



Common Ground in Sacred Sacred Space Project Update – May 2018

Consultation

- We are very keen to capture information about the Cathedral's current visitors and to find out what activities people would like to benefit from after the refurbishment. To this end, the project team has been conducting surveys of visitors and non-visitors. We are getting quite nifty at intercepting people having their lunch on St. Nicholas Square, waiting for the bus or arriving early for a Cathedral concert! Please help us by asking your friends to complete either survey at **Newcastle Cathedral Visitor Questionnaire**: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/M952HJS> or **Newcastle Cathedral Non-Visitor Questionnaire**: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MD33V5V>.
- Members of the Project Board, Chapter and Project Team visited Hull Minster to learn about the transformation of the underused space into a central cultural venue with mission at its heart. We have lots of contacts and ideas to follow up on in the coming months.
- The Cathedral Architect and Project Manager addressed the Congregation after Sunday service on 13 May. We talked about the physical changes to be made inside and outside and the issues arising, as well as introducing the consultant team's outline plans for interpretation and additional visitor services. The Acting Dean spoke about the journey ahead for all of us and the importance of partnership working and volunteering in building a sustainable future.
- Our Project Development Officer, Campbell Grant, arranged a meeting of a large number of heritage venues and associated organisations on 15 May. The Project Chair, Professor John Goddard, explained how it is important for Newcastle heritage venues, NGI and the City Council to work together to put heritage 'on the map' and how the Cathedral and Castle can act as a gateway to a strengthened city heritage offer. We hope that this first meeting might morph into a regular heritage forum.
- Our review meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund has been rescheduled to 11 June to ensure that we have enough time for the full coordination of all our Stage 2 design team plans, interpretation and activity proposals and associated budget and business plan.

Volunteering

- Abi Knowles (CGISS Volunteer Coordinator) and Dave Heslop (Cathedral Archaeologist) launched the Community Volunteers Research Project on 2 May. Around 40 people attended to find out more about our ledger stones collection and how they could help. 20 people were recruited and met on 16 May for the first research session.

Fundraising and Communications

- On 4 May, the Cathedral Trust hosted a splendid fundraising dinner for special guests in the Cathedral nave. Lord Stevens (Trust Patron), the Acting Dean, Geoff Miller, and Bishop Christine



Newcastle
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gave inspiring speeches about the Cathedral's important role in the city and region. We were able to display new pop-up banners which explain the aims of the *Common Ground in Sacred Space* project in the context of the Cathedral's overall mission. A promotional video for the Cathedral has also been made and will shortly be made available online.



Lindy Gilliland
CGISS Project Manager
17 May 2018