



Keeping you connected

Newsletter

25 April 2025

From the Interim Executive Director

A message from Anna Pitt

Dear colleagues and friends,

We have a shorter than usual newsletter this week, with just a handful of updates, as many of you are enjoying a well-earned break after the celebration of Easter. Many of us will be holding our Catholic sisters and brothers in prayer this week as they mourn the death of Pope Francis and prepare for his funeral on Saturday. We have shared prayers and quotes on our website and social media channels.

This week we also contributed to a Sunday Times article looking at charging for entry to cathedrals. We were able to reiterate that cathedrals are always free to enter for worship and prayer. It also afforded us a further opportunity to highlight the costs associated with opening grade 1 and 2* listed heritage buildings 365 days per year. Whilst these articles don't always include everything we would want to say, please rest assured that we seize these opportunities to engage with the national conversation and fly the flag for the phenomenal work of engagement happening in cathedrals across the country.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt

Interim Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

News from Our Project Boards

This Week's Highlights

- **Volunteer of the Year Awards - HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOUR ENTRIES?** Please do make sure you use your entries for the Newgate Cathedrals Volunteer of the Year Award. There are two awards: one for individual volunteer of the year and one for volunteer team of the year. Each cathedral has TWO nominations. You can read all about it here and how to submit your nominations!
<https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/latest-news/launch-of-newgate-cathedral-volunteer-of-the-year-awards/> Deadline is **5 May**. Announcements will be made during Volunteers' Week 2-8 June
 - **Communications Project Board:** we're delighted to report that traffic to the AEC website has increased by over 40% in the past year and last month there were 21,521 news page views, 5,734 events page views and 2,237 cathedrals page views. We love to highlight the diverse range of events and activities that take place across our network so please remind your teams to complete an Event Content form <https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk/event-capture/> so your cathedral can be included. (And we can like and share them on our socials too). Thank you!
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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/>

The **Association of Cultural Enterprises** have announced that job listings will now be free for member organisations: <https://culturalenterprises.org.uk/job-board/>

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/>

Interesting Reports & Information

- The Charity Commission have released a new tool to support charities with building financial resilience: <https://charity-commission.involve.me/buildingfinancialresilience>

- The NCVO have published their annual report entitled 'The Road Ahead' looking at the changing landscape for the charitable and voluntary sector:
<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/the-road-ahead-2025/>
 - The online portal to register Expressions of Interest for the Heritage Revival Fund opened on 1 April 2025. Full guidance, including eligibility criteria and details of how to apply can be found on the [Architectural Heritage Fund's website](#). Although this fund precludes buildings which are places of worship, it may be useful for ancillary buildings.
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Training & Conference Opportunities

Upcoming events and learning opportunities:

- Booking is now open for Historic Religious Building Alliance's Big Update 2025
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/historic-religious-buildings-alliance-big-update-2025-tickets-1305881910949>
 - The Clergy Support Trust host the oldest choral music event in the world, a Festival welcoming three cathedral choirs to perform together, which this year celebrates its 370th anniversary. You can find out more about the Festival at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 13 May, 5pm, which is free to attend, at www.clergysupport.org.uk/festival.
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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.

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