



ELY CATHEDRAL

Headlines from a meeting of Chapter

The Cathedral Chapter met on the morning of Monday 31 March 2025.

- Chapter received a report on the **management of property** owned by the Cathedral, noting that all of the Cathedral's commercial properties are tenanted. The outcome of a rent review of four properties leased to King's Ely is awaited. Retail tenants – all being local & independent firms – make a positive contribution to the town as a destination for visitors. They report successful trading.
- Clive England (Surveyor to the Fabric) gave his **annual report on the care of Cathedral buildings**. Chapter heard about emerging plans for conservation to windows at the eastern arm of the Cathedral. Progress on the delivery of a wide variety of maintenance projects were reported. Funding for conservation work on the High Altar reredos is likely to be secured shortly.
- Jon Chapman (Independent Chair of the Cathedral's Safeguarding Advisory Group) and Lisa Pearson (Cathedral Safeguarding Advisor) joined Canon James Reveley in giving the annual report of the Advisory Group on **safeguarding**. There are two open safeguarding cases. The training of clergy, staff and volunteers is up to date. The annual report on safeguarding was approved by Chapter for submission to the Acting Bishop of Ely. Chapter thanked Jon Chapman for his service upon the end of his term of office in his role.
- Chapter reviewed figures and activities for **worship and mission**. Attendance at services seems good. It was agreed to revisit the comparison of numbers compared with pre-pandemic levels.
- Chapter received updates on staffing, fundraising, health & safety and environmental work. **The Almonry Kitchen will re-open for business on 8 April**, earlier than planned. The replacement of a gas boiler with an air-source heat pump has been completed ahead of schedule.
- The **Finance Committee** reported to Chapter on its annual review of the Cathedral's reserves policy. This is being reviewed in light of revised guidance from the Charity Commission. The Committee outlined its recent detailed review of income generation from investment, grants and property. All are well-managed, but the Cathedral is preparing for a medium-term decline in sources of income from some sources of unrestricted grants.
- Alison Binstead (Chief Finance Officer) outlined **financial performance**, which is so far broadly in line with budget. Delays in receiving project-related grant income has put pressure on cash levels, but they are forecast to return to a good position. Alison counselled caution about the year ahead.
- Chapter received updates on preparations for **changes in the law relating to terrorism**.
- Chapter formally **allocated Powcher's Hall to the Revd Dr Jenny Wright** in preparation for her moving to the Cathedral, ahead of her installation as a Residentiary Canon on 4 May 2025.
- Mark Bonney (the Dean) updated Chapter on the initial phase of work to develop a **new long-term vision** for the Cathedral.
- A **bursary request** to provide additional financial support for a chorister was approved.
- Chapter agreed to apply to the Fabric Advisory Committee to **lend the medieval Ely Cope and fragments of the medieval choir stalls to the Sainsbury Centre** for an exhibition planned for 2026.

The Cathedral Chapter plans to meet next on Monday 19 May.

Jonathan Bell
Chief Operating Officer & Chapter Clerk
31 March 2025