

# Liverpool Cathedral Review 2023



Liverpool  
Cathedral



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# Dean's Welcome

2023 has been a pivotal year for Liverpool Cathedral. As we prepare to celebrate our centenary year in 2024 we have seen an increase in activity as society grows more confident and willing to visit and encounter places such as ours.

2023 has been a year to consolidate our growth following the periods of lock down and I have been delighted to see the range of activity breathing life and vitality into our beautiful building.

I have so many highlights. Yet, for the convenience of the report we group our activities under six pillars we use to express our work. The reality is that we do not, and cannot, work with clear divisions. We bring our faith in God into all we do and we aim to help people encounter God whether they are here for a fleeting visit, a concert or dinner or simply want space to be.

We achieve this because the people who volunteer and work for the cathedral do so magnificently.

We achieve this because those who support us financially, from individual to corporate donors, do so generously.

We achieve this because we have strong supportive partners, from the council to the universities, from the Metropolitan Cathedral to all the local businesses and arts organisations.

I thank each and every one of you. Liverpool Cathedral was built by the people, for the people, to the glory of God. We remained true to that in 2023. I am proud to serve as Dean in this magnificent place.



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# Built by the people, for the people, to the Glory of God

Liverpool Cathedral was built as a place of worship, a spiritual heartbeat in an amazing city. It was built on ambition and made an important statement about God, faith and the city. For 100 years we have stood as a place for the city and beyond. Many have encountered us. Many more will.

Each come for their own reason and we aim to welcome all. But this comes with a challenge. Enabling people to come for a concert or awards dinner means disrupting the regular visitor. We understand that and don't take those decisions lightly. We need the revenue that a large gala event brings and will not shy away from appropriate ways to raise income. We also know that many of these events bring people to encounter the cathedral and God for the first time. This is complicated and all things are clearly connected.

We remain committed to being free to enter which means we have to work

hard for the £3.5m it costs to run the cathedral every year. We have to rely on our own endeavours to raise this money so it remains a big challenge.

We talk about our activities in six broad areas and cover each topic in turn in this review. However we know these all are interconnected.

- Inspiring Christian worship
- A breath taking experience
- A community committed to justice and mercy
- A safe and generous place in joy and sorrow
- A dynamic community of staff and volunteers
- A God who knows you and loves you



# Inspiring Christian worship

It is the rhythm of worship that sustains us and our daily pattern of prayers, communion and evensong continued throughout the year. We hosted the installation of the 9th Bishop of Liverpool, The Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath as well as the annual ordinations, regular confirmations and civic services such as the Justice Service.

We continued to build back our congregational numbers with Sunday morning services seeing a regular weekly attendance of 200 worshippers. We continue to maintain an online presence with Morning Prayer live streamed on Facebook.

We are encouraged by the growth of our Charismatic Catholic service, a new style of worship for us which attracts around 30 young, diverse people new to our cathedral. We continue to see the steady growth of Sepas which has seen a new worship group and weekly bible studies as it offers spiritual support to the Farsi speaking community.

Our choir has had a magnificent year. They continue to widen the appeal of high-quality choral singing through outreach work with 15 schools in Liverpool, Knowsley and Southport. They also established 2 community choirs in partnership with local churches in Knowsley and Southport supporting and widening the appeal of the choral tradition.

The launch of the Liturgy and Music Foundation has brought great breadth to our musical tradition with focused days where we were able to welcome our patron, Will Todd. Added to this we brought new choral and organ scholars to swell the musical ranks. We now have full choirs for the first time in two decades with 150 children involved and 140 auditioning. We were delighted that the choir were able to complete their first post-Covid tour with a successful trip to Belgium. Celebrating twenty years since the first girls' voices joined.

Worship remains central. A symbol of this is the lunchtime Eucharist often

taking place in the nave, open, visible and enabling visitors to encounter God in a surprising way.







# A breathtaking experience

It has been great to welcome visitors back into our magnificent building and we have seen visitor numbers grow back to 600,000 in the year.

We remain thrilled to be an award-winning destination retaining the VAQAS Gold Award and the Trip Advisor Travellers Choice Award. We were delighted to be nominated again in the Liverpool City Region Tourism Awards and thrilled that the Welsford Bistro received similar plaudits.

Visitors are assured of a warm welcome from our volunteer guides and interpreters with a range of new specialist tours - such as the Above and Beyond tour - being added enabling the expert knowledge of this building to be given to guests in an interesting and informative way. Visitors benefit from our excellent shop and our food destination, the Welsford Bistro. We continued to think around and invest in our welcome.

2023 saw an increase in the number of events and dinners we could host. We provided the backdrop to award

ceremonies to conference dinners to the return of Cream Classical. And over the year our educational team welcomed hundreds of schools and families for visits, workshops and holiday fun.

2023 was the year where we were able to deliver a full cultural programme with the support of the Cathedral Sustainability Fund. We were honoured to host the moving 'From 'Izyum to Liverpool' installation as part of the city-wide Eurovision celebrations. We reflected on our relationship with the environment through the powerful 'Coalescence' exhibition. We marvelled at one man's achievement through the 'Boat of Hope'.

Central to our programme was the return of Peter Walker with the stunning installation Identity and the Light Before Christmas: The Manger by Luxmuralis. With 30,000 visitors over a week's period the Light Before Christmas was a creative, inspiring way to tell the Christmas story to a different group of people across the City and beyond.



# A community committed to justice and mercy

We continue to serve. As a community of faith, we are driven by our understanding of biblical teaching as we seek to support those on the margins.

Our charity, Micah Liverpool, continues to be central to our social justice work. Its core work, emergency food provision, has seen 2749 people receive 15,529 food parcels. Micah runs 2 community markets a week helping 2884 people. Our employability programme continues to flourish with 41 being helped, 10 into good jobs and 32 completed qualifications. Micah also started to provide beds to families allowing children to have a good night's sleep.

Our fundraising efforts work both to support us as a community however we recognise the power of using our building to raise money for other

charities. An annual fixture is our summer abseil where 800 people's bravery raised over £180,000 for worthy local charities.

We have continued our efforts to become Net Zero Carbon by 2030. Building on our eco church status we look to find ways to lower energy use, decarbonise and find sustainable energy solutions. We are very conscious of the challenge of caring for a huge, iconic building, preserving its integrity whilst making it sustainable.

We also continue to understand the realities of our contested heritage as we work towards being an anti-racist cathedral. We want to work with the whole cathedral company to find ways to educate and engage around the historical roots of racism and its present-day challenges.



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# A safe and generous place in joy and sorrow

At a time when anxieties over the cost of living, the impact of war, the daily onslaught of crisis reporting overwhelm people we have found many turning to the sanctuary of the cathedral. At a time when mental health and wellbeing focus highly in the public consciousness Liverpool Cathedral is a place where people can come, sit, reflect and find volunteers and staff who have time and are willing to listen.

We know this and create space at events such as Identity or the Light Before Christmas where people can write prayers, light candles and bring their own personal experience to the fore.

Added to this we have been yet again the focal point for community grieving. We held many funerals for local figures most notably holding the memorial service for Bill Kenwright towards the end of the year. We

continue to partner with the Good Funeral Company to help people in bereavement making sense of their loss in the calm, peaceful spaces of the cathedral.

Our pastoral ministry is important and exemplified in the prayer shawl ministry where volunteers create hundreds of prayer shawls, scarves and other hand worked items for those in special need of prayer and care.

We were delighted to be able to open our doors to Liverpool John Moores University with thousands of students creating memories as they celebrated their academic achievements.

We are also pleased that so many chose to mark their memory in the People's Path, a place to remember the important moments in people's lives.





# A dynamic community of staff and volunteers

We could not do anything without our volunteers and staff. We have a diverse group of people working for us in both capacities. However, a common thread that binds us all is a love, commitment and passion for the place that is Liverpool Cathedral.

All staff and volunteers are committed to a common set of values – Integrity, Excellence, Inclusive and Dynamic. We invest in their training, health and wellbeing with a variety of schemes. We remain committed to best practice with safeguarding. We aim to build a sense of community for all.

Above all we want to thank all those in the cathedral community who make Liverpool Cathedral possible. This is a huge undertaking, a bringing together of a wide range of people with a diverse set of skills and talents. From the floor team to the

maintenance team, we have people who work tirelessly and creatively to manage the historic and iconic building that is Liverpool Cathedral.







# A God who knows and loves you

We believe in a God who knows and loves you. We believe that anyone can encounter God when they visit the cathedral. We know people will do this in different ways.

For some it is simply being in the building, experiencing its awe, wonder and history. For some it is through the worship we offer, the daily rhythm of prayer and our outstanding choral worship. For some it is sitting quietly in a chapel, lighting a candle, pausing or reflecting.

We try to have people around to help make sense of a visitor's encounter with the cathedral. We have chaplains in the building most days and every event, dinner and ceremony has a welcome by a cathedral clergy member.

We believe that all can get to know God through the space and atmosphere

our building creates and the care shown by our staff and volunteers.



# Fundraising for 2024

2024 marks the culmination of our ambitious fundraising campaign launched in 2014. We are grateful for all who have supported us. All areas of cathedral life covered in this report would be different if it wasn't for the dedicated support of our Guardians, Ambassadors, Patrons and Builders.

We also owe a great deal to the Friends of Liverpool Cathedral for their generosity and passion.

**Particular highlights have included:**

- > Establishing Micah Liverpool
- > Launching the Liturgy and Music Foundation
- > Vital fabric repairs on the Well Floor, Nave and Lady Chapel roof, Baptistry and Lady Chapel windows
- > Creating a 'digital twin' of the building to improve repairs and maintenance
- > Developing an internationally excellent culture programme
- > The restoration of the Grand Organ

We are also grateful to those who have left a legacy to the Cathedral. These gifts make a real difference. This year we particularly remember the legacy of Mrs Eileen Golby, given through the Friends of Liverpool Cathedral, which is enabling the installation of the Echo Organ.

Trusts and foundations support a range of work including music, embroidery, maintenance of the building and outreach. We would like to thank the following Trusts for their support this year, as well as all our anonymous benefactors:

- The Dulverton Trust
- The Broderer's Charity Trust
- The Jerusalem Trust
- The Hobson Charity
- The Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund Merseyside
- The Kirkby Laing Charitable Trust
- The Cathedral Music Trust
- The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

- The John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust
- The Ouseley Church Music Trust
- The Benefact Trust
- The Brereton Memorial Fund



# Look up to 2024 and beyond

In 2024 we celebrate 100 years since our consecration and we have a range of events and activities to mark this anniversary. We also unveil a brand-new look and feel to our communications as we bring in a new logo.

Our fresh logo and communication material reflect what it is like to be a 21st century cathedral combining the various challenges and joys of ministry today. Evolved from our previous logo and developed from conversations with staff, volunteers and the public, this fresh approach brings the magnificent building to the fore.

Our new look invites people to do what we see so many doing when they first visit. Look up. Look up in awe to see the beautiful building that is Liverpool Cathedral. Look up to be inspired by the God that we believe in and we believe created all things. We will be introducing this over the next year as we establish our new feel for communications.

This links the past to the present. We have much planned and a great deal to achieve but we will remain true to our values and the fact we were built by the people, for the people to the glory of God.

## Did you know?



**600,000**  
visitors a year



**3.5 million**  
annual running costs  
in 2023



**30,000**  
visitors attended our  
Christmas Light Show



**100 year**  
centenary celebration  
2024



**Gold Award**  
maintained for Visit  
England's Visitor Attraction  
Quality Assurance  
Scheme (VAQAS)



**LAMF**  
our Liturgy and Music  
Foundation launched



**2,749**  
people receiving  
food parcels  
from Micah Liverpool



**15,520**  
food parcels given  
by Micah Liverpool  
this year



**41 people**  
back into work  
through Micah Liverpool's  
Employability Scheme





# Liverpool Cathedral

Liverpool Cathedral, a place of encounter,  
built by the people, for the people, to the glory of God

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