



THE CHESTER CATHEDRAL STRATEGY: 2025-2030

Cathedrals are prominent places in the spiritual landscape of our country. They stand proudly in the Christian tradition although people of all faiths and none identify with them. The doors of Chester Cathedral are open to everyone, and any who enter are invited on a journey of discovery, encounter (personal and spiritual), and faith that is rooted in rich Christian worship.

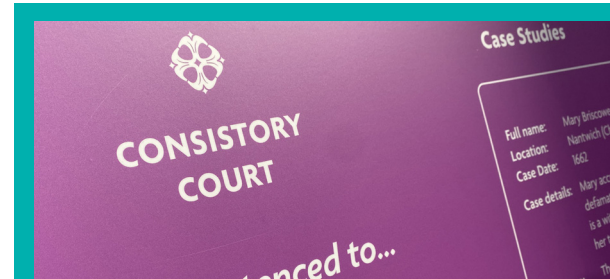
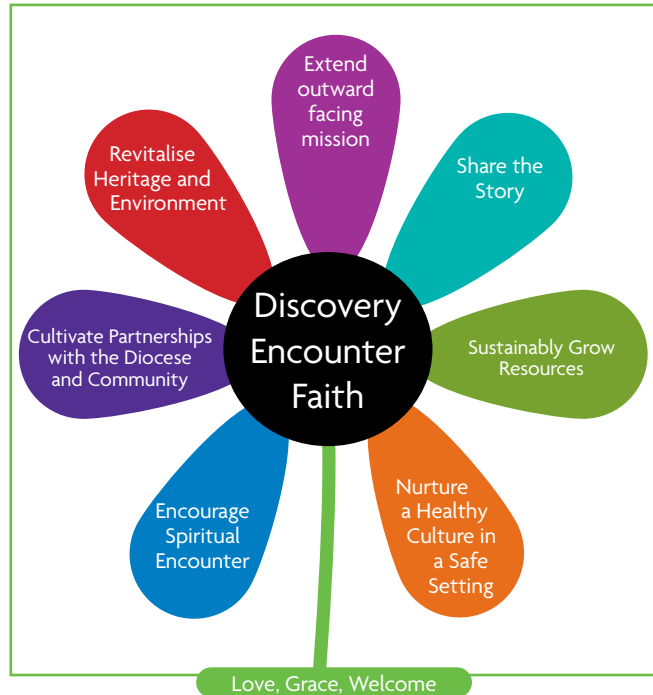
Chester Cathedral holds the seat of the Bishop of Chester and is the mother church of the Diocese of Chester. The diocese is committed to being *Together in Christ, Sharing Hope*. The Cathedral's strategic plan will seek to support this through a ministry of welcome, care, and challenge to the hundreds of thousands who come through the doors each day as well through its teaching and provision of worship to all who come.

Of course, purpose and strategic objectives do not tell the whole story. It is perhaps our values of *Love, Grace and Welcome* that demonstrate our aspiration for the sort of church we might become.

I hope that, in this summary of the strategic plan, every member of the community, staff and volunteer, will see ways in which they can contribute to this work. I hope also that our values provide pointers for how we live together.

Tim Stratford

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford
Dean of Chester



SHARE THE STORY

What we want to do:

Chester Cathedral is a leading attraction in the region, with many stories to tell: the history of the building, those who have lived, worked and worshipped within it, our Christian faith, our historic and modern-day collections. We will interpret and share these stories to encourage personal discovery and encounter; to enable learning for all; to empower us all as we seek to understand our shared pasts and present; and to inspire a new generation with the importance of our Cathedral.



SUSTAINABLY GROW RESOURCES

What we want to do:

The Cathedral is committed to making a positive social impact. Integral to this is a range of successful income generating activities as well as building capacity and skills within the team. We will ensure the highest ethical and environmental standards in all that we do.

DISCOVERY • ENCOUNTER • FAITH
enriching the soul

Discovery

KPI - Footfall and dwell time

Encounter

KPI - Net Promoter Score

Faith

KPI - Worship attendance

Additional KPIs

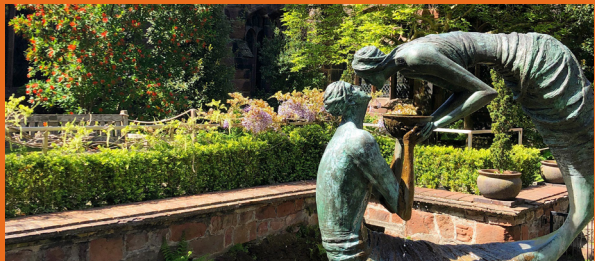
Annual staff/volunteer survey
Financial performance



REVITALISE HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT

What we want to do:

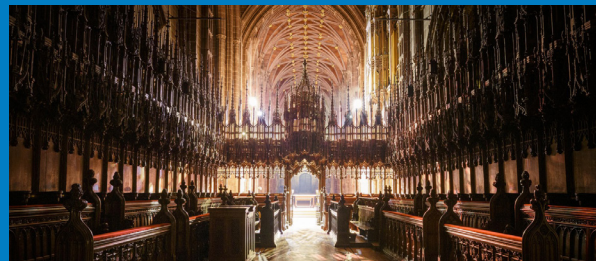
We will use our assets to inspire everyone who engages with Chester Cathedral to think beyond the day to day and to make positive change. This may include the Cathedral's built heritage, stories, music, green spaces, or the example set by caring for its assets and God's creation in the best way possible.



NURTURE A HEALTHY CULTURE IN A SAFE SETTING

What we want to do:

The values of Love, Grace, and Welcome are central to the culture of Chester Cathedral with safeguarding underpinning all that we do. We will embed these values to grow the Cathedral's mission and its life as a flourishing community in a safe environment. We recognise the work and ministry of each member of its large and committed body of staff and volunteers.



ENCOURAGE SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER

What we want to do:

We will enable all those who encounter the Cathedral to take the next step on their spiritual journey or in their discipleship. This may be through worship and music, teaching and learning, reflection, interpretation of the building, or interaction with the sacred space.

Image: Gareth Rainsforth



CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE DIOCESE AND COMMUNITY

What we want to do:

Chester Cathedral is the Mother Church for the Diocese of Chester and seat of the Bishop of Chester. We will share fellowship with the Bishop and provide a warm and supportive environment for diocesan and episcopal ministries. The Cathedral will embrace the diversity of parishes and communities when they gather here and play a significant role in connecting with the City and region.

Image: Kat Hannon / Marketing Cheshire



EXTEND OUTWARD FACING MISSION

What we want to do:

Through a creative and imaginative programme for all, we will seek to inspire and inform in a way that is inclusive and accessible for children, young people and adults. Working closely with partners in the wider community, we offer a distinctive Christian voice in the public square to challenge injustice, bring transformation and strive for the common good.