



# ELY CATHEDRAL

## Headlines from a meeting of Chapter

The Cathedral Chapter met on the morning of Monday 22 September 2025.

- 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 Dean reported on **worship and ministry**. Attendance at the main services was lower in July than last year, but higher in August than last year. Chapter discussed the 2025 youth pilgrimage in July, visiting choirs, the *50 Faces of the Holy Land* exhibition and outreach undertaken in the Learning Team.
- Chapter received an **operational update** on staffing changes, finances and fundraising, property and fabric, health and safety and the work of the Organ Working Group.
- 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 non-recurring 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.
- Chapter was pleased to approve the **reappointment of Isobel Newport-Mangell as a Chapter-appointed governor of King's Ely**.

The Cathedral Chapter plans to meet next on Monday 20 October (special annual meeting with the Bishop) and then on Monday 24 November (routine meeting).

**Jonathan Bell**  
Chief Operating Officer & Chapter Clerk  
29 September 2025