

# St Edmundsbury Cathedral



## Annual Review 2022

# 2021 Overview from The Dean



2021: a year of slow and patient rebuilding, of many false starts and delayed re-openings, as the virus receded and then re-appeared. Here at the Cathedral, we negotiated the ebb and flow, always eager to restart our core purposes: worship, welcome, hospitality, learning and care.

In person worship returned slowly, led by government guidance and best practice. Pilgrims' Kitchen and then the shop reopened, open doors once more welcomed visitors, a trickle at first, but now in numbers approaching pre-pandemic levels. Eventually our events programme restarted: a Beer Festival, Christmas Market, concerts, summer exhibitions. By September, it felt possible to say, without fingers crossed, that normality seemed to be returning.

But is 'normality' the right word? It started to become clear to us throughout 2021 that how we responded to the challenges placed by that hackneyed phrase 'the new normal' could, with imagination and trust, lead to a gently transformative process by which we create space for something new, for possibilities which maximise all in the Cathedral life, which is already hopeful, inclusive, and welcoming. How might the space made by the enforced gaps of COVID be made gracious so that emptiness can be filled by renewal?

Potential responses to these questions, inspired by the elements of the vision outlined in our Masterplan: faith, welcome, compassion, confidence, have led Chapter, staff, volunteers, and Cathedral community to 'dream dreams and see visions'. I am daily inspired by a dedicated, excited and committed staff team who always want to do more, tend to work beyond their capacity and remain excited by the potential of this physical, human, spiritual community to be both sanctuary and springboard for all who come to us.

Dean Joe.

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# Worship

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the heartbeat of worship continued in 2021.

We developed a Vision for Young Worshipers, to support children and young people. We also saw the introduction of an innovative Sunday All-Age Eucharist, with a special focus on children and families.

The Cathedral hosted numerous special services for the County, community, and diocese, including Ordinations, the Centenary of the Royal British Legion, HM Courts of Justice Service, Prisons' Week, together with services for a significant number of voluntary and public sector organisations throughout the County.

Chapter invested resources in upgrading our equipment and IT support in 2021 which gave a greatly enhanced standard of livestreaming. By continuing to offer online as well as in-person services, we support those still sheltering and widen our congregation outside of the town.

The music of the Cathedral is not only central to our worship and the spiritual life of the County, but also contributes to the part we play in Suffolk's cultural life. We welcomed Timothy Parsons as our new Director of Music in 2021 and he has brought tangible, positive energy and a new direction for us.

The most significant development was the creation of the set of Girl Choristers, who now share singing duties with the Boys on an entirely equal footing. This brings the Cathedral into line with most other cathedrals up and down the country in terms of inclusivity and equality of opportunity.

Recruitment of boy and girl choristers, a renewed sense of focus amongst our adult singers, the revival of the Youth Choir and the restarting of concerts and recitals all contributed to a sense of recovery and return.

The important work of the Cathedral's InHarmony Music Outreach Project has continued. The project makes the essential connections between the Cathedral and wider Diocese, supporting those churches requesting help liturgically and musically. Of the many workshops and events in 2021, the Climate Sunday worship and the moving Advent Journey were real highlights.



# Mission

The easing of lockdowns saw the return of the regular activity of the Pastoral Support Team, including home visiting, the First Tuesday Lunch Club and monthly Communion Services in residential homes we support. We were also able to hold the annual Remembering Together service in September for those who have suffered a child bereavement.

School visits started again, and half-term activities were well attended. Increasing engagement with local schools was a priority for 2021-22, with clergy and staff supporting St Edmundsbury Primary and King Edward VI schools through times of significant change and our musicians recruiting choristers and running music workshops.



We worked with schools on the creation of banners to hang in the Cathedral in May. Using waste material in the colours of Pentecost, 11 banners hung on the pillars down the Nave. These banners, together with origami doves made by the team and suspended over the Altar, provided a wonderful backdrop to our celebrations that weekend.

An Inclusive Cathedral project “One in Christ Jesus” began in 2021 as we started to implement racial justice recommendations at the Cathedral. We pursue these issues because we aim to welcome and treat all people fairly, irrespective of age, disability, gender, partnership, pregnancy, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation.



We welcomed Claire Cachelin as the new Learning Manager and The Learning Hub launched a series of exciting projects, including the Stepping into Lent project and ‘Radical Faith – Inspiring Lives for Challenging Times’ online talks. In the summer, we hosted the inaugural Bishops’ School of Theology led by Bishop Mike Harrison over three days in July. We also saw the launch of the Hundleby Yard project to support vulnerable young people in the community.



We continued to recruit Honorary, Lay and Ecumenical Canons to help deepen our links with our parishes and community. Our Canons participate in worship, advise the Bishop and Cathedral, speak, write, and help us address key areas of development. In areas as diverse as financial generosity, racial justice, whistleblowing, education, charity governance, commerce, and the arts, we have a College of Canons whose roles are a real and increasing benefit to Cathedral and Diocese.

# Hospitality

By the end of 2021 visitor numbers were just over 41,000 despite a cautious return to visiting due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. By September we were welcoming more visitors than we had been in the equivalent month in 2019.

Guided Tours and Tower Tours returned and we introduced new, private tours of the Ancient Library and Treasury, giving visitors a personal tour and exploration of these treasures, not usually open to the public. Our dedicated team of volunteers allowed us to reopen with confidence.



Visitors enjoyed exhibitions; the 'East Anglian Artists' and 'Tear and Repair', and 'Cathedrals at Night' to mark St Edmund's Day. There has been a marked increase in visitors using the contactless donations boxes, for general donations and for donations to the LEGO model which is nearing the halfway stage of the build.

The Cathedral is part of The Abbey 1000 Group who, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and sponsorship from local companies, are holding a variety of events to celebrate the founding of the Abbey of St Edmund by King Cnut in 1020. The pandemic meant the postponement into 2022 of the wide range of events, but this year saw our planning begin again for pilgrimages, Abiding Wisdom, the Secrets of the Abbey: History Returns exhibition and more.



We hosted the CAMRA East Anglian Beer Festival in summer 2021 which was a roaring success and we'll be welcoming them back in 2022. We also hosted the County Harvest Festival celebrations and the very successful Christmas Market where local stallholders from around the region showcased their products. Christmas also brought us the brilliant Jethro Tull, led by jazz flutist Ian Anderson. We also welcomed the excellent G4 towards the end of December.



Pilgrims' Kitchen reopened in April following a three-month lockdown. The post-COVID operation meant a reduction in tables inside the restaurant from 20 to just eight. Although it has been another difficult year, PK continued to expand its customer base with many new customers becoming regular visitors. PK hosted its largest ever Nave event this year, serving a three-course dinner for 230 people.

# Sustainability

By embracing the Eco Church Initiative and building on our bronze award, the Cathedral was awarded a Silver A Rocha Eco Church Award this year. This amazing achievement supports Chapter's plan for reducing our emissions to become net-zero by 2030.

We welcomed new staff members to contribute towards moving the Cathedral forward in our goals set out in the Master Plan. A new Director of Music, Learning Manager, Philanthropy and Membership Manager, Marketing Manager and Maintenance Verger all joined the team in 2021.



As one of the lead partners in The Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership, we help bring together local and regional organisations to care for the Abbey and explain its heritage. The partnership develops projects and prepares fundraising to achieve these. In 2021 we collaborated with English Heritage to prepare a series of new interpretation panels, which will be installed in the Abbey Gardens in 2022

Our goal for Patrons this year was to retain existing Patrons, something we achieved with all 75 choosing to renew despite restrictions set by the pandemic. 2021 saw plans put in motion to launch an exciting major fundraising campaign 'The New Chairs Appeal' which will see the Nave transformed with 600 chairs to replace the pews, making a more inclusive and flexible space.



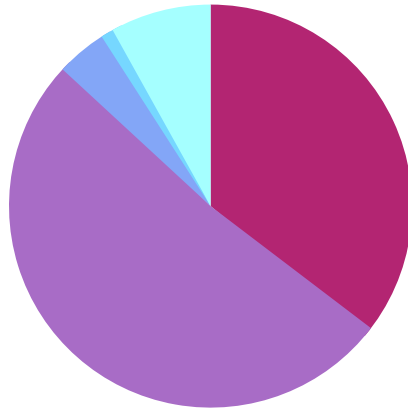
Planned Giving held up well despite lockdowns and the inevitable passing of some of our members. We have a total of 70 members giving in this way, 19 weekly envelope givers and 77 monthly standing order donators.

The Cathedral Community contributions from the congregation, Planned Giving and the Patrons programme provided £178k. Gift Aid tax recovered on voluntary donations provided £20k. This income is greatly appreciated and is used to support our charitable mission and provide enhanced benefits for visitors and generations to come.



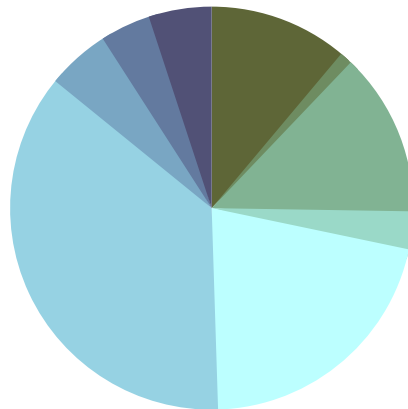
We also received funding from the Government Kickstart scheme, which allowed us to complete a much-needed archiving project. A grant of £10k from the Cathedral Music Trust supported chorister recruitment and tuition. The Allchurches Trust supported the Cathedral with a £25k grant enabling us to continue making positive differences to our communities.

# Finances 2020



## Income 2020

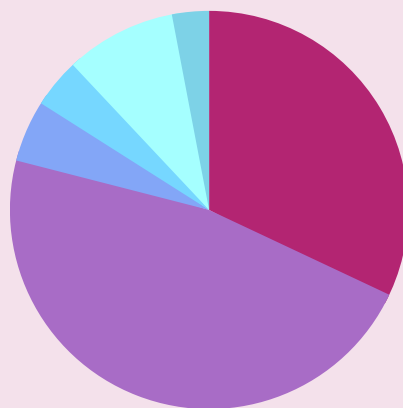
Church Commissioners	35%
Cathedral Community	51%
Visitors	4%
Events	0%
Lego	1%
Commercial Property	8%
Enterprises	N/A



## Expenditure 2020

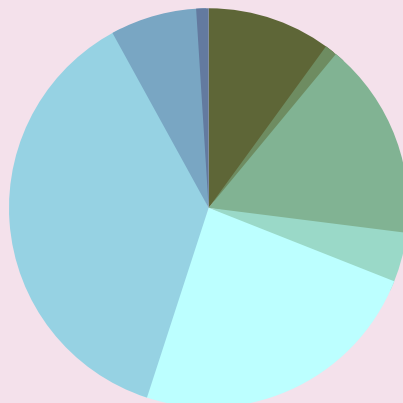
Vergers	11%
Clergy & Liturgy	1%
Music	13%
Discovery Centre	3%
Cathedral Property	21%
Administration	36%
Visitor	5%
Events	4%
Enterprises	5%

# Finances 2021



## Income 2021

Church Commissioners	32%
Cathedral Community	47%
Visitors	5%
Events	4%
Lego	0%
Commercial Property	9%
Enterprises	3%



## Expenditure 2021

Vergers	10%
Clergy & Liturgy	1%
Music	16%
Discovery Centre	4%
Cathedral Property	24%
Administration	37%
Visitor	7%
Events	1%
Enterprises	0%

These pie charts are included for information purposes only. They are not a definitive picture of how various strands of work are performing financially. Copies of St Edmundsbury Cathedral's statutory annual report and audited accounts are available on request from the Cathedral.



# 2021 in pictures



St Edmundsbury  
Cathedral



[stedscathedral.org](http://stedscathedral.org)