



2 May 2025

## From the Interim Executive Director

*A message from Anna Pitt*

Dear colleagues and friends,

I am writing to you from a beautiful and sunlit Wells Cathedral, where I am delighted to be attending the Choir Schools Association Conference. Following on from our Cathedral Music Day in Leicester in November, we are very keen to keep up momentum on the conversations we started on Cathedral Music and in particular funding. It is so vital we proceed in partnership, and I'm very pleased to be working with Jonathan Mayes and his colleagues at Cathedral Music Trust as we develop some follow-up sessions picking up the key themes that came out of our day conference. Please keep an eye out for upcoming invitations to those workshops.

Please also keep the date in your diary for our upcoming **AEC AGM - 17th June**. We are formulating a programme of speakers to make for an interesting day, and the AGM is always an excellent opportunity for engagement and networking, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Warm wishes,

Anna Pitt

Interim Executive Director, Association of English Cathedrals

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## News from Our Project Boards

### This Week's Highlights

- **Volunteer of the Year Awards** - The deadline for these awards has now been extended to **Friday 9 May**
- **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/>

Announcements will be made during Volunteers' Week 2-8 June

- *The Longest Yarn* – many of you will be aware of this depiction of the D-Day landings in wool art. Southwell Minster and Peterborough Cathedral have both hosted it successfully this year with reports of “queues out of the door!” *The Longest Yarn 2* – a depiction of Britain in wartime – has just gone on display in Wells Cathedral.

Tansy, the project leader says the pieces are booked up through 2026 **BUT** she wants to gauge interest from our cathedrals.

Are you interested in hosting either/or both of these pieces in 2027? Contact: [jane.bower@englishcathedrals.co.uk](mailto:jane.bower@englishcathedrals.co.uk)

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## Vacancies and Appointments

- **COO - Peterborough Cathedral.** Peterborough Cathedral are recruiting for a new COO, and the closing date is 3rd June <https://www.peridotpartners.co.uk/jobs/chief-operating-officer-peterborough-cathedral/>
- **Sub-Organist - Manchester Cathedral.** Manchester Cathedral is searching for a new sub-organist. This is a full time post. The closing date is 12 noon on 14 May. <https://manchestercathedral.org/news-events/news/manchester-cathedral-is-searching-for-a-sub-organist>

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## Training and Conference Opportunities

Upcoming events and learning opportunities:

- Those of you at last year's CAFA Conference will recall an excellent presentation from Sarah Pearson from Ecclesiastical Insurance Group. This is a reminder and encouragement to take up Sarah's invitation to connect with her, as EIG are offering support to Chapters with several days of free consultancy to help explore their approach to strategic risk. Sarah's contact details are:  
[sarah.pearson@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:sarah.pearson@ecclesiastical.com)
- Please save the date for the **AEC AGM on 17th June in London**. More information to follow, together with information on proxy voting arrangements.

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

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