



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

CHESTER CATHEDRAL WILL FOLLOW CHRIST THROUGH DISCOVERY ENCOUNTER AND FAITH

Discovery
KPI - Footfall

Encounter
KPI - TripAdvisor rating

Faith
KPI - Congregation attendance

REVITALISE HERITAGE

What we want to do:

Chester Cathedral is steward of significant built heritage. We will both conserve and develop this so as not to lose what is valuable from the past whilst ensuring it remains vital, relevant and faith-full in contemporary culture.

How this will be done:

KPI 1: Site Assessment

KPI 2: Quinquennial Review

KPI 3: Donations per head

SHARE THE STORY

What we want to do:

The story of Chester Cathedral is made with the intertwined strands of political and social history, architecture and Christian faith. We will interpret and share these stories with confidence and coherence through a range of media, installations and personal encounter to enable discovery and learning for all.

How this will be done:

KPI 1: Net promoter score

KPI 2: Connections to students

KPI 3: Media coverage of events and services

IMPROVE PARTICIPATION AND PARTNERSHIP

What we want to do:

Chester Cathedral is a place where many different opportunities for worship that glorifies God are made possible, supported by outstanding music. We will broaden and deepen what we offer to widen participation and reflect the diversity of the churches across our Diocese including developing our social engagement and partnerships in the community.

How this will be done:

KPI 1: Sunday School and Saturday Singing Club attendance

KPI 2: Connections with community groups

KPI 3: Facebook 'live views' of Evensong

INCREASE RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY

What we want to do:

The work of the cathedral is supported by a range of successful profit-making enterprises. We will ensure that these are run to highly ethical and environmental standards and that the contribution made by these enterprises is well integrated with the values, sustainability and mission of the cathedral.

How this will be done:

KPI 1: Tenant occupancy percentage

KPI 2: Enterprise income

KPI 3: Use of space for income generation

SUPPORT BISHOP, DIOCESE AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

What we want to do:

Chester Cathedral is Mother Church for the Diocese of Chester and seat of the Bishop of Chester. We will ensure that our facilities are accessible and that the work of the Cathedral reflects the concerns of the Bishop. The cathedral will participate in the wider mission of the Diocese, will embrace the diversity of parishes when they gather here and play a significant role in the Cheshire Christian Community.

How this will be done:

KPI 1: Attendance at diocesan events/ services in house

KPI 2: Clergy attendance at external diocesan events/services

KPI 3: Number of community projects hosted

ENCOURAGE HOLY ENCOUNTER

What we want to do:

The church and cloisters are an oasis of peace and beauty in the centre of Chester's busy shopping centre. We will develop these spaces and improve their accessibility so that all comers can reflect, pray, find inspiration and notice the presence of God.

How this will be done:

KPI 1: Number of candles used

KPI 2: Stewardship - giving per person

KPI 3: Post-It note prayers

NURTURE A HEALTHY ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE

What we want to do:

The cathedral fulfils its mission through the work of a large and committed body of staff and volunteers. We will establish a healthy learning culture with clear values in which every individual's contribution is recognized and where people flourish.

How this will be done:

KPI 1: Number of staff absences

KPI 2: Volunteer hours

KPI 3: Safeguarding completion rate

THE CHESTER CATHEDRAL STRATEGY: 2018 - 2023

DISCOVERY, ENCOUNTER AND FAITH

Chester Cathedral has been built by generations of people expressing their Christian faith through craftsmanship. The cathedral stands in the Benedictine tradition of hospitality and welcome. It continues to be a living and working church where diverse people can gather to worship God and out of which a faithful community seeks to offer loving service to society.

Visitors to Chester Cathedral will find at first sight a magnificent building and an awe-inspiring place filled with beauty. On second glance they may begin to appreciate some greater significance in what they see. The more opportunity people are given to discover the stories of this place at their own pace and in their own way, the more they will find.

The Cathedral is not only filled with things, however. This is a place where people gather and do some journeying in company with one another. It is easy to get lost, or feel lonely in any community. If we are to be a place of encounter then every person who visits will need to feel valued and respected. Furthermore, this is a sacred space in which there is a real sense of the Kingdom of God. Visitors who want it should find space simply to be quiet and think.

The opportunity to discover something new may lead to a first step through the doors. Encountering others who work and gather here and encountering God can follow. For some there may be a further step of faith still to be taken. Through invitation to worship, faithfulness to the Gospel and confident witness to Jesus Christ we need to help those who come to inquire about or explore Christian faith.

Jim Stratford

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford
Dean of Chester

