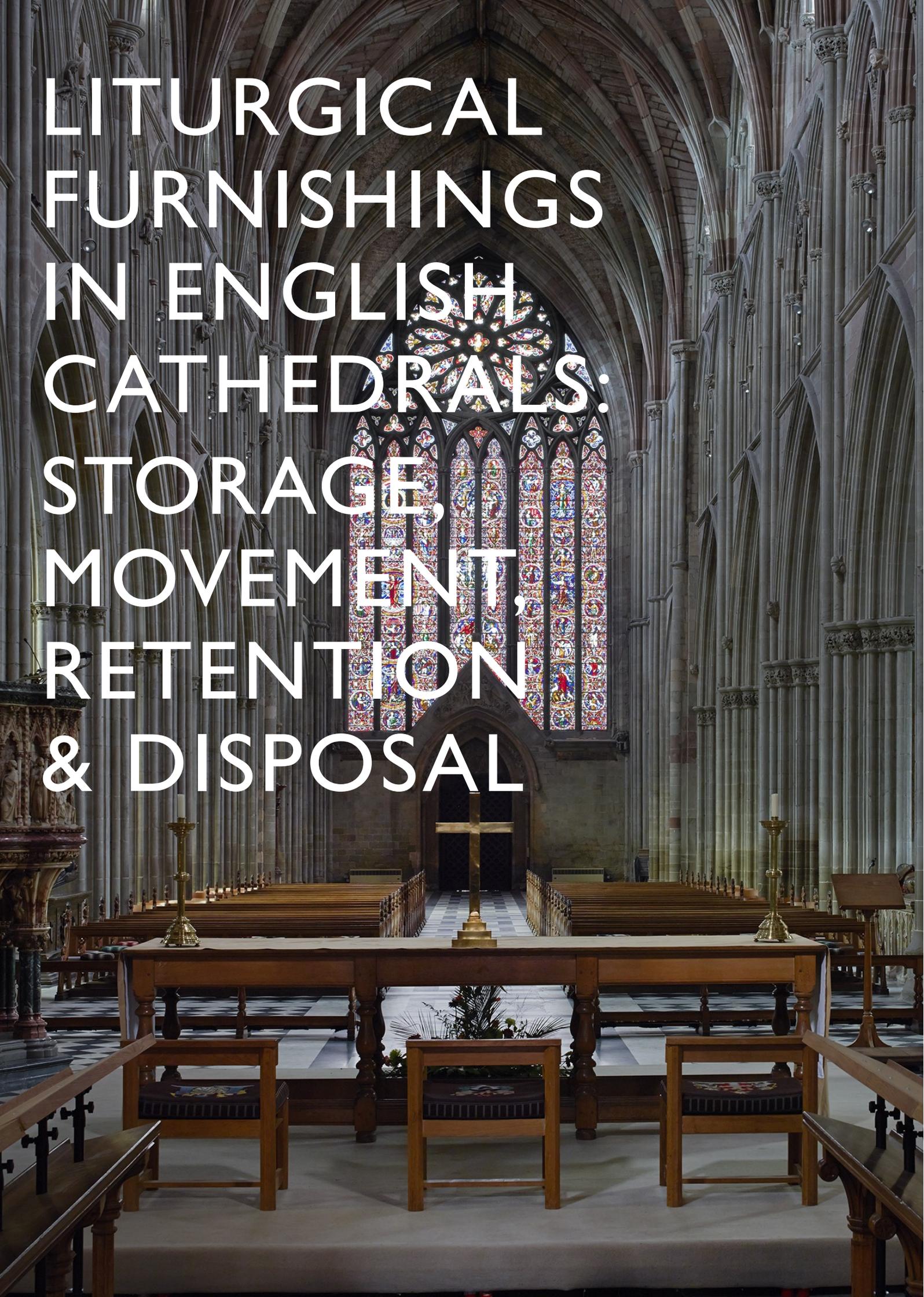


LITURGICAL
FURNISHINGS
IN ENGLISH
CATHEDRALS:
STORAGE,
MOVEMENT,
RETENTION
& DISPOSAL





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

CATHEDRALS FABRIC COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

2019



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

Imprint

*Issued by the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England
Church House, London SW1*

Template by Phil Baines

Copyright © Archbishops' Council 2019

*Corrections or queries should be brought to the attention of the
Commission's secretariat*

*All photographs except p.13 by Paul Barker © Archbishops' Council
p.13 © Archbishops' Council*

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	6
2	A FRAMEWORK FOR DECISION-MAKING	8
2a	Shifting styles of worship	9
2b	Assessing significance	11
2c	Inventories	12
2d	Storage or disposal of retired items	12
3	PREPARING AN APPLICATION	14
4	FURTHER INFORMATION	16



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](#).