

Here
with
You

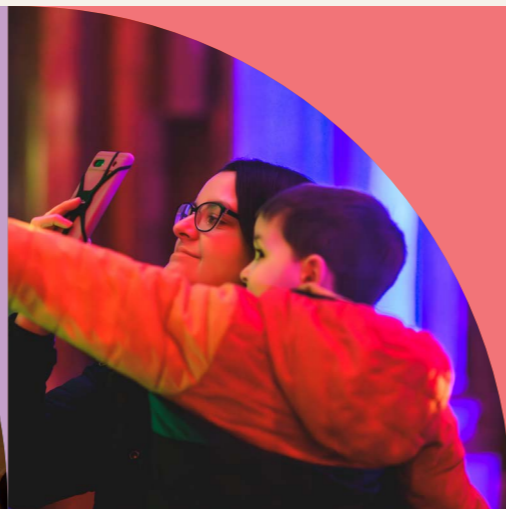
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL
Vision for 2025-2030 and beyond



Here with You

Cathedrals are unique spaces and unique communities offering a place of gathering, celebration and lament. They are places of Christian worship where the rhythm of prayer is maintained through the centuries, and they are places of sanctuary, of debate, of encounter and reconciliation.

They are places where the downtrodden can seek comfort and the anxious find peace. Every cathedral is home to a community which follows Jesus Christ in loving our neighbours and serving those in need.



The last book in the Bible, the Revelation to St John, presents a vision of the Kingdom of Heaven where people of all nations, tribes and languages are gathered to worship God.

In this place of radiant joy and peace, they are sheltered and protected, refreshed by the water of life. (see Revelation 7:9-17)

We long to see Bristol Cathedral reflect that vision of the Kingdom of Heaven and have set ourselves an ambitious programme to open up our building to more people; to reflect our city and Diocese more closely in the diversity of our visitors, volunteers and worshippers; and to respond to the needs of our community.



Imagine

In 2027, Bristol Cathedral has become one of the top ten visitor attractions in the city, serving as the culmination point of a pilgrimage route and home to a chapel dedicated to reconciliation.

Recognised as a national example of best practice, the Cathedral leads in addressing its connections with slavery and contested heritage through thought provoking interpretation.



Kisha, who lives in St Paul's, visits the Cathedral with her grandmother to share the story of their ancestors and learn about the profound contributions made by people from around the world, especially from Africa and the Caribbean, to the city. Sometimes, they pause to light a candle and say a prayer.

2027

Imagine

In 2028, Bristol Cathedral launched a children's outreach singing programme.



The programme is led by Jim, who brings the joy of music to schools without access to specialist musicians. This scheme collaborates with local school music projects, giving young people the unique opportunity to experience singing in an inspirational building.

Bristol Cathedral continues to grow its reputation for musical innovation, forging partnerships with music venues and collaborating with artists and musicians from a variety of genres, including classical, jazz, gospel, and hip hop.

Our context is challenging in a largely post-Christian city in which the Church is often seen as at best irrelevant and at worst a “toxic brand”. Our city, while rejoicing in its creative industries and diverse communities, is also one where the division between rich and poor is challenging, where many communities are cut off from the benefits of our cultural and sporting institutions, and where the long-term impacts of systemic racism have led to significantly poorer outcomes for our siblings of African and Afro-Caribbean heritage. Across the wider Diocese people are concerned about the cost-of-living crisis and the lack of housing.

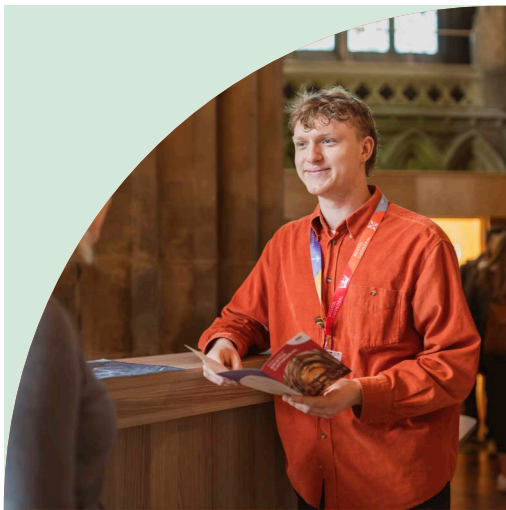
We believe that we can be a place of reconciliation and relationship building, creating a safe space for dialogue and difficult conversations. We seek to make a difference through working with others, while balancing our interdependent purposes of following Jesus; welcoming others; transforming communities; worshipping God; and serving our Bishops and Diocese.



All God's Children Exhibition

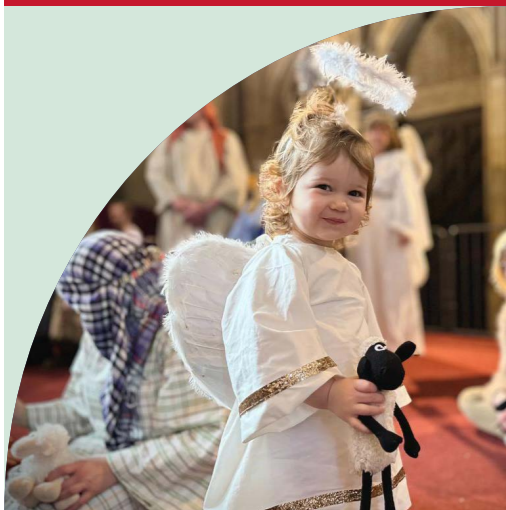


Eucharist at Party on the Green



open,
generous,
creative,
and brave

Our vision is expressed in shared values as we seek to be more open, generous, creative, and brave through developing, for example, a warm welcome, a “can do” attitude, a willingness to try things differently and to take risks.



Evensong beneath Luke Jerram's Gaia installation

2029

Imagine

In 2029, Bristol Cathedral boasts a vibrant Sunday congregation of 200, with more children and young people than ever before.

A wide range of activities foster social connection and learning within the community, including the popular Cathedral Bake Off Club, which has 50 members, and the similarly-sized Young Social Justice Group.



The Young Social Justice Group is led by Sara, who first came to the Cathedral as a chorister five years ago and now serves as joint chair of the Cathedral Youth Council.

Capital Development Master Plan



The oldest parts of Bristol Cathedral were built over 900 years ago. Since that time, each generation has responded to new opportunities by making changes to the building. Some of those changes have been to glorify God and enhance worship, others have been to serve the needs of the civic life of the city. Some have been brought about by the need to mend the impact of violence and conflict, while others reflect a willingness to invest in the future.

It is now time, once again, for us to respond to the need to preach the gospel afresh to a new generation in a building which is accessible and easily navigated – one that feels welcome and inviting to all.

We pray that our building will show how we love God and our neighbour, in worship, welcome and service.

The next steps involve the creation of a Master Plan covering the whole of the West End of the Cathedral and its relationship to College Green and the Cathedral Choir School, and addressing our need for spaces in which we can welcome visitors, work effectively, and offer provision to the city and our partners.



We will consult the community widely, drawing on work undertaken over ten years ago that looked at the use of the public realm around the Cathedral, and reflecting on the needs of the city and community over the next fifty to a hundred years...

2032

Imagine

In 2030, Bristol Cathedral has achieved carbon neutrality, thanks to a city-wide heating scheme, power generated by solar panels on its roof, and a series of smaller yet impactful innovations, such as switching all light bulbs to energy-efficient LEDs.

The Cathedral's commitment to sustainability extends to the surrounding College Green, where more areas are being rewilded to support local wildlife, especially butterflies and insects, creating a thriving, green space for both nature and the community gathering.

Within two years we will commission architects to work on a Master Plan

Public Realm

- A plan for the public realm around the Cathedral including the West End, lines of desire between the Cathedral and The Lord Mayor's Chapel, creating an attractive and inviting space which flows between the school, College Green and other local spaces and places.

Visitor Entrances

- Improvements to the West End entrance to the Cathedral to create light, draft-free and level access.
- Considering all the entrances to the Cathedral, including the visibility and accessibility of the North West Porch; a welcome area; and storage.

Wayfinding and Interpretation

- High quality interpretation and signage which improves the visitor experience, providing information about the Cathedral as a living, worshipping and serving community, a place of historic and artistic interest, and which addresses the legacy of slavery and Empire with honesty and humility.

Garden Access

- Improved access to the garden enabling more people to enjoy this uniquely quiet natural space in the heart of our city.

West End Improvements

- Resolving the issues at the West End of the Cathedral, possibly through the provision of a new building which can house office and meeting space, storage, a treasury, education and, potentially a partnership project to serve the city.
- Conversion of the Gatehouse to other uses, potentially for example as holiday and visitor accommodation.

Activities: We have five core purposes...

Following
Jesus Christ
*by becoming
more like him*

We will nurture our existing congregation and provide opportunities for people to deepen their faith through teaching and prayer.

We will provide opportunities for people to encounter God for the first time and to grow in faith.

We will help visitors become pilgrims, pilgrims become disciples, and disciples be disciple makers.

We will grow younger, and grow more diverse.

Serving Others
*by welcoming
everyone*

We will offer a safe, accessible, accepting, kind and inclusive place for all.

We will demonstrate our love for our neighbour in word and deed.

We will reach out more widely into our city and Diocese.

Transforming
Communities
*by working for a
better world praying
for the welfare of
the city*

We seek to be good partners to others in transforming relationships and lives in our schools, city, Diocese and world.

We are moving towards carbon zero and sustainability in our use of resources.

We will increase our impact in effecting change.

Worshipping
God
*with inspiring music
and liturgy, and in
every aspect
of life*

We treasure our inheritance and seek to enhance, promote and share the use of our building, our musical tradition and our liturgical riches.

We will diversify our congregations by providing additional forms of worship and services that meet the needs of those who are not attracted by traditional services.

We will share our resources more widely.

Supporting
our Bishops
and Diocese
*by sharing our skills
and resources*

Bristol Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop and the mother church of the Diocese.

We will share our life with our Bishops and parishes by providing opportunities for teaching, celebration and encounter.

We will increase a sense of mutual belonging.

Our focus in 2025 is to do this by...

<p>Following Jesus Christ <i>by becoming more like him</i></p>	<p>Serving Others <i>by welcoming everyone</i></p>	<p>Transforming Communities <i>by working for a better world praying for the welfare of the city</i></p>	<p>Worshipping God <i>with inspiring music and liturgy, and in every aspect of life</i></p>	<p>Supporting our Bishops and Diocese <i>by sharing our skills and resources</i></p>
<p>Having a clear and well signposted pathway from enquiry to belonging.</p> <p>Developing groups where people can feel they belong and grow in faith.</p> <p>Delivering new additional forms of worship and services to appeal to a wider demographic.</p>	<p>Ensuring that the Cathedral is physically accessible to all.</p> <p>Ensuring that the Cathedral welcome is inclusive to all groups and that our inclusion is widely understood and appreciated.</p>	<p>Building on <i>All God's Children</i> to address the legacy of slavery in the Cathedral and share our learning.</p> <p>Working for climate justice in action, prayer and campaigning.</p>	<p>Planning to deliver a programme of events that will showcase our restored organ and inspire a new generation of young players and increasing our ongoing opportunities for outreach from our music department and to local choirs.</p>	<p>Building relationships across the diocese including providing cover for parishes, especially those in the most need.</p>
<p>Supported by additional resources</p>				
<p>An additional, Cathedral funded clergy post. A curate in 2025.</p>	<p>Volunteers – supported by a dedicated volunteer coordinator.</p>	<p>A F/T community development / project worker to resource this work.</p>	<p>An additional post funded by the Choral Foundation to support music.</p> <p>Programming support for the restored Organ launch.</p>	

Underpinned by:

These activities will be underpinned by the rhythm of Cathedral life including excellent pastoral care and spiritual support for our congregation; the highest standard of choral music and the training of choristers, lay clerks, choral scholars and consort; provision for schools and families to explore and learn; and timely maintenance and care for our historic building.

How will we know? Accountability measures

<p>Following Jesus Christ <i>by becoming more like him</i></p>	<p>Serving Others <i>by welcoming everyone</i></p>	<p>Transforming Communities <i>by working for a better world praying for the welfare of the city</i></p>	<p>Worshipping God <i>with inspiring music and liturgy, and in every aspect of life</i></p>	<p>Supporting our Bishops and Diocese <i>by sharing our skills and resources</i></p>
<p>Numbers attending worship.</p> <p>Average age of those participating in worship.</p> <p>Numbers participating in groups and teaching events.</p> <p>Income from stewardship and income generation.</p>	<p>Visitor numbers.</p> <p>Visitor satisfaction.</p> <p>Diversity of visitor demographic.</p> <p>Number of external group and partnership events.</p>	<p>Number of networks and connections through individuals and groups.</p> <p>Resources expended on social justice (e.g. a new paid FT member of staff).</p> <p>Amount of external funding achieved.</p> <p>Amount of money donated to good causes outside the Cathedral.</p>	<p>Numbers attending services.</p> <p>Diversity of congregation (through an annual survey).</p> <p>Congregational satisfaction and values survey.</p> <p>Number of additional (non-statutory) services.</p>	<p>Number of parish visits to the Cathedral.</p> <p>Number of visits by Cathedral clergy, chapter and choir to churches in the Diocese.</p> <p>Number of events involving the Bishop(s).</p> <p>Feedback from Bishop and College of Canons.</p>

We will undertake qualitative assessment to evaluate our impact and assess changing perceptions of the Cathedral, for example through a citizen's panel.

In five years time we hope you will see...

Following
Jesus Christ
*by becoming
more like him*

A regular congregation of more than 200 on Sunday morning which is diverse and engaged (i.e most people do more than just come on a Sunday).

Per capita giving, which is at, or above, the CofE average.

At least five groups for fellowship and learning which are lay led.

At least one Fresh Expression of Church.

Young people involved in leading and supporting worship in all its dimensions.

Serving Others
*by welcoming
everyone*

A wide range of visitors from within Bristol and beyond who stay for at least 30 minutes on average in the Cathedral.

Average visitor giving of £2 per head.

A range of events that draws people into the Cathedral who have never visited before.

Transforming
Communities
*by working for a
better world praying
for the welfare of
the city*

The Cathedral is a respected partner for civic leaders, charities and businesses in the city. It is the natural place for gatherings concerned with key issues, e.g. homelessness, climate justice, the legacy of slavery and youth justice.

Worshipping
God
*with inspiring music
and liturgy, and in
every aspect
of life*

Music and worship which is inspiring and of the highest quality.

Children and young people receiving an excellent musical education.

A repertoire which includes music by women and people of diverse global heritage.

A range of services that attract diverse congregations.

Supporting
our Bishops
and Diocese
*by sharing our skills
and resources*

The Cathedral clergy serving parishes in the diocese at least one Sunday a month.

The Cathedral Choir singing outside the Cathedral at least once each term.

Diocesan services that are well attended and reflect the diversity of the Diocese, including services for schools.



2030

Imagine

In 2032, Bristol Cathedral stands as a symbol of sustainable development, featuring offices, storage, and community spaces that set a new standard for what can be achieved.

One of the standout initiatives housed here is a mental health drop-in service, offering support and care to those in need.



One day, Ian stopped by for a cup of tea, and what began as a casual visit soon turned into a deeper connection with his Cathedral. He began volunteering in the Cathedral gardens and started exploring his faith with one of the day chaplains. Today, Ian is a regular attendee of the midweek services, finding both a sense of community and embarking on a spiritual journey.

*In this place of radiant joy
and peace, they are sheltered
and protected, refreshed by the
water of life*

Revelation 7:9-17

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL

Charity no. 1204673