



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 31 MARCH 2022

Introduction

1. Further relaxations to the Covid restrictions have been made as follows:

- The one way system in the Cathedral building has been removed.

- From Monday 28 March the opening times are 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 kneelers will be restored to the backs of chairs.

There is no change at present to the Cathedral policy that the wearing of masks in the Cathedral is preferred and that hand sanitising is encouraged. A meeting is being held as soon as possible with Music Department and Virger colleagues to discuss the management of the choir in the covid context and use of the Crypt.

2. Thank you yet again to all our Volunteers for all their support as we endeavour to make the Cathedral an easier place to visit once again. Please see Chapter's vote of thanks in paragraph 7 below.

Volunteers - New Joiners

3. Welcome to Charlotte Baker (Guildford Cathedral Singer), Philip Dudgeon (Choir Chaperone, Events Helper), Claud Ottahere (Shop Helper), and Mia Zhu (Welcomer/Guide).

Volunteers – Tower Tour Guides

4. As we enter a new season of Tower Tours our faithful trained team of volunteers is very small, as members have moved away, and others are no longer available. It is a role that requires training, health and safety considerations and a certain level of fitness (there are 249 steps to the top of the Tower). The Cathedral Tower Tours are frequently requested and interests the public greatly. It is a great asset of the Cathedral that we have such splendid viewpoint across the county. As the present team is small, we have only managed five dates for this year but urgently need to grow our team so we can offer more tours. Please consider anyone in your contacts who might be a possibility to train as a new team member and ask them to contact Julie Mitchell, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01483 547885 or email her at 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 is open at the times stipulated in paragraph 1 above. 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 other restrictions.

Chapter

7. Chapter met on 8 March and received updates from the Nominations Working Group chair, on the land development and the Strategic Development Plan. Chapter members asked for their particular thanks to be passed to all Staff and Volunteers for their continuing forbearance and commitment during a period of further transition which continues to provide challenges to us all.

Bell Ringing

8. On Thursday 3 March eight of the ringers responded at very short notice to the Dean's request that the bells should be rung at 11 am as part of a Europe-wide initiative to show solidarity with the people of Ukraine. The back eight bells were rung for 7 minutes as requested to mark the 7th day of the war. Otherwise, in the last four weeks two Sunday evening quarter peals and one peal have been rung and on Saturday 26 February the Technical Team for the 12-Bell Contest had a highly successful visit to the Cathedral. They will be responsible for putting in place the equipment necessary to bring the sound of the bells to the judges in the Chapter House and to provide live broadcasts on the day. The ringers are grateful to Steve Reeds for his invaluable assistance that day.

Development

9. Nicola Pratt (Head of Development) and Claire Waters-Duke (Marketing and Communications Officer) have been focussing on social media posts related to events at the Cathedral and support to the people of Ukraine. 'What's On' has now been issued in hard and soft copy and will be regular feature again going forward. Nicola has been working with several external authorities with the aim of securing the 'Knife Angel' to be sited at the Cathedral for the whole of the month of May 2023. There has been renewed interest in the vacant Fundraising Officer post, with two applications having been received of late. The Cathedral was featured in an episode of 'We Are England' broadcast on BBC One on Monday 14 March. The link to the iPlayer page where the programme can still be viewed is below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0015fnk>

Facilities

10. The Cathedral was slightly 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. A new oak has been planted on the Green temporarily at present, and the team have been removing the lavender plants at the bases of the flagpoles and planting replacement plants to improve the appearance of the areas. There have also been discussions with the University with reference to their many environmental enhancements, ranging from bird and bat boxes to measure to support the insect population. Hopefully the Cathedral will be a partner in these activities. The Cathedral continues to be well supported by the Diocesan Property Team. Jim is awaiting firm updates on the potential use of the former DEC. There will be a need for Covid screening in the DEC car park until at least the summer as the Hospital tackles the backlog of treatments and procedures. The welcome boards at the foot of the South Steps and western approach road are being assessed for refurbishment. Ground contractors, TJ Hunt, will undertake some minor repairs to the edge of the road near the access ramp to eliminate an uneven area and will also restore the kerbs that are out of position around the Green. They have also been tasked clear the drains as well as a patch repair of an area that is potholed in the north car park.

Families Engagement and Schools

11. Cathedral Tots took place on Wednesday 2 March, with an informal service learning about Ash Wednesday and the story of Jesus's time in the wilderness. Five families attended so welcomed six children who made snakes and desert pictures. The Diocesan Schools' Eco-Day was held at the Cathedral on Thursday 3 March with five schools attending with pupils from their KSI Eco-Team. The Easter Workshops ran over the last two weeks in March, with children engaging in sessions about Lent, Holy Communion and with the prayer stations 'Walking through Easter'. Cathedral Tots and the Family Fun Day both take place on Wednesday 6 April, and the family orientated 'Story of Good Friday' service on 15 April is also being prepared.

Guildford Cathedral Development

12. Discussions between Vivid Homes and the Guildford Borough Council planners continue. The Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England considered the application again on 30 March.

Liturgy and Music

13. In March the organists continued to play 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.'

The girl choristers' weekend took place on 4 and 5 March with a concert at St. Catherine's School on Saturday 5 March. The girls also took part in the 'Inspiring Women' concert on Saturday 12 March and was an enormous success. The boy choristers continue their great work and together with the girls are beginning to work on music for their 21 May concert with John Rutter, whom the team are delighted to announce is conducting the second half of the programme. Sunday 20 March saw the Cathedral Choir split into two in the evening as the girls and lay clerks sang Evensong at St. Mary's Shalford and the boys sang Evensong at the Cathedral, accompanied by a young organist from St. John's School, Leatherhead. On Tuesday 22 March, during the prayers at Evensong, the choir sang John Rutter's setting of a Ukrainian Prayer, which he has arranged and freely distributed in response for a donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Ukraine. There has been much planning and preparation for Holy Week and for next term's packed schedule which includes another trip to the Diocese to sing Evensong at St. Nicolas Cranleigh on 19 June, where they will visit former colleague, now Curate, the Reverend Tim Clifford-Hill.

Virgers

14. A remarkably busy month for the team with excellent support being provided for statutory services, special services, visiting choirs, concerts, exhibitions, markets, and workshops. The team have been involved in several important meetings related to covid recovery and planning for the future. As well as ensuring that the everyone takes the leave to which they are entitled, and kept everyone safe and secure, they have been keeping a close eye on increased activity around Cathedral at about the time of Evensong on several days. Huge thanks to them all for all their efforts.

Visitor Experience and Events

15. An exhibition by Ian McKillop has been in situ at the Lady Chapel and in the Baptistry since the end of February, and the exhibition by West Surrey Artists will be in the Nave until 3 April. The 'Worth the Weight' market took place on Saturday 26 February, the Aled Jones concert on Tuesday 1 March, and the Guildford Choral Society concert on Saturday 19 March. 'Worth the Weight' return on 2 April, and the University graduations are on 27, 28 and 29 April.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer