



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

Holy Week & Easter 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

I know many of you are keen to understand the process for the New Places of Worship Renewal Fund, and I'm therefore happy to share the following note, published by our friends at HRBA. Historic England has published a notice about the new [Places of Worship Renewal Fund](#). Full details of the Fund will appear on that page as soon as known.

It is confirmed:

- That the new scheme is for England only
- That it is for listed places of worship
- It is funded by the DCMS
- Grants will be administered by Historic England.

The scheme funding is for equal amounts of funding in each of the four years. **It is therefore important to have a strong round of applications ready when the scheme opens, which we expect to be soon.** A listed place of worship in England considering making an application will be able to proceed promptly if it has to hand:

- A current quinquennial inspection (or equivalent professional assessment of the building)
- Photographs of the building
- Photographs of the area where work is needed, for which the grant is sought
- A letter of support for the application from the denomination or faith group (where relevant)
- Assurance that any consents needed are granted or soon will be
- Assurances that the proposed works can be delivered in a timely way

The application process will start with an expression of interest stage, so that only places of worship with schemes that are eligible and prepared proceed to a full application. For this first round it is important that projects can be delivered promptly on award of a grant.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



2. Vacancies and Appointments

National Churches Trust are looking to recruit two new trustees, each for a 5 year term. More information [here](#).

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.

3. News from the: Communications Support Project Board

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

JOY... inspired by nature - is this exhibition for you?

First presented as the Summer Exhibition at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry in 2024, the artist is keen to explore how the work might inhabit different kinds of spaces — including Cathedrals and places that offer reflection, light and connection

JOY... inspired by nature is a multi-sensory (physical, not technological) visual arts exhibition celebrating nature, creativity and JOY as essential human experiences. Conceived during the Covid pandemic, it responds to ongoing environmental and social uncertainty by inviting JOY as a quiet yet powerful act of care and hope.

The exhibition centres on two large-scale installations — *How Does Your Garden Grow?* and *RE* — supported by an original soundscape and subtle scentscape. Together, these elements create an embodied experience that encourages visitors to slow down, notice and reconnect — with nature, with place and with themselves.

Rooted in inclusive and socially engaged practice, the exhibition is adaptable and responsive. Alongside the core works, we invite local artistic contributions and offer opportunities for gentle participation, allowing each iteration to reflect its setting and community.

The exhibition is now being developed as a national tour, with Torre Abbey, Torquay confirmed for summer 2027 and an application to Arts Council England to support financially.

To begin the conversation of JOY touring to your venue please contact

Nicola Richardson joy@vortex-creates.co.uk, 07958 291162.

A tour pack can be found [here](#) should it be useful.

5. Interesting Reports & Information

The **Charity Commission** are running an in person training day on 'Managing your Faith Charity' on Tuesday 28th April. For more info click [here](#).

Lambeth Palace Library is running a second round of free visits and advice to Cathedrals. Cathedrals are invited to apply for one of the following from Lambeth's experienced conservators:

- Review of storage environment
- Condition report on single item or handful of related items
- Overall collection condition survey
- Advice on salvage planning
- Review of exhibition space or proposals

For more information and an application form, please contact rachel.freeman@churchofengland.org

The Association of Cultural Enterprises's Seeds of Change 2026 Prize Fund Applications Now Open

Applications are now open for [Seeds of Change 2026](#), the Association for Cultural Enterprises' annual £10,000 prize fund supporting sustainable and entrepreneurial initiatives within the cultural sector.

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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