



ELY CATHEDRAL

The ministry of our Cathedral

*Joyfully proclaiming the love of God
in worship, outreach, welcome and care*

Introduction

We describe the ministry of our cathedral in four parts:

- **Our purpose, objects, mission & vision**
(in other words, our fundamental role in society, our aims, our day-to-day being and our hopes for the future)
- **Our core challenge**
(the thing we've identified that we most want to change, our approach to tackling it, and the specific actions we'll take)
- **Responding to change in the world**
(addressing climate change, meeting the needs of a digital future, and reforming ourselves to become more accountable and transparent)
- **Delivering our core ministry**
(the heart of 'being Ely Cathedral')



Purpose, objects, mission & vision

Our core purpose is **to be the seat of the Bishop, a centre of worship and mission, and to provide a focus for the life and work of the Church of England in the diocese of Ely.**

Our charitable objects are:

- **To advance the Christian religion** in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England, in particular by furthering the mission of the Church of England;
- **To care for and conserve the fabric and structure of the Cathedral** Church building; and
- To advance any other charitable purposes which are ancillary to the above objects.

Our mission is **to be a sustainable Christian community joyfully proclaiming the love of God in worship, outreach, welcome and care.**

Our vision is **to be a place where everyone – in all our diversity – may grow into the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.**



Our core challenge

Chapter has identified a central challenge for our ministry over the next few years.

Our challenge

- To **grow and diversify the numbers of our worshipping community and pilgrims against a** general trend in UK society of **increasing disassociation from Christianity.**

Our guiding policy

- To provide opportunities for the local community, the parishes of the diocese and all visitors to experience the Cathedral afresh as a living place of worship and Christian community.

Our actions for 2023-2024

Now

- *Establish the former Cathedral Centre as a centre for learning and engagement with Cathedral life, pastoral care and worship and identify the resources needed to meet our ambitions.*
- *Make space inside the Cathedral church building available for the work of the Learning Team.*
- *Begin to build links with local schools (and therefore families) from within the Learning Team and Music Department.*
- *Develop resources to help visitors to experience their visit to the Cathedral as pilgrimage, and to open to them the worshipping and pastoral life of the Cathedral.*

Next

- *Make it easier for visitors to experience the Cathedral as a Christian community and place of worship by encouraging movement from visiting, to experiencing Evensong and other worship. Identify the resources needed to do this well and sustainably.*
- *Build and extend the ministry of the Learning Team to support local churches with their ministry to families, as a gift to the local community.*
- *Identify existing resources, space and opportunities that the parishes of the diocese can be invited to use, enjoy and participate in, as a service to them.*
- *Re-establish ways for parishes to be invited to engage in the life of the Cathedral.*



We are responding to change in the world by:

Playing our role in addressing climate change:

- Using the results of energy-efficiency surveys of our buildings to develop plans to reduce carbon emissions to help meet our aim of becoming a net-zero carbon emitter by 2030.
- Completing, by the end of 2023, the replacement of all lighting in the Cathedral church building with energy-efficient alternatives.
- Introducing carbon reporting in our published annual report from 2023 onwards.
- Undertaking a survey of the Cathedral precinct to inform how we can enhance biodiversity on the land under our care.
- Developing how we communicate our commitment to the care of the planet, to encourage others – within and beyond the Church of England.

Meeting the needs of a digital future

- Upgrading essential infrastructure to improve network connectivity, resilience and dependability.
- Installing fixed camera and sound equipment inside the Cathedral church building to livestream services on a permanent basis.
- Investing in multi-media devices alongside in-person tours, to give visitors more choice about how they learn about the Cathedral, and to improve accessibility.
- Offering training to our clergy, staff and volunteers to understand and feel more confident in our use of digital technology.

Reforming ourselves to become more accountable and transparent

- Completing the implementation of our new constitution and statutes, and – in early 2023 – registering with the Charity Commission.
- Implementing new arrangements for the Congregational Forum to enhance communication between Chapter and the Cathedral community.
- Improving how we communicate openly about how the Cathedral is governed and managed.
- Making the membership of Chapter and its committees more diverse, so that it better reflects the community we serve and is more representative of the population of the Diocese.



We are delivering our core ministry by:

- **Maintaining and developing our pattern of worship, pastoral care and teaching**
- **Conserving and enhancing the Cathedral fabric**
- **Aiming to be a great place to work and volunteer**
- **Using our economic and social presence to maintain our place in the 'public square'**

Each of these areas are at the heart of the Cathedral's life and supported by operational and day-to-day ways of working, including:

- our liturgical plan
- our rolling programme of inspection and maintenance work
- projects in our human resources and volunteer management teams and
- our termly programmes inspired by our commitment to social justice, and our hosting of significant civic events.

We report on our activities in each of these areas in our annual report.





THE WORDS BECAME
FLESH AND DWELL
AMONG VS. FULL OF
GRACE AND TRUTH

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