



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Application Pack

Chester Cathedral - Non-Executive Members of Chester Cathedral Finance and Investment Committee

June 2026





INTRODUCTION FROM THE DEAN OF CHESTER

Thank you for your interest in becoming a non-executive member of our Finance and Investment Committee.

The Cathedral is one year into an exciting and ambitious five-year strategic plan which has already seen us refurbish a former bank building on the corner of St Werburgh Street into a space that can help to deliver our busy programme of events and activities. We are further developing these plans to turn link it more fully with the main historic church buildings, enhancing the route into the Cathedral and increasing the porosity of our site.

Situated in the heart of the historic city of Chester, the Cathedral already provides a vibrant focus for a huge range of stakeholders. The site is a demonstration of craftsmanship through generations of builders and artisans expressing their Christian faith. The Cathedral community has developed in the Benedictine tradition of hospitality and welcome. This 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 and welcome to the whole community.

Our Purpose Statement is “Discovery, Encounter and Faith, enriching the soul”. Visitors to Chester Cathedral 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.

Chester 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 numinous 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 finding 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.

As the mother-church of the Diocese of Chester, the Cathedral is a vibrant hub for Diocesan, Civic, community and children’s services and events. The Cathedral also plays an essential role in the economic wellbeing of the city and region as one of the most important tourist attractions, welcoming up to one million visitors each year.



The Cathedral is governed by the Chapter which includes both executive and non-executive members. The Chapter and leadership team are supported by a number of committees with specific areas of focus, and of these the Finance and Investment Committee carries the largest portfolio.

The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford
Dean of Chester

Non-Executive members of the Finance and Investment Committee

THE ROLE

The Finance and Investment Committee is part of the Cathedral's Governance structure supporting the Chapter in its overall governance responsibility. It comprises a small number of non-executive members from diverse backgrounds and with a range of skills and experience, who are 'critical friends' that support our executive leadership team, and assurance to our non-executive trustees.

The Committee plays a vital role in monitoring and reviewing financial strategies, policies and procedures and making recommendations to the Chapter. The Committee dedicates time to reviewing budgets and financial performance and monitoring the performance of major projects and developments.

The Committee meets roughly every two months for around two hours and we aim to circulate papers at least one week before meetings to provide sufficient time for review in advance.

Following the completion by two members of their maximum term of service, two vacancies have arisen on the committee. Ideally the new members will have professional expertise in one or more relevant disciplines, particularly those marked with an asterisk.

Cathedral governance competencies
Strategic financial review of complex organisations
Church of England culture and church practice, locally, nationally, globally
Charity governance and management
Specific professional expertise
Financial policy review
Audit and financial systems and procedures
Budgeting principles and understanding of organisational impacts
Financial oversight of large projects*
Understanding of financial service market
Understanding of investment principles and markets*
Functional management expertise
Human resource management*
Information technology and data management
Financial management and fundraising*
Commercial property management, particularly heritage property*
Law and relevant legal practices
Managing change, corporate and project
Risk management



CATHEDRAL ORGANISATION & KEY RELATIONSHIPS

The Finance and Investment committee makes regular reports and recommendations to the Chapter (Board of Trustees). The Finance and Investment committee holds a joint meeting once each year with the Audit and Risk committee.

Key relationships

- The Dean, who is the senior executive in the Cathedral and chairs the Chapter
- The Executive Director, who holds the senior lay role at the Cathedral
- The Finance Manager and Finance Assistant attend the regular meetings
- The Head of Commercial Enterprise attends the regular meetings



MEETING INFORMATION

Meetings take place during the working day with dates provided at least six months in advance where possible. Meetings are usually held in-person but remote attendance is possible from time to time. If you are unable to attend more than three consecutive meetings you will be asked about your ability to continue in the role.

Limited parking may be available on site for meetings but is subject to availability and must be booked in advance.

Expenses

Unfortunately, we are not able to cover the cost of travel to the Cathedral for meetings but can cover the cost of any additional travel or expenses as long as they are agreed in advance.

OUR VALUES AND HOW WE WORK

Members of Cathedral committees must conduct themselves in a way that is consonant with the Cathedral's values of Love, Grace and Welcome. They must also be able to demonstrate their ability to work constructively with others who may hold divergent beliefs and opinions. The persons appointed will thus demonstrate their ability to build trust in working relationships through a clear commitment to highpersonal standards of integrity, honesty, responsibility and discretion. Similarly, they will be able to demonstrate their desire and ability to work effectively with others in a team e.g. by showing respect, being open minded, constructive and flexible.

Safeguarding

These appointments will be made in line with Church of England Safer Recruitment processes. You will be asked to register all potential conflicts of interest, provide suitable references and undertake several pieces of training before being accepted for this appointment.

Diversity

Chester Cathedral is a place for everyone and we are always aiming higher, aspiring to welcome and be representative of the community at which we sit at the heart. Through our people we are building a culture which embeds respect, integrity and welcome and an organisation in which people are engaged and empowered to enable the Cathedral to develop and evolve.

Chester Cathedral is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion for all its staff and volunteers. Our full policy can be found on the Cathedral website.



APPLICATIONS

What to do next

Thank you for taking the time to consider joining us in this important role. If you are able to help us, please complete our Committee Member Application form which can be found on the Cathedral website. The closing date for applications is Tuesday 14 July 2026.

If you would like more information about the application process, please send a message by email to carolyn.bruce@chestercathedral.com or contact Carolyn on 01244 500950.

The next step will be a brief chat in-person or online so that you can find out a little more about the Cathedral and the role. We will then arrange a time for you to visit the Cathedral, meet our teams and discuss our financial plans. This is provisionally booked for Wednesday 12 or Thursday 13 August 2026, so please keep those dates free. Capacity for the event will be limited so we may need to shortlist applications if we receive more than we can accommodate.



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chestercathedral.com