



# ELY CATHEDRAL

## WHY DO WE HAVE TO PAY TO ENTER A CHURCH?

To keep this beautiful building standing, open and operational as a centre of worship, ministry and tourism costs over £1m a year – nearly £3,000 a day. This figure includes the cost of restoring, maintaining and insuring a priceless part of our heritage and the cost of providing visitor facilities and of catering for the needs of the many thousands of children who visit the Cathedral each year. In maintaining a fine professional choir – which sings at many of the 23 services that take place here each week – the Cathedral maintains and develops another part of our heritage, the English cathedral choral tradition.

## WHY CAN'T WE MAKE A VOLUNTARY DONATION?

Before introducing a charge, the level of donations was just 34p per visitor and that simply wasn't enough to meet our obligations. However, a gift-aided donation can now be made. Details appear on the reverse of this leaflet.

## DON'T YOU GET HELP FROM GOVERNMENT OR CHURCH FUNDS?

Unlike church buildings in many European countries, we get no financial help from the government. The support we receive from the Church Commissioners amounts to only 10% of our costs.

## WHAT IF WE WANT TO ATTEND A SERVICE?

We don't charge those entering to attend a service, or for private prayer. Just let the staff on the Visitor Admission Desk know.

## WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK LOCALLY?

If you live in Ely, **or** are a member of a church in the Diocese, **or** are a member of the Cathedral congregation, then you qualify for a pass which allows you free entry. Alternatively, you may wish to join 'The Friends of Ely Cathedral' and enjoy special events as well as free entrance.

*As you walk through the Cathedral, spare a thought for those who over many centuries have lived, worked and prayed here and who have devoted their lives to the building's care and preservation for the glory of God and for the use, interest and enjoyment of visitors, pilgrims and worshippers. We hope these brief explanations have gone some way to answering your questions. Should you need any further information, please ask a member of staff.*

## GIFT AID DONATIONS

### How you can help us – at no extra cost to you

Whatever your purpose in coming to Ely Cathedral, we hope you will enjoy your visit and that you will appreciate the work that is being done to preserve such a valuable part of our heritage.

It costs £3,000 a day to keep the Cathedral open – which is why (except on Sundays) we ask you to pay an admission charge.

However, if you make a donation equivalent to – but instead of – our admission charge, we will give you a free Cathedral Pass for a year. If you are a UK tax payer we can recover from HM Revenue and Customs tax you have already paid – **at no extra cost to you.**

**Instead of paying** for admission, please **make a donation** equivalent to our normal admission charge and sign a brief declaration showing your name, address, postcode and the amount you have donated. You do not have to do anything else – we make a claim to the taxman.

To us, that's worth **an extra 28p for every £1** you give in this way. For you, this is an opportunity to decide how a tiny part of your taxes is actually spent!

You can imagine the difference this can make to the Cathedral finances. With your help we can preserve this beautiful and historic place of worship for future generations to enjoy.

If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you can claim further tax relief on your Self Assessment tax return – retain your receipt as proof of your donation.

That's all! You will not be contacted further on this matter. If you wish to receive news of future events at Ely Cathedral, please tell us so we can add your name to our mailing list.

***Thank you for your interest in our work.***

**Ely Cathedral Trust**

*Registered Charity No. 264803*