

The image shows the interior of a Gothic cathedral, viewed from the nave looking towards the altar. The architecture is characterized by high, pointed arches and ribbed vaulting. A large, multi-paned stained glass window is the focal point in the background, featuring intricate designs in various colors. The floor is a black and white checkered pattern. In the foreground, there are wooden pews with dark cushions. A long wooden table, likely an altar or a table for the choir, runs across the middle ground. On the table, there are two golden candlesticks and a small plant. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the architectural details and the vibrant colors of the stained glass.

LITURGICAL
FURNISHINGS
IN ENGLISH
CATHEDRALS:
STORAGE,
MOVEMENT,
RETENTION
& DISPOSAL



LITURGICAL FURNISHINGS IN ENGLISH CATHEDRALS: STORAGE, MOVEMENT, RETENTION & DISPOSAL

CATHEDRALS FABRIC COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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Cover: **Worcester Cathedral**
Opposite: **Bradford Cathedral**

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INTRODUCTION

Issues associated with the retention, retirement, movement or disposal of liturgical furnishings in English cathedrals have become more prominent owing to a series of reordering projects over recent years.

Decisions as to whether items of liturgical furniture can or should be moved, retired, stored or disposed of revolve around two principal issues: how changes in liturgical needs and thinking impact upon the use of the cathedral as a sacred space; and the heritage significance of the objects concerned and of their wider setting.

The future of objects retired from use must also be considered. Methods of storage, accessibility for future reuse and options for disposal all have conservation and financial implications. Although very few cathedrals have museum or archives accreditation they are increasingly expected to care for their collections to appropriate heritage standards, which can be both time-consuming and expensive.

Set out below are some initial guidelines on the treatment of existing liturgical furnishings for cathedrals considering major changes. These are not intended to be exhaustive, but we hope they may offer some pointers to cathedral architects, administrators, chapters and Fabric Advisory Committees weighing their options for change.

Any proposals for change should have robust justification and be informed by a detailed understanding of the significance of the objects or fabric affected, as articulated in a Liturgical Plan, Conservation Management Plan, the cathedral Inventory, and other relevant documents. Guidance on the production of these documents is available on the [ChurchCare website](#).

This guidance note should be read alongside the Commission's general [User's Guide to the Care of Cathedral Measure](#).