



Headlines from a meeting of Chapter

The Cathedral Chapter met on the morning of Monday 30 March 2026.

- Vicki Roulinson (Director of Conservation & Works), Clive England (Surveyor to the Fabric) and Jonathan Bell (Chief Operating Officer) reported on **Cathedral property & fabric**. Except for two residential properties undergoing refurbishment, the property portfolio is fully tenanted. The impact of the Renters' Rights Act (coming into effect from 1 May 2026) was outlined. Vicki updated Chapter on biodiversity developments and improvements allowing safer access to Cathedral roofs. Planned were outlined to undertake temporary works in the spring to protect glass, and other works to improve handling of rainwater, (both on the outside of the east end of the Cathedral).
- Chapter formally recorded a decision made earlier in the year by email to report to the **Charity Commission** a serious incident in relation to the arrest of the Bishop of Lincoln and the potential reputational impact of this on the Cathedral.
- Phil Priestley (Independent Chair of the Cathedral's Safeguarding Advisory Group) and Lisa Pearson (Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor) joined the meeting to report on **safeguarding**. Chapter discussed the preliminary findings of the INEQE audit and congratulated the team on a positive outcome. Chapter reviewed and discussed its annual safeguarding report to the Bishop, before approving it for submission.
- The Dean reported on **worship and ministry**, noting stable Palm Sunday attendance, but lower attendance than last year in Holy Week. Chapter was updated on progress in recruiting a new Residentiary Canon, and it approved a policy on the exploration of vocations to public ministry.
- The **Audit & Risk Committee** reported to Chapter on changes to the risk register, including greater attention at present on senior appointments and cyber security. The Committee reported that it had undertaken a review of the processes for assessing, reporting, mitigating and owning safeguarding risk and was satisfied with the adequacy of these arrangements.
- The **Finance Committee** reported to Chapter on the full year financial position for 2025 and plans to resolve difficulties in making donations to Zanzibar Cathedral. At the Committee's request, Chapter considered authorising the fundraising team to apply to two potentially controversial charitable trusts. Chapter declined authorisation for one, and set out conditions to be met for the other.
- Chapter **appointed Canon James Reveley**, in his future role as Interim Dean, as a director of Ely Cathedral Enterprises Ltd and as a member of the Nominations Committee. Chapter received and approved recommendations from the Nominations Committee to appoint two new members of the **Fabric Advisory Committee**: Richard Griffiths RIBA AABC and Jana Gajdošová PhD FSA. Six existing members of the Fabric Advisory Committee were also reappointed for further terms of five years from 1 May 2026.
- Chapter approved the transfer of the **Chapter Safeguarding Lead** role from Canon James Reveley to Canon Jenny Wright with effect from 26 April 2026. Chapter also approved a change in Canon Jenny Wright's title to 'Canon Theologian'.

The Cathedral Chapter plans to meet next on Monday 1 June 2026.

Jonathan Bell
Chief Operating Officer & Chapter Clerk
3 April 2026