



ELY CATHEDRAL

Headlines from a meeting of Chapter

The Cathedral Chapter met on the morning of Monday 26 January 2026.

- Some necessary decisions were taken following the death of Canon Jim Garrard.
- Ben Prickett (Head of Technology) reported on **technology developments and plans**. Improved security over the main ingress and egress data points were reported, along with network and server upgrades. Laptop and desktop upgrades have been undertaken, and enhanced device encryption is planned. New HR software has recently been deployed. TV screens in the nave were replaced last year, mobile phones were upgraded and the Cathedral server rack was replaced to accommodate equipment to overcome power fluctuations. External testing of the data firewalls was completed last summer with good results. Plans for further developments and cyber-security testing were outlined to Chapter. Chapter thanked Ben and Mathew for their excellent work.
- Gemma O'Shea (Head of Fundraising) reported on **fundraising activity**. Legacies had spiked in 2024 because of work in the Courts & Tribunals Service, and dropped back a bit in 2025. Over £500,000 of external grant funding was secured in 2025 towards Cathedral projects. Donations through the website, standing orders, direct debits and in cash remain fairly static overall, despite a general downturn in levels of giving in the UK. Progress was reported on fundraising for the organ work, which will begin after Easter 2027. Chapter expressed its gratitude to the team for their successes.
- Chapter recorded that it had **approved the 2026 budget** by email in December, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.
- Canon James Reveley reported to Chapter on **safeguarding**. Updates were provided following a meeting of the Cathedral Safeguarding Contacts and the Cathedral Safeguarding Network Conference. Chapter adopted the Key Principle Statement of the **Cathedral Safeguarding Principles**, embedding an IICSA recommendation granting the Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor authority to make certain safeguarding decisions independently.
- The Dean reported on **worship and ministry**. Many special services had taken place since Chapter's last meeting in November. Services in November and December 2025 appear to have been particularly well-attended, with rather larger numbers than in 2024.
- Chapter received an **operational update** on staffing changes, finances, property and fabric, health and safety and governance.
- The **Finance Committee** reported it had reviewed the contract for the organ refurbishment work, considered the level of Gift Aid recovery, and reviewed financial performance, which remains satisfactory. Alison Binstead (Chief Finance Officer) reported that the full year financial performance for 2025 was broadly as forecast.
- Chapter approved in principle an approach to **recruiting a new Residentiary Canon**. An announcement will be made in February. Chapter **appointed Bill Dastur as interim Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee** until the Nominations Committee has completed the process of appointing a new substantive Chair.
- Canon James Reveley gave a report to Chapter from a recent meeting of the **Congregational Forum**.

The Cathedral Chapter plans to meet next on Monday 30 March 2026.

Jonathan Bell
Chief Operating Officer & Chapter Clerk
29 January 2026