



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

20 March 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

Yesterday saw the second in our series of lunchtime webinars hosted alongside the Cathedral Music Trust, with the focus this time on Chorister recruitment. With the support of colleagues from Ripon, Ely & Liverpool we explored a breadth of different models & experiences & the transition between different models.

I was reminded again of the phenomenal impact that a cathedral choristership has on young people, both in terms of their musical development & their softer skills as they develop into young adults.

I was particularly struck by the concept of Boys' Choirs as 'safe spaces' where they can be allowed to express themselves & learn the skills of team work & cooperation. We were joined by Kenny from the National Youth Choir of Scotland who compared the experience of being selected & training as a chorister to the experience of young people selected to play sport for their school & county.

I am not a chorister parent, I've been blessed with the role as a rugby mum (much colder, worse laundry), but I see the similarities in the opportunities for personal & team development, the euphoria of a last-minute try or a perfectly executed Anthem.

However, where the similarities end, is the evident capacity that a cathedral choristership has to shape a young person's spiritual education and journey, and also that of their family. We learnt that in Liverpool, their work with school singing programmes to support recruitment has also presented significant discipleship opportunities with demonstrable numbers of new families coming to worship in the cathedral and across the diocese. A story that I know is not unique to Liverpool, and my own experience of working alongside dedicated music colleagues supports this.

You can access the webinar [here](#) and the next in our series will be led again by CMT focussing on music training for clergy and will be held at midday on 17th June. The link will be circulated in due course.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



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 the CAFA website.

Lincoln Cathedral is looking to recruit a Librarian (f/t). You'll find further information on the cathedral website here: <https://lincolncathedral.com/current-vacancies/> The closing date is 14 April.

Appointments:

The Rt Rev Dr Andrew Rumsey (Suffragen Bishop of Ramsbury) has been appointed as the next Bishop of St Albans.

Retirements:

It was announced last week that The Very Revd Jonathan Greener, Dean of Exeter, will retire in July 2026. Jonathan is currently Chair of the AEC's Communications Project Board and Art in Cathedrals Board.

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

Carlisle Cathedral's winning window from our Divine Light competition appeared on Page 4 in The Times on Wednesday.

Can you help: High-res Floor plans of our cathedrals wanted for new photographic volume.

.We've been contacted by Australian photographer, John Swainston who is seeking help on floor plans for our cathedrals for his latest volume on Anglican cathedrals, due out later this year, entitled *I Will Lift Mine Eyes*. It features the story of cathedrals in the context of British and French history, illustrated with predominantly interior images. He is keen to include ground plans / line drawings as one of the resources for readers and

seeks a license of use for his book and needs the high-resolution files that each cathedral uses in guide pamphlets, websites and the like.

Each cathedral will be properly acknowledged. Can you help? He can be contacted at: ozjohns849@gmail.com.

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. Chapter Training Board

We held our first AEC Introduction to Cathedral Governance Training session at St Martin's House, Leicester last month. It was attended by newly appointed Residentiary Canons, Chapter Members (lay and clergy), two recently appointed COOs, and members of associated cathedral committees (including an Independent Safeguarding Chair). We were warmly welcomed by Dean of Leicester, Karen Rooms, who led the first session "What exactly is a Cathedral" and enjoyed the efficient hospitality of the staff team at St Martin's. We were also delighted to be joined at lunchtime by Janet Berry (Head of Conservation & Collections Policy, CoE) who lives in Leicester. Subjects covered by our speakers included: Cathedral Governance, Strategic Risk Management, Care & Development of our Buildings, Cathedral Finance and An Introduction to the NCIs. Following the training, we invite delegates to complete a feedback questionnaire which is reviewed by the Chapter Training Board and informs future training. Here are a couple of comments made:

..thank you for the work involved in gathering the expert speakers and preparing this material. It was particularly useful to meet Adrian (Daffern) and Greg (Hudson), whose work will no doubt touch our cathedral in future - now we have a face to put to a name. Getting speakers who are part of the ongoing support network is especially useful.

Session lengths were just right and the turnover of speakers prevented getting bogged down in over much detail. It left me wanting more than wishing I had had less. Even risk and finance which are not my topics of delight came over in an interesting way.

Find out more about the remaining two 2026 training sessions here: <https://englishcathedrals.co.uk/resources/events/> or contact susan.chapman@englishcathedrals.co.uk for more information.

6. Interesting Reports & Information

Drop-In session with CCLA to discuss investment performance: Thursday 9th April, 11am.

Microsoft Teams meeting:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/31330136600054?p=o4PJBikXTn7XzsW0tP>

Meeting ID: 313 301 366 000 54 Passcode: Ur6MB9rv

This session will also be recorded and circulated for those unable to attend at the time. If you have any questions you would like to submit to the CCLA please send these to Anna Pitt anna.pitt@englishcathedrals.co.uk by 2nd April. There will also be a time for CCLA to take questions on the day during this hour-long session.

For those hosting any of **Luke Jerram's Planet Installations**, you may be interested to know that **Cathedral Isle of Man** commissioned prayer cards, in collaboration with Dee Dyas. These were produced with a view to accessibility, and therefore are not specific to the Isle of Man and could be used in other contexts. If you would like more information please contact Rosemary Clarke (at Cathedral Isle of Man) - rosemary.clarke@googlemail.com

As you know, a new grant scheme is being launched in April, called the Places of Worship Renewal Fund. It is funded by the government. This will provide capital funding for listed places of worship in England (only). It will be administered by Historic England. It will distribute £23m per financial year, for four years. We're pleased to announce that on **29th April at 2.00pm**, Deborah Williams, Regional Director, Midlands at Historic England, will be talking by Zoom about the new Fund. **Save the date: more details will follow.**

Tickets are now available to book for the **Cathedrals Archives, Libraries and Collections Association** Day Conference: <https://chestercathedral.com/events/event/calca-conference>

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

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