



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

Introduction

1. A hugely significant month in which the Cathedral launched its Vision and Strategy consultation period. Apologies for this newsletter being late, but instead of having a Senior Volunteers' meeting (at which this newsletter is discussed), the opportunity was taken to have a strategy workshop with the cohort leaders. Everyone is invited to complete the internal stakeholder questionnaire - your feedback is really valuable and will help shape future planning. You can access the questionnaire here: [Internal Stakeholder Questionnaire](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cq0aofuklgmlh4wlhxyz/ADzFWV-iNtaHVMbK0RHTfiU?rlkey=vn9stfi9by352eje36cyjt365&st=s3g6zhw9&dl=0).

2. At the link is an advertisement for Mental Health Awareness Training now available and a flyer for the Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy (GTCC) quiz on 11 October. There is also a copy of the GTCC summer newsletter.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cq0aofuklgmlh4wlhxyz/ADzFWV-iNtaHVMbK0RHTfiU?rlkey=vn9stfi9by352eje36cyjt365&st=s3g6zhw9&dl=0>

Worship

3. The times of services are as follows:

Sunday – 7.30am Morning Prayer, 8.00am Holy Communion, 9.45am Cathedral Eucharist, 6pm Evensong.

Monday - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 9.00am Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evensong.

Tuesday - 8.00am Morning Prayer, 8.30am Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evensong.

Wednesday - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 9.00am Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evening Prayer.

Thursday - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 12.30pm Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evensong.

Friday - 8.00am Morning Prayer, 8.30am Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evensong.

Saturday 9.00am Morning Prayer, 9.30am Holy Communion, 4pm Evening Prayer.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

4. The Cathedral opening times are as follows:

- Sunday – 7.30am to 5pm.
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – 8.30am to 5pm.
- Tuesday – 7.30am to 5pm.
- Saturday – 8.30am to 5pm.

The Shop is open from Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 4.30pm. Seasons is open from Monday to Saturday from 9am until 3pm, and on Sunday from 9am until 12 noon.

Chapter

5. Chapter met on 9 September and were presented with a financial report and a draft of the Annual Report and Accounts, which will go before Chapter again for approval on 14 October, and the Risk Register.

Bellringing

6. The 80th anniversary of VJ Day was commemorated with a quarter peal on Sunday 17 August. Two other quarter peals have been rung since the last Senior Volunteers meeting, one of which was by a Farnham District band. Peals were successfully rung on 9th August and 6th September, the latter being especially arranged for Anne Anthony's 70th birthday. It was also her 100th peal on the bells. In October the Cathedral ringers are taking part in the inaugural South-East area 12-Bell Striking Contest at Portsmouth Cathedral. The ringers have been pleased to welcome back into the tower David Tubbs following the death of his partner, for whom he was a long-time carer. David, whose father-in-law Alfred White was Dean's Virger, was the first Tower Captain following installation of the bells in 1965.

Development Department

7. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, has been working on various design projects, for Heritage Open Day on 13 September and for the Vision and Strategy launch on 14 September. She has also prepared publicity for the visit of the Cathedral Music Trust CEO on his cycling pilgrimage, and for girl chorister Annie's appearance in the semi-finals of Young Chorister of the Year.

Facilities

8. Preparations have been in train for the return visit by Surrey Fire and Rescue service. Tree work around the site took place during the week commencing 22 September and the emergency lighting has been tested by the Cathedral electricians. Repairs have been carried out in the ladies' toilets. The Dicoesan Surveyor has visited one of the Cathedral properties to ensure issues are reported to the insurance company (EIG).

Families Engagement and Schools

9. The Cathedral Tots service on Wednesday 3 September was a great success, with a number of new families attending. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, delivering the 'Trinity workshop' at Rowledge Primary School and delivered a Godly Play session off site.

Liturgy and Music

10. The last Sunday of the summer break was sung by Fraser Ellison, Asher Oliver (Sub Organist) accompanying on the organ. Upon their return the choir sang at the funeral of Nick Sealy in Chobham, and then for the first week at St Nicolas' Church in Guildford due

to the filming. The new Organ Scholar Jozef Gaszka has joined -please make him feel welcome. You can watch chorister Annie's performance at the BBC Young Chorister of the Year semi final at the link below.

[BBC iPlayer - Songs of Praise - Young Chorister of the Year - Senior Semi-Final](#)

Virgers

11. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve, Andrew and Nicola for all they are doing at such a busy time and under such difficult circumstances. They have been able to take their turn to go away for some richly deserved leave.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. There was a 'Coldplay by Candlelight' concert on 30 August, the following weekend (5 and 6 September) saw three concerts featuring the music of Hans Zimmer, also by candlelight. Filming of a Netflix production took place on 17 September, with the Cathedral being out of use all that week for preparations, filming and the clear up operation afterwards. The Jacqui Parkinson exhibition 'Threads Through The Cross' has been in the Cathedral since Thursday 25 September and is proving very popular.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer