



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

21 May 2026

From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

Well, friends, what a wonderful conference. We hope you feel nourished and energised by what you heard over the four days. Thank you to Dean Mandy and the hard-working team at Bristol for such a warm welcome.

We were delighted with speakers and panellists at this year's conference and we hope it gave you pause for thought, but moreover affirmation of the value and impact our cathedrals have in the life of the nation.

We hope you came away with new friendships forged, fresh ideas and a renewed sense of your worth.

We also hope you feel buoyed by a sense of belonging, that sense of not being alone, and we truly hope you come away from Bristol knowing that we at the AEC are here to be that support, resource and advocate for every one of you.

We will be taking the conversation to our parliamentarian colleagues next month, sharing the THEOS research with them in a round table discussion about our financial sustainability.

Know that this is not the end, but a beginning.

As we leave Bristol to return to our respective cathedrals, it is with renewed hope for the life of our cathedrals, our Living Stones: Living Hope.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference Update



Missing it already?

The key note speaker videos and corresponding speeches/presentations can be found here - accessed by clicking [here](#).

Just a reminder you can read the THEOS report in full [here](#).

Feedback

Your feedback is important: please remember to complete the feedback questionnaire which will inform our assessment of this year's conference and be considered by the AEC Executive Board at their Strategy Day in September. A QR code can be found in your conference brochure, or you can access the questionnaire via this [link](#).

2. Vacancies and Appointments

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/>

Lincoln Cathedral has a vacancy for a Cathedral Safeguarding Officer. Details can be found via their website: <https://lincolncathedral.com/current-vacancies/>. The closing date for applications is 1st June 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!

Arts in Cathedrals Advisory Board

Some of you might be interested in this fabulous work by **Liz West** which our visual arts curator,, Jacqueline Creswell believes would offer a profound experience in the context of our cathedrals. There are many layers to explore in her work, colour and light invite contemplation, provoke emotional response. Chester has already experienced her work and you might catch up with the team there to find out more.

We have a list of works that we can offer to cathedrals and the costs. If anyone is interested please get in touch, jane.bower@englishcathedrals.co.uk and I can forward. Jacqueline would recommend a long loan period and is happy to discuss further if anyone is interested.

Check out Liz' work here <https://www.liz-west.com/works> or find her at Liz West Studio on Instagram.

4. Interesting Reports & Information

The **Charity Commission** are running the following training session which I have attended in the past and can recommend:

Managing your Faith Charity - Tuesday 7 July 2026, 9:30am to 3:30pm

Location: Birmingham – Novotel Birmingham Centre, 70 Broad Street, B1 2HT

For more information and to register to attend this face-to-face event, please use this link:

[FAITH IN PERSON EVENT: Managing your Faith Charity: Birmingham – Booking by Bookwhen](#)

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

[Visit](#) the AEC website for the latest news from your fellow cathedrals.

[Follow us](#) on social media.