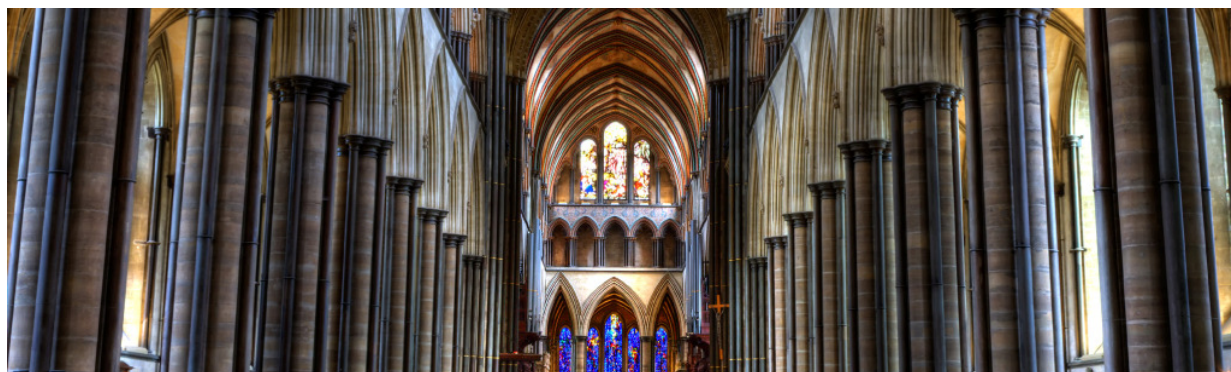


A Cathedrals Fabric Commission Guidance Note

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16,000 buildings. One resource



Many types of work affecting a cathedral and falling within the scope of the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 have a liturgical dimension: not only proposals for reordering and new liturgical furniture, but other changes affecting the cathedral interior such as sound, heating and lighting schemes, new art works, access works and visitor, education and other facilities. The Commission has issued this Guidance Note to assist a chapter in preparing a Liturgical Plan for its cathedral.

Context

The Commission encourages cathedral chapters to prepare a **Liturgical Plan** when drawing up major proposals requiring formal approval by either the Commission or the local Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC).

The Liturgical Plan will sit alongside other standing documents such as the cathedral **Conservation Plan**, to provide an information base and policy framework to guide and test new proposals as they develop.

The Liturgical Plan will also feed into the **brief** set by chapter for a project, and into supporting **liturgical statements** when a formal application is made (the Commission will now usually request a liturgical statement for large scale or complex proposals if one has not been submitted as part of the application package).

Benefits of a Liturgical Plan

The Commission has concluded that the **processes** of developing the Liturgical Plan, and of testing emerging proposals against a standing document, are beneficial to cathedral projects.

It is the Commission's experience that successful schemes of work tend to be underpinned by a clear and persuasive liturgical argument.

Nature and purpose

While different cathedrals will have different approaches and requirements, any Liturgical Plan should **start with general theological principles** – even if major redevelopment proposals are the reason to start the process.

It should answer **three fundamental questions:**

- what do you want your building to say about the nature of the Christian Gospel?
- what does your building say about the liturgy?
- what does the liturgy say about your building?

It is important for the Plan to be **agreed and 'owned' by the chapter**. The Plan should be a **standing document** reviewed and updated periodically by chapter.

It is also important that **all those involved in running the cathedral** understand the need for and central purpose of a Liturgical Plan and have the opportunity to comment and contribute to it.

The plan should be written so as to be **intelligible and inspiring to the lay professionals and craftspeople** involved with cathedral projects.





How a Liturgical Plan is used in the approvals process

When the Commission considers an application for approval of significant works to a cathedral it will expect the chapter to have provided supporting material which not only describes and illustrates the proposals, but which provides an overview of them and sets them into context, including:

- a **Statement of Need**: an analysis of how the proposals relate strategically to the cathedral's life, work and mission, including or supported by a **liturgical statement** and demonstrating the permanent benefits that will derive from the scheme.
- a **Statement of Significance**, showing that the impact of the proposals on the architectural, archaeological, artistic and historic character of the building and its contents has been fully assessed and understood.
- an indication of how the proposals relate to the cathedral's **Conservation Plan**, if it has one, and to other **policies and frameworks** set by the chapter.

A Liturgical Plan can provide material for the Statement of Need or supporting liturgical statement. It should assist chapters in articulating and justifying their proposals not only to decision-making bodies such as the Commission and FAC, but also to statutory consultees, funding bodies, the cathedral community and other stakeholders.

Like a Conservation Plan, the Liturgical Plan (and the liturgical statements that follow from it)

should not be a justification for the particular piece of work but provide, at least in outline, an overview and understanding of the liturgical life of the cathedral and aspirations for its development, particularly as it impacts on its physical spaces, furnishings, character and significance.

Preparing a Liturgical Plan

The process of drawing up the Plan can help the chapter and its advisers to identify and tackle constraints or conflicts – for example, tensions between the building's historic fittings and new uses or forms of liturgy.

Who contributes?

- **Three key people: the Dean, the Precentor** (the member Cathedral clergy staff responsible for liturgy), and the person in charge of **cathedral music**.
- **A wider group** including, for example, the **Cathedral Architect** and **Cathedral Archaeologist**, to establish the how the liturgical history of the building is reflected in its fabric.
 - The **Cathedral Architect** usually designs works to a Brief (architectural and liturgical) set by the chapter and gives professional advice to the chapter on works commissioned from others; and identifies fabric issues or constraints.
 - Similarly, the **Cathedral Archaeologist** can also contribute to historical analysis and to identifying archaeological sensitivities that might affect proposals, relating to below-ground remains or standing fabric.

- However rather than including detailed sections on the fabric, the plan can **cross-reference** to relevant parts of the Conservation Plan or to more detailed statements from the Cathedral Architect or Cathedral Archaeologist.
- Cathedral **congregations** and **staff/volunteers**, especially those such as vergers experienced in the practicalities of arranging the cathedral space, should be invited to comment and contribute.
- A cathedral also serves a wider community through its **civic functions** and its role in **tourism and pilgrimage**. The chapter should consider how to involve those with an interest in these areas.

What should it include?

Buildings strongly influence how liturgy is conducted. Chapters need to consider how best to celebrate the Christian faith in the 21st century **in their own particular building**. The answer will be different for every cathedral.

Drawing up the Liturgical Plan is an opportunity to think about the **liturgical geography** and **purpose** of the particular cathedral. It is as relevant for a small former parish church cathedral as it is for, for example, a larger cathedral with monastic origins.

Some preliminary questions to explore might include:

- What is the **chapter's vision** of its cathedral? What is the cathedral for?
 - How does the cathedral work at present? How does





- chapter want it to work in future?
- Who are the 'stakeholders'? Who 'owns' the cathedral?
 - What **type(s) of liturgy** are used at the cathedral?
 - What variety of liturgical expressions is required?
 - What does chapter want to the cathedral to say, and to whom, through how it is used? (for example, to the regular congregation, to occasional attenders, to visitors, to those coming for events of various types).
 - What is the role of **music and of performance** in the Cathedral? Consider:
 - music for regular services
 - special seasonal services
 - events such as ordinations
 - music for concerts, where the Cathedral is a venue.
 - What is the role of **liturgical movement**?
- The Liturgical Plan should also address how the Cathedral fulfils its **teaching role**, in recognition of its core functions being both as a centre of mission and as the (teaching) seat of a Bishop.
- Chapters should be mindful that liturgical fashions do change, and should consider the **likely lifespan** of any changes they propose.
- Some more detailed questions might include:
- What is the **'liturgical geography'** of the cathedral?
 - What spaces does it comprise and how are these spaces used?
 - How do the spaces relate to one another physically and liturgically?
 - What is the relationship between key **liturgical furnishings**, such as the altar and font
 - How does this influence the use of **'rooms'** within the cathedral liturgically? Is there merit in trying to increase or decrease their number or change their relationship? (For example side chapels can be allotted specific functions or characters; side chapels might be screened or open; a screen or object might draw the eye but divide a space.)
 - Is there a suggested **route** that takes visitors round the building in a particular way? How does the visitor or pilgrim route relate to the liturgical use of the cathedral? What are the implications for **access** and **circulation**?
 - Is the **liturgical furniture** and its ordering appropriate to the spaces it occupies and the purposes for which it is used?
 - Contextual questions are also important:
 - What are the **constraints** in and on the cathedral – physical, architectural, archaeological, operational, liturgical, practical and financial?
 - How do **uses beyond liturgy** (e.g. visitor circulation) conflict with it, or how can they best be accommodated alongside it?
 - How does or should the cathedral interior relate to liturgical and other uses of **space outside** or to the **wider precinct**?

Further guidance

The Commission and its Secretariat are always happy to facilitate the sharing of experience by Chapters of preparing a Liturgical Plan and of major projects, and to offer procedural and project-specific advice at a pre-application stage.

The Commission will expect Chapter to be able to show it has taken the above guidance into account in its thinking before seeking such pre-application advice.

A full list of thematic and other Notes and other advice issued by the Commission can be found at: www.churchcare.co.uk via the Cathedrals – Guidance and Advice pages.

For advice and to discuss a potential project please contact the Commission via the Secretariat: Tel 020 7898 1888 or 1862 or email the Deputy Secretary at becky.clark@churchofengland.org or the Cathedrals Officer at: anne.locke@churchofengland.org

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