



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

6 March 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

I know many of you will share my sadness at the news of the death of Bishop Andrew, Bishop of Guildford this week, and will be holding his family, friends and colleagues at Guildford Cathedral in your prayers. I worked briefly with Bishop Andrew when I first started working at Birmingham Cathedral, and he confirmed my husband and I. A lovely man and a fine priest who will be missed by so many.

This week I attended the Heritage Alliance's Heritage Day, with the focus on 'Heritage Connects'. A wonderful opportunity to connect with colleagues in our immediate cathedral sector and the wider heritage community, and to hear from some extraordinary speakers. We were inspired and reminded about how heritage can connect us across generations, communities and professions. I was struck by a statistic that over half of people felt sad, and 20% felt ashamed when they saw a local heritage building in disrepair. As I read through the first draft of our THEOS research, I am struck once more by the powerful narrative that our cathedrals hold, first and foremost sharing the good news of our faith, and intrinsically linked within that, the immense capacity that cathedrals have to share joy, support, optimism and beauty and inspire pride in a place. There are so many threads; heritage craft skills, the intangible heritage of the anglican choral tradition, the impact of education in and out of schools for some of the most vulnerable children, and the inspiring army of volunteers.

The encouragement we were sent away with was to focus on collaboration, to commit to aligning partnerships, and to strive to increase the evidence base for the work we are doing in our communities. I am confident that our research with THEOS and State of Life will be instrumental in this work, and I am very excited to share that with you in May.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



I am delighted that Visit England's Robin Tjolle (Regional Lead, Southwest) will be joining our panel on Monday 18th May to share his view on the cultural impact of Cathedrals. Having headed up the Discover England Fund and led 'Shakespeare's England' and Cotswold Tourism, we look forward to Robin's engagement and insights.

2. Vacancies and Appointments

Carlisle Cathedral have an ongoing recruitment campaign for FAC members. Please find more info here: <https://carlislecathedral.org.uk/join-our-team/>

Liverpool Cathedral are advertising for a number of posts including **Canon Precentor** and **Events Manager**. More info on both can be found here: <https://liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/contact-us/vacancies/>

Bristol Cathedral are looking to recruit a **Visitor Experience Manager** to their team. More info: <https://bristol-cathedral.co.uk/careers/visitor-experience-manager/>

Blackburn Cathedral are advertising for a **Cathedral Archaeologist**: <https://blackburncathedral.com/about/cathedral-archaeologist-vacancy/>

Portsmouth Cathedral have a vacancy for an **Assistant Verger and Precinct Officer** to join their team: <https://www.portsmouthcathedral.org.uk/all-careers/295yb9eka2xfp4rg99hcd6c8mjr5d2-tgpww-ee6at>

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Reverend Dr Michael Ipgrave announced his intention to retire this summer.

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.

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

We held our monthly comms drop-in this week. We heard from Cath at Carlisle on the cathedral's experiences of our divine light competition, its impact, lessons learned, and plans going forward. It has been a super successful campaign - the best so far - and Carlisle worked hard to make the most of it, with resounding success, new partnerships forged - and a new tour to boot! Sacred Light - a stained-glass tour of Carlisle Cathedral. Its first two tours sold out. More dates are now in the pipeline.

We will be quitting X this week after the AEC Board had a lengthy discussion and unanimously voted in favour of quietly quitting this social media platform. We will pin a note to the top of our account once we have removed all references to X from our website and email footers.

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 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 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 out more and/or express interest:

jacquiline@visualartsadvisor.org

5. Interesting Reports & Information

The Cathedral Archives Libraries and Collections Association are holding their annual conference at Chester Cathedral. The day will focus on the practicalities, challenges, and opportunities in managing historic collections in a cathedral setting. Sessions will include the opportunity to hear real case studies from cathedral members, see and hear how Chester Cathedral has explored solutions, and work through some records management scenarios. A useful day for cathedral archivists, librarians, collections managers, and interested individuals. More info and booking [here](#).

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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