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National Cathedrals Conference
18 to 21 May 2026

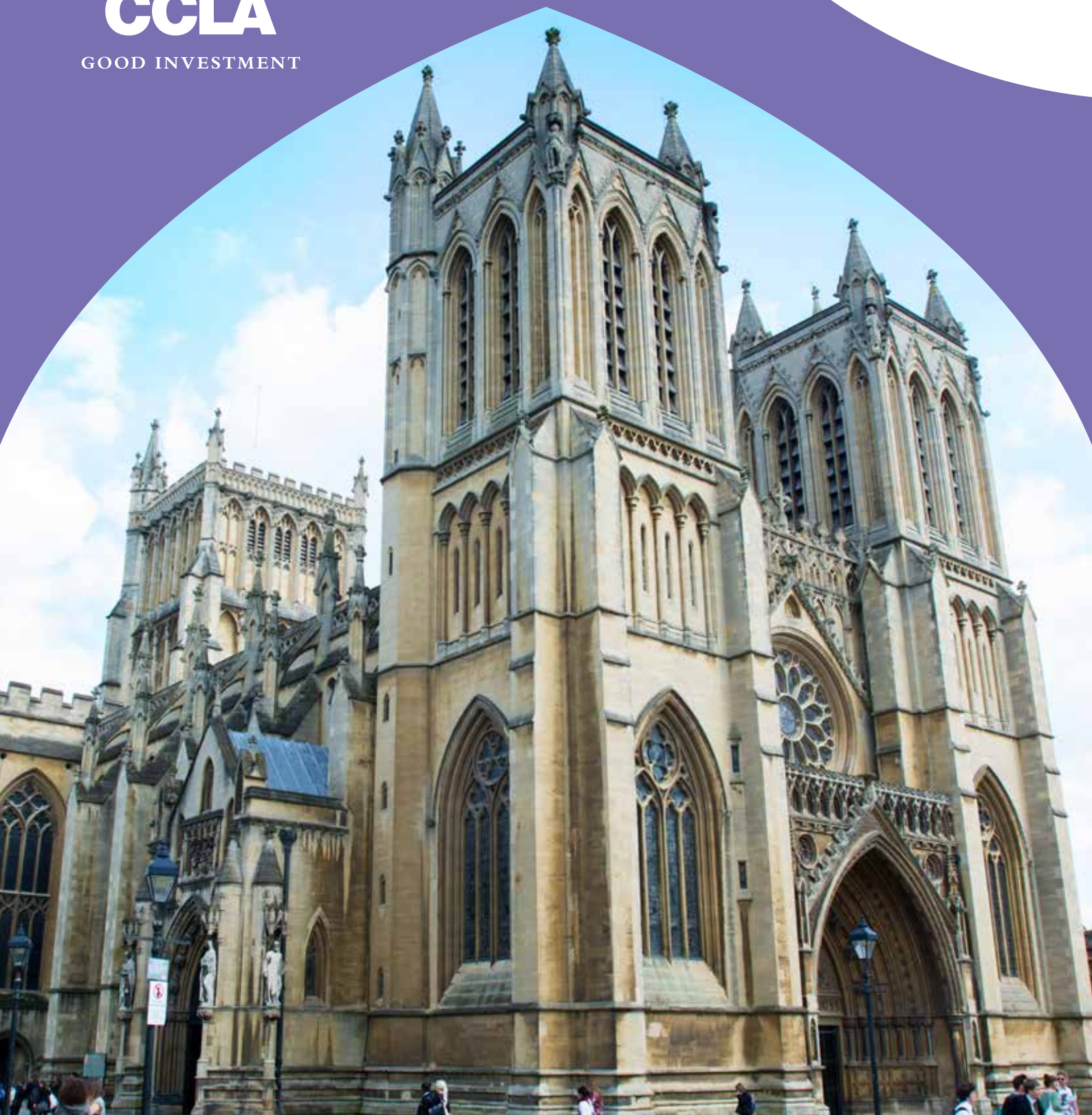




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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

As Supreme Governor of the Church of England, His Majesty was heartened to learn of the Association's noble aims of highlighting the ways in which our cathedrals foster dialogue, reflect on current issues and connect with the diverse communities in their dioceses. Our cathedrals are instrumental in the social cohesion of our nation, providing a vital place of welcome for people of all faiths and none.

The King hopes that the conference will be a successful and memorable event for all.

James Dawson
Private Secretary's Office



Welcome

From the Dean of St Albans

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Living Stones : Living Hope – the National Cathedrals Conference 2026 here in the wonderfully vibrant city of Bristol.

We gather at a moment of both opportunity and challenge for our cathedrals. These sacred and treasured spaces continue to serve as places of prayer, pilgrimage and encounter for those who come to them. Standing at the heart of our cities and dioceses they are also centres of heritage, culture and a focus for diocesan and civic life. Every day they are living hope. At the same time, and amid all this opportunity, our cathedrals, these living stones, face the ever-increasing costs of conservation, maintenance and operation.

As a result of this reality, the AEC has commissioned two pieces of research seeking to understand the spiritual, social, cultural and economic impact of English cathedrals today. These reports have been conducted by Theos Think Tank and State of Life. At the same time, we are grateful to the Church Commissioners for the work done by BDO to examine the operational life of our cathedrals in their report Project Narthex. The results of all this research will be presented and



discussed this week in keynote addresses, seminars and in our conversations. Such work helps us to articulate, with renewed clarity and confidence, the profound ways in which our cathedrals shape lives and our nation, as well as ensuring that we are working as effectively as we can. The research also equips us to engage more effectively with partners, policymakers and the wider public, ensuring that the significance of our shared work is both recognised and sustained for the future.

Conference is also a chance to reconnect with colleagues and friends from across the country, to exchange ideas, to share experiences, and to form new relationships that will strengthen our collective mission.

We are especially grateful for the generous hospitality extended to us by Bristol Cathedral and the wider city. Their welcome provides a wonderful setting for our time together which we hope is marked by inspiration, honesty, support for one another – and we hope some fun! With every good wish for a stimulating and enriching gathering as we celebrate our nation's cathedrals - Living Stones: Living Hope.

The Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore
Dean of St Albans
Chair, Association of English Cathedrals

Welcome

from the Dean of Bristol

Welcome to Bristol! We hope that you will experience the energy, diversity and creativity of our city and cathedral during this conference. Bristol offers both challenges and opportunities, through its history with its radical commitment to carbon net zero and slavery reparations, and its street art and music scene sitting alongside museums, galleries, and concert halls. The Cathedral is both a site of historic monastic worship and a monument to Victorian entrepreneurship, telling a multi-faceted story in which we hope that everyone finds a place.

May you find space and spiritual refreshment as well as new ideas and new friends as we journey together.

The Very Reverend Mandy Ford
Dean of Bristol



If God had money

by Elvira Romero deArcaute

Often I wonder
How it would be
If God had money

Would he bury it
Under the apple tree
In the garden

Or would he just spend
On His elementary needs
And share the rest with the poor
And human rights movements

Or with reforming forces
Taking part in the great struggle
For justice and peace?

But God has no money
He gave it to you and me

And what do we do with our money?

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Conference Logistics



Arrival, Monday 18 May, up to 13:45

If you arrive at Bristol Temple Meads Station, you will be greeted by conference volunteers who will direct you to Bristol Cathedral. If you arrive by plane, please catch the direct bus service (A1 Airport Flyer <https://flyer.bristolairport.co.uk/>) into Bristol City Central.

Entrance to Bristol Cathedral will be via the Southwest door. Once in the cathedral you will be given a conference lanyard, name tag, conference pin and delegate bag. You will also be advised which hotel you are staying at and be given your hotel card. We recommend that you arrive between 11:00 and 13:30, to give you an opportunity to drop off your bag at the hotel and enjoy lunch at the cathedral. Lunch will be available until 13.30

Arrivals After 13:45 on Monday 18 May

If you arrive at the cathedral after 13:45 on Monday 18 May, you will be directed via the Cathedral Gardens into the Cloisters where you will be issued with a conference lanyard, name tag, conference pin and delegate bag. You will also be advised which hotel you will be staying at and given directions.

Conference Help Desk

The help desk will be in operation from 13:45 on Monday 18 May and will remain open throughout the conference.

Dress Code

Conference dress code is smart casual, dress for the Gala Dinner is casual elegant. Please remember that most of the sessions will be held in the cathedral itself and dress appropriately for the temperature.

Accommodation

You will be staying in one of four hotels, all within a short walk of the Cathedral. Cathedral delegations will mostly be staying in the same hotel. Breakfast will be provided at your hotel. You will be able to drop your bag at the hotel before the conference starts at 13:45 on Monday 18 May. You should check out on Thursday morning before the final morning session begins. Bags can be left at the hotel for you to pick up at the end of the conference.

- + Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TA
- + Bristol Grand by Sunday, Broad Street, Bristol BS1 2EL
- + Clayton Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol BS1 2EQ
- + The Bristol Hotel, Prince Street, Bristol BS1 4QF

External Venues

The workshops and networking meetings on Tuesday 19 May and Wednesday 20 May will be held in the following locations:

- + St Stephen's Church (Nave), St Stephen's St, Bristol, BS1 1EQ
- + St Stephen's Café (Secret Café), St Stephen's St, Bristol, BS1 1EQ
- + The Lord Mayor's Chapel, College Green, Park St, Bristol, BS1 5TB
- + Bristol Grand by Sunday, Broad Street, Bristol, BS1 2EL

Dinner on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 will be at the following:

- + Barbara's Bier Haus, The South Buildings, Canon's Rd, Bristol BS1 5UH (Monday)
- + Za Za Bazaar, Canon's Rd, Bristol BS1 5UH (Tuesday)

Conference Catering

This is a fully catered conference and all food and drink during the daytime will be served in Bristol Cathedral (north and south quire aisles). It would be helpful if you brought a refillable water bottle and reusable hot drink cup with you.

Departure

Departure on Thursday 21 May will be after lunch. A Grab & Go Lunch will be available. To note, please leave your luggage at your hotel and collect this after you finally leave the conference. If this is not possible, there will be very limited storage facilities at Bristol Cathedral.

Feedback Questionnaire

A feedback questionnaire will be sent to all delegates after the conference. The link can be found by scanning the QR code.

We welcome your feedback.



Toilets

There are female, male, accessible, gender neutral and baby changing facilities in the cathedral. Please be aware there is no step-free access to the toilets via the nave. There is level access to the toilets via the Cloister Entrance. Baby changing facilities are available in the accessible toilet. Please be aware that there are steps into the men's toilet facilities.

Additional toilets are available in the Marriott Royal Hotel (lower ground floor) directly opposite the cathedral.

Accessibility

You will find information regarding navigating to and around Bristol Cathedral here: <https://bristol-cathedral.co.uk/visit-us/building-accessibility/> Please note that there is no step free access to the Lord Mayor's Chapel (workshop venue). St Stephen's Church and Café (workshop venues) can be accessed via a moveable ramp. Please speak to the team on the Conference help desk to arrange this.

Stay Connected



FREE Wifi *Throughout the conference*

Wifi Network Name: **NCC_delegate**
Wifi Network Password: **livinghope**

All conference news will be published here:
www.nationalcathedralsconference.org/news/
www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/news/

Social Media

The use of social media during the conference is encouraged and welcomed. Please use the **#NCC2026**

To keep up to date with the latest news from the conference, follow us on social media:

-  [engcathedrals](#)
-  [englishcathedrals](#)
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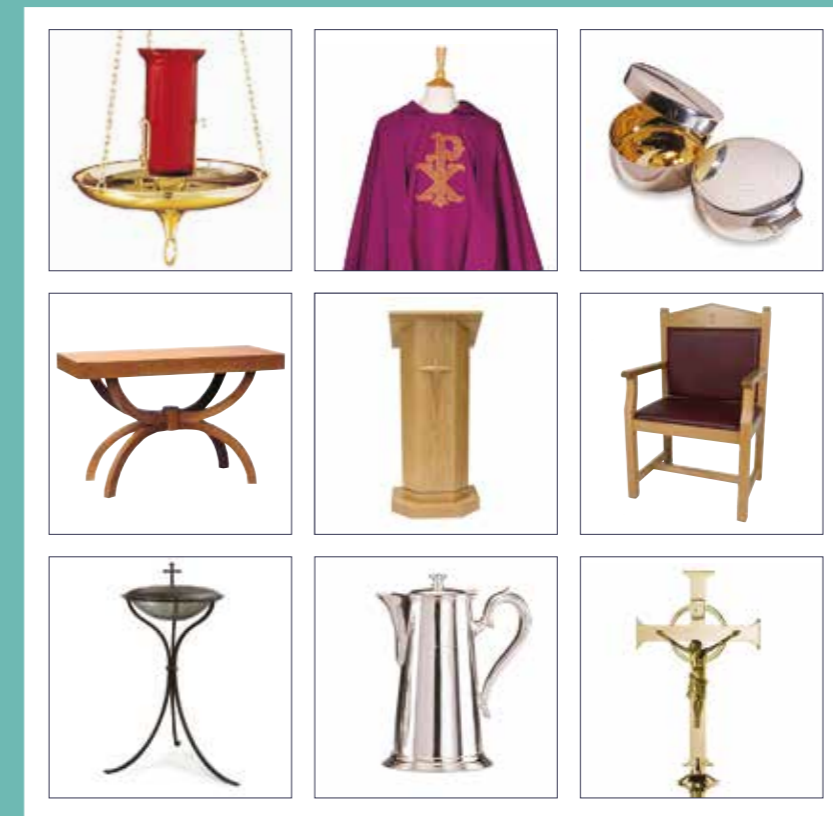


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Day One

Monday, 18 May 2026

Time	Session	Leader / Speaker	Venue
11:00 - 13:30	Registration & Lunch		Cathedral Nave
13:45 - 14:00	Introduction & Welcome	Chair: Jo Kelly-Moore & Anna Pitt	Cathedral Nave
14:00 - 14:30	Welcome from Bristol Team	Mandy Ford & Bristol team	Cathedral Nave
14:30 - 15:00	Exploring the THEOS Research report – Living Stones: English Cathedrals as Sacred Spaces in Changing Times	Chair: Jo Kelly-Moore Chine McDonald (Theos)	Cathedral Nave
15:00 - 15:30	Exploring the ‘State of Life’ Research report – Economic Impact of Cathedrals	Chair: Jo Kelly-Moore Will Watt (State of Life)	Cathedral Nave
15:30 - 16:00	Exploring the Project Narthex report	Chair: Jo Kelly-Moore Michael Minta with Ross McWhir (BDO)	Cathedral Nave
16:00 - 16:20	Tea/Coffee break		Cathedral South Aisle
16:20 - 17:00	Panel discussion: Social, Economic, Spiritual, Cultural	Chair: Sarah Meyrick , Panel: Chine McDonald, Will Watt, Peter Robinson, Robin Tjolle	Cathedral Nave
17:15	Choral Evensong	Bristol Cathedral Choir	Cathedral Nave
18:45	Dinner, Sponsored by CCLA		Barbara's Bier Haus, Harbourside

Day Two

Tuesday, 19 May 2026

Time	Session	Leader / Speaker	Venue
08:15	Morning Prayer with reflection	Br John SSF	Cathedral Nave
09:00 - 10:00	Plenary session on Economic Capital:	Chair: Jo Kelly-Moore Speaker: Sir Paul Ruddock	Cathedral Nave
10:00 - 11:00	Panel Discussion	Chair: Sir Robert Buckland Panel: Matthew Mees, Leslie Francis, Dawid Konotey Ahulu, Sir Paul Ruddock, Justine Horseman Sewell	Cathedral Nave
11:00 - 11:30	Tea / Coffee Break		Cathedral South Aisle

Day Two

Continued

Time	Session	Leader / Speaker	Venue
11:30 - 12:30	Five Workshop Opportunities:		
11:30 - 12:30	Diversifying income	Matthew Mees (ORNC)	Lord Mayor's Chapel, Nave
11:30 - 12:30	Investments	Andrew Robinson (CCLA)	St Stephen's Church, Cafe
11:30 - 12:30	Operational efficiencies	Ross McWhir (BDO)	Cathedral Nave
11:30 - 12:30	Softening Boundaries between Sacred and Secular	Leslie Francis	St Stephen's Church, Nave
11:30 - 12:30	The Fundraising Landscape	Helen Gray (Benefact Trust)	Bristol Grand Hotel, Conference Room
12:30	Eucharist	Bristol Team	Cathedral Nave
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		Cathedral North & South Quire Aisles
14:00 - 15:00	Plenary Session on Spiritual Capital and Youth Engagement	Chair: Jo Kelly-Moore Speaker: Justin Brierley	Cathedral Nave
15:00 - 15:45	Panel Discussion	Chair: Paula Gooder Panel: Justin Brierley, Molly Boot, Chris Curtis, Dan Drew	Cathedral Nave
15:45 - 16:15	Tea/Coffee break and transition	Bristol Cathedral	Cathedral South Aisle
16:15 - 17:00	Five Workshop Opportunities:		
16:15 - 17:00	Youth-led Community Cohesion	Jill Appleton (The Feast)	Bristol Grand Hotel, Conference Room
16:15 - 17:00	Youth mental health	Joel Harris (Kintsugi Hope)	Lord Mayor's Chapel
16:15 - 17:00	Employing Gen Z and multigenerational workforces	Joanna Moriarty (Green Park)	St Stephen's Church, Nave
16:15 - 17:00	How do we attract and engage young people / schools engagement	Chris Curtis (Youthscape)	St Stephen's Church, Café
16:15 - 17:00	Lighting the Way: Cathedrals Leading Flourishing Ministries for Children and Young People	Debbie Clinton (Church of England)	Cathedral Nave
17:15	Choral Evensong (with light projection)	Lay Clerks	Cathedral Nave
18:30 - 19:00	Drinks Reception followed by Dinner from 19:00, Sponsored by EIG		Za Za Bazaar, Harbourside

Day Three

Wednesday, 20 May 2026

Time	Session	Leader / Speaker	Venue
08:15	Morning Prayer with reflection	Br John SSF	Cathedral Nave
08:45 - 09:30	Coping in a Crisis: Cathedral Emergency and Continuity Planning	David Cloake (Foresight Solutions)	Bristol Grand Ballroom
08:45 - 09:30	Deep Dive into the Theos Think Tank Research	George Lapshynov (Theos)	Lord Mayor's Chapel
08:45 - 09:30	Update on the Net Zero Programme with particular reference to work already undertaken and planned for cathedrals	Julian Atkins (CoE Environment Programme)	St Stephen's Church, Nave
08:45 - 09:30	Ecclesiastical Insurance Update	Michael Angell & Claire Woolway (EIG, Benefact Group)	Bristol Grand Hotel, Conference Room #2
9:45 - 10:45	Keynote Address exploring the role, impact and benefit of Cathedrals	Chair: Jo Kelly-Moore Speaker David Olusoga	Cathedral Nave
10:45 - 11:15	Tea / Coffee Break		Cathedral South Aisle
11:15 - 12:15	Panel Discussion	Chair: Mandy Ford , Panel: Eve Poole, Dame Fiona Reynolds, Julia Porter-Pryce, David Olusoga, Jonathan Mayes	Cathedral Nave
12:30 - 13:00	Midday Prayers	Bristol Team	Cathedral Nave
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		Cathedral North & South Quire Aisles
14:00	Networking sessions for:		
14:00 - 15:00	College of Deans	Tim Stratford	Bristol Grand Ballroom
14:00	Precentors	Kathryn Goldsmith	Lord Mayor's Chapel
14:00	Canons General	Ned Lunn	St Stephen's Church, Nave
14:00 - 15:00	CAFA	Emily MacKenzie	Bristol Grand Hotel, Conference Room #2
14:00	Senior Non-Executive Chapter Members	Gill Reynolds	St Stephen's Church, Cafe
14:00	Cathedrals Plus	Sarah Page	Bristol Grand Hotel, Conference Room #1
15:15 - 16:15	College of Deans and COOs	Tim Stratford & Emily MacKenzie	Bristol Grand Ballroom
15:15 - 16:15	CFOs	George Carter	Bristol Grand Hotel, Conference Room #2

Day Three

Continued

Time	Session	Leader / Speaker	Venue
18:00 - 18:45	Civic Drinks Reception		Cathedral Nave, Crossing
18:45	Conference Gala Dinner, Sponsored by CCLA	Speaker: John Lloyd	Cathedral Nave

Day Four

Thursday, 21 May 2026

Time	Session	Leader / Speaker	Venue
08:00 - 08:45	Morning Prayer with reflection	Br John SSF	Cathedral Nave
09:00 - 09:15	Diversity & Inclusion in Cathedrals Working Group update	Andrew Zihni & Kt Tupling	Cathedral Nave
09:15 - 10:00	Walking with Cathedrals through change, challenge and hope	Michael Minta	Cathedral Nave
10:00 - 10:45	Update from the 1 st and 3 rd Church Estates Commissioners Followed by questions from the floor	Chair: David Monteith , Alan Smith - 1 st Church Estates Commissioner, Sir Robert Buckland - 3 rd Church Estates Commissioner	Cathedral Nave
10:45 - 11:00	Tea/Coffee Break		Cathedral South Aisle
11:00 - 11:45	Dean Winnie & Dean Jo in conversation	Jo Kelly-Moore & Winnie Varghese	Cathedral Nave
11:45 - 12:00	AEC AGM	Jo Kelly-Moore	Cathedral Nave
12:00 - 13:15	Conference Eucharist	President: Mandy Ford Preacher: Winnie Varghese (Dean of St John the Divine, New York)	Cathedral Nave
13:30	Lunch & Farewell		Cathedral North & South Quire Aisles



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Lined writing area on page 21, consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

Conference Speakers



Michael Angell

Michael is Benefact Group Church Relationship Director. He is a qualified chartered insurer, and has over 40 years of experience in the faith sector of the insurance industry. Outside work Michael is a keen sportsman and is President of the Gloucestershire Lawn Tennis Association. He is also Deputy President of his local national league rugby club, Old Patesians RFC and is actively involved in his local church.



Jill Appleton

Jill Appleton is the National Development Manager at The Feast, where she leads nationally on programmes that equip young people to build friendships across cultural and faith differences. After 30 years working in education, she joined The Feast in 2015 and quickly came to describe her role as “the best job in the world.”

Jill has developed and delivered initiatives that help young people grow in confidence, resilience, and community engagement. She regularly collaborates with organisations across the UK to train people in The Feast’s distinctive dialogue approaches, supporting them to foster community cohesion between diverse groups of young people.

Jill brings warmth, experience and a passion for creating safe, inclusive spaces where young people can thrive.



Julian Atkins – Net Zero Carbon Programme Director

Julian joined the NCI in February 2023 as the Net Zero Carbon Programme Director responsible for implementing the Routemap to Net Zero by 2030. Prior to joining the NCI he spent 29 years working in local government in a variety of sustainability/climate change and built/natural heritage conservation roles. As the Countywide Climate Change Coordinator for Gloucestershire Julian worked to a wide public sector partnership involving the County and District Councils, the NHS Integrated Care Group, Gloucestershire Constabulary, the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Nature Partnership to coordinate climate change policy and action. Previously he was Director of Countryside and Land Management, and then Chief Executive, with the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority and led work on sustainability and community development initiatives. Julian has also been a board member of National Parks Partnerships, working to build funding relationships with the corporate sector. Prior to joining the National Park Authority he managed Swansea’s buildings conservation and Gower AONB services and also lectured on buildings conservation law as part of Swansea Metropolitan University’s Buildings Conservation degree course. Outside of work Julian is active in his local church, sits on the PCC, and has been a PCC Treasurer.



The Rev'd Molly Boot

Molly (they/them) is a priest and theologian currently based in rural Gloucestershire, where they are coming towards the end of their time as Curate of nine beautiful churches. Alongside this, Molly is an Associate Chaplain at the University of Gloucestershire.

A bit of a theological magpie, Molly’s academic work focusses on medieval mysticism, particularly where themes interact with trauma and queer theologies. Their work on consent in medieval mystical spirituality is soon to be featured in Routledge’s Contemporary Theological Explorations in Mysticism series.

Molly is a sought-after public speaker, regularly contributing to Religion and Ethics programmes for BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Gloucestershire, as well as offering seminars, quiet days and training on neurodiverse and queer spiritualities, mysticism, and medieval church history.

Molly is the Vice-Chair of Greenbelt, a festival of arts, spirituality and justice, and is also on the board of the British Trust for Tantor, a charity supporting ecumenical and interfaith projects in Jerusalem.



Justin Brierley

Justin Brierley is a writer, speaker and broadcaster, known for hosting conversations between Christians and non-Christians on radio, podcast and video.

Justin’s book ‘The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God’ was a finalist in Christianity Today’s 2024 ‘Book Of The Year’ awards. His latest title ‘Why I’m Still A Christian’ was published in 2025.

Justin is director of the media company ‘Think Faith’. He currently co-hosts the Re-Enchanting podcast and is the creator of the award-winning Surprising Rebirth Of Belief in God podcast documentary series. His most recent podcast is the faith discussion show ‘Uncommon Ground’.

Justin is married to Lucy, a church minister in Surrey, England and they have 4 amazing children – Noah, Grace, Jeremy and Toby.



Sir Robert Buckland, KBE, KC

Rt Hon Sir Robert Buckland enjoys a distinguished career in law and politics. He is a practising barrister at Foundry Chambers, Senior Counsel & Head of Policy at Payne Hicks Beach LLP and is a member of the DAC Beachcroft Policy Unit. He is a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard Kennedy School. Robert was a criminal barrister and part time Crown Court judge prior to his election to Parliament as Conservative MP for South Swindon in 2010.

During his fourteen years in the House of Commons, Robert served in the Conservative Governments of four Prime Ministers, becoming Solicitor General in 2014, Minister of State for Justice in 2019 and then entering the Cabinet as Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice from 2019 to 2021. He returned to Cabinet as Secretary of State for Wales in 2022, and Chaired the Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee from 2023-24.

As an influential backbencher, Robert was Secretary of the 1922 Committee from 2012-14 and was Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Autism. He most recently chaired an independent review into autism and employment, which culminated in a report published last year. Robert has campaigned on disability issues, domestic abuse and criminal law reform, amongst other things.

Robert writes regularly on constitutional law matters, current affairs and political history, collaborating on several books on these issues. He was knighted by His Majesty The King in 2022 for his political and public service.



Chris Curtis, MBE

Canon Chris Curtis is the Chief Executive of Youthscape, a national Christian charity dedicated to helping young people flourish within the life of the church. Under his leadership, Youthscape has partnered closely with the Church of England, most notably through Launchpad—a programme that has equipped nearly 500 vicars to begin youth ministry from scratch.

Chris writes and speaks widely on youth work, theology, and the changing lives of young people. Alongside his national leadership, he remains firmly rooted in hands-on youth ministry, working directly with teenagers in both his local church and at Bute Mills, Youthscape’s award-winning youth centre in Luton.

He is married to Helen, a hospice nurse, and together they have two adult children. When not working, Chris enjoys long walks with his beloved dog and practising magic as a member of The Magic Circle.



Debbie Clinton

Debbie Clinton is Director of Vision & Strategy for the Church of England, a role she has held since January 2022. She has worked nationally since 2018, bringing experience in strategic leadership, organisational development, and guiding complex change across diverse settings. She loves to bring together strategic clarity, a deep faith and a passion for seeing people and church communities flourish.

Before moving into church roles, Debbie spent many years in senior leadership positions within the insurance sector. At Aviva Europe, she shaped customer and brand strategy, supported national executive teams on new market development, and led organisational reviews across multiple countries. Her earlier roles included heading strategic marketing in the UK business, directing major change programmes, and overseeing new product development—including early online innovation in the sector.

Debbie previously served as Capital Vision Director in the Diocese of London, helping develop and implement an ambitious diocesan vision and strategy from 2012.

She holds an MA in Economics from Trinity College Dublin, an ACII insurance qualification, and undertook global leadership development programmes at London Business School and INSEAD.

Debbie has been involved in church life from an early age, across a range of contexts—city centre churches, church plants, suburban parishes, and her childhood parish in Dublin where she sang in the choir and led youth groups. She now leads a small group and is part of the welcome team in her local church.



David Cloake

David has worked as a civil emergency and business continuity planner at all levels of operation, management and consultancy in a variety of settings over the past 25 years. As a seasoned planner and responder, in addition to an MSc qualification in this area, David has a considerable depth of experience of planning for and dealing with a broad spectrum of incident types and responses. This has included the management of a wide range of incident types, business continuity challenges and recovery working.

Foresight Solutions has been helping several Cathedrals and more widely, the heritage sector, over the past 5 years. Our current active client list includes Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster, St Paul's Cathedral and Lincoln Cathedral. Of note was our work with Canterbury Cathedral in the development of their internal emergency planning arrangements that were deployed for the Installation Service of the Archbishop of Canterbury in March of this year. Other notable work includes the development of Cathedral business continuity planning and development of specific plans such as Collections response and Crisis Communications planning.

Foresight Solutions has developed an approach that is tailored for easy application within a Cathedral setting using recognised the emergency and crisis management techniques that are used by the emergency services. The approach, which has been adopted by our clients, ensures that UK recognised standards and approaches are used and that integration with emergency service partners can be easily facilitated if required.



The Rev'd Dan Drew

Dan is the Assistant Director of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese of St Albans. His doctoral research explores missiology and generational theory, shaping his work with churches to reach emerging generations. Married to Alex, with their seven-year-old daughter Isla, they planted The Hub Church to engage people in their 20s and 30s. Dan now oversees the development of new worshipping communities, the Growing Younger and More Diverse initiative, The Alban Way, and strategic funding across the diocese.



The Very Rev'd Mandy Ford

Mandy's role as Dean of Bristol includes leading the Cathedral's work on the legacy of slavery and overseeing the diocesan support for urban parishes, racial justice and widening participation. Mandy was brought up in Hong Kong in an army family and educated in Wiltshire. She studied fine art in London before training as a teacher in Exeter where she subsequently spent ten years teaching. After the call to ordination, Mandy studied theology in Oxford and began her ministry on a multi-cultural inner estate in Leicester, then moving to Southwark as Director of Discipleship and Ministry. She spent a year running the Church of England's Ministry Division before her current appointment. She is a member of the General Synod and involved in several national church initiatives, including the Living in Love and Faith programme.



Photo credit: Emyr Parri

The Rev'd Canon Professor Leslie J Francis

Leslie J. Francis is a Canon Theologian at Liverpool Cathedral, Co-Director of the World Religions and Education Research Unit at Lincoln Bishop University, and Professor Emeritus of Religions and Psychology at the University of Warwick. His publications have been recognised for higher doctorates in divinity (DD, Oxford) and psychology (SDc, Cambridge). For the past twenty years his research group has taken a keen interest in establishing the science of cathedral studies as reflected in *Anglican Cathedrals in Modern Life: The science of cathedral studies* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), *Sustaining Cathedrals: Sacred space and common ground* (Routledge, 2026), and three Special Issues of *Journal of Beliefs and Values* (2023, 2024, 2025) each containing twelve studies covering a wide range of issues. Currently he is lead academic on a three-year Knowledge Transfer Project with Liverpool Cathedral designed to embed a research-engaged approach to cathedral ministry, mission and financial sustainability, working with the Very Revd Professor Sue Jones (Dean), Dr Ann Casson (Insights Lead and KTP Associate), the Revd Canon Professor Sally Harper (Lincoln Bishop University), and Mick Card (Innovate UK).



Helen Gray

Helen is Trust Director at Benefact Trust, one of the UK's largest Christian grant-making charities, supporting places of worship and faith-based charities across the UK and the Republic of Ireland. She brings over 15 years' experience in the charity sector, having previously served as Head of Development at St Albans Cathedral and Trust Director at Hertfordshire Community Foundation. Her earlier career began in business development within the professional services sector. Helen also serves as the Senior Non-Executive Member at St Albans Cathedral, where she is deeply aware of the challenges Cathedrals face today, while championing the vital role they play in communities across the country.



Dr Paula Gooder

Dr Paula Gooder is a writer and lecturer in New Testament studies. Her passion is to ignite people's enthusiasm for reading the Bible today, by presenting the best of biblical scholarship in an accessible and interesting way. She has written a wide range of books the most recent of which include the *Women of the Nativity*, *Lydia. A Story* and a book on the *Parables*. Two further books *Women of the Gospels* and a commentary on *Mark's Gospel* are due out later this year (2026).

She is currently the Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral in London where she helps shape the cathedral's theological life, teaching and public engagement, bringing deep biblical scholarship into conversation with the questions of contemporary faith and leadership.



Justine Horseman Sewell

Justine was appointed Chief Operating Officer at Chelmsford Cathedral in April 2024. Prior to this she was the Chief Operating Officer at Southwark Cathedral where she led the Cathedral through the implementation of the Cathedrals Measure – the first parish church cathedral to do so. Before moving to Southwark in 2021, Justine held the Cathedral Administrator role at St Edmundsbury Cathedral and was a legal consultant for Durham Cathedral.

Justine studied Art History and was a Chapel chorister at Cambridge University. She is a qualified solicitor and has worked in the arts and third sector for many years, including at the Fifteen Foundation and Tate galleries and for clients including the Girls’ Day School Trust, Thomson Reuters and Virgin Media. She was raised and educated in East London and has lived back in Essex for the past twenty-two years. She now lives on the Stour estuary with her husband and has four grown up daughters and a granddaughter.

Justine was appointed to the CAFA Executive in 2025 and is an ex-officio member of the AEC Executive.



Joel Harris

Joel is Head of Engagement for the Christian mental health charity, Kintsugi Hope. Kintsugi aims to equip the Church in the UK to engage with the conversations around mental and emotional health. He is passionate about seeing the Church live out its calling to be the light in communities. Joel is married to Emily.



Brother John – Conference Chaplain

After graduating in French, Brother John was a Baptist minister before joining the Society of St Francis 25 years ago. He has lived in six different friaries around England, working with asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds and Birmingham, and contributing to the ministry of hospitality, retreat and care for creation in more rural settings. He enjoys music, film, literature and cooking.



The Very Rev'd Jo Kelly-Moore

Jo Kelly-Moore was installed as the 10th Dean of St Albans in December 2021. In the Church of England she previously served as Archdeacon of Canterbury and Residentiary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. In the Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia she served as Dean of Auckland and prior to that Vicar of St Aidan’s, Remuera.

Before her ordination in 2000 she worked as a solicitor in New Zealand and London working in the area of commercial litigation.



Dawid Konotey-Ahulu CBE DL

Dawid Konotey-Ahulu is a British Ghanaian entrepreneur, passionate about helping people to discover their true potential. He qualified as a barrister of Lincoln’s Inn in 1987 before switching careers to investment banking. In 2006, Dawid co-founded Redington, the UK’s leading independent pensions consultancy; he also set up Mallowstreet, an AI-powered platform for the financial services industry; and co-founded The 10,000 Interns Foundation, a charitable foundation that has secured 10,000 internships for undergraduates of Black heritage or with a disability. In 2018, he was named Black British Entrepreneur of the Year. He was on the Prime Minister’s Business Council in 2022/2023 and currently sits on ACOBA, the Advisory Committee for Business Appointments. Using his Spellbound! programme, he teaches prison inmates how to speak with confidence to a roomful of their peers about who they really are and the people they want to be. Dawid is also on the Board of Mission 44 and of Somerset House. He was awarded a CBE in 2023 and is a Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.



George Lapyshynov

George is a mixed-methods Researcher at Theos. His background is in History and Politics, and he holds a Master of Research in International Relations from the University of Glasgow. Since April 2025, George has spent a year conducting in depth research into Anglican cathedrals in England, combining national polling, visitor surveys, and qualitative fieldwork across multiple cathedral contexts. He is the author of several Theos reports, including *A Theology of Investment* (2026), *From Strangers to Neighbours: The Church and the Integration of Refugees* (2025), *Religion Counts* (2024), and *Volunteering After the Pandemic: Lessons from the Homelessness Sector* (2023).



John Lloyd, CBE

John Lloyd has been behind some of the most successful and well-loved TV and radio (and adverts) of the last three decades. He’s also written or co-authored over 30 books, and is the driving force behind developing a new concept of education based on his BBC panel show, QI.

Studying law at Cambridge, John joined the famed Footlights society, meeting a number of the writers and performers he would later work with. That group included Douglas Adams, whose Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy John would help bring to radio.

After university, John joined BBC radio where he helped create shows that have become national institutions with The News Quiz (which John also briefly hosted), Quote...Unquote, The News Huddlines, and the original incarnation of To The Manor Born. Switching to TV, John’s first major production was the satirical Not the Nine O’Clock News with Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones, Rowan Atkinson, and Pamela Stephenson. The show created some of the most fondly remembered sketches of the era including Gerald the Gorilla, the darts players, and a classic interview with Billy Connolly. The show also provided a platform for writers including Richard Curtis, Clive Anderson, David Renwick, and Andy Hamilton.

John then went on to produce Blackadder, working again with Rowan Atkinson and Richard Curtis, and creating arguably one the greatest sit-coms ever. At the same time he worked on Spitting Image alongside a host of comic writers and performers from Harry Enfield to Ian Hislop to Jo Brand. Briefly considered for the role as host of Have I Got News For You (he hosted the pilot episode) John remained behind the camera and created the panel show QI.

QI has gone on to spawn a range of books and other merchandise, but has also evolved into a system of research, learning and study. John is at the forefront of looking at what real knowledge is and how it can be imparted. Reacting against the idea that Google and Wikipedia offer free access to knowledge, John considers what really is interesting, and useful, alongside tales from his varied and often surprising career.



Jonathan Mayes

Jonathan joined Cathedral Music Trust as CEO in 2024 following two decades in the UK and North American arts sectors. He has held artistic planning and leadership roles with Clore Leadership, Philharmonia Orchestra, Arts Council England, the Pittsburgh and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, the Southbank Centre and the Barbican.

Jonathan is an honorary Cultural Fellow at Queen Mary University of London, advocating for the place of culture within wider society and bringing sector-specific knowledge to research and academic practice. He also served as Vice-Chair of the National Children’s Orchestra from 2018-2025. He is also a keen amateur singer, performing with various groups around London when not chauffeuring his two chorister children who sing at Temple Church. In 2025 and 2026 Jonathan is completing a 3,0000-mile cycling pilgrimage, visiting all of the choral foundations in England and Wales that have been supported through Cathedral Music Trust funding.



Chine McDonald

Chine McDonald is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank. She was previously Head of Public Engagement at Christian Aid. She has two decades of experience in journalism, media and communications across faith, media and international development organisations. She also speaks and writes regularly on issues of race, faith and gender, and is the author of ‘God is not a white man: and other revelations’ (Hodder & Stoughton, May 2021) which was runner-up for the Michael Ramsey Prize for theological writing, and *Unmaking Mary: Shattering the Myth of Perfect Motherhood* (Hodder & Stoughton, March 2025). Chine is a regular writer, broadcaster, panel host and media commentator and has written for the Financial Times, the Guardian, The Independent, The Big Issue, Prospect, The Mirror and contributes to TV and radio programmes such as regularly presenting the BBC’s Thought for the Day on Radio 4’s Today programme and appearing on BBC Sunday Morning Live. She regularly speaks in and hosts panels including previously at Cheltenham Festivals and How the Light Gets In. She is vice-chair of Greenbelt Festival and a trustee of Christian Aid and Demos. She is on the Advisory board for Cambridge University Library. Chine studied Theology and Religious Studies at Cambridge University, and is a Canon Theologian at Chester Cathedral.



Ross McWhir

Ross is a Director in BDO’s Advisory team and a member of its Not-for-Profit sector hub.

He has over 10 years of experience supporting trustees and leadership teams to identify and deliver financial and performance improvement programmes.

He has supported a wide range of organisations, including leading national charities, large corporates, and owner-managed businesses. For his charity clients, he brings together experience of third-sector excellence and trading commerciality to support strong, sustainable outcomes. He advises and provides clients with hands-on, practical support focused on sustainable change, often in relation to complex and specialist organisations.

Ross is a Chartered Accountant.



Sarah Meyrick

Sarah Meyrick has been Editor of the Church Times since September 2024. Before that she worked in a variety of roles including 11 years as Director of Communications for the Diocese of Oxford, and four years as Public Engagement Manager for Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. She has been the Director of the *Church Times* Festival of Faith and Literature since its inception in 2013, and is also the author of three novels.



Michael Minta

Michael is the Director of Bishoprics & Cathedrals and Lambeth Palace Library for the Church Commissioners and has been in this role for over 7 years leading a great team supporting many aspects of the Church and particularly those at our great Cathedrals. Most recently he has played a key role in the Lambeth Palace Refurbishment Project. Previously Michael was Director of Property and Development at the Diocese of Chelmsford. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a trustee of the YMCA in Essex.



Matthew Mees

Matthew is a senior business leader and finance professional with over twenty-five years’ experience gained with a range of commercial businesses and not-for-profit organisations in different sectors. In his career he has worked with enterprises that predominately focus on the use of real estate, including iconic buildings and estates in London.

Joining the Greenwich Foundation in February 2019 as Director of Finance & IT, he was appointed Interim Chief Executive in October 2019 before taking on the role permanently in March 2020.

Before joining the Old Royal Naval College, he was Director of Finance, HR and Legal for a private-equity backed start-up business in the real estate and flexible office provider sectors. Prior to that he was Finance Director of a privately-owned, non-branded, multi-site business that owned and managed over 20 venues including heritage pubs, contemporary bars and boutique hotels.

He has also been Finance Director for the Covent Garden property portfolio of a FTSE250 company and Group Finance Director for two central London Exhibition Centres. He also worked as Chief Financial Officer of a private hospital in Chelsea, Group Accountant for a luxury London department store and also for a luxury goods groups working both in London and New York.



The Very Rev'd David Monteith

David Monteith was appointed Dean of Canterbury in December 2022. Previously he was Dean of Leicester (from May 2013), and before that served as Canon Chancellor and Acting Archdeacon of Leicester. David grew up during ‘The Troubles’ in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. He studied Zoology at Durham University and Theology at Nottingham University, after which he served as a priest in the Diocese of Birmingham, in London where he was Associate Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, and as a Team Rector and Area Dean in Wimbledon, Diocese of Southwark.

During his time at Leicester, David oversaw work on reordering the Cathedral and the establishment of Cathedral Gardens, and the Leicester Cathedral Revealed Project which, with NLHF funding, will complete the re-ordering work and provide a new Chapter House. The reburial of the remains of King Richard III, which were rediscovered in the nearby Leicester car park overlaying the remains of a medieval Franciscan Friary, was another major project completed successfully.

From 2020-2025 David was Chair of the College of Deans.



Joanne Moriarty

Joanna is a Senior Partner at Green Park, where she heads the Charities Practice, and leads work in the areas of Faith, Arts, Culture and Heritage, and the Impact Economy. Her background is in the third sector, and she was for many years in senior leadership in SPCK. Her recent clients include St Paul’s Cathedral, the Barbican, the Church Commissioners and the National Trust. Green Park was set up twenty years ago to make recruitment a more equitable and positive experience, and we remain committed to diversity of all sorts, with a particular interest in the intergenerational workforce. Joanna sat on the Archbishops’ Anti-Racism Task Force, and created the inclusive recruitment guidelines in the Lament to Action report. Alongside her work at Green Park she sits on the Board of the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust, where she Chairs the Pay and Personnel Committee, and acts as a Bishop’s Advisor in the Diocese of Oxford.



David Olusoga, OBE

David Olusoga is a historian, writer, and broadcaster. He is the presenter of *A House Through Time* and author of *Black and British: A Forgotten History*. Professor of Public History at the University of Manchester, David looks at what our history reveals about contemporary society and the lasting effects of the British Empire.

Starting out as a researcher for BBC Radio 4, David was soon involved in producing and directing historical documentaries for the station, including *Namibia: Genocide and the Second Reich*, *The Lost Pictures of Eugene Smith*, and *Abraham Lincoln: Saint or Sinner*. From there he became a presenter for the BBC, appearing on documentaries including *Civilisations*, *The World's War: Forgotten Soldiers of Empire*, and the BAFTA-winning *Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners*.

David's book *Black and British* was accompanied by a BBC Two series of the same name which he both wrote and presented. His book looks at the global slave-trading empire of Britain, how the country's 19th century economic and industrial might was built on American slavery, and how modern society has been shaped as a result. David is also the author of *Civilisations: First Contact/The Cult of Progress*, *The World's War*, *The Kaiser's Holocaust: Germany's Forgotten Genocide and the Colonial Roots of Nazism* and *Black History for Every Day of the Year*. He regularly writes for *The Guardian*, has hosted the BBC's *The Civilisations Podcast* and co-hosts the *Goalhanger* podcast *Journey Through Time*, and is a regular contributor and commentator across broadcast media.

David received the BAFTA Special Award for his ongoing legacy and impact on the television industry and society, widening perspectives of how history is presented, and expanding the diversity of stories told.



Anna Pitt

Anna Pitt is the Executive Director of the AEC.

Anna joined Birmingham Cathedral as Director of Development in January 2014 until February 2025 following an 11-year career as a charity fundraiser. From 2015 - 2025 Anna served as CEO at Birmingham Cathedral. During that time Anna was Vice Chair of CAFA and a member of the AEC Executive. CAFA and AEC jointly nominated Anna to represent their interests on the Bishops and Cathedrals Committee of the Church Commissioners. Anna was also involved in the AEC peer review project as a reviewer.



Dr Eve Poole, OBE

Dr Eve Poole was educated in high schools in Scotland and the United States, and has a BA in Theology from Durham, an MBA from Edinburgh, and a PhD in Theology and Capitalism from Cambridge. She is a popular speaker and broadcaster, and the author of several books, including *Robot Souls*, *Capitalism's Toxic Assumptions*, and *Buying God*. Her book *Leadersmithing* was Highly Commended in the 2018 Business Book Awards and described by Joanna Lumley as 'inspirational, practical and fascinating'. For 15 years she taught leadership at Ashridge Business School, pioneering a new approach to the accelerated development of leaders, using ground-breaking neurobiological research into how leaders really learn. Since then, she has pursued a portfolio career while writing books. Currently, she Chairs the Woodard Corporation. In 2023-2024 she was Interim CEO of the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, and Interim CEO of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2022. She was Third Church Estates Commissioner from 2018-2021, and the first female Chairman of the Board of Governors at Gordonstoun School from 2015-2021. Her early career involved working for the Church Commissioners and for Deloitte Consulting, where she specialised in change management in the Financial Services sector. She was awarded an OBE in the 2023 New Years Honours list for services to education and gender equality, and became Canon Prebendary of Newthorpe at York Minster in January 2024. Eve lives in Edinburgh and has twin girls. You can follow her on X @evepoole and her website is www.evepoole.com



Dame Fiona Reynolds, DBE

Dame Fiona Reynolds is a non-Executive Chair and Director, holding roles in organisations that align with her personal passions. Fiona is Chair of the National Audit Office, the Council of the Royal Agricultural University, the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission and Cambridge University's Botanic Garden. She is also a trustee of the Grosvenor Estate.

Fiona was Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge from 2012 until 2021. She came to the college from the National Trust, where she was Director-General from 2001-2012. During her time there, she made the Trust warmer and more welcoming, bringing the houses to life and raising the profile of the Trust's work in the countryside.

Before the Trust, she was Director of the Women's Unit in the Cabinet Office (1998-2000), Director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (now Campaign to Protect Rural England) from 1987-98 and Secretary to the Council for National Parks (now Campaign to Protect National Parks) from 1980-87. She has an MA and MPhil from Cambridge University in Geography and Land Economy.

Her book *The Fight for Beauty* was published in 2016. Fiona was appointed CBE for services to the environment and conservation in 1998 and DBE in 2008.



The Rev'd Julia Porter Pryce

After 15 years in museum management, Julia worked as an Anglican priest in Hackney where she ran a programme of residencies and community arts projects. For 10 years she co-ordinated creative arts engagement in the Diocese of London. She is an Advisor for Art & Christianity and a Prebendary Emeritus at St Paul's Cathedral. In 2015 Julia took study leave to research contemporary art in cathedrals (see findings in *Art and Christianity No 86 Critical Context: Curating contemporary art in Anglican churches and cathedrals*). Julia is passionate about connecting artists with places of worship as a means of interpreting faith traditions and at the same time making art accessible to new audiences.



Andrew Robinson, MBE

Prior to joining the CCLA, Andrew was Head of Community Development Banking for RBS and NatWest, responsible for the not-for-profit and social enterprise sectors. Before joining NatWest, he was the founding Executive Director of the UK's first community development finance institution to provide loan finance to voluntary and community sector organisations working in the most disadvantaged communities in England.

Prior to these roles he worked for the Royal Bank of Canada, the St Paul's Hospital Foundation and the Canadian Arthritis Society. Currently Andrew is an Advisor to Switchback. Previously he was: Trustee – RBS Social & Community Capital; Chair – Community Development Foundation; Vice Chair – LankellyChase Foundation; Trustee – Local Trust; and Trustee – Locality, having been a trustee of both the Development Trusts Association and British Association of Settlements & Social Action Centres. Andrew is also a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts and was awarded an MBE for services to social and community enterprise in 2003.

He was appointed as an Executive Director of CCLA in 2006.



The Very Rev'd Peter Robinson

Peter Robinson was installed as Dean of Derby in 2020. Before his appointment, Peter was the Archdeacon of Lindisfarne in the Diocese of Newcastle, a position he had held since 2008, with responsibility as chair of the Newcastle Diocesan Board of Education, as lead for community engagement in Northumberland, and for rural delivery of the diocesan vision.

Peter worked in the oil industry before being ordained in 1995; he trained for ministry at Cranmer Hall in Durham and served his curacy in North Shields.

Following his curacy, he became priest in charge at St. Martin's, Byker – where he was highly successful in bringing together a challenging inner-city community, designing a new church building and attracting a visit from the home secretary to showcase the community's achievement. He had also been director of the Urban Ministry and Theology project in Newcastle.



Sir Paul Ruddock FSA

Sir Paul is the Founder and Chair of the Wyvern Research Institute. He has been a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum in New York since 2010, and is co-chair of its International Council and Chair of its Medieval Department (as well as being a life-time benefactor).

Prior to this, he has held the following positions:

British Museum: Honorary Senior Research Fellow; Trustee 2016-24

Victoria and Albert Museum: Honorary Senior Research Fellow; Chair 2007-15; trustee 2002-15

Gilbert Collection: Chair 2009-15

Courtauld Trust: Trustee 2004-7

National Infrastructure Commission: Commissioner 2016-17

WW1 Cathedral Emergency Repair Advisory Panel: Chair 2014-18

Covid Emergency Cathedral and Major Churches fund: Chair 2020-2022

Lansdowne Partners: Co-Founder, CEO 1998-2013

He is a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Des Lettres, France, and holds honorary doctorates from Birmingham University, UK, and Bowdoin College USA, and is a Distinguished Friend of Oxford University.



Alan Smith

Alan Smith, since October 2021, is First Church Estates Commissioner at the Church Commissioners for England. Prior to that he had 27-year career in international banking at HSBC. Since September 2024 Alan has been a lay canon in the College of Canons at Salisbury Cathedral.



Robin Tjolle

Robin Tjolle is a Tourism and Destination Management specialist with over 30 years' experience in the travel industry. He has held a number of high-profile roles including as Chief Executive of a number of destination organisations. He has worked with visitor attractions and event venues and was the International Travel Trade representative for the East and West Midlands promoting destinations across the region in North America and the Asia Pacific regions.

Robin is currently Regional Development Lead for the South West at VisitEngland and a trainer for Visit England's "Taking England to the World" programme and has so far trained and supported over 2,500 businesses. He is also on the judging panel for the National Churches Trust National Church Awards.



The Rev'd Katie (Kt) Tupling

With a background in youth and children's work across Birmingham, Kt has served as Anglican parish priest for 16 years, before becoming Diocesan Disability Advisor in the Oxford Diocese. She has also worked as Chaplain to the Deaf church, and as a Chaplain in an Oxford College.

Kt is also Co-founder of 'Disability and Jesus', a user led task group wrestling with theology, discipleship, and church practice through the lived experience of disability. She co-authored the book 'Pilgrims in the dark' - the story of how Disability and Jesus came into being, and is the author of two Grove booklets: 'Worship and Disability, a Kingdom for all' and 'Being Disabled, Being Human'. She is also a contributor to the *Canterbury Preachers Companion 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028*.

Kt's social media presence includes: working with UCB Radio and BBC local radio, occasional live feeds on Twitter and Facebook from her narrowboat, a weekly 'recorded as live' Sunday service with Disability and Jesus, and a YouTube channel where you can find her training materials on disability and church inclusion.

Kt is a member of the Committee for Ministry of and amongst Deaf and disabled people, Chair of the national network of Diocesan Disability Advisers, a member of the Living Ministry Stakeholders Group, and Vice-Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion in Cathedrals Working Group.



The Very Rev'd Winnie Varghese

The Very Rev'd Winnie Varghese is the 12th Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, the world's largest Gothic cathedral. A national leader in The Episcopal Church, Rev'd Varghese is known for her inspired writing, teaching, and preaching. Prior to joining the Cathedral, she was the 23rd Rector of St. Luke's Atlanta, Ga. Before that, Rev'd Varghese served as Priest for Ministry and Program Coordination at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City. Prior to Trinity, she served as Rector and Priest-in-Charge at St. Mark's in the Bowery in New York and was also Chaplain at both Columbia University and University of California Los Angeles. Rev'd Varghese serves on the Board of Trustees of Union Theological Seminary, she chaired the General Convention's Committee on the State of the Church from 2015 to 2018, and she served on the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Divinity School from 2013 to 2016. She is also a published author, editor, and podcaster.

Rev'd Varghese is the daughter of Indian immigrants and spent part of her early childhood years in Kerala, India. She attended Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA and earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. She then graduated from Union Theological Seminary with her Master of Divinity degree in 1999. She was ordained to the diaconate in Los Angeles in 1999 and to the priesthood six months later in 2000.



Will Watt

Will used to publish Viz comic but is now a named advisor on the 2021 HM Treasury Green Book Supplementary guidance on wellbeing economics.

Will launched State of Life in 2020 with the help of Lord Gus O'Donnell. State of Life measures the social and economic value of the things that make our lives happier and healthier. State of Life's methodology is recommended in chapter 5 of the treasury guidance and has been combined with technology to make data collection easy and practical.

Will and State of Life have led pioneering studies on the social and economic value of Churches, Sport England, Tideway Tunnel, Sizewell C, Girlguiding, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, local green space and more.



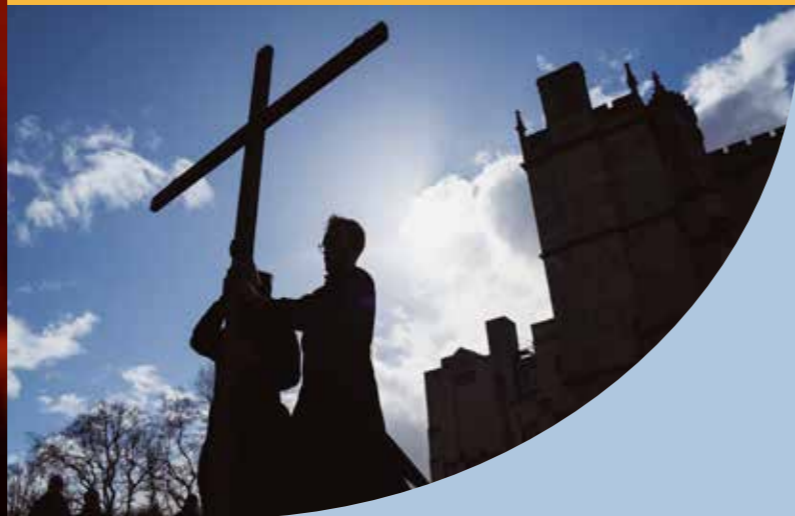
Claire Woolway

Claire is Head of Client Relationships at EIG and has over 30 years of extensive senior leadership experience within the faith insurance sector. She is responsible for the Relationship Management Team within Ecclesiastical's Church Operations Dept and deals with Cathedral and Diocesan clients. Outside of Ecclesiastical Claire is a governor of her local Academy secondary school and weary owner of 3 miniature dachshunds.



The Very Rev'd Andrew Zihni

Andrew was born and grew up in Hong Kong, before moving to the UK with his family. He trained for ordination at St Stephen's House, Oxford, and was ordained Deacon in 2002 and Priest in 2003. He began his ordained ministry in the former mining town of Goldthorpe in South Yorkshire, before moving to St George's Chapel, Windsor, where he was a Minor Canon and School Chaplain. Andrew then moved to Southwark, where he was Assistant Director of Vocations in the Diocese of Southwark and Honorary Minor Canon at Southwark Cathedral before becoming Canon Precentor in January 2021. He was also a Priest Vicar at Westminster Abbey from 2018 to 2021. In April 2023, he was installed as the 39th Dean of Gloucester.



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- Regulatory Support: Expert guidance for cathedral architects during applications to the FAC and Cathedrals Fabric Commission
- The Sacred Environment: We possess a keen understanding of the importance of working within sacred spaces and not interrupting the daily life of a cathedral.
- Versatility: Our designs enhance traditional worship while facilitating secular activities such as concerts and special events.

Discover Bristol

Clifton Suspension Bridge

Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, this iconic suspension bridge spans the Avon Gorge. It's a masterpiece of Victorian engineering and offers stunning views of the surrounding area.



SS Great Britain

Another of Brunel's creations, this historic ship was the first iron-hulled, steam-powered passenger liner. Now, it serves as a museum and an interactive experience.



Harbourside

Once an industrial port, the Harbourside is now a lively area filled with restaurants, bars, and attractions like We The Curious, a hands-on science museum.

St. Nicholas Market

This bustling market is a haven for foodies and shoppers. It's known for its diverse range of stalls, selling everything from vintage clothing to global cuisines.

Bristol Zoo Project

A family favourite, this zoo has been home to a wide variety of animals since 1836. Though its main site is now evolving, the Wild Place Project offers a continuation of its legacy. (Transport required)

Ashton Court Estate

This sprawling estate features a historic mansion and acres of parkland, perfect for picnics, walks, and spotting deer.

Street Art and Banksy

Bristol is the birthplace of Banksy, and the city is famous for its street art. Wander through areas like Stokes Croft and Bedminster to admire vibrant murals.

M Shed

A museum dedicated to Bristol's history, it features exhibits on the city's industrial, social, and cultural past.

Leigh Woods

A National Trust woodland area just across the Suspension Bridge, offering tranquil trails and panoramic views.



Travel

By Public Transport

Here's all the details on Bristol's extensive public transport network, including bus, train, Park & Ride, e-scooters & e-bikes, and even boat! For door to door journey information by all modes of transport, visit www.travelwest.info

Bus

It's easy to get around Bristol by bus, with plenty of fast and convenient services available from all key locations.

You can find out more about Bristol bus routes and timetables including how to get to and from the city centre at www.firstbus.co.uk/bristol-bath-and-west First Bus also provide an online journey planner, which is a useful tool for planning your trips to and around Bristol.

If you're in Bristol and need more help with finding bus stations and routes, check out the free-to-download First Bus App and website. You can also use the app to track the location of buses in live time.

Bus Tickets

You can purchase tickets using the First Bus App, or on board from the driver. If you're using Metrobus services, you must buy before you board, or use the Tap On, Tap Off system.

First Bus have a variety of tickets, including:
Singles: Only £2.40 for adults.

Day Bundles: Day Ticket bundles will save you money if you don't need to travel every day.

Metrobus is a modern public transport service serving the greater Bristol area offering faster, more frequent and reliable services with direct routes to key destinations. This new, environmentally-friendly way of getting around the city has a 'buy before you board service,' with ticket machines at every stop.

Park & Ride

If you're driving to Bristol, why not take advantage of one of the fantastic Park & Ride services? Avoid any of the stress of driving around a new city, save money and do your bit for the environment. Find out more about Bristol Park & Ride services at www.travelwest.info/parkandride Portway Park & Ride also has a railway station to travel by train into Bristol city centre.

Train

With a GWR Freedom Travel Pass, you can get unlimited travel on all trains and most buses in Bristol. You can buy a daily, weekly or monthly ticket for use any time, any day.

Preferred delegate fares on GWR trains

Great Western Railways has delegate fares to Bristol, delegates can book the preferred fares via the following link: www.gwr.com/your-tickets/ways-to-save/business-travel/conferences-and-events

E-Scooter

WESTscoot and WESTbike hire – WEST are a fun way to explore Bristol. Simply use the app to find your nearest available e-scooter or e-bike, hop-on and ride on. Then you can hop-off and safely park at an approved location.

Boat

Number Seven Boats and Bristol Ferry Boats operate regular ferry services to and from waterfront attractions and key points along the harbourside. The Bristol Packet runs guided trips around Bristol and along the river Avon to Bath.

For a journey with a difference, Avon River Cruises run private charter hire trips around Bristol harbour and on the River Avon, with on-board catering if required.

Travel by Car

Since 2022, Bristol has operated a Clean Air Zone in the city centre to tackle air pollution. This means that owners of all higher emission vehicles must pay to drive in the city centre. While over 71% of vehicles travelling in to the city already meet emissions standards, you can check whether you will be charged using the Government's online compliance checking tool.

Please visit the link below for the council run car parks in Bristol: www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/parking/where-to-park-in-bristol/car-parking-and-park-and-ride

Special Travel Passes

Visitors to Bristol can expand their visit with a Great West Way Discoverer Pass, offering bus and rail travel to all destinations on the Great West Way touring route between Bristol and London.

Map of Bristol

Conference Venues



1. Bristol Cathedral
College Green, BS1 5TJ

2. Lord Mayor's Chapel
College Green, Park St, BS1 5TB

3. St. Stephen's Church
21 St Stephen's St, BS1 1EQ

4. Bristol Grand Hotel By Sunday
Broad St, BS1 2EL

5. Clayton Hotel
Broad St, BS1 2EQ

6. Marriott Royal Hotel
College Green, BS1 5TA

7. The Bristol Hotel
Prince St, BS1 4QF

8. Barbara's Bier Haus
Canon's Rd, BS1 5UH

9. Za Za Bazaar
Canon's Rd, BS1 5UH

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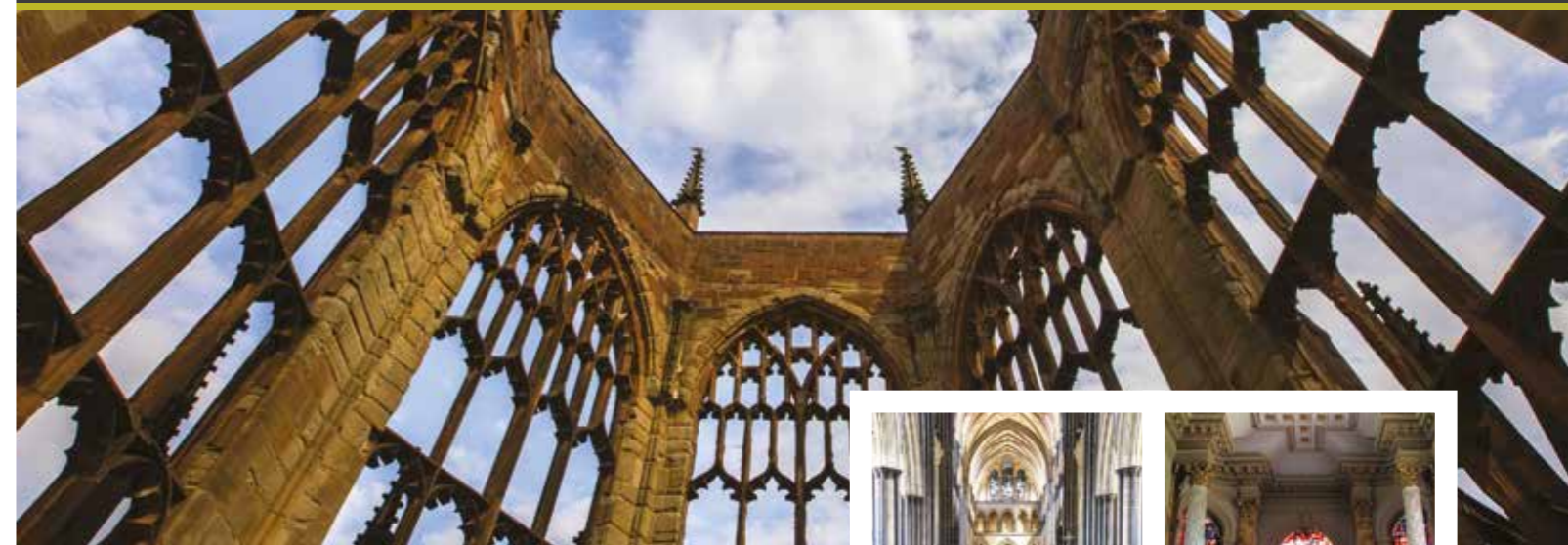
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