

FORM 10 (Rule 7)
Section 9 of Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011
Notice of Decision of Cathedrals Fabric Commission

TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter of the Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York applied on 15th April 2024 for approval of the following proposal:

Conservation of the Braganza crozier (YORDC.2013.104)

Summary of the application

The joint where the head of the Braganza Crozier is attached to the rod has recently buckled due to active use, and wear and tear over many centuries. The crozier is currently unstable, and cannot be used until repaired.

The application is for conservation work to straighten and realign the damaged joint and solder the repair. Thereafter the crozier will be cleaned and polished to conservation standard, removing old metal polish, tarnish and residue. The work will be carried out by Richard Rogers, a specialist metalwork conservator and Accredited member of Icon, the Institute of Conservation.

The Braganza Crozier (catalogue no YORDC.2013.104) is believed to have been presented to James Smith, Vicar Apostolic of the Northern District by Catherine of Braganza, the Roman Catholic widow of Charles II, in 1688, on his consecration as Bishop of Callipolis (now Gallipoli). Although England in the 17th century was a Protestant country, Charles II's successor King James II (reigned 1685-88) converted to Catholicism in 1669 and supported the appointment of four Catholic Vicars Apostolic for England.

Smith established himself at the King's Manor in York. During the civil unrest in York in late 1688, the crozier appears to have come into the possession of the Earl of Danby. In 1689, Danby sold it to the Dean and Chapter of York. It has been held in York Minster ever since.

The crozier is used by Archbishops of York at ceremonies in the Minster, and also on ecumenical occasions, such as a celebratory mass led by Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor in 2009. It is made available for liturgical use by the Roman Catholic Bishops of Middlesbrough and Leeds on special occasions, such as confirmation services at St Wilfrid's Church in York.

Representations

Representations in writing in respect of the above proposal were received from:

None

NOTE:

Within 7 days of receipt of this Notice the administrator of the Cathedral Church is to display a copy of it inside and outside the cathedral where it will be readily visible to the public for a period of not less than 28 days.

Decision

At a meeting of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission held on 8th May 2024 the above proposal and representations were considered and the Commission decided to approve the application subject to the following conditions:

1. That treatment of the crozier is fully recorded and documented;
2. That an appropriate maintenance, cleaning and storage policy and regime are instigated by the Minster.

For the reasons:

1. To ensure a good record of the treatment is available in the future;
2. To ensure that the crozier is kept in good condition during storage, and that it is not under- or over-cleaned before and after each use.

Signed:



**Tom Ashley
Deputy Secretary of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England**

Dated: 29th June 2024