



ELY CATHEDRAL

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

Introduction

Ely Cathedral, ‘the Ship of the Fens’ is the most magnificent of buildings. It dominates the surrounding countryside, a witness to the enduring presence of God, and the home of a worshipping Christian community for over 1300 years. There have been ups and downs, declines and falls - spiritually as well as materially, but by the grace of God faith has been kept alive and traditions maintained and renewed. Each generation has proclaimed afresh the good news of God’s reconciling love shown in Jesus Christ, and the desire to proclaim that love remains as strong as ever today.

Cathedrals are places that are experiencing increasing numbers of people coming to them; attendances at major festivals have seen significant increases in recent years; pilgrim, visitor and tourist numbers remain buoyant in a difficult economic climate; television companies knock at our door to make documentaries, film companies find us to be great settings – the appeal is wide.

The most recent research on Cathedrals and their work, *Spiritual Capital (Theos and Grubb Institute 2012)*, speaks of Cathedrals not only being admired for their architectural, historical and aesthetic appeal but also for having a significant impact on, and significance for, the wider community life. *Spiritual Capital* concludes that cathedrals are uniquely placed to reach beyond boundaries, to communicate a sense of the sacred and to enable and sustain a range of connections, connections that extend wide into the local and regional communities and beyond. Cathedrals are recognised and valued as *Christian* institutions - and this in a culture that can be very wary of overt faith claims. The generosity, grace, hospitality and holiness that Cathedrals show in living out the message of Jesus Christ is widely respected and appreciated. In being welcoming and hospitable we should have no fear in being calmly confident in the mission entrusted by God to us.

In *Imagining the Future*, which he wrote just after arriving in the diocese, the Bishop says “so much of what we hope for is not set by structures or a long string of initiatives, but by culture and tone”. Hence I believe that everything we do should be done prayerfully, engagingly, hospitably and joyfully.

The fundamental **Purpose of the Cathedral** is “**To be the seat of the Bishop and a centre for Worship and Mission**” (*Cathedrals Measure 1999 Section 1*), and so Chapter’s work is fed by the Diocesan Vision Statement “**We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ**” and its imperatives **engage, grow** and **deepen**.

We have a tremendous opportunity to ‘make a difference’ to communities and individuals near and far. May God give us the grace to seize these opportunities.

Mark Bonney
Dean

OUR CORE VALUES

Prayerfully, engagingly, hospitably and generously, we aspire to

- Lead by example
- Treat others as we would like to be treated
- Listen to one another and respect each other's views
- Act with honesty, transparency and integrity
- Work together as a team with loyalty and pride
- Encourage individual development and mutual accountability
- Encourage creativity and imagination
- Learn from our mistakes as well as our successes
- Seek excellence in all that we do.

OUR VISION

Chapter has a vision of Ely Cathedral offering outward looking service to the whole community by

- engaging with the City, the county, the Diocese, the region and beyond and responding to the challenges encountered;
- bringing people to faith, making new disciples and growing the congregation and deepening them spiritually;
- offering inspiring and transformative worship, and engaging and challenging preaching and teaching
- offering a warm welcome and generous hospitality .

We would like everyone who engages with Ely Cathedral to say **“Ely Cathedral makes a difference”**.

To achieve this vision there are some **key priorities** that emerge from our Mission Statement:

- **Worship** *Growing and deepening of the congregation and the enhancement of worship*
- **Outreach** *Better facilities for meeting and engaging with groups across the community, particularly in the areas of education and young people*
- **Welcome** *Improvement of our welcome and hospitality, including issues around access*
- **Care** *Ongoing maintenance of the fabric and the enhancement of the environment,*
- *The financial sustainability to undergird these priorities*

These key priorities are contained within the broader **Strategic Plan** below

A prayer for the strategic work here and throughout the Diocese

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past.

We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.

Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety:

give us grace to let go of all that holds us back

and grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

We have identifiable and measurable objectives alongside each of these elements that are reviewed regularly.

WORSHIP

because we believe that we are called to deepen our commitment to God through word, worship and prayer we will

Enhance and promote the daily offering of prayer and worship, inspired by the spirituality of the Benedictine Tradition; and for the Cathedral to be a centre of liturgical, musical and choral excellence

Seek to grow and develop the regular worshipping congregation

Develop the Cathedral's role as a place of worship and celebration regionally and nationally

Explore innovative styles of worship whilst sustaining the centuries-old Cathedral Choral tradition,

Support the Bishop in his ministry and develop links with the wider Diocese

Enable Pilgrimage, to grow and flourish in a tradition that goes back to Etheldreda

OUTREACH

because we follow a God who reaches out to all and are called to engage fully and courageously with the needs of our communities, locally and globally, we will

Nurture a confident people of God

Provide opportunities for discovery, learning and education

Raise awareness of and be involved in issues of social justice

Have a prophetic engagement with the wider world

Develop Cathedral and Diocesan partnerships at home and overseas

WELCOME

In gratitude for the welcome God gives to all of us we will,

Be a place of sanctuary and peace in a busy world

Welcome and engage with people of all ages and backgrounds, all faiths and none

Improve and enhance the visitor experience

Seek to increase non-worshipper visitor numbers

Promote the Cathedral as a venue for concerts and other activities

CARE

because we believe in the God-given value of all creation we will

Provide pastoral care for the Cathedral community

Develop care for the vulnerable and those in need

Maintain and enhance the fabric of the Cathedral recognizing its international significance

Share resources with the Diocese and its parishes to promote co-operation and operating efficiencies

Value staff and volunteers and help them to achieve their full potential

Maintain healthy and robust relationships with key partners

Be good stewards of the environment

Exercise good, sustainable financial stewardship and develop focussed fundraising
