



ELY CATHEDRAL

Headlines from a meeting of Chapter

The Cathedral Chapter met on the morning of Monday 21 July 2025.

- Joseph Patkai (Volunteer & Operations Manager) reported on **volunteering**, including plans to review and relaunch the Volunteer Handbook and to circulate the Code of Safer Working Practice (safeguarding guidance) to volunteers. Chapter welcomed the retention and recruitment figures, and was glad that so many attended the Volunteers' Evensong and reception last month. Chapter thanked Joseph for his work over the past twelve months, and in his expanded role.
- Jonathan Bell (Chief Operating Officer) and Alison Binstead (Chief Finance Officer) reported on **staffing and employment** matters. These include plans to introduce new HR software, modernise contracts and update the employee handbook to reflect recent changes in the law and good practice. **Chapter thanked Rebecca Brown** (HR & Safeguarding Administrator) for all her work this year.
- Chapter welcomed the **appointment of Phil Priestley as Independent Chair of Ely Cathedral Safeguarding Advisory Group**.
- Canon James Reveley reported to Chapter on **safeguarding**, including a report of a visit in June by the sponsor of the programme developing independent safeguarding structures in the Church. Chapter received reports from the Safeguarding Advisory Group and from the Cathedral Safeguarding Contacts and was updated on preparation for the external audit of safeguarding arrangements in February 2026. Chapter approved the 2025 edition of the safeguarding handbook.
- Canon Felicity Cooke shared her perspective on a recent meeting of the **General Synod** in York.
- Chapter made appointments on the recommendation of the **Nominations Committee**, and in consultation with the Acting Bishop of Ely where appropriate. Chapter welcomed the **reappointment by the Bishop of Canon Francis Burkitt as Senior Non-Executive Member of Chapter**. Chapter **reappointed Canon Felicity Cooke as a Non-Executive Member of Chapter**. Seven further appointments and reappointments were made to the statutory committees of Chapter, including the reappointment of **Canon Tom Buchanan as Chair of the Nominations Committee; Canon Tim Walters as Chair of the Finance Committee** and **George Lynn as Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee**.
- Chapter received an update from Brodie Partners on its work with the Cathedral to shape **a new vision for the future**.
- The Finance Committee reported to Chapter on **the Cathedral's financial position** (which is satisfactory, despite a number of unplanned costs being incurred in the early part of the year). The Committee reported on its **annual review of the investment manager's work**. Fundraising for the refurbishment of the Cathedral organ is going well.
- Chapter was pleased to appoint Claire Stonehouse as a Chapter-appointed member of the Council of The Friends of Ely Cathedral.
- Chapter authorised expenditure on electrical works following a period inspection of electrical systems in the Cathedral.

The Cathedral Chapter plans to meet next on Monday 22 September (routine meeting) and Monday 20 October (special annual meeting with the Bishop).

Jonathan Bell
Chief Operating Officer & Chapter Clerk
21 July 2025