



Building Work at Guildford Cathedral Q and A – 9 May 2016

Q What is the People's Cathedral Project?

A As you may be aware, Guildford Cathedral has now commenced the building element of "The People's Cathedral Project", an ambitious 30 month initiative combining urgent repairs with an exciting community engagement programme to capture and reveal the rich heritage and history behind this stunning 20th century building.

Q What does the Building Work Involve?

A The building work involves a series of elements including the removal of acoustic plaster, the rewiring of the cathedral, the installation of a new sound and lighting system and a new ramp and lift.

Q How will the acoustic plaster removal take place?

A Acoustic plaster will be removed from a number of locations around the Cathedral, including from the Nave, Aisles, Crypt and Gallery areas. In order to do this, sections of the Cathedral will be tented off with no public access to enable our contractors to work effectively. Contractors will be wearing white, blue and red suits to easily distinguish themselves and facilitate access to these areas. After the Cathedral is closed each evening, acoustic plaster material will be removed from the tented areas to a dedicated and controlled compound. As some of this material is thought to contain asbestos, warning signs have been placed around the Cathedral at the removal areas and exit routes. This is a precautionary measure to ensure that absolute standards of safety are maintained. We emphasise that the removal areas are sealed and inspected on a regular basis with routine leak air monitoring in place, and that no unauthorised personnel have access to anywhere around an exit route whilst the sealed bags of material are being removed. During the works, a rigorous air monitoring programme will operate between 7am – 10pm daily. Prior to the People's Cathedral Project, air monitoring has been conducted within the Cathedral for 3 years. All testing resulted in satisfactory airborne fibre concentrations.

Q Will the building work be noisy?

A We expect there to be a degree of background noise during the building works. Clearly, at some times, such as the installation of the scaffolding, noise levels will be higher, however we will work hard to minimise disruption. Detailed discussions have been carried out with the Cathedral Architect to ensure the programme of work allows for pauses and in some case stoppages to allow for Services or special events to take place.

Q Will Guildford Cathedral be closed during the building works?

A No, Guildford Cathedral will remain open for the duration of the project, continuing to act as a hub for spiritual and cultural engagement: a place of daily choral worship; a space for stillness and prayer; a venue for concerts; a valued art exhibition space; and centre for education. At times, sections of the Cathedral maybe closed off, but careful planning taking full account of the needs of this busy building will ensure disruption is kept to a minimum. Information about significant restrictions will be placed on the Cathedral website.

Q What about Safeguarding?

A At times it may be necessary for our contractors to work in the Crypt, however whilst the Choir rehearse or are in this area, all work will cease and no contractors will be allowed to enter in line with our Safeguarding Policy.

Q Is my health at risk because I have worked at Guildford Cathedral for a significant time?

A The safety of our Cathedral community is our primary concern during this period of work. Guildford Cathedral has a rigorous air monitoring programme which has been in place for 3 years through an independent contractor. During this time, all results have shown airborne fibre concentrations below the prescribed limits. As part of this ongoing monitoring process, samples are taken from areas in use by our community and are reviewed as part of our standard management procedures. Daily meetings are conducted with our contractors and air monitoring takes place from 7am – 10pm daily with samples analysed on site during the works.

Q I have a question about the People's Cathedral Project which cannot be answered?

A Guildford Cathedral is committed to remaining open during this transformational period as a place of welcome, worship, engagement and inspiration. We appreciate your forbearance during this time and would be happy to discuss the project in more detail with you, or address any queries you may have.

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