

The Cathedral & Church Shops Association

- Supporting Cathedrals and Churches in the UK in 2021

Dear Clergy and Churchwardens

I write on behalf of the "Cathedral and Church Shops Association" (CCSA), a voluntary organisation which works with cathedrals and churches across the UK and Ireland to help and support their retail shop managers in their role in raising funds towards mission and ministry for their cathedrals and churches.

The CCSA has been in existence since 1972, it is a non profit making organisation which holds regional training meetings around the country during the year and hosts an Annual Conference and Trade Fair in different cathedral or church locations around the country each year in September.

CCSA Member Shop Managers from many cathedrals and churches around the country attend these events, especially the Annual Conference and Trade Fair, which is held over two days, giving them the opportunity to meet up with other Managers and also look and select from the large selection of religious and relevant gift stocks available to order at the Trade Fair, often at discounted prices to sell in their shops.

We offer our CCSA Members the following benefits:

Annual Conference & Trade Fair

- An Annual Conference and Trade Fair with over 40+ suppliers under one roof
- Selected supplier discounts min 5% available for stock orders and other benefits.
- Networking opportunities with other shop managers and suppliers.
- Opportunity to arrange bespoke products tailored for their cathedral or church from expert suppliers.
- Training sessions on selected relevant topics.
- Relevant guest speakers at training events.
- Grants are available to help some Members to attend these events.

Regional Meetings

- Held at selected locations around the country to enable members to attend.
- Small groups meet to visit, critique and discuss other Heritage Venue Shops.
- Training sessions on products.
- Guest speakers on selected relevant topics.

Other Member benefits include:

- A regular Newsletter to highlight sales opportunities, Members and Supplier features.
- An Approved Supplier Discount Scheme which offers members extra discount on purchases.
- A Retail Manual commissioned by the CCSA from an independent Retail Consultant which offers full details on all aspects of retail in sacred spaces, including retail operations, product selection, display, merchandising, and retail and finance

administration, including how to maximise sales and profit (manual can only be issued on payment of annual membership fee).

- Grants available to help and support members for selected events!

If any church site with a retail space, from a small table selling items to support their church to a larger retail shop we would be delighted to hear from them and welcome them as members to the Association.

Also this year our Annual Conference and Trade Fair is being held in Shrewsbury at the Church of St Mary the Virgin in the centre of Shrewsbury on the 15th & 16th September, with over 40 religious/ gift suppliers attending the Trade Fair.

Following the difficulties experienced during this pandemic, this is a great opportunity for your Retail Manager to meet other Shop Managers from around the country and to experience the Trade Fair and take the opportunity to place stock orders at favourable prices; we have plenty of delegate spaces available

If you are interested in coming to Shrewsbury or wish to know more about the CCSA and what it can do to help your Church or Cathedral, please contact me:

Hugh Fearnall, Chairman CCSA

Telephone number: 01434 634347

Mobile: 07779 346150

Email: hugh_fearnall@yahoo.com

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes

Hugh Fearnall
CCSA Chairman