



ELY CATHEDRAL

CATHEDRAL AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Dear members of the Cathedral congregation and community,

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY



It was announced this morning that His Majesty The King has approved the nomination of the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. The 106th Archbishop of Canterbury since Saint Augustine arrived in Kent from Rome in 597, Bishop Sarah will be the first woman to hold the office. She will be installed in a service at Canterbury Cathedral in March 2026.

JUDY SANSOM'S FUNERAL

The funeral for the late Judy Sansom will be at noon next Tuesday 7 October. Please remember John and all the family in your prayers.

THANK YOU



Many thanks to Sue and Lorraine who worked hard on behalf of Macmillan Cancer at our Coffee Morning on 26 September. Coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes were enjoyed and a total of over £230 was made for the charity. Thank you also to all who supported Tim Thomson and me on the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches



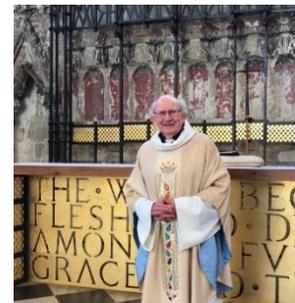
Trust ride and stride day. We collectively raised over £600 for this charity and the Cathedral.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

If you missed the Jenny Gage Memorial Lecture, given by Dr Hilary Marlow on ecojustice and faith, view it here: https://www.youtube.com/live/GRBiTbHTaCs?si=uGXoJlsh_Th77s2m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID

It was a joy to mark the sixtieth anniversary of The Revd David Parker's ordination to the priesthood at the end of last month. He presided at the Monday morning Eucharist and joined the resident clergy and others for breakfast in the Lady Chapel afterwards. Congratulations, David, and thank you for your long, fruitful and continuing ministry.



NEW TO THE CATHEDRAL?

If you have joined the congregation in the last year or so, the Dean and Chapter would like to invite you to a 'New to the Cathedral' drinks reception at the Black Hostelry in October. Please contact me for your invitation on James.Reveley@elycathedral.org or 01353 660302.

ELY AMNESTY GROUP LECTURE

All are welcome to attend a free lecture at the Cathedral this Sunday at 5.15pm given by Marina Cantacuzino MBE, author, broadcaster, peace activist, and founder of *The Forgiveness Project*. This Ben Jupp Memorial Lecture will explore the power and complexity of forgiveness in a divided world, drawing on twenty years of powerful stories from victims and perpetrators. It will be streamed live on this link: <https://youtu.be/9m0PfhqDqAU>

FAREWELL TO SUE - HELLO TO SHELLEY

A reminder that the Friends of Ely Cathedral are holding a Farewell Coffee Morning on Wednesday 15 October, from 9.15am to 12noon in the Lady Chapel to thank Sue Hunting as she retires from her role as Friends' Officer after many years of dedicated service. (Donations towards a gift for Sue can be left with David Bruce at the Chapter Office Reception.) We are delighted to report that Shelley Bolderson will be taking over as Friends' Officer from 21 October. Information on the friends is here: <https://www.elycathedral.org/community/the-friends-of-ely-cathedral>

HARVEST SUPPER



There are a few tickets still available for the Cathedral Harvest Supper with harvest hymns next Friday after Evensong. The menu includes Jacket potatoes with generous fillings and homemade desserts. This year all tickets are free but must be booked via the website here: [Harvest Supper](#) or in person at the Cathedral. Donations will be received on the night to cover costs (£5 suggested minimum). Proceeds to the Ely Food Bank. Our thanks to the Pastoral Hospitality Group for organising this.

ADVENT SLEEPOUT

Details of the Advent Sleepout in aid of Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project and Crisis are now available on the Cathedral Website with a link for anyone who might like to sponsor Canon Jenny and me. Individuals and groups can join us on Friday 12 December. The link for registration and donation is here: <https://www.elycathedral.org/events/advent-sleepout> and here: <https://sponsorme.charitistrust.org/event/5f2c73e6-b1e9-4e38-bde4-56920bdb7519>.

A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



All members of Cathedral congregations are welcome to attend a meeting on Sunday 19 October at 12.30pm in the South Transept. Coffee will be available after the 10.30am service and this can be brought with you into the meeting. Celebratory drinks to mark Diana Barcham-Stevens' big birthday will be held in the Lady Chapel ahead of this meeting.

FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE

Gemma O'Shea, the Cathedral's Head of Fundraising, writes, "If you are thinking about writing or updating your Will, we can make the process easier for you. You can make a basic Will for free with our partner The National Free Wills Network. Apply online <https://myfreewillsportal.org/elycathedraltrust> and they will send you a special Wills pack which includes a list of local participating solicitors and all the information you need to get started." You could choose to leave a gift in your will to The Ely Cathedral Trust and/or to the Friends of Ely Cathedral.

CHAPTER REPORT

A summary of the September meeting of Chapter is displayed on the South Porch notice board but here are some highlights from Jonathan Bell's paper:

- Phil Stevens (Director of Learning) reported on the work of the Learning Team including a review of progress in meeting the team's four strategic goals. Phil outlined opportunities for the future in relation to supporting religious education in schools, interfaith inclusion and closer collaboration with the visitor experience team. Challenges relating to the Cathedral Centre were discussed, and issues with a potential impact on safety were agreed to be prioritised. Chapter congratulated Phil and her team on the breadth of activity being delivered.
- Canon James Reveley reported to Chapter on safeguarding. Chapter was updated on changes in information that will be asked about criminal convictions for those applying for volunteer positions at the Cathedral. Other updates included plans to deliver training in trauma-informed care and arrangements for Safeguarding Sunday later in the year. Chapter also received and discussed updates about the safeguarding audit planned for February 2026 and safeguarding work in the Diocese and national Church.
- The Audit & Risk Committee reported to Chapter on its annual review of substantial donations received, and its review of the Cathedral's conflicts of interest policy and financial control framework. Cyber security penetration testing had been undertaken over the summer by external professional. Over 65,000 connections between the Cathedral network and the internet were tested. Four minor issues were discovered with one connection, and these have now been resolved.
- The Cathedral's financial position remains fair, despite needing to cover some unplanned nonrecurring costs from operating income. Excluding these unplanned items, the underlying position is positive and slightly ahead of budget. The budget for 2026 is being worked on ahead of being reviewed by the Finance Committee in October. The first draft of the 2026 budget shows us to be in decent financial shape.

A PRAYER

*God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

With best regards,



Canon James Reveley
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