



# Keeping you connected

Newsletter

14 April 2025

## From the Interim Executive Director

*A message from Anna Pitt*

Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the first edition of the weekly newsletter from the AEC team. We know how busy and multi-faceted life in a cathedral can be, and our hope with this newsletter is to avoid multiple individual emails in your inbox. We intended for this email to be the one place where you can find all the relevant information coming from the AEC office to our members each week. There may be reasons for us to send something more urgently, but mostly we hope for this to be the go-to communication from our desks to yours.

These things always need tweaking, so we would warmly welcome any feedback (content, timing etc). We want the newsletter to be useful and beneficial to you, so please let us know how this lands for you.

We are sharing this initially with Deans and Chief Officers with a view that you can forward on to colleagues any relevant information. We may reflect on this and decide to share more widely with different interest groups within our membership.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt

Interim Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

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## News from Our Project Boards

### This Week's Highlights

- **Communications Project Board:** This week sees the launch of the Newgate Cathedrals' Volunteer of the Year Award. Please take a moment to [read more and submit an application](#) for an individual or team of volunteers from your cathedral.
- **Wish you were here.** The Comms Team are also launching this summer's 'Wish you were here' campaign with postcards and foam selfie boards being posted out to all cathedrals in the coming weeks.
- **Art in Cathedrals Project Board:** The project board recently circulated a newsletter containing a paper with an encouragement to share this with your chapter members for discussion. The paper can be found [here](#).

An enthralling installation, Cross Currents – Life as a Journey (Frances Carlile), currently on display at Canterbury Cathedral is available as a touring piece to go to other cathedrals. For further info [here](#) or by emailing [jacquiline@visualartsadvisor.org](mailto:jacquiline@visualartsadvisor.org)

- **Chapter Training Project Board:** The Chair of our Chapter training board, Dean Simon Cowling of Wakefield Cathedral is standing down from his role when he retires later this summer. The AEC directors are seeking new members for this board, together with a new chair. Please read the following advert [here](#).

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## Vacancies and Appointments

- **Executive Director – Association of English Cathedrals** <https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/downloads/vacancy-executive-director-job-pack-march-2025/>
- **COO- Birmingham Cathedral** [www.birminghamcathedral.com/vacancies/](http://www.birminghamcathedral.com/vacancies/)
- **Verger – St Mary, Redcliffe** [www.stmaryredcliffe.com/vacancies](http://www.stmaryredcliffe.com/vacancies)
- **Gloucester Cathedral - new COO Gloucester Cathedral** is pleased to announce that Barry McMaster has been appointed as the new Chief Operating Officer and Chapter Steward - read more: <https://gloucestercathedral.org.uk/journal/gloucester-cathedral-announces-new-chief-operating-officer-and-chapter-steward>

Don't forget, all of the job descriptions you share with us are uploaded to the CAFA website and can be accessed here: <https://cathedralcafa.org/request-login/>

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## Interesting Reports & Information

- **National Churches Trust – 2025 Survey**  
Our friends at the National Churches Trust are planning a largescale survey in 2025 of Christian places of worship. It is an update to the 2010 survey, the data from which they have been using to great effect for the last 15 years. They are keen to include a cathedral in the trial, which starts on 17 April 2025. If you are interested in joining the trial, please email [karl.newton@nationalchurchestrust.org](mailto:karl.newton@nationalchurchestrust.org) for an introduction to the survey team.
- **Heritage Alliance – Heritage Creates** Heritage Alliance have published their new report – ‘Heritage Creates’ which demonstrates the potential of the heritage and creative industries to bring communities together and improve wellbeing <https://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/our-work/publications/heritage-creates/>
- **Tru Vue Conservation and Exhibition Grant** news of a new small grant scheme to support with conservation projects focused on exhibition of historic items. Find out more [here](#).
- **Charity Tax Group** a link attached to their latest newsletter, with information on forthcoming member events focusing on VAT and Gift Aid. Take a look at the their newsletter [here](#)

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## Training & Conference Opportunities

Upcoming events and learning opportunities:

- **The Community Safety Trust** run a series of online events around security (hostile reconnaissance, event planning, Martyn’s Law) details of which can be found [here](#).
- **The Church of England HR Network Spring Seminar - 21 May 2025 - Birmingham** details to share with your HR colleagues [here](#).

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## Don’t Forget...

- The **AEC AGM** will be held on Tuesday 17 June at CCLA Offices in London. Please keep the date in your diary, papers and details will be circulated soon after Easter.
  - 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/>
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## 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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