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HERE WITH YOU

2024 was a year of bold steps towards becoming a Cathedral for the city, not just in the city, as we extended our welcome further than ever before. Our first full year operating as a registered charity marked a milestone that strengthened our commitment to serving Bristol with openness, generosity, creativity, and courage.

This new year has focused our efforts to nurture faith, support our community, and broaden our reach across the city and diocese. Throughout the year, we delivered a vibrant programme of worship and events, designed to reflect the stories, and needs of the people we serve.

Among the highlights was the installation of Gaia, not just an engaging public artwork, but the centrepiece of a month-long festival of events. Through music, talks, creative events, and worship, we welcomed thousands of visitors, many for the first time. Gaia became a powerful example of how creativity, community, and faith can come together with a strong social message about care for our planet and each other.

We continued to be a gathering place for Bristol's most significant civic moments, hosting memorials, celebrations, and public acts of remembrance. Our core worship and music programme remained at the heart of Cathedral life, with growing attendance, especially at Easter and Christmas services.

Alongside daily worship, visiting and events, we managed several simultaneous fabric and access projects designed to improve welcome and access, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to providing welcome to all. Funding for capital projects has primarily come from grants and trusts, while we continue to face challenges in raising funds for every day running costs.

The unveiling of the John Daniel memorial plaque attracted over 200 people and continued to spark important conversations about racial justice and reconciliation, dialogues we are committed to continuing within the Cathedral and Diocese.

Behind these achievements stands our small but determined team, whose resilience and dedication have been tested by an exceptionally busy and demanding year. Our community of volunteers have played a crucial role, generously offering their time, skills, and kindness. Alongside generous donations from individuals and supporters, including members of our new patron scheme, they have enabled us to serve Bristol more widely and creatively. This hard work has strengthened the Cathedral's reputation and presence in the city.

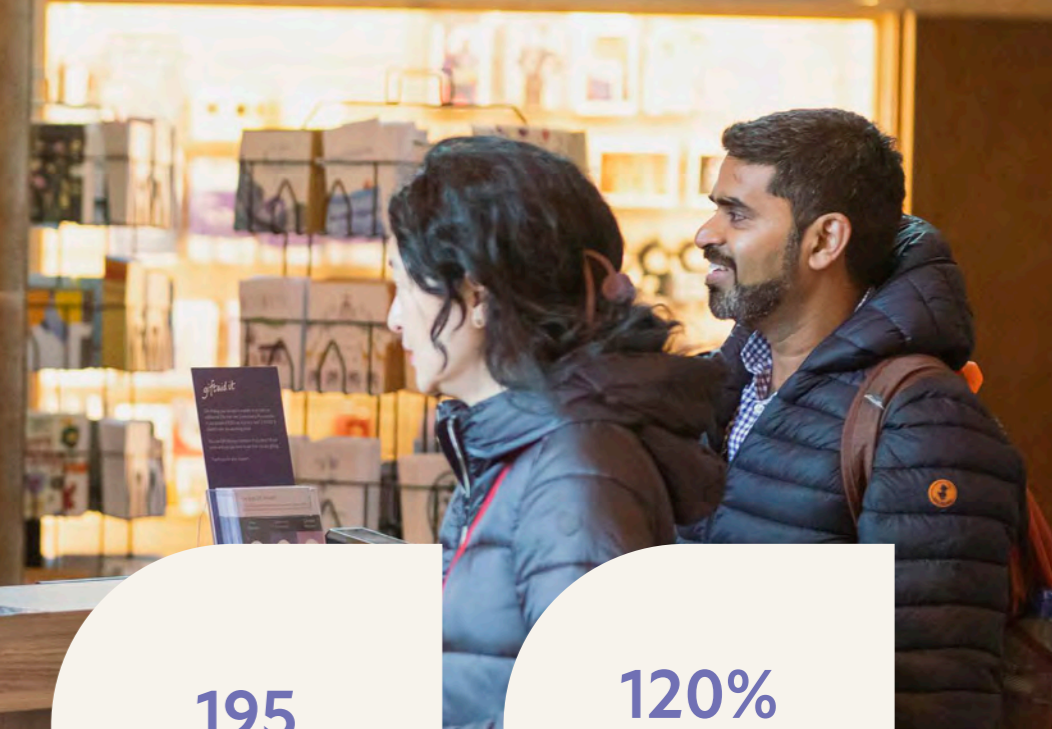
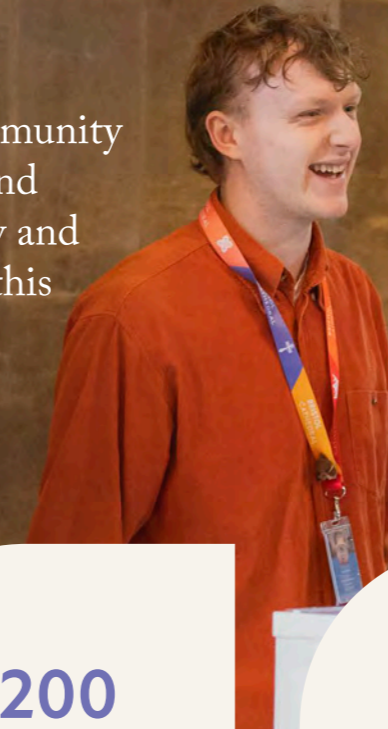
Mandy

“Bristol Cathedral is a place where I can be myself and not feel judged”

Server, aged 13

“The Cathedral community is supportive, kind and thoughtful, it is a joy and nourishing to be in this inspiring building”

Member of the congregation



250,000+
visitors in 2024

1,200
events &
services held

83,200
candles lit

195
active volunteers

120%
growth in
newsletter subscribers

WHAT'S NEXT?

As we look ahead, we will strive to build on these achievements in ways that are sustainable and lasting. We remain committed to offering a place of peace and faith, spreading God's love, and living out his teachings to help, love, and care for all our neighbours. We invite everyone in, whether familiar or new, to join us on this journey of faith, service, and transformation.

Bristol Cathedral is here with *you*. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.





**172 adults,
33 children**

average Sunday
services attendance



WORSHIP & COMMUNITY

Worship shapes everything we do at Bristol Cathedral and remains the anchor of our community life. In 2024, thousands of people joined us for regular services, special liturgies, and civic occasions. Worship continues to be a powerful catalyst of connection and social impact in Bristol.

This year, we marked important transitions in ministry, saying farewell to Canon Nicola Stanley and The Revd Kathryn Goldsmith, while welcoming The Revd Mel Takáč as Minor Canon for Worship and Liturgy. Mel supports the worship by coordinating services and music, and caring for our Choir and chorister families. We were also delighted to appoint Canon Neil Patterson as Vice Dean, with overall responsibility for pastoral care, leading support for baptisms, weddings, and funerals, and helping newcomers find their place within our community.

We accompanied individuals and families through life's key moments, offering care, celebration, and remembrance. A particularly memorable occasion was the wedding of serving Lord Mayor Cllr Paul Goggins in the Lord Mayor's Chapel, the first wedding there in over thirteen years and the first for a sitting Lord Mayor.

A newly formed Community Group became a meaningful forum for congregation members to contribute to the Cathedral's vision, strengthening relationships and creating opportunities for shared leadership.

We enriched our worship festivals by welcoming voices from academia and the Church of England, reaching many beyond our regular congregation. Holy Week, led by Canon Paula Gooder, Lent Quiet Days, led by Revd Ally Barrett, and the Advent Study Day, led by former Archbishop of Canterbury The Rt Revd Dr Rowan Williams, attracted wide engagement.

Christmas services welcomed over 2,000 attendees. Redesigned Toddler Carols, led by The Revd Mel Takáč, ran three times to reduce overcrowding and improve the family experience. Two new seasonal initiatives helped us reach wider audiences: Blue Christmas provided a gentle, reflective space for those struggling at Christmas, while Beer and Carols (a lively outdoor collaboration with St Nick's Church) brought over 800 people together on College Green for a joyful singing of carols and Christmas classics.

“Bristol Cathedral is a sacred space which gives me communion, community and challenge”

Cathedral Welcomer

Toddlers' Carols. Dec 2024



2,000+

people attended
Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day services

1,248

worship
services held

95

individuals on the
community roll

2,000+

kilometres walked
by vergers

WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2025, we will deepen our commitment to nurturing a diverse and engaged worship community. We plan to expand opportunities for lay leadership and broaden the role of the Community Group in shaping Cathedral life. We will continue to develop inclusive worship that welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds.

Pastoral care remains a priority, with enhanced support for those marking life milestones and facing challenges. Our goal is to ensure that worship at Bristol Cathedral remains a vibrant place of faith, connection, and transformation for all who enter our doors.



VOLUNTEERING IN 2024

Volunteers play a vital role in sustaining Bristol Cathedral's mission and daily operations. Their commitment directly supports visitor engagement, heritage preservation, community outreach, and worship services, ensuring the Cathedral remains a vibrant and welcoming place for all.

In 2024, volunteers have maintained the Cathedral's beautiful gardens, restored treasured heritage pieces, supported hundreds of events and services, led engaging tours, and provided assistance through outreach programs. Their combined efforts have enabled thousands of visitors and worshippers to experience the Cathedral fully and meaningfully.

We sincerely appreciate every hour given and every talent shared. Together, they exemplify Christian values of service, kindness, and hospitality, helping to build a welcoming community and care for the Cathedral's mission.

In March, we welcomed Roopindera Kaur as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Her focus has been to improve support and create a warm, welcoming experience for those who give their time. Regular socials have quickly become a joyful part of our calendar, bringing volunteers together to connect, relax, and celebrate their contributions.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR VOLUNTEERING?

Looking ahead, we plan to grow our volunteer team with new roles and increase work experience placements. We will continue improving training and support and foster greater collaboration across projects to strengthen community bonds and increase the impact of our volunteer programme.

“I was referred to the Cathedral by my employment specialist. Roopindera took time to discuss volunteering options and find a role that fit my availability. Gardening was a perfect fit, working outdoors with a friendly team. Volunteering has given me confidence, improved my mental health, and taught me new skills.”

Cathedral Volunteer



There's a range of ways to get involved in the life of your Cathedral. Find out more.



750+

given by volunteers in our finance team

1,700+

hours dedicated by heritage and sewing teams to preserve and restore our historic textiles



2,700+

hours contibuted by Welcomers creating a warm welcome for visitors

100+

events for children and young people, supported by our Education Volunteers

1,000+

hours of ringing by our volunteer Bell Ringers for worship and special events.

250+

services supported by the Cathedral's Liturgical Volunteers



580+

hours devoted by Holy Dusters to keep the Cathedral bright and shiny

840+

hours worked by Gardeners to maintain the Cathedral's grounds and gardens





MUSIC

This has been an exceptional year for music at Bristol Cathedral. The Cathedral Choir has offered a consistently high standard of music in daily worship, with several standout moments. Carols by Candlelight was one of the best, sung across two sold out nights to audiences and met with heartfelt appreciation.

Support from the Bristol Cathedral Choral Foundation (Charity No. 270372) remains essential in sustaining our choral tradition. We are grateful for grant funding that supports key music roles and enables this ministry to thrive.

Chorister and choral scholar recruitment remains strong. All chorister places were filled for another year, with talented candidates coming forward and a notable number of sibling entrants. The Choral Scholars are a committed and professional team; we were especially pleased to secure a local placement for one scholar studying medicine at the University of Bristol.

The Choir's tour to Germany was a major highlight, with concerts in the Marktkirche and Christukirche in Hanover, and further performances in Quedlinburg, Dingelstedt Monastery, and Braunschweig.

The group was warmly welcomed, enjoyed civic hospitality and presented well-received programmes of English choral music.

Large-scale musical works throughout the year included the *St John Passion* on Good Friday, and performances of pieces by Sir James MacMillan, Iain Farrington, Alison Willis, and Kerensa Briggs. The choir also premiered *O Children of Earth* by Richard Barnard during the *Gaia* preview evening, creating a powerful moment that unified art and worship.

Visiting choirs played an important role during choir recesses. We welcomed 20 groups, including parish, school, and international choirs from as far as Norfolk, Virginia.

“Singing about God made me realise that music is more than just random notes: it can have a much deeper meaning”

Year 6 probationer



240

choral services held

33

lunchtime recitals performed

41

Choristers

17

Consort members

6

Lay Clerks

4

Choral Scholars

WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2025, we will begin *Songbirds*, a project inviting over 40 children in Years 3 and 4 to take part in singing sessions led by Music Assistant, William Forrest and The Revd Mel Takáč. This initiative introduces younger children to the joy of sacred music in an engaging and welcoming way, helping them build confidence and musical skills within the Cathedral setting.

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks by Howells

most performed piece of music



Choir Tour. Jul 2024

THE ORGAN PROJECT

The Cathedral's much-loved organ spent 2024 being carefully restored at the Harrison & Harrison workshop in Durham. After a careful dismantling process early in the year, the team began its intricate restoration, rebuilding and revoicing thousands of pipes and components. Within the Cathedral, a vibrant exhibition brought this transformation to life for thousands of visitors, with interactive displays, talks, live demonstrations, and the voices of young choir members reflecting on the organ's role in worship, music, and heritage.

This once-in-a-generation project has only been possible thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our funders and community.

A lead grant from the Harry Crook Foundation launched the appeal, and donations from The Nisbet Trust, Bristol Cathedral Trust and many individuals helped us reach our £2.2million fundraising target.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The organ's rededication service is planned for Sunday 21 September 2025, marking the start of a year-long celebration of its return. A diverse programme of concerts, talks, and community events will follow, welcoming organ enthusiasts, music lovers, and new audiences to experience Bristol Cathedral's historic organ in new ways.



Scan the QR code to watch the Organ Project video.

1685

is the year the organ was built

£1.6 million

lead gift from
The Harry Crook Foundation

3,838

pipes refurbished

50+

contractors at work

12 months

of work at
Harrison & Harrison's
Durham workshop

9.7 metres

length of the
largest pipe

10cm

length of the
smallest pipe





CONSERVATION & ACCESS

2024 was a year of improvements to the fabric across many areas of the Cathedral, focused on improving access, conserving heritage and safeguarding the building's future.

Significant projects included the restoration and levelling of the Seafarers' Chapel floor, the installation of a state of the art sound system, and the reopening of a fully refurbished café in partnership with Pinkmans. These improvements have created lasting benefits for worshippers, visitors, and the wider community.

These achievements were made possible thanks to the generosity of our funders, specialist contractors, and the dedicated coordination of the Cathedral's Clerk of Works, Christopher Jones. We are sincerely grateful to the Headley Trust and the Benefact Trust Development Grant for their vital support with the Seafarers' Chapel restoration, which has both preserved this historic space and enhanced its accessibility.

The Seafarers' Chapel floor restoration was carefully timed alongside the organ renovation, allowing us to complete this dusty work before the organ's reassembly and tuning. Cliveden Conservation led a "conservation in action" event during the project, engaging visitors in hands-on stone carving and site tours, enriching public engagement in heritage preservation.



To improve worship and events, Bristol-based sound specialists Enlightened installed a new sound system and hearing loops, ensuring our worshippers and visitors are able to hear our services and events throughout the Grade I listed building. This complex upgrade brought 21st-century technology seamlessly into the historic fabric of the Cathedral.

Thanks to a major refurbishment, the Café now has level access and increased capacity, enhancing the hospitality we can offer. Generous grant from the Friends of Bristol Cathedral, the Bristol Cathedral Trust and The Basil Brown Charitable Trust alongside individual givers kick-started this project, and supporters' names are proudly displayed on the café windows.

SUSTAINABILITY

As we conserve the Cathedral's fabric, we are equally committed to protecting the planet. We proudly achieved the Eco Church Silver Award in 2024 and anticipate reaching the Gold Award in 2025. Bristol Cathedral is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, in line with the Church of England's national target. A detailed report by sustainability specialists Ingleton Wood, funded by the Church Commissioners, identified key opportunities to cut emissions, including connecting to Bristol's heat network and installing photovoltaic solar panels. These findings will form the basis of a sustainability roadmap to be presented to Chapter in 2025, ensuring environmental responsibility is embedded in every future project.



10,000 +
hours of conservation and maintenance works complete

40
Café project supporters (37 individuals and 3 funders) supported the Café refurbishment

4
Cloister windows repaired

7
monuments requiring urgent repair successfully conserved

WHAT'S NEXT?

We were delighted to receive a generous £475,000 pledge from the Julia Rausing Trust in December 2024 towards our Access for All project that will create step-free access to the Nave, Cloister, Chapter House, cafe and toilets for the first time in our history. This transformative and ambitious project will help to ensure that Bristol Cathedral is a welcoming place for all.

“The Council of the Friends were delighted to lend its support by launching the Friends Café Fundraising Appeal. We wanted to ensure the new space was fit for purpose in order to welcome our congregation, community and friends...”

Rachel Barrett, Chair of Friends of Bristol Cathedral



VISITOR EXPERIENCE

2024 was an exceptionally busy year for the Visitor Experience team. The calendar was filled with ambitious events, concerts, art exhibitions, guided tours and immersive installations, all alongside the day to day welcoming of visitors from all over the world. Gaia and Luxmuralis offered fresh and immersive ways to experience the Cathedral, attracting strong visitor numbers and inviting new audiences in.

Supported by the Church Commissioners' Cathedrals Sustainability Fund, we recruited a team of Visitor Experience Assistants in the spring who greet visitors and encourage donations. Their presence, alongside volunteer welcomers, ensures every person who comes into the Cathedral receives a warm welcome regardless of the reason for their visit. This new approach has increased visitor engagement and resulted in 145% increased donation income.

We refreshed the Welcome Area and Cathedral Shop early in the year which made the entrance more inviting and accessible. The refreshed shop has also given us the chance to expand the range of locally designed products available, generating vital income despite the shop's small size.

The Cathedral also served as a backdrop for major film and television productions, including projects for Amazon Prime, BBC, and Apple TV. These collaborations have brought Bristol Cathedral to national and international audiences, raising our profile while celebrating our architecture and history.

On the same day that Gaia began, the brand new café also opened its doors for the first time. The café is run by Pinkmans, an award winning Bristol-based business. Its bright, inviting space encourages visitors to enjoy our hospitality for longer. With its high-quality food and drink offerings, the café has quickly become a staple for any visit to the Cathedral.



250,000+

visitors welcomed in 2024

72%

of whom made a donation



40

events hosted

180+

group tours delivered

4.5/5

TripAdvisor rating

4.7/5

Google rating

WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2025, we will appoint an Events and Venue Hire Manager, funded by the Cathedral Sustainability Fund. This will enable us to increase the number of external events hiring the Cathedral, welcoming new audiences to the building and helping build financial sustainability.



GAIA

In the autumn, Bristol Cathedral was transformed by Gaia, Luke Jerram's touring artwork of the Earth. Suspended in the heart of the building, the seven-metre sculpture became a striking centrepiece for a bold, four-week programme of events and activities that welcomed over 48,000 visitors.

Alongside Gaia, we curated *Gaia: Our Home Planet* an in-house exhibition exploring climate change, inequality, and Christian ethical responses. The exhibition engaged thousands of visitors, who responded by making personal pledges to live more sustainably.

Public engagement flourished through popular programmes like *Crafty Cathedral*, which invited families to express their creativity while considering environmental themes. School groups explored how the Cathedral should respond to global issues, linking their learning directly to Christian values.

National attention followed, with *Songs of Praise* filming a special episode under Gaia and *Folk on Foot* recording a podcast on-site. These highlights affirmed Bristol Cathedral as a relevant, welcoming sacred space, where contemporary concerns and faith intersect to inspire meaningful dialogue and action.

FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

- 99% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt welcome during their visit
- 95% agreed or strongly agreed that they would visit Bristol Cathedral again based on their experience at Gaia
- 94% agreed or strongly agreed that their visit left them with a positive impression of Bristol Cathedral
- 88% either agreed or strongly agreed that they learnt something new during their visit.
- The survey also shows us that Gaia was of interest to new and existing audiences. 35% of visitors were visiting the cathedral for the first time, and 44% had visited within the last year.

“Seeing Gaia made me think that small actions connect us and have a positive communal effect”

Gaia visitor

15

collaborations with Bristol-based partner organisations enriched the programme, bringing together arts, faith, and environmental advocates



48,226
visitors



4.5 / 5
visitor rating

274

musicians performed



32

events hosted



15

Bristol-based partner organisations



50%

increase in newsletter signups as a result of Gaia



Where do all the little doors lead to?

most asked questions by children

EDUCATION & FAMILIES

Bristol Cathedral offers an inspiring educational programme that brings history, faith, and architecture to life for schools and families. Our tailored tours and workshops connect children and young people with the Cathedral’s 900-year heritage, encouraging curiosity, creativity, and a sense of community in a welcoming and accessible space.

Interactive activities and engaging storytelling help pupils explore themes of faith, art, and history, enriching learning beyond the classroom. Families are warmly invited to participate in seasonal events, Crafty Cathedral sessions, and children’s trails, fostering shared discovery and celebration for all ages.

We are proud to support local schools with resources and outreach that nurture lasting connections with Bristol’s diverse communities.

WHAT’S NEXT?

We are committed to delivering high-quality educational experiences. We will focus on sustaining our current programmes and partnerships, ensuring children and families continue to benefit from engaging and accessible learning opportunities in the Cathedral.



65

school visits hosted

450

families engaged in Crafty Cathedral

22

learning resources created



457

individuals engaged in the 2024 safeguarding audit via surveys, interviews, and focus groups



SAFEGUARDING

In 2024, Bristol Cathedral underwent a rigorous independent safeguarding audit conducted by the INEQE team, engaging 457 individuals through interviews, surveys, and focus groups. This thorough review affirmed the Cathedral’s strong safeguarding culture, highlighting excellency in leadership dedication, robust partnerships, and a safe environment for children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Building on the audit’s findings, the Cathedral continues to enhance safeguarding practices, embedding a culture of openness and care throughout its community.

The audit commended the Cathedral’s “coherent and tangible focus on safeguarding” and had high levels of confidence in its safeguarding culture.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Following the audit’s recommendations, 2025 will see the appointment of an independent Chair to lead the Safeguarding Committee, reinforcing governance and accountability. The Cathedral will advance its Safeguarding Improvement Plan, prioritising ongoing training, community engagement, and in close partnership with the Diocese of Bristol Safeguarding Team maintain close collaboration with statutory partners such as Local Authority Designated Officers. This commitment ensures the Cathedral remains a safe and welcoming place for all.

302

safeguarding-related documents reviewed in preparation for the audit

377

survey responses from survivors, children, young people, and community members

174

safeguarding courses completed by staff and volunteers



RACIAL JUSTICE

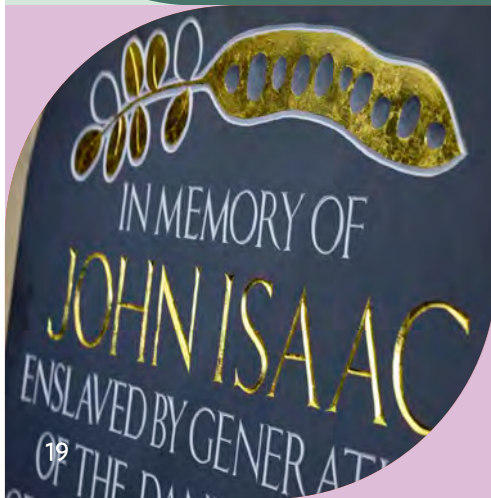
In 2024, Bristol Cathedral deepened its commitment to racial justice through community engagement, education and wider dialogue.

October brought the launch of the Cathedral's first Racial Justice Strategy, setting out a vision to embed racial justice into the Cathedral's mission. Informed by historical research and community consultation, the strategy centres on truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation. Special thanks must be given to the Racial Justice Advisory Group, chaired by Canon Roxanne Eversley, for their ongoing guidance.

A key milestone was the installation of the John Isaac Memorial Plaque. John Isaac was enslaved by the Daniel family who are memorialised throughout the Cathedral. The new plaque honours not only John Isaac, but the 4,424 Africans for whom Thomas and John Daniel were compensated at abolition and bears the words: "Black Lives Matter, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." Placed within a building marked by memorials to those who profited from enslavement, this installation is a powerful act of remembrance and witness. We are grateful to Gloria Daniel and her family, descendants of John Isaac, who commissioned this significant art work.

"It's important that we confront our history before we can move forward to a better future..."

Visitor to the All God's Children exhibition



Our long-term exhibition, All God's Children, explores the individuals memorialised in the Cathedral and its institutional links to enslavement. Shaped by and contributing to our racial justice commitments, it invites all who visit to reflect on the past and imagine a more just, inclusive future. A partnership with the University of the West of England has enabled us to gain insight into children's experience of *All God's Children* and demonstrated the exhibition's impact on their thinking and learning.

This work is ongoing and evolving - shaped by partnerships with historians, artists, and local communities, and grounded in the values of honesty, courage, and mutuality.

WHAT'S NEXT?

In 2025, the Cathedral will work on two arts commissions to honour African and African Caribbean heritage. Commissioning groups chaired by Professor Robert Beckford and Dr Edson Burton will reflect the Cathedral's continued commitment to justice.



2

years in a row of hosting the Grand Iftar, in collaboration with Muslim community partners



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Throughout 2024, Bristol Cathedral strengthened its commitment to social justice. We hosted and partnered on events that responded directly to the needs of the city, including tackling youth violence, homelessness, and interfaith understanding.

Bristol experienced a significant increase in knife crime with reports indicating nearly 2,000 knife-related incidents were recorded between April 2023 and March 2024. Behind the figures were young people, children and families, tragically affected by injury and loss of loved ones, including Darrien Williams, a 16-year-old former pupil of Bristol Cathedral Choir School, whose funeral was held at the Cathedral. It was a deeply significant moment for the community and the service, attended by over 500 people, many of them young people, became a space of shared grief and solidarity with a city in mourning. In the same month, we hosted Manifesto for Hope, bringing together civic leaders, campaigners, and communities to call for greater investment in youth services and coordinated responses to rising youth violence.

In May, we held a *Service of Remembrance*, which offered a solemn and inclusive space to honour the lives of people who have died affected by homelessness in Bristol. The Cathedral remains connected to those sleeping on Bristol's streets, with volunteers providing outreach support, including refreshment, comfort and connection with charitable and social services.

October's *Beloved Community* conference returned for its second year, gathering people from across backgrounds to explore faith, identity, and justice. With sessions led by theologians, activists, and clergy, the day centred around those often marginalised by the Church and celebrated a vision of belonging, worship, and solidarity.

We hosted the *Grand Iftar*, for the second year in a row, in collaboration with Muslim community partners. It is an evening of shared hospitality, conversation, and unity that embodied our values of interfaith friendship and respect.

Through each of these moments, the Cathedral continued to grow as a place of shared humanity. We are committed to listening, amplifying diverse voices, and offering space for dialogue, lament, and hope.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Bristol Cathedral will continue to strengthen its relationships with community and faith groups to address social justice issues throughout the coming year. The Cathedral plans to develop ongoing social justice initiatives that respond to local needs and embody its mission of compassion and inclusion. There will also be increased focus on creating safe spaces for dialogue and collaboration, alongside opportunities for civic engagement rooted in faith and hope.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

2024 was the Cathedral's first full year operating as a registered charity (No.1204673), as part of the implementation of the Cathedral's Measure (2021). The charity is overseen by a group of trustees known as the Chapter, which include the Dean and two residentiary canons as executive trustees and four further non-executive lay trustees. They are collectively responsible for the governance of the Cathedral, ensuring it pursues its charitable and ecclesiastical purposes.

In 2024 the focus for Chapter was implementing new governance arrangements, developing our approach to strategic risk management and overseeing the capital projects that have been underway. Towards the end of the year, it was focussed on the future financial sustainability of the Cathedral and our developing plans for improving access across the site.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE:

Chapter (trustees)

Finance Audit and Risk Committee

Safeguarding Committee

Nominations Committee

Fabric Advisory Committee (independent of Chapter)

“I am delighted that we have successfully brought to fruition two major projects this year: the conservation of the floor of the Seafarers' Chapel and the introduction of new ramps, to address structural issues and improve accessibility and safety; and the campaign to dismantle, clean, repair, and restore the 1685 Rhenatus Harris Organ to its former glory. We look forward to the opening of the new musical year with the new organ and sound system in place.”

Prof. Beth Williamson, Chair of the Fabric Advisory Committee

In addition to Chapter, several independent charities support the Cathedral. Each is regulated by the Charity Commission, has its own board of trustees, and files annual reports and accounts.

The Friends of Bristol Cathedral (274399) which support projects that beautify the Cathedral and supports its worship, music or outreach.

The Bristol Cathedral Choral Foundation (270373) which provides support to the Dean and Chapter for choral worship in the Cathedral.

The Bristol Cathedral Trust (801008) raises funds for and promotes the development of the Cathedral, focused on the historic fabric, education and the choral tradition.

We are very grateful for the contribution of all these bodies, and those individuals who give so generously to support the governance and work of the Cathedral.

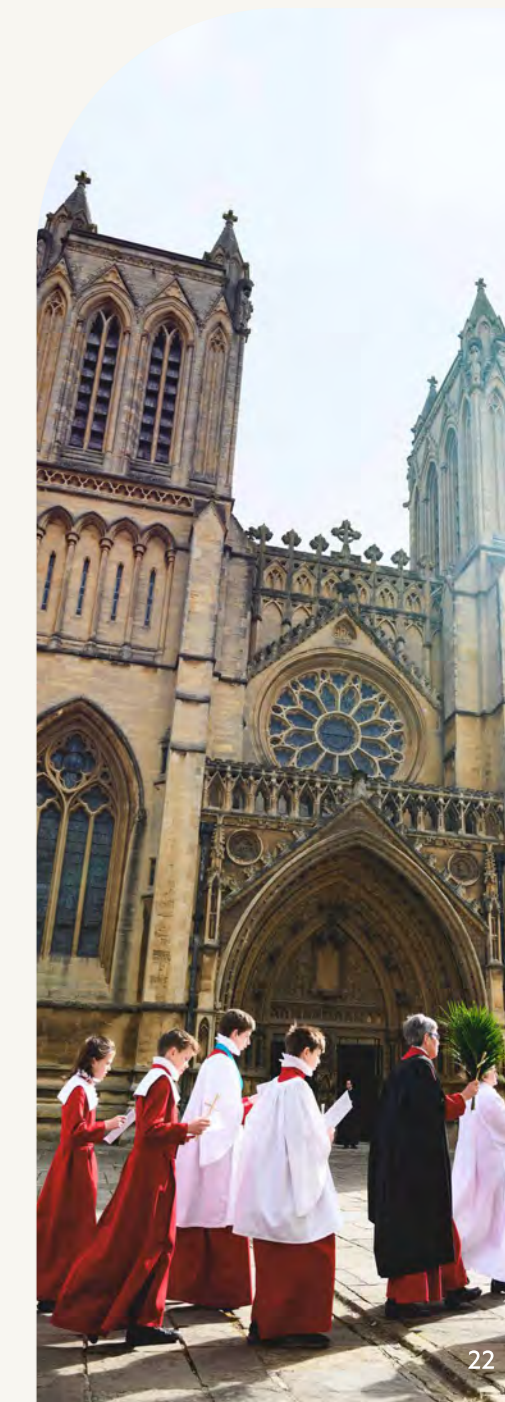
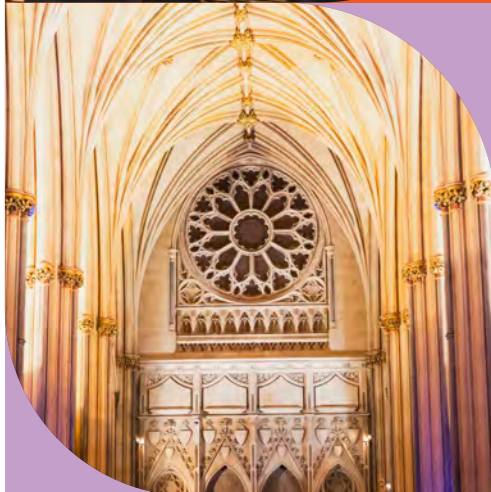
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2024 marked a period of ambitious delivery and significant investment. Chapter oversaw the progression of long-planned capital projects, including the restoration of the organ and the installation of a new sound system – both nearing completion by year-end.

Further work to improve accessibility and welcome included improved access to the Seafarers' Chapel, renovating the Café, and upgrading the welcome area.

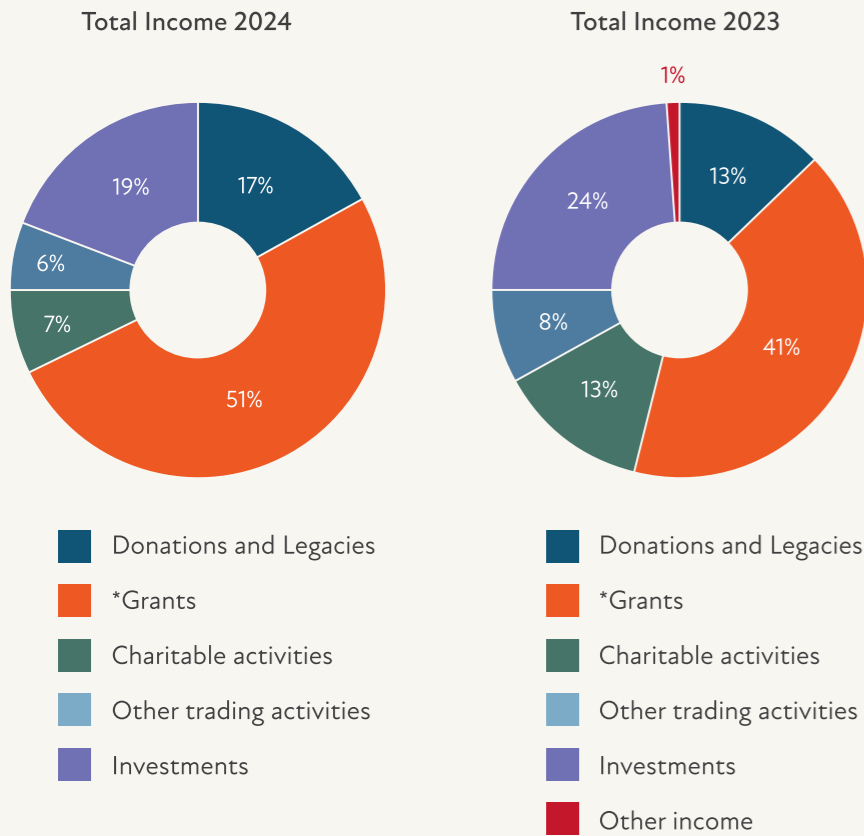
We invested in our visitor experience, launching an entry-by-donation model supported by the Cathedral Sustainability Fund. A new team of Visitor Experience Assistants was recruited to welcome and engage our growing number of visitors. These changes are part of a long-term strategy to improve both hospitality and financial resilience and are already resulting in a growth in visitor giving and associated Gift Aid contributions.

Our public programme was another area of significant delivery. *Gaia: Our Home Planet*, attracted thousands of visitors and brought together worship, music, talks, and creativity in a month long series of events. We hosted our third Luxmuralis light show, along with a wide range of civic and cultural gatherings. While these events made an important impact in the city, income from ticketed activities was lower than anticipated. The Cathedral also saw expenditure increasing on energy and insurance, as well as cost-of-living uplifts for staff. As a result of this ambitious programme of activity, the Cathedral incurred a higher-than-planned operating deficit with overall net expenditure of £332,863 on unrestricted activities and £1,077,938 was incurred on externally-funded restricted capital projects.



INCOME OVERVIEW

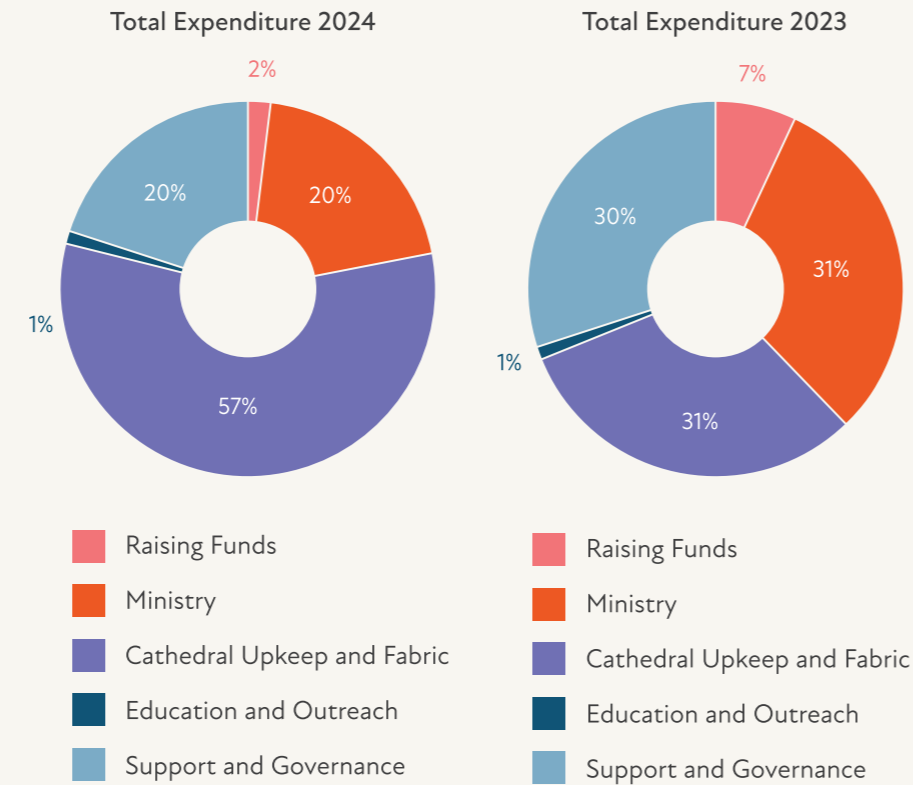
Total income for the year was £1,939,652 of which £1,137,124 related to restricted funds and £802,528 related to unrestricted funds. This represented an overall increase of £384,130 from the previous year.



*This included £485,023 from the Church Commissioners, supporting core Cathedral operations and a number of clergy and lay roles.

EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW

Total expenditure for 2024 was £3,410,724 of which £1,137,124 related to restricted funds and £2,273,600 related to unrestricted funds. This represented an overall increase of £384,130 from the previous year.



OVERALL FUNDS POSITION AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

At 31 December 2024, the Cathedral held total funds of £5,817,625.

Chapter has committed to achieving a balanced budget on unrestricted activity by 2026, which will require a full review of income generation and expenditure during 2025. This is a challenging but necessary step to ensure the Cathedral's long-term financial sustainability.

Funds	Funds held at 31 December 2024	Funds held at 31 December 2023
Endowment Funds	£3,762	£3,513
Restricted Funds	£2,226,171	£3,304,109
Unrestricted Funds	£3,587,692	£3,920,555
Total Funds	£5,817,625	£7,228,177

Breakdown of Restricted Funds:	Funds held at 31 December 2024	Funds held at 31 December 2023
Fabric Fund	£1,152,035	£1,662,976
Organ Fund	£650,932	£1,467,757
Lord Mayor's Chapel Fabric Fund	£212,743	£0
WW1 Cathedral Repair Fund	£110,293	£120,915
Accessibility Project Fund	£56,718	£0
Music Fund	£41,974	£50,985
Other Restricted Fund	£1,476	£1,476
Total Funds	£2,226,171	£3,305,109