



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 30 JUNE 2022

Introduction

1. June has been another extraordinarily busy month, the first full month without any Covid restrictions for more than two years. July is promising to be just the same with ordination services, the end of the choir term and graduation ceremonies. It is hugely impressive how much is being achieved now with such limited resources. The Cathedral Volunteers are being asked to do so much but are always so willing and flexible, which is recognised by Chapter as you will read in paragraph 6 below. A heartfelt thank you to everyone.

Volunteers – Fair Trade

2. Volunteers to help our wonderful Fair Trade team are urgently required. Guildford Cathedral Fair Trade is now in its 17th year. The stall is run by a very small team of volunteers and sells Traidcraft produce most Sunday mornings after the 09.45 service at the west end of the Cathedral as well as at monthly Coffee Concerts, Cathedral Fairs and occasional outside events. Our aim is to promote the principles of Fairtrade, enabling some of the poorest people of the world to trade their way out of extreme poverty. The producers are guaranteed a fair price for their produce, plus a Fairtrade Premium, that can provide them with the training and resources that they need to increase their productivity, feed their families, send their children to school and have access to healthcare. We supply Fairtrade tea and coffee to the Cathedral office, crypt kitchen and events such as Coffee Concerts. We also supply the Cathedral with eco-friendly Bio-D products (that don't cost the earth), such as washing-up liquid, laundry detergent and laundry bleach. The Cathedral is a certified Fairtrade place of worship. The stall's profits are shared between the Cathedral, Traidcraft Exchange (Traidcraft PLC's charity) and Seeds for Development, a small locally organised charity that helps very poor farming communities in northern Uganda, still recovering from the effects of a 20-year war. This charity is the Cathedral's international mission partner and the Fair Trade stall also sponsors a child (Gladys) via this charity to enable her to attend school in northern Uganda. We also sell the charity's Ugandan products, such as paper beads, wooden spoons and stirrers, tote bags, Ugandan coffee, dried chillies, and vanilla pods. Every penny raised for their products goes back to the producers in Uganda.

Volunteers - New Joiners

3. Welcome to Jenni Cousins (Shop Helper), Nicola Goff (already a Shop Helper, now also a Steward), and Faith McCarthy (Choir Chaperone).

Worship

4. 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

5. 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. These opening times continue to remain under review.

Chapter

6. Chapter met on 14 June and received updates on Visitor Experience and Events as part of its regular review of the pillars of the Strategic Development Plan, Safeguarding and the Cathedral Development. Chapter has asked for their particular thanks to everyone involved in the Jubilee Service, 'Songs of Praise' and all the other high profile events of late. Chapter members were particularly pleased with the warmth of the welcome at the Jubilee Service that was offered and the professionalism with which every aspect of the service and the reception afterward was delivered. Well done everyone.

Bellringing

7. The big bell ringing event for which the bell ringers and a number of Cathedral staff had been planning and preparing for over three years, the final of the National 12-Bell Striking Contest, finally took place on Saturday 25 June. Attendance is estimated to have been around 600 despite some people having been put off by the rail strike, but all concerned considered that it was a great success and many compliments have been received. The bell ringers wish to place on record their grateful thanks to the Dean for her enthusiastic support throughout, to all the Cathedral staff involved, especially the Virgers and the Events Team, whose help and co-operation was vital to the success of the day, and to Carla and her colleagues at Seasons for the excellent food on offer. Once again, the

Birmingham team won the contest, but the Guildford team rang extremely well and were well satisfied with their performance, even though being placed 6th.

Development

8. A meeting took place on 14 June to kick start the engagement with external partners with whom the Cathedral will be hosting the Knife Angel next March. Guildford Borough Council, Surrey Police and the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner were all represented. Claire Waters-Duke, the Marketing and Communications Officer, has secured some great coverage with the BBC during June, covering such events as the National 12-Bell Striking Contest, the Charities Roadshow, and the Chorister Open Day. Karen Taylor returned to the Cathedral as the Fundraising Officer on 20 June.

Facilities

9. An additional processional cross holder has been fitted in the South Ambulatory to enable different processional routes to be followed. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, has hosted a visit from Smart Security to look at the CCTV and the possibility of enhancing coverage to help prevent crime and vandalism and improve access control. The Cathedral has been informed by the Royal Surrey NHS Trust that the Covid testing is drawing down in the former DEC car park and should close by 29 July. Their contractors will decommission the power and water supplies soon after and the Portacabins will be removed.

Families Engagement and Schools

10. Half-term activities at the Cathedral went well, with Cathedral Tots and the Family Fun Day managing to co-exist on Wednesday 1 June. The two activities warmly welcomed over 200 people to the cathedral, and the volunteer team did another brilliant job of supporting children and families with activities, questions, and chats. The week commencing 6 June was busy with a school visit for 90 children, followed by the final Pentecost Workshop for another 30 Year 1 pupils. Both visits were successful with great engagement from the pupils and positive responses from staff. Thanks again to the Volunteers for their hard work in enabling these visits. School leavers services during the week commencing 20 June also went very well, and Becki Hartley, the Head of Family Engagement and Schools, is putting plans in place for the remainder of the summer term, involving activities for the Ordination Services, a school visit split over three days, Cathedral Tots, and the summer Family Fun Day.

Guildford Cathedral Development

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

Liturgy and Music

12. Sunday 5 June's Patronal Festival for Pentecost, sung by both the boys and girls' choirs in conjunction with the Guildford Cathedral Singers, featured the setting of the Mass by the Bishop of Guildford and was a great success. In the afternoon the Jubilee Service was another triumph, and on Sunday 12 June Evensong was another occasion sung with joint

choirs, this time with the choir of Holy Trinity Church in Guildford. 'Songs of Praise' filmed at the Cathedral, featuring interviews with some well known local characters, was broadcast on 12 June. The choir sang at St Nicolas' Church in Guildford for the Festival of Corpus Christi on Thursday 16 June. Michael Stephens-Jones gave a very impressive valedictory organ recital in the Cathedral on 26 June, he will be replaced as the Organ Scholar by Marcus Deveritt in September. The Department is also pleased to announce that Edward Dunne will be joining as a tenor Lay Clerk in September, bringing the Lay Clerk complement to full strength.

Virgers

13. It has been another hugely challenging month for the team, with a larger than usual number of high-profile services and events, planning meetings for future undertakings, and difficult situations with which to deal. The fact that this has been achieved with shortages in the team for leave and sickness, and a reducing support network from which to draw, is a great credit to the small team of dedicated Virgers who deserve the highest praise.

Visitor Experience and Events

14. The Coffee Concert on 9 June featured violinist Femi Otsuki and pianist Sarah Kershaw and was very well received. Another of the highlights of the month was the Charities Roadshow on 16 June, which was a lovely event which it is hoped will become a regular feature of the Cathedral calendar. The Events team also facilitated a concert by the Royal Grammar School on 28 June.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer