



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

20 February 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

This week I have enjoyed combining some working days with some family days away in Wales over half term. I know many of you will have been busy in your cathedrals with Ash Wednesday services and the start of Lent, and I hope that half term has been a great opportunity for children and families to visit you and engage with your wonderful spiritual and cultural offerings.

This week saw a training/induction day for new COOs and CFOs at Lambeth Palace Library, and I was very pleased to be invited to share the work of the AEC with new colleagues. It was also a very helpful reminder of the strands of support and information available from the Bishops and Cathedrals Team, Central Finance Services and the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Team.

As the conference programme nears finalisation, I am delighted that we will be welcoming Joanna Moriarty from Green Park, a long-standing friend to the sector, to lead a workshop on recruiting and retaining Gen Z and Inter-generational workforces. I know some of you will be keen to engage with that session, as these issues have been raised at several of our monthly drop-in sessions.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



This week we are pleased to announce that Sir Paul Ruddock will be our key note speaker on the economic impact of cathedrals at our conference. Amongst many other things, Sir Paul was Chair of the World War I Cathedral Repairs Commission from 2014-2018 and has a great understanding of the challenges (and opportunities) faced by our sector. Keep checking the conference website for further updates: :

<https://www.nationalcathedralsconference.org/programme/>

2. Vacancies and Appointments

Appointments:

The Venerable Rick Simpson has been announced as the next **Bishop of Durham**. His installation will take place over the summer.

Canon John Cecil has been announced as the new Canon Chancellor at **St Davids Cathedral**

Vacancies:

Manchester Cathedral is looking to appoint a **Chief Financial Officer** in succession to an experienced Cathedral Accountant who has served the Cathedral faithfully for many decades. You'll find all the details on their website here:

<https://manchestercathedral.org/about-us/vacancies>

Birmingham Cathedral have looking to recruit a **Cathedral Verger** (<https://birminghamcathedral.com/vacancies/#tab-694125>), a **Visitor Experience and**

Volunteer Co-ordinator, 30 hours pw (<https://birminghamcathedral.com/vacancies/#tab-694121>) and an **Independent**

Safeguarding Committee Member (<https://birminghamcathedral.com/vacancies/#tab-694123>). Further information, including details of how to apply and closing dates, can be found via these links.

Chelmsford Cathedral are seeking to appoint a new Cathedral Architect:

<https://share.google/6gevzwHtWMSifo0CY>

Peterborough Cathedral is looking for a full time volunteer and culture manager - Deadline 27 Feb. <https://peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/community/careers/>

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

Our *Divine Light* campaign and winner still continues to make the news - this week in Country Life Magazine.

Cathedral pancake races - including those at Ripon, Worcester and Winchester - made good local press. We shared a selection of cathedral Lent programmes this week on our website - the Religion Media Centre and Church Times both picked up.

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

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 hand held 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 our more and/or express interest:

jacquiline@visualartsadvisor.org

5. Interesting Reports & Information

Cathedral Survey: Michael Minta and Natasha Bryan have circulated the annual Cathedral Survey for completion by the end of March. The data from the survey is used to inform national conversations (for example the TFWG submission last year) and also allows important contributions to wider topics (for example DCMS consultations)

Cathedral Statistics: A reminder that Ken Eames and Sola Odunsi in the Data Team have sent through the Cathedral Statistics Form for completion in the next couple of weeks. These statistics are used by the national church to inform ongoing strategy and tell the story nationally of worship in cathedrals.

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.

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/>

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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