



ELY CATHEDRAL

OUR VISION

It is a huge privilege and responsibility, and a great excitement and joy, to be part of a worshipping Christian community whose history on this site goes back to AD673. During those 1,340 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 the traditions maintained and renewed. Each generation has sought to proclaim afresh the good news of God's reconciling love shown in the face of Jesus Christ, and that desire remains as strong as ever today.

Cathedrals are experiencing increasing numbers of people coming to them; attendances at major festivals in particular have seen significant increases in recent years; pilgrim, visitor and tourist numbers remain buoyant in a climate that has seen many places experience a severe decline in such numbers; television companies want to make documentaries here in Ely, and film companies find us to be great a setting – the appeal is wide. And we rejoice at this.

In the latest report on Cathedrals the chairman of the working party says "These amazing places incorporate everything the Church of England aspires to be in its best moments...people on the edge of faith experience them as safe places to explore Christianity; they have become a focus for enquiry and activity in the public square...a crucial source of 'bridging' social capital at a time when darker forces threaten to fracture the social landscape."

The Rt Revd John Inge, (formerly a Residentiary Canon of Ely and now Bishop of Worcester), the lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings said in response to the latest statistics on cathedrals, "behind these figures lie stories of worship, learning, exploring faith and spirituality and encountering God at times of joy and despair. Through new forms of worship, bringing people of all faiths and none together, and serving the young and old alike, these amazing places continue to be at the heart of national life." Here at Ely we are excited to be part of this story.

Chapter has a vision of Ely Cathedral as an outward looking community serving the City, the Diocese and the region. Very particularly Chapter seeks to **grow** the numbers, and **deepen** the spiritual experience, of all with whom the Cathedral **engages**, with a very particular aim to develop and grow the regular worshipping congregation.

We would like find everyone who engages with Ely Cathedral saying "**Ely Cathedral makes a difference**".

Chapter strongly aligns itself with the Diocesan Vision statement "**We pray to be generous and visible people of Jesus Christ**" and its critical imperatives **engage, grow** and **deepen**.

In *Imagining the Future* 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.

It is an exciting time to be in Cathedrals sharing in God's mission as her we joyfully proclaim the love of God in worship, outreach welcome and care.

Mark Bonney
Dean

OUR CORE PURPOSE

The fundamental **Purpose of the Cathedral** is **“To be the seat of the Bishop and a centre for Worship and Mission”** (*Cathedrals Measure 1999*). What this means is helpfully described by Professor Simon Oliver in an essay published in *Holy Ground* (Durham 2017) where he says;

The Cathedral, in being first and foremost the seat of the Bishop, shares in the ministry of gathering and unifying the Church in a visible fashion. The Cathedral is the place where the Bishop oversees and teaches – it is the platform from which the Bishop can address God’s people and minister to their needs.

*The Cathedral is a focus of mission not in the sense that it has the biggest congregation...or to show all the parishes how it ought to be done...but in the sense that it is the place where the Bishop gathers, ordains, baptises, confirms, hears the renewal of ordination vows, commissions and teaches to **send out** labourers into the harvest. In that sense it is the **fount** of mission.*

OUR MISSION

To be a Christian community

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

OUR CORE VALUES

Prayerfully, engagingly, hospitably and generously, we aspire to

- Lead by example
- Treat others as we would like to be treated
- Encourage creativity and imagination
- Learn from our mistakes as well as our successes
- 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
- Seek excellence in all that we do.

A prayer for the strategic work at the Cathedral 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.

KEY FOCUS OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2023

Chapter has recently revisited the Strategic Plan that it first produced in 2012-13. It now has as its primary strategic goal

To **grow** the numbers, and **deepen** the spiritual experience, of all with whom the Cathedral **engages**, with an immediate aim to develop and grow the regular worshipping congregation.

Specific objectives in working towards this goal in the areas of the Mission statement are set out below.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES TO ACHIEVE THE PRIMARY GOAL			
<i>Worship</i>	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>Care</i>	<i>Welcome</i>
Growing the worshipping congregations numerically by 5% year on year for next five years	To grow out from already established programme	Capital Development opportunities – identity and plan.	Increase visitor numbers
Develop term-length programmes co-ordinating preaching/teaching/ worship	To widen intentionally the engagement with more diverse groups and demographics	Motivation and retention of staff – staff volunteer survey.	Diversity of visitors to better reflect the local demographic
Growing the number of people who come to/access the Cathedral for prayer and spiritual growth	To improve communication between outreach activities and the life of worshipping community	Formulate a stewardship programme – Environmental Plan	Improve impact of visit
	To strengthen diocesan, community, and civic relationships	Adequate care of Cathedral, Fabric and Estate	Increase repeat visits (real and virtual) by X%

A Strategic Mission Group has been set up in order to co-ordinate the Mission activities across the Cathedral.

These of course are not the only activities that take place at the Cathedral. There is a considerable amount of important work that is undertaken quietly and undramatically, not least (and very importantly) in the area of pastoral care, and all this will carry on and must carry on. In this document we are simply summarizing the underlying strategic focus for the next five years.