



Frequently Asked Questions

What happens when the Dean of Truro Cathedral leaves their post?

When a Dean steps down, whether through retirement or moving to another role, the cathedral enters a **vacancy period**. During this time, responsibilities are redistributed among senior clergy and the Cathedral Chapter until a new Dean is appointed.

Who oversees the cathedral during a vacancy?

The cathedral is typically overseen by a person appointed to act in the role temporarily. **Where the cathedral has a Vice Dean that person would usually take over. If there is no Vice Dean, as is the case at Truro, an Interim Dean** is usually appointed in the absence of an interim appointee, the **Bishop who is the cathedral's Visitor** has power to act.

What arrangements will be made at Truro?

The Bishop is in discussion with prospective candidates for the role of Interim Dean. The Bishop will lead Sunday Services during April. The daily life of the Cathedral will continue with worship, pastoral care, events, and administration continuing as usual.

During the immediate transition to the appointment of the Interim Dean, the Senior Management team will be joined by members of the Cathedral Chapter. Chairs of Chapter Committees and the Senior Non-Executive Member of Chapter will provide support for individual members of the Senior Management team.

How is an Interim Dean chosen?

An Interim Dean is usually appointed by the Bishop in consultation with cathedral leadership.

How long does the interim period last?

The interim period typically lasts until the formal appointment process concludes and the new substantive Dean takes up the post. Past experience suggests that this can take between six and twelve months.

Can former cathedral clergy return to lead the cathedral during the vacancy?

No. The focus remains firmly on future leadership, discernment, and ensuring continuity while the formal appointment of a new Dean is underway.

While former Deans or clergy may remain warmly regarded by the cathedral community, their return to active leadership during a vacancy is not part of the appointment processes. Leadership during this period is instead managed by the Interim Dean and the Cathedral Chapter, consistent with how Truro Cathedral has previously handled transitions, such as appointing an internal interim leader before a new Dean was selected.

Is Safeguarding at the cathedral affected?

The departure of the Dean does not alter, pause, or weaken safeguarding procedures.

- The **Diocesan Safeguarding Team** manage all safeguarding assessments, casework, agreements, and reviews.
- The **Cathedral Chapter** remains responsible, ensuring that diocesan safeguarding requirements, including **directions issued by bishops are followed operationally on site.**

Who makes the decision about the next Dean?

The appointment of a new Dean is approved at the national level, previously announced by **Downing Street**, and confirmed by the Bishop of Truro. This follows the same process used when the most recent Dean was formally nominated and installed.

What happens in day-to-day cathedral operations during the vacancy?

See above question around arrangements.

Will services or events be affected?

No. Cathedrals are designed to remain fully operational throughout leadership transitions. The Chapter and team ensure continuity in worship, music, pastoral support, and community events.

How will the congregation and wider community be informed about progress?

Updates are typically shared via:

- The cathedral website
- Official announcements from the Bishop or Diocese
- Sunday service notices

When can we expect a new Dean to be appointed?

While timelines vary (see above), the process generally involves:

1. Discernment and consultation
2. National approval
3. Formal announcement
4. Installation at the cathedral