



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

8 May 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

I know many of you are awaiting news of the Places of Worship Renewal Fund and disappointingly the Historic England Briefing last week was postponed as the finer details of the scheme have not been released yet. What we do know is that when the scheme is launched, there will be an opportunity to submit a short expression of interest, and you are therefore encouraged to think through projects which you will be ready to submit at quite short notice.

With that in mind I wanted to remind you of the resource available to you with our **Cathedral and Major Churches Support Panel** - 70 senior level strategic volunteers, many of whom with significant cathedral sector experience, available to you at no cost to support with project planning, fundraising strategy, master-planning and more. If you have a project that would benefit from an injection of time and expertise from one of our panelists then please contact our project coordinator Anne Locke anne.locke@englishcathedrals.co.uk and we will hopefully be able to link you up with someone who can help. They volunteer their time, AEC pays their expenses so it really is at no cost whatsoever to you.

The **Project Narthex Feedback** day was a really great opportunity to be in the same room with colleagues and to hear the finer details of an excellent piece of work. It was also such a good chance to hear positive examples of success and perseverance to overcome operational challenges. It highlighted again the value of sharing best practice and the willingness of our sector to support and resource each other.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in Bristol from 18th onwards.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



We are now in the final stages of preparation for our conference and all who are booked to attend will have received an email with pre-arrival information and links to the full conference programme. After months of planning, we're excited that over 350 delegates will gather to enjoy some excellent speakers and the warm hospitality of Bristol Cathedral.

We also encourage you to look at the range of workshops planned on Tuesday morning/afternoon and Wednesday morning. Please consider with your colleagues which would be most useful in your context or how your team can get the most benefit from what's on offer and book your places. Booking in advance helps the facilitators better prepare for each session.

On the final morning of the conference, we will be holding a short AGM. Papers will arrive in your inboxes very soon. There are vacancies for the AEC Executive Board - who might you consider proposing?

2. Vacancies and Appointments

St Paul's Cathedral is looking to recruit a Virger. This is a full-time position (35 hours pw). Further details can be found on the cathedral website (and the CAFA website). The closing date for applications: Friday 15th May 2026 at 23:59pm.
www.stpauls.co.uk/work-with-us

Exeter Cathedral is recruiting for a full-time Chief Financial Officer and the details can be found here: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

Leicester Cathedral is recruiting for a Chief Finance Officer. The details can be found on the cathedral website: <https://leicestercathedral.org/vacancies>. The closing date is 12 noon on Friday 15th May 2026.

Derby Cathedral is recruiting for a Head Verger. Please contact Jessica (Head of Operations) for full details. Jessica@derbycathedral.org. The closing date is 14th June 2026.

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. Interesting Reports & Information

An event focusing on delivering tours in Arts, Cultural and Heritage contexts, aimed at Operations Managers and Visitor Experience colleagues. The event is co-hosted by Shakespeare's Globe, National Trust and The Royal Albert Hall. The date is 21st May and more information is available [here](#).

Inaugural Lecture of Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford

Revd Professor Andrew Davison as Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford will give his inaugural lecture on Monday 15 June at 5pm at the Schwarzman Centre: *"The Creed in Music: A Thousand Years of Setting Christian Theology to Music,"* with performance of two creed settings by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral in their 500th anniversary year, and musical examples throughout. Cathedral musicians, clergy, and lay people interested in choral tradition and theology would find it directly relevant.

Register [here](#).

Music Sphere are inviting your contributions to an EU funded survey regarding the digitisation, preservation and analysis of musical cultural heritage and are particularly seeking contributions from organists and conservators.

 [LINK TO SURVEY](#)

Historic England is running an event on the impact of Martyn's Law on Heritage Buildings on **10th June**. Click here to find out [more](#).

5. 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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