



# Keeping you connected

Newsletter

12 June 2026

## From the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

This week, Deans and their constituency MPs were invited to gather at the Houses of Parliament for an opportunity to reinforce the messaging from the National Cathedrals Conference and share the Living Stones research widely with parliamentarians. The messaging is now clear; the Cathedral sector offers a portfolio of resources, support and opportunity to the communities they serve, they are places of social cohesion, interfaith dialogue and the economic impact across the nation of our 42 cathedrals is close to £500million. The cost of this to cathedrals is financial insecurity, unsustainable operating models, and the neglect of fabric repairs to Grade 1 listed treasures. Momentum is strong post conference for action and as a result, we have proposed a number of things that could be supported by a Cathedral Cities Parliamentary Network with the combined effort of Deans and the constituency MPs:

- Ensuring that the Church of England meets its obligations towards England's cathedrals whose historic assets the Church Commissioners now control.
- Assisting with AEC's work on the philanthropic ask to match whatever Cathedral Fabric Endowment Fund we can raise.
- Encouraging the government to note the value that England's cathedrals bring to our nation and to contribute to a new ring-fenced endowment.
- Work through the structures of the House of Commons to bring this to the attention of those who are most able to help and to the British public. A debate on the floor of the House of Commons may be a means of making good progress.

Thank you to those who were able to join us this week. The conversation and energy in the room was deeply encouraging.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt  
Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

## 1. Your AEC National Cathedral Conference - feedback



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### Missing it already?

The keynote speaker videos and corresponding speeches/presentations, together with some of the workshop presentations can be found [here](#). Use NCC2026 to access the page.

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

### Feedback - deadline today!

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 on page 11 of your conference brochure, or you can access the questionnaire via this [link](#). Please respond by Friday 12 June - thank you.

## 2. Vacancies and Appointments

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

**Cathedral Workshop Fellowship** are recruiting for a Head of Education and Quality: <https://www.cwfcathedrals.co.uk/recruitment-open-head-of-education-and-quality/>

**CALCA (Cathedrals Archives, Libraries and Collections Association)** are looking to appoint a new member to their committee. Please get in touch for a further conversation: [calcamembership@gmail.com](mailto:calcamembership@gmail.com)

**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

You can read about Cathedral Deans and MPs meeting in Westminster this week [here](#).

*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!

### **Improvements to *your* 'news' pages on the AEC website**

We've been working with our web developers to try and improve the number of clicks through to your websites AND the stickiness of the content on our website. A tricky balance.

So, we now have on our news pages:

1. A right panel of 'Trending News'
2. A bottom panel of 'Related Reading' and
3. Mid-page clicks through to *your* **donate**, **volunteer**, **events** and **worship** pages on *your* website depending on what cathedral the news article is about. Note: these ones are not always included because the article doesn't support it.

We soft launched these a couple of months ago - and from GA4 we can see increased volumes of the 'click event' (which is a click out to a third-party website. So, they'll primarily be to *your* websites) and an increase (not huge) in time on site / dwell time.

### **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](mailto: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. News from the Chapter Training Working Group**

It was great to hold our second **Introduction to Cathedral Governance** training day of 2026 at Sheffield Cathedral last week. 21 delegates from 10 different cathedrals attended. Feedback from the session will be reviewed by the Working Group to ensure that the training offered is refreshed, relevant and helpful. As always, we are enormously grateful to Cathedral colleagues who help deliver this training and also to our partners at NCIs, CFCE and EIG. The next session on 15 October at The Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London is full but please do get in touch with [susan.chapman@englishcathedrals.co.uk](mailto:susan.chapman@englishcathedrals.co.uk) if you would like to be added to the waiting list. We hope to advertise the dates for the 2027 sessions in July.

## 5. Interesting Reports & Information

### **Places of Worship Renewal Fund Important Dates:**

**Expressions of Interest:** The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest for grants from the first round of the Fund has been extended to **Sunday 14 June 2026**. A second round will follow soon after in September 2026.

The latest date by which applicants will receive a response to their Expression of Interest is now **3 July**.

**Full applications:** The deadline to submit a full application for the Fund has been extended from 16 July to **5pm on Sunday 26 July**.

The summer 2026 newsletter of the **Cathedral Archives, Libraries and Collections Association** is now available on the CALCA website at

<https://cathedrallibrariesandarchives.wordpress.com/resources-publications/>

**SafeCST** are offering a series of up-coming, free webinars here: <https://bit.ly/SAFEZoomHub> – including one scheduled for 30th June for a Practical Walk through Martyn’s Law

### **St Benedict Week 2026 - Study Days 17-18 July, UEA and Norwich Cathedral**

Organised by the Lay Community of St Benedict, we invite you to study days in Norwich on 17-18 July 2026. Free online talks, prayer and conversation, blogs and podcasts, exploring how Benedictine spirituality can renew faith, community and daily life. **All are welcome.**

**Concessions for students and unwaged participants.** For further information: [LCSB.UK/ST-BENEDICTWEEK](https://LCSB.UK/ST-BENEDICTWEEK) or contact: [admin@lcsb.uk](mailto:admin@lcsb.uk)

CALCA (Cathedral Archives, Libraries and Collections Association) would like to draw your attention to the following opportunities for funding (please note short deadlines):

### **Apply for a Spaces, Places and Belonging project grant**

Project grants of up to £30,000 fund substantial, collaborative projects between at least one GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) or Heritage organisation and one community group. These grants, funded by AHRC, support in-depth research, skills development, and the creation of lasting resources that reflect diverse voices and experiences.

[Apply for a project grant by Friday 12 June](#)

### **Apply for an Archives Revealed scoping grant**

The scoping grants programme funds an independent consultant to produce an expert report on an archive collection. These grants are offered by Archives Revealed, a partnership programme between The National Archives, the Pilgrim Trust, the Wolfson Foundation and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

[Apply for a scoping grant by Thursday 18 June 2026](#)

### **Apply for a resilience grant**

This programme offers grants, worth up to £20,000, which empower archives to respond to challenges, create lasting solutions and contribute to communities and the economy.

[Apply for a resilience grant by Monday 6 July](#)

Audience Agency are running a series of free online events to support with data collection and audience development:

Data Collection for Cultural Organisations: Wednesday 17th June 11:30-12:30. Find out more [here](#).

Audience Development Workshop: Tuesday 7th July 14:00-16:00. Find out more [here](#).

### **Audience Development Workshop**

*Tue 7 July, 2.00pm - 4.00pm Online, free.*

The second in our series of interactive, practical workshops led by our expert consultants, exploring the four phases of the audience development cycle.

## **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](mailto:anna.pitt@englishcathedrals.co.uk)

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