



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

27 February 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

This week we were warmly welcomed by colleagues at Leicester Cathedral to host the first in our 2026 series of Chapter Induction Training. We welcomed a largely lay cohort, though this session is open to all chapter members and senior lay leaders in your cathedral teams. I know some cathedrals have also appointed people into governance roles, do feel free to share this training opportunity with them. There is no real restriction on who can attend, and no limit to the number of times you can attend. If you feel a refresher would be useful, or a chance to hear the training again alongside colleagues then you would be more than welcome.

The training offers a context setting which is particularly useful for those new to cathedrals. I know many cathedrals have appointed brilliantly experienced trustees to their chapters in recent years, and this training seeks to help them translate that experience into the cathedral context with a grounding in; Cathedral Governance structures; Cathedral Finances and Reporting; The Care of Cathedrals Measure; Strategic Risk Management for Trustees.

We offer this training with the support of partners in the Cathedral and Church Building team, NCIs, EIG and generous volunteer time from current Deans, COOs and CFOs sharing their hard-earned experience. Sector-specific training is so valuable, and we are delighted to be offering this training again in Sheffield and London later in the year. More information and booking options available through our website [here](#).

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



I'm delighted that we will be welcoming Sir Paul Ruddock to our National Cathedrals Conference to lead a keynote speech on the Economic Impact of Cathedrals. Sir Paul chaired the World War One Centenary Repair Fund for Cathedrals and is a friend and advocate for the sector.

2. Vacancies and Appointments

Vacancies: Don't forget to share your vacancies with us. We will circulate them in this newsletter for interest, and importantly we add them to our website.

Birmingham Cathedral are looking to appoint an independent safeguarding committee member. For more information click [here](#).

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

The winner of our *Divine Light* campaign, Carlisle Cathedral got further coverage this last week, featuring in Country Life magazine and Church Times. Including this 12-minute feature by their local ITV team.

[Cathedral's stained-glass window best in England - Latest From ITV News](#)

They launched a stained-glass window tour on the back of this which has been super successful, the first one was a sell out and more are planned.

Divine Light has been our most successful social media campaign so far in reach and engagement for individual cathedrals and for the cathedral family.

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 to smaller cathedrals that 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 Music Trust - Intangible Cultural Heritage I am looking forward to signing an open letter on behalf of AEC in support of the Cathedral Music Trust's submission. More information on their campaign can be found [here](#).

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.

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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