RIPON CATHEDRAL

We wish to appoint

Members of the Fabric Advisory Committee

Introduction

Thank you for showing interest in becoming a member of Ripon Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee.

Ripon Cathedral is a Grade I listed building, with the oldest built fabric of all England's cathedrals in its 7th-century crypt. We have an appealing vision to serve the people and communities of this region by carrying on Christ's mission of growing God's kingdom. We call our vision, *Growing God's Kingdom*.

Set within the Anglican Diocese of Leeds, Ripon Cathedral, with its sister cathedrals in Bradford and Wakefield, is a seat for the Bishop of Leeds and a mother church for this richly diverse region.

At home in our vast and beautiful rural hinterland, we are here for all, whether Christian or not, whether sharing a religious faith or not. Believing that Christ longs for fullness of life for everyone, we strive to help make this a reality for all who become a part of Ripon Cathedral.

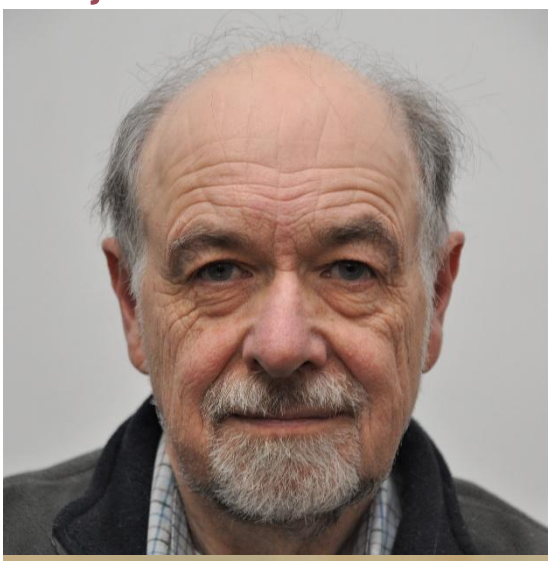
We have enjoyed remarkable development and growth over the last decade. Part of this has included increased investment in repair and maintenance of the fabric of the cathedral and its estate.

A core part of our vision for the future is the ongoing care of the cathedral estate and its collections. The advice, expertise and permission-giving powers of the Fabric Advisory Committee are essential to enabling this vision to happen and the cathedral to thrive.

We are looking for 4 new members of the FAC who can join and add to the wide-ranging expertise of the current Committee.

If you think this might be for you, I can assure you that Ripon is a wonderful small city in which to work. It is set at the heart of one of the most beautiful regions of this country with the blessing of a delightful Cathedral building and strong community.

Guy Wilson (Chair of FAC) & Dean John Dobson



History of the Cathedral

Ripon Cathedral has a history stretching back almost fourteen centuries. Throughout this time it has offered an unbroken tradition of witness to the Christian faith, both in the city of Ripon and across the region.

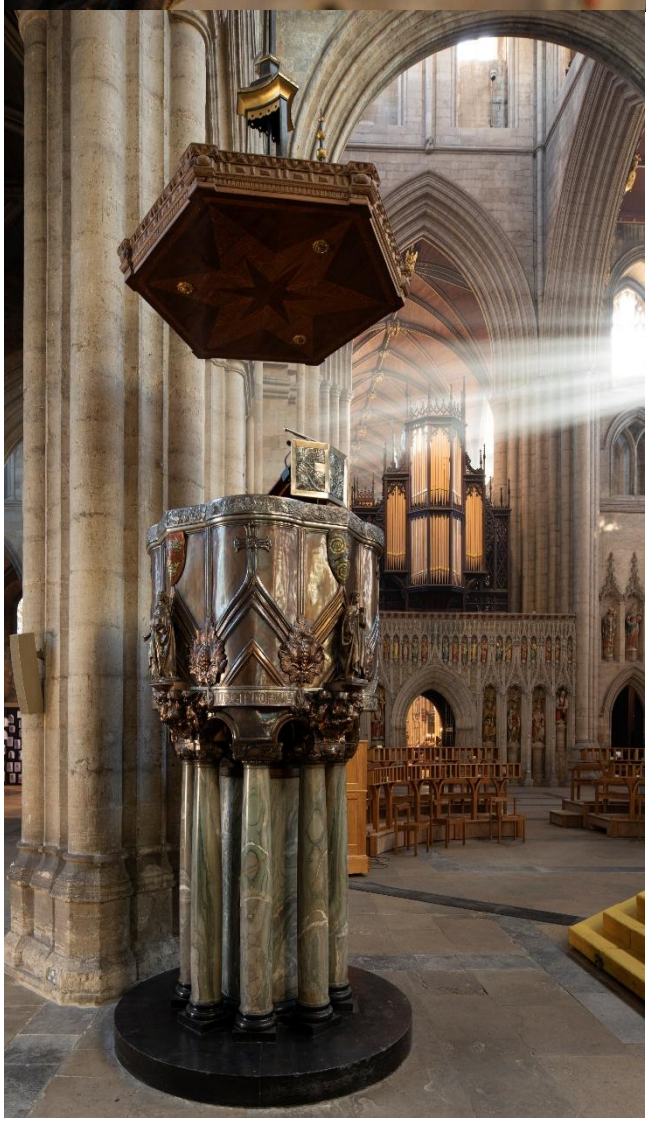
The original church building was built by St. Wilfrid and dedicated to St Peter in 672 AD. Remarkably, the crypt of Wilfrid's magnificent stone basilica has survived to the present day as the oldest built fabric of all England's cathedrals.

The collegiate minster became a cathedral with Dean and Chapter in 1836, with the creation of the Diocese of Ripon, the first new diocese in the Church of England after the Reformation. The cathedral has always served its own parish, and continues to do so following the implementation of the 2021 Cathedrals Measure. It also has its own wider benefice, containing a total of four parishes and eight centres of worship.

The cathedral offers at least three acts of worship every day of the year: morning prayer, evening prayer or evensong, and the Eucharist. Daily worship attracts over 50 people in a usual week. The Sunday Sung Eucharist is regularly attended by over 200 people and over 80 attend the BCP services on a usual Sunday, including evensong.

Historic fabric priorities

As part of the current Quinquennial Inspection, the cathedral architect is preparing a 15-year investment plan which will form the framework for future priorities for the repair and enhancement of the cathedral and its collections. Existing projects we are working on include the installation of solar panels on south side roofs, ventilation to the ringing chamber and trying to solve the long-standing issue of lack of facilities.



The Mission of Ripon Cathedral

Ripon Cathedral, with those of Bradford and Wakefield, is one of three cathedrals within the Anglican Diocese of Leeds. In serving the whole Diocese of Leeds, the cathedral serves a population of approximately 2.5 million people across a vast region. This includes the majority of West Yorkshire and the western part of North Yorkshire. The cathedral's influence also stretches across diocesan boundaries, especially in North Yorkshire where it is regarded as the cathedral serving North Yorkshire Council.

The cathedral includes the crypt of St. Wilfrid's original 7th-century Anglo-Saxon church, reflecting the long-standing mission in this place which continues to be offered in the 21st century. As a centre of Christian worship, prayer, witness, pilgrimage and culture, the cathedral's community seeks to be a growing, inclusive Christian church which furthers God's kingdom on earth by serving people of all faiths and none. The cathedral is a centre of considerable historic, architectural and archaeological importance. It is governed by the Chapter, chaired by the Dean, who leads and presides over the whole life and mission of the cathedral.

Strategic Vision – Key Priorities

The Chapter's key strategic priorities for 2022 to 2027 are set out in *Growing God's Kingdom* 2022.

The five broad areas of mission are:

- growing the worshipping community;
- being a mother church of the diocese and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom to the region;
- promoting, developing and conserving our spiritual and built heritage;
- responding to human need in loving partnership;
- striving to safeguard the integrity of creation - Carbon Net Zero.

A year in the life of the cathedral in numbers (2025)

113,537 visitors

84 stained glass windows

3,063 people attended our free Thursday lunchtime concerts

66,000 views of the Ripon 'hand' on Instagram

140 light fittings in the cathedral

14,114 Psalm verses said or sung

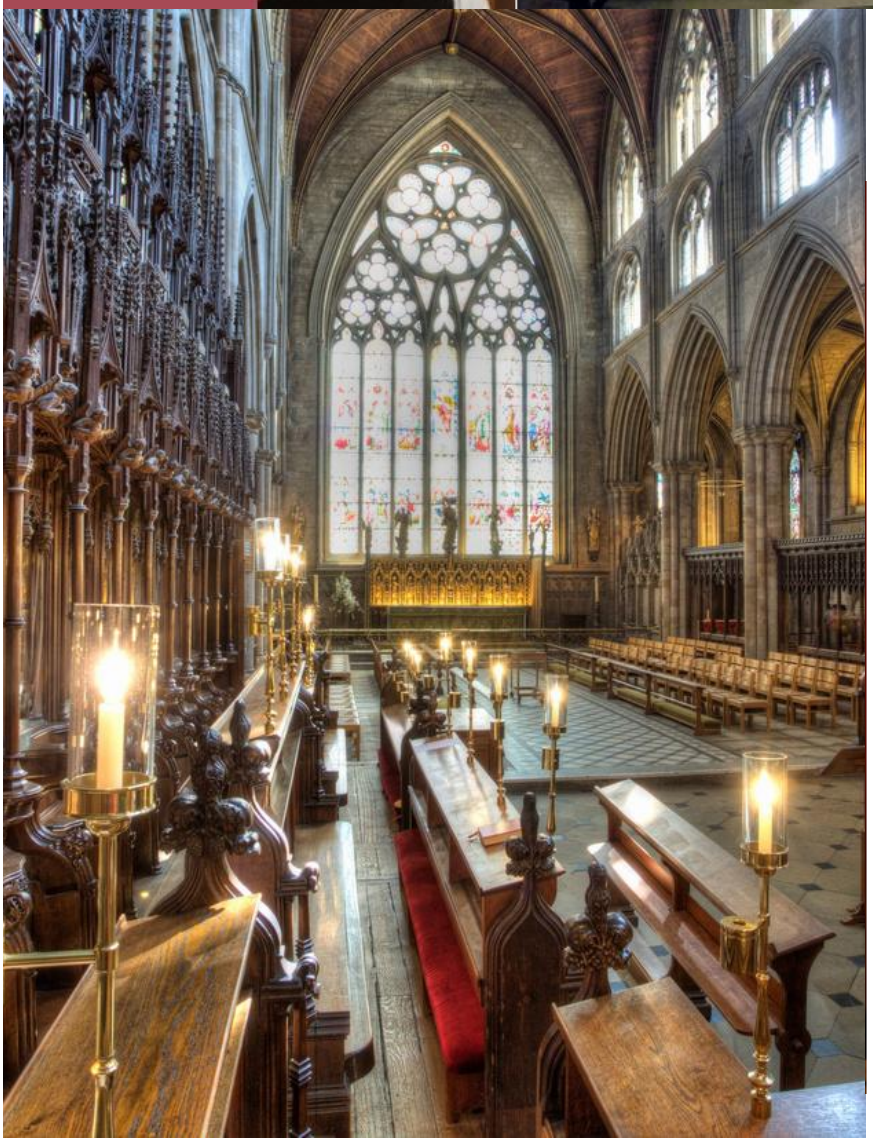
5,500 people watched the Christmas Eve Nine Lessons & Carols on YouTube

407 hymns sung

12,000 steps a day walked by Gail, our cleaner, and Henry the Hoover

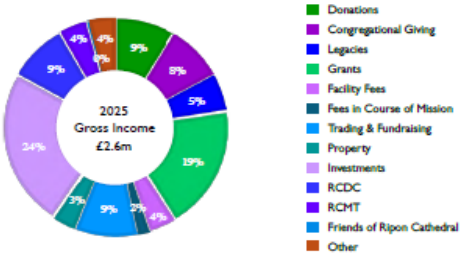
17,500 cups of hot drinks served (and all without a kitchen!)

Over **10,000** people came to concerts

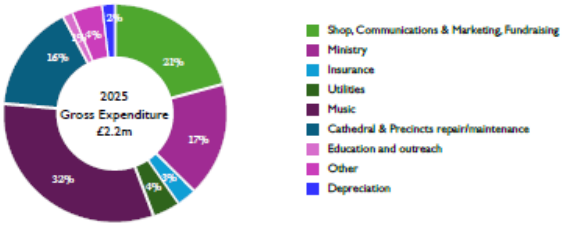


Financial summary 2025

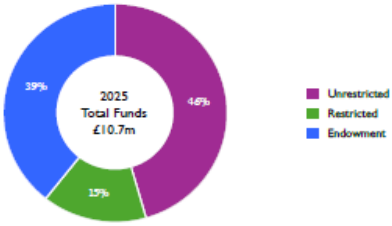
INCOME



EXPENDITURE



FUNDS



Role Purpose/Duties & Responsibilities

Each cathedral has its own Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC) with specific responsibilities laid out in the Care of Cathedrals Measure.

As a member of the FAC your role will be vital in the oversight of the overall development, care, conservation and maintenance of the Cathedral church, any archaeological remains in or under the Cathedral church or within its precinct, any buildings within its precinct and the landscape and environment in which the Cathedral church is situated.

As a member of the FAC appointees will, as appropriate, provide determination on applications and advise the Cathedral Chapter (the governing body of the cathedral) in line with statutory responsibilities of the Committee under the Care of Cathedrals Measure, remaining true to the values of the cathedral and its role as a living place of worship and significant building within the community.

Ripon FAC consists of ten members with a quorum of six. The Chair is elected by members of the Committee. Half the members are appointed by CFCE and the other half by the Ripon Cathedral Chapter.

More details about the role of the FAC is available through https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/cathedral-fabric-commission/cathedral-fabric-advisory-committees

Following a skills audit, we are particularly looking for new members with expertise in the following areas:

Interpretation
Decorative & fine arts
Materials conservation
Conservation Structural Engineering
Fixtures & fittings

Knowledge, skills and experience needed:

- Substantial experience of taking an advisory role in a complex organisation (E)
- Knowledge and experience of working in a heritage, listed buildings, arts, visitor attraction or cathedral environment, or in other specialism relevant to the life of the cathedral (E)
- Knowledge of the care and maintenance of outstanding historic buildings (E)
- Demonstrable balanced lateral and creative thinking to find solutions to problems whilst maintaining a big picture focus (E)
- Empathy for the work of Ripon Cathedral, understanding of and enthusiasm for its overall mission, vision and strategy (E)
- Ability to think strategically, exercise good, independent judgement and work effectively as a committee member (E)
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (E)
- Experience or knowledge of implementing Net Zero Carbon solutions in a Grade I listed building (D)

Our values and behaviours:

We support and share the Diocese of Leeds values of Loving, Living and Learning. We aim to:

- Love God, the world and one another.
- Live in the world as it is, but drawn by a vision of something better, we want to help individuals and communities flourish.
- Learn when we get things wrong, by listening and growing together.

Scope of the role:

To play an active role as a member of the FAC by reviewing papers, attending arranged meetings and site visits.
To work within the Care of Cathedrals Measure in providing determination on applications made to the FAC, balancing heritage significance with public benefits and in line with the mission and vision of the cathedral .
To offer expert advice via the Committee to the Senior Management Team and Chapter, based on professional experience, practice and standing.
To enable the Cathedral's retained advisors, the Cathedral Architect and Cathedral Archeologist, to find solutions as they develop methodologies and conduct research.
To offer pragmatic support and guidance to find sustainable solutions to complex fabric and collections related issues.
To offer support and guidance in relation to Chapter's strategic objectives for 2027 to 2032.
To offer advice as the Cathedral continues to focus on financial sustainability.

Terms

Time Commitment

Ripon Cathedral FAC normally has three scheduled meetings per year. The committee may need to meet more regularly when major capital works or repairs are planned. Ad hoc support through working groups and/or support to the senior management team/Chapter may also be required.

Members are encouraged to take part in the wider life of the Cathedral, but this is not mandatory. You may also need to be able to commit to a small amount of training each year in addition to the mandatory induction (e.g. safeguarding training).

Term of Office

Members are appointed for up to five years with the potential for reappointment. All members are reviewed every 5 years/quinuennium. The current Quinquennium began in May 2026..

Remuneration

Membership of FAC is an unpaid role. Reasonable travel expenses can be claimed in accordance with the Cathedral's Expenses policy.

Application Process

For an informal discussion about this role, please contract:
Guy Wilson – Chair of FAC (via governanceofficer@riponcathedral.org.uk)
Carol Pyrah – Chief Operating Officer: coo@riponcathedral.org.uk

The closing date for applications is 9am, 26 November 2026. Shortlisting will take place on 27 November and interviews will be held by Teams on the afternoon of 11 December 2026 .

To apply, please send:

- The Ripon Cathedral Application form available here where you can explain how your skills and experience are matched to this role
- Details of two referees (who will not be contacted without your prior consent)
- Successful applicants will be required to complete the Cathedral's safer recruitment process, including Basic & Foundation safeguarding training.

To: Mrs Charlie Stewart, Governance Officer
Via email: governanceofficer@riponcathedral.org.uk

Thank you for your interest!

RIPON
CATHEDRAL

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RIPONCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK