



ELY CATHEDRAL

The Liturgical Plan: on-going challenges and practical propositions

Busyness and the heart of the matter. There is a tension between activity and worshipful space. We seek to make the Cathedral as open and welcoming as possible to all the many groups that wish to be part of it, especially education and schools visits, but always aware that we must not miss the point of the building in all the busy-ness. We also need constantly to monitor the load we lay on the Operations Department and other staff in resourcing this work.

Range of liturgical expression. We aspire to continue to broaden the worship we offer to include more reflective acts of worship like Space@6:30 using the music of Iona, Taizé, and Jazz Vespers. We wish to develop further the offering of worship which will reflect the variety within the diocese and to continue to work with those who have expertise in this area.

Liturgies for local, regional and national occasions. We will continue to develop liturgies that match the celebrations and sorrows of individuals and our society, both planned and as reactions to sudden events. In the forthcoming years we are to work more closely with the Cambridgeshire Regiment Association and in conjunction with themed events supported by funders like the Heritage Lottery Fund to mark the centenary of the First World War.

The role of children in our liturgy remains a continuing challenge. We need to revisit it. We hope that the increasing popularity of activities like holiday 'drop-ins' can have cross over into drawing children and their families into worship.

Resourcing our music. We face the financial challenge of the cost of providing choral music whilst recognizing its centrally important role in the life of the Cathedral.

Healing the scar of the fallen North West Transept. Our strong aspiration is to pursue the interrelated conversations from the Master Plan, Landscape plan and Liturgical plan to make the Cathedral a more welcoming place for all its activities by reconfiguring the educational and commercial activity within the



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Cathedral building in an appropriate building on the site of the NW Transept in a project that will also open the North Triforium to much more convenient and broader use. A link at Triforium level between South and North would have compelling possibilities for singing or other liturgical activity.

Heating the building better in cold weather needs to be part of our strategy of making the Cathedral welcoming and accessible for worship. Aside from the practicalities of mitigating heat loss, we have not lost sight of the possibilities of glazing at the West End which could make the building a more welcoming prospect for those arriving there.

Lighting and sound – both these systems are critical to proper involvement in worship and both have systems which will require serious attention in forthcoming years.

The possibilities of much more sophisticated sound systems and of more flexible lighting could enormously enhance the experience of events like the *Son et Lumières* and dramatic movement during services like the Advent Procession. For example, more advanced lighting in the Choir could make the fine medieval and Victorian carvings much more visible and able to be enjoyed.

A stand-alone sound system that can be easily re-located by the vergers for use throughout the Cathedral and that can cope with both spoken word and support music, live and recorded is regarded as essential by, for example, the organizers of Space@6:30.

Again, imaginative lighting which would allow us to light services and concerts (especially in the Octagon and Lady Chapel) with more than varying degrees of white light (from Space@6:30 the Jazz services really needed appropriate “mood” lighting but that effect was simply not achievable.

Order and beauty and our sacred place. We wish to revivify the Octagon furnishings so they better reflect the space in which they are set. In this regard, there are opportunities for thinking through the needs of staging and visibility



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with maximum ease of removal and replacement for concerts and other events and flexibility of seating.

Increase in movement during Sunday and other Cathedral services. We wish to act on the aspirations to reinhabit some of the 'unexplored' spaces of the Church and College liturgically by developing our processional liturgies.

St Dunstan's and St Ethelwold's Chapel. We recognise the challenge of noise in the Cathedral during the day and seek to provide better for silent undisturbed prayer, perhaps by glazing this Chapel.

Font project. This is under further review, especially in conjunction with the draft Cathedral Master Plan but remains our aspiration.

St Catherine's Chapel. Further to explore the removal of altar and plinth and the re-ordering of the Chapel to make it appropriate for designation as a children's Chapel and for more intimate acts of worship than currently possible.

Clearing the transepts and removing as many visual impediments to liturgical and aesthetic appreciation of the Cathedral is a continuing challenge.