



**GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL**

## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 28 JULY 2022**

### **Introduction**

1. A truly remarkable month, with large scale ordination services and graduation ceremonies all achieved within a few weeks of each other. The unstinting support that the Cathedral receives from its Volunteers to be able to mount services and events such as this is very inspiring, please see the vote of thanks from Chapter in paragraph 5 below, to which I add my own. With hot weather and dry conditions continuing, please could I encourage everyone to look out for themselves and each other, and to be very aware of potential fire risk.

### **Volunteers – Live Streaming Team**

2. Would you like to join the Cathedral's live streaming team to help broadcast services on Sundays and on other special occasions? Full instruction on how to use the equipment will be given, and it can be easily mastered – you do not have to be particularly technically minded. Streaming a service is good fun and enormously satisfying, you feel part of the whole team delivering services and helping to extend Guildford Cathedral's reach throughout the world. Please contact Matt O'Grady if you are interested ([dops@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:dops@guildford-cathedral.org)).

### **Worship**

3. 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\*.

\* Please note that until the end of August, Evening Prayer is at 5pm. If there is a visiting choir on a weekday Choral Evensong will also be at 5pm.

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

4. The Cathedral opening times remain as follows:

- Sunday - 1.30pm to 3.30pm.
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 8.30am to 4.30pm (whole Cathedral); 4.30pm to 5pm (Nave only); 5pm onwards (those attending services only);
- Tuesday – 7.30am to 4.30pm (whole Cathedral); 4.30pm to 5pm (Nave only); 5pm onwards (those attending services only).

The Shop is now open from Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 4pm. Seasons is open from Monday to Saturday from 9am until 3pm, and on Sunday from 9am until 12noon.

## **Chapter**

5. Chapter met on 12 July, and approved the Annual Report and Accounts. The document can be found at the following link:

[Guildford Cathedral - Annual Report \(guildford-cathedral.org\)](http://guildford-cathedral.org)

Chapter asked that its members' particular thanks be passed to all of those involved in the ordination services, which were wonderful occasions marked by a warm welcome from the Cathedral team and the prevalence of a joyous atmosphere.

## **Bellringing**

6. The ringers rang for two of the ordination services over the first weekend of July. They also welcomed a band of visitors from Nottingham University - they certainly enjoyed the opportunity to ring on the Cathedral's excellent set of 12 bells. After changes to the normal routine due to competing teams coming to practice for the National 12-bell competition, the Tower has now returned to ringing 1/4 peals. Three have been scored so far in July. Two of them were dedicated to Anne Agg, the mother of Liz Burton. Last Sunday's evensong quarter started with a strong smell of smoke in the ringing chamber due to the fires on Hankley Common - fortunately this eased during the ringing as the wind changed direction. There were views of the thick smoke clouds from the north balcony - fading, but not totally obscuring, the unappealing prospect of Woking tower blocks. Peal ringing also recommenced with a predominantly local band ringing one on 16 July. This allowed John Hutchinson, one of the Cathedral band to ring his first peal of Maximus. Unlike many other towers, the record temperatures on Tuesday 19 July did not stop practicing – the Cathedral is very fortunate in having a very large and well ventilated ringing chamber with opening balcony doors on all four sides. It was still rather hot though and many of the band did seem to spend long periods on the east balcony admiring the impressive views of the City of London and Canary Wharf.

## **Development**

7. There has been a good deal of coverage on the BBC of late. As well as the 12-Bell Striking Contest on South Today, there were BBC Surrey items related to the 12-Bell Contest, the Charities Roadshow, and the Chorister Open Day. The team have been updating cases for support for funding applications in the near future, and an annual application to the Benefact Trust has been made, which provides financial assistance on

behalf of the Cathedral insurers, EIG. Meetings to take forward the preparation required for the hosting of the Knife Angel in March 2023 will be held in late summer.

## **Facilities**

8. The Royal Surrey NHS Trust Covid testing centre in the former DEC car park has ceased operating. Their contractors will decommission the power and water supplies and the Portacabins will be removed by 5 August. The gas supply pipe on the Cathedral Green was damaged by the marquee contractor in late June and is currently being repaired, the work should be complete by 5 August.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

9. The week commencing 4 July saw visits by pupils from Queen Eleanor's School over three days, to learn about the Cathedral building and the part it plays in the local community. Cathedral Tots took place on Wednesday 6 July with some regular faces and new families welcomed too. The Family Fun Day taking place on Wednesday 27 July was a great success, being completely sold out at the box office. Schools visiting in September and October are interested in experiencing the 'Threads Through Creation' exhibition as part of their time here so a learning workshop is being put together to allow schools to explore this with direction.

## **Guildford Cathedral Development**

10. Discussions between Vivid Homes and the Guildford Borough Council planners continue.

## **Liturgy and Music**

11. The ordination services during the weekend of 2 and 3 July were absolutely superb and attracted high praise and many expressions of thanks. Sunday 10 July saw the final services of the choir term, with leaving choristers being valedicted at Evensong. The Cathedral's outstanding Organ Scholar, Michael Stephens-Jones was valedicted with the outgoing choristers on 10 July, and again at Evensong on 17 July when Michael accompanied his final service with the Cathedral Singers. Michael is to be Organ Scholar at St Pauls Cathedral – everyone here knew he was very special! Well done to everyone for another term of hard work, high achievement and beautiful music. On 17 July services were sung by the Guildford Cathedral Singers, on 24 July the Exonian Singers, and on 31 July the choir of St Mildred's Addiscombe.

## **Virgers**

12. One of the busiest months of a very demanding year for the team, with ordination services and graduations being held in successive weeks. The latter, as well as all the planning and preparation, required exceptional levels of endurance in taking part, fully robed, in the processions sixteen times in ever increasing temperatures. Huge thanks to the team for all they do in increasingly challenging circumstances.

## **Visitor Experience and Events**

13. The team facilitated the extremely successful University of Surrey graduation ceremonies on 15 July and during the whole of the week commencing 18 July. The ceremonies saw approximately 15,000 people on the site and in the building over six days, two of which were the hottest on record. Very well done to everyone involved. The team have also been preparing for future events such as the outdoor cinema on 12, 13 and 14 August, the Christmas fair in November.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer