marking International Women's Day [here](#). So be confident that they can work in our spaces.

A reminder that these works are available for tour too:

- Halima Cassell - [Virtues of Unity](#)
- Ben Edge – Two works are available from this work [Children of Albion](#)

- Renaud Muraire – [Sacred Resonance](#)

Do get in touch with Jacqueline to find out more and/or express interest:

jacquiline@visualartsadvisor.org

5. 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/>

The Cathedrals and Major Church Projects Support Panel - an AEC resource

If you had a day or two of free advice from an expert on an issue your cathedral faces, what would you ask them? This is your regular reminder that the Cathedral and Major Church Projects Support Panel offer cathedrals free advice and consultancy from nearly 70 volunteer experts. It aims to help cathedrals at the early stages of projects. Since its launch in 2017 it has dealt with 224 requests from cathedrals.

It's run by the Association of English Cathedrals and funded by the Church Commissioners.

Panel expertise includes architecture, conservation, fundraising, heritage interpretation, grant applications, project management, strategic planning, visitor engagement and many more areas.

Recently we have recruited several former cathedral senior officers to provide an additional resource for enquiries such as overall reviews of commercial activities. Contact the Support Panel's Cathedrals Coordinator Anne Locke for more information or to make a request. She will aim to link you up with a suitable expert or team of experts for an initial discussion, possibly followed by a site visit – travel expenses are paid by the project.

If the panel can't help, she may well be able to signpost you to other sources of advice and support. anne.locke@englishcathedrals.co.uk or 07908 472082.

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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