



**GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL**

## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 24 FEBRUARY 2022**

### **Introduction**

1. The government has released details of the latest easing of Covid restrictions as follows:

- From Thursday 24 February, the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test ended.
- Until 1 April, people who test positive will still be advised to stay at home. After April 1 people with Covid-19 symptoms will be advised to exercise personal responsibility.
- From 1 April free symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public will end.

The Cathedral continues to encourage worshippers and visitors to wear masks and take responsibility for their own personal hygiene. The one-way system and opening times as well as other measures in our risk assessments will remain in force but will be reviewed on a continual basis. Whilst the threat remains, could I please encourage everyone to continue taking lateral flow tests before coming to the Cathedral?

[Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

2. Could I please also add my personal thanks to all our Volunteers to those of Chapter in paragraph 7 below for all that is being achieved in the face of multiple challenges. Thank you to everyone involved in the illuminations. It was a wonderful week which showed that the Cathedral is 'Open to God, Open to All' at this difficult time.

### **Volunteers - New Joiners**

3. Welcome to Melissa Boyes (choir chaperone) and Shani Orchard (various Volunteer roles).

### **Volunteers – Family Engagement and Schools**

4. The Family Engagement and Schools Team are looking for new volunteers to support their work with children and families in their extensive programme of activities. Regular dates include supporting our Cathedral Tots service on the first Wednesday of each month for a gathering including crafts, a Bible story, prayer, songs, and fellowship. School holidays see the Cathedral open the doors for Family Fun Days, welcoming families from the local community to take part in a variety of engaging activities and take the opportunity to explore our beautiful building. School Visits take place on a schedule of dates throughout

the year, normally advertised two months in advance for volunteers to sign up for their chosen dates according to availability. We welcome primary and secondary school children to learn more about the Cathedral building and various aspects of the Christian faith: all teaching material is prepared and provided in advance. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who enjoys working with children and would like to welcome and encourage a community of learners to find out more about this special place and the faith celebrated within. For further details, contact Becki Hartley ([schools@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:schools@guildford-cathedral.org)) or Julie Mitchell ([volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org))

## **Worship**

5. The service times remain as follows:

- Sundays – Holy Communion at 8am, Cathedral Eucharist at 9.45am, Evensong at 6pm.
- Morning Prayer and Eucharist at 9.00 and 9.30am on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; at 8.00 and 8.30am on Tuesday.
- Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday Thursday, and Friday.
- Evening Prayer at 5.30pm on Wednesday and no evening service on Saturday.

## **Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons**

6. The Cathedral remains open for visitors and individual prayer on Sunday from 1.30pm until 3.30pm, then from Monday to Saturday from 10.30am until 3.30pm. The Shop is open from Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 3.30pm. Seasons is now open from Monday to Saturday from 9am until 3pm, and on Sunday from 9am until 12noon. These opening times continue to be reviewed in the light of the recent lifting of government restrictions.

## **Chapter**

7. Chapter met on 8 February and discussed ‘Contested Heritage’, which is the issue of how, and to what extent, objects that may be symbols of injustice or sources of pain may impact on the Cathedral’s ability to undertake its requisite activities. Discussions will continue over coming months. Chapter also looked at Visitor Experience and Events in some detail and were briefed on the Cathedral Development. Chapter asked that their thanks be passed on to all Staff and Volunteers for ensuring that all scheduled services and events, family and schools’ activity, concerts, exhibitions, and all other Volunteer undertakings were able to continue despite shortages due illness and leave and other pressures brought to bear by the pandemic.

## **Bell Ringing**

8. On Sunday 6 February a quarter peal of Stedman Caters, 1270 changes, was rung prior to Evensong to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HM The Queen’s accession to the throne. Another quarter peal was rung the following Sunday, and on Saturday 19 February a peal of Stedman Cinques was rung in 3 hours and 38 minutes, the first on the bells this year. Earlier in the month members of the Farnham District of the Diocesan Guild paid their annual visit to the Cathedral, enabling some to ring on and hear 12 bells for the first

time. Preparations continue apace for the final of the National 12-Bell Contest on 25 June, and on Saturday 26 February the Contest's technical team will be visiting to plan the wiring and equipment necessary to bring the sound of the bells to the judges in the Chapter House and to provide live broadcasts on the progress of the contest.

## **Development**

9. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, has applied for a grant from the Cathedral Music Trust. She is also in communication with AllChurches Trust who provide financial benefit to churches on behalf of EIG, the Cathedral's insurer. Discussions are underway about the future of the Fundraising Committee under the new Cathedrals' measure. The main marketing effort for Nicola and Claire, the Marketing and Communications Officer, during the month was the 'Space and Life' illuminations, good coverage was achieved across all media platforms, including BBC South TV and BBC Radio Surrey.

## **Facilities**

10. The Cathedral grounds were affected by the storms Duncan and Eunice and had a couple of trees blown down. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, was very well supported by the University estates' team who ensured the roads were cleared and access was maintained. The team also reports that they have completed the planting of winter flowering plants in the Seeds of Hope Garden. The Cathedral has been visited during the month by surveyors from Horizon who are looking at the possibilities of installing electric vehicle charging points. Jim has also contacted a UK company that manufactures wind turbines. It is likely that the Covid screening centre in the former DEC Car Park will be needed for at least a couple of months more and planning is underway accordingly. The matter of the access lift at the North Porch has been resolved and Jim has a quote for rectification work.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

11. The Christingle Service on Sunday 30 January was very enjoyable with a congregation of 47 sharing in celebration. The School Visit on Tuesday 1 February was cancelled by the school. Becki will look to rearrange this trip with the school soon. Cathedral Tots was wonderfully led by The Dean on Wednesday 2 February, with families learning the story of Jonah and the Whale. Thursday 3 February's school visit was amended at short notice with the school attending a tour led by Ann Bourne and following their learning with a sketching session to create artwork to take back to school. Wednesday 16 February's half-term Family Fun Day sold out 120 children's tickets, and 97 children attended the day, taking part in a variety of activities around the theme of Spring. Many parents commented how lovely it was to be in the Cathedral and how much they enjoyed their time spent with the team during the morning. Administration for the Diocesan Schools' Eco-Day on Thursday 3 March continues with a new timetable being drawn up, schools being contacted, and Diocesan and Cathedral colleagues and volunteers brought back into the preparation for this re-scheduled date.

## **Guildford Cathedral Development**

12. Discussions between Vivid Homes and the Guildford Borough Council planners continue. The information required by the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for their meeting on 30 March, when they will consider the latest iteration of the plan, has been submitted.

### **Liturgy and Music**

13. This month the Music Department had to rehearse offsite during the illuminations with the girl choristers in St. Nicolas' Church, where they received a very warm welcome. The boy choristers have been working hard on their music theory as exams are looming. The music team supported Maureen Pappin's funeral on Monday 14 February, and have been preparing for services in Lent, the girls' forthcoming weekend day residency at St. Catherine's School and concert in the auditorium there at 7.30 pm on 5 March, as well as the 'Inspiring Women' concert at the Cathedral on 12 March at 7pm. Preparations are also in train for the choir's 21 May concert with John Rutter, whom the team are delighted to announce is conducting the second half of the programme. The organists have been playing organ voluntaries by female composers as part of their month-long commitment to performing music by women composers. BBC Music magazine March edition has given the recent Cathedral Choir CD 'As the Leaves Fall' a very favourable review indeed:

'Besides his setting of "In the Bleak Midwinter", Harold Darke is little known beyond Anglican church music circles, an injustice highlighted here. The soundworld is lush, with catchy hooks, paired perfectly with the Requiem by Darke's contemporary Duruflé.'

### **Virgers**

14. The Virger team have been exceptionally flexible and hardworking this month in the face of absences on leave and illness, and bad weather. School visits, Cathedral Tots, the Candlemas Eucharist, the Family Fun Day, the Coffee Concert, preparations for and resetting after markets, exhibitions, the illuminations, meetings to plan for future activity – all this has happened as well as the need to maintain the Cathedral's daily service routine and keep everyone safe and secure. Huge thanks are due to the team for all that they do.

### **Visitor Experience and Events**

15. The main events this month were the three markets 'Pre-loved', 'Craft and Flea' and 'Worth the Weight' on 5, 12 and 26 February as well as the illuminations between 8 and 12 February and the Coffee Concert (featuring Karen Taylor's 'Rhythm of Life' Community Choir) on 17 February. Tracey Pusey, Events Officer, is making final preparations for the Aled Jones concert on 1 March. A Visit England assessor came to the site on 3 February and gave a pleasing verbal debrief on what he experienced – the written report will be sent shortly. Well done to the Guides, Seasons and Shop teams, and the Virgers.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer