



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

Our Strategy 2026—2032



We are committed to our Vision of:

**Worshipping God
Transforming Lives
Serving Community**

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This strategy has been a long time coming, and it is the better for it. Before a word was written, we listened: to those who worship here week by week, to those who have never crossed the threshold, to clergy and civic leaders, to young families and long-serving volunteers. You all helped shape what you are reading. You told us what you love about this Cathedral, what concerns you and what you believe we can, together, become. What follows is our response.

*What you told us was both humbling and energising.
This Cathedral is loved. It is also capable of so much more.*

We face real challenges, and we name them honestly in these pages. But we begin from a place of genuine confidence, rooted not in our own abilities but in the God whose Cathedral this truly is. The foundations are strong. The calling is clear. The people are willing.

I commend this strategy to you with gratitude and with joy. Come and be part of what is ahead.



**The Very Reverend Bob Cooper,
Dean of Guildford**

A place for everyone

Guildford Cathedral stands on Stag Hill as a beacon of faith for the Diocese and a gift to the people of Surrey. Built brick by brick by the local community, it has always been the People's Cathedral. It is a place of prayer and beauty, of music and welcome, of stillness and hope.

We exist for one purpose: to worship God, to transform lives, and to serve our community. This strategy sets out how we will live that purpose more fully between now and 2032.

Phase 1: 2026–2028

**Building Coherence, Stability
and Strategic Readiness**

Phase 2: 2029–2032

**Expanding Reach, Deepening
Impact and Celebrating 70 Years**

Six themes, one direction

Everything we do flows from six strategic themes. In **Phase 1**, we lay the foundations for each.



Worship

Beautiful, well-prepared and genuinely welcoming worship at the heart of everything; our choral tradition strengthened and made sustainable; acoustics addressed so every voice can be heard.



Learning

Structured discipleship pathways, public theology, and partnerships with schools and the University of Surrey; a Cathedral where faith is explored and deepened at every stage of life.



Mission

A renewed digital presence, a clear missional identity, and community partnerships that reflect our commitment to the flourishing of all; the Cathedral more visible and more outward-facing.



Community

The Cathedral Forum established; civic relationships strengthened; every visitor welcomed with warmth and intention; the People's Cathedral in practice, not just in name.



Sustainability

Honest, disciplined progress towards a balanced budget by 2028; staff and volunteers well supported; governance clear and confident; the foundations that make everything else possible.



Growing Younger

Children, families and young people more fully at home here; schools engagement and Godly Play more evident across the Diocese; a community that is genuinely and joyfully intergenerational.

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For more information about this strategy, or to speak to someone about giving, volunteering, or becoming part of the Cathedral community, please contact the Cathedral Office.

Stag Hill, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7UP