



GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL

## CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 26 MAY 2022

### Introduction

1. May has been another extremely challenging month but one of incredible achievement, most notably with 'Songs of Praise' and the John Rutter concert. The Cathedral is now back in the swing of hosting significant events attended by large numbers of people and has the look and feel of the building as it was before the pandemic. We are still being careful, and mindful of the anxieties of others, but it is gratifying to be able to reach out to the wider community again in so many ways. Huge thanks to all our Volunteers for the role they have played in making this happen, your dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated and was commented upon again at the recent Chapter meeting (cf para 6 below).

### 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)).

### Volunteers - New Joiners

3. Welcome to Maureen O'Brien, who will be helping the Events Team and with Coffee Concerts, and Jennie Cousins, who will be helping in the Shop.

### Volunteers – Tower Tour

4. In celebration of National Volunteers Week, we offered all volunteers plus a friend to a **FREE Tour Tower at 12noon on 7 June 2022**. The demand has been incredible so if you were not able to make 7 June or tried to book only to discover it was full, then please let Julie know so we can arrange another tour soon ([volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org)). It really is worth the effort of climbing 259 steps as the views are fantastic. In the meantime, a big thank you for all you contribute to the Cathedral – we simply could not operate without you.

## **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 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**

7. Chapter's May meeting concentrated on Family Engagement on Schools, one of the four main pillars of the Strategic Development Plan. There was a financial update, and a report on the Cathedral Development. Chapter members asked for their thanks to be passed to all Volunteers for all their sterling efforts and enormous dedication in assisting with the post Covid recovery. Interviews for the vacant Canon Liturgist post took place on 25 May.

## **Bellringing**

8. During May the focus has been increasingly on preparations for the National 12-Bell Striking Contest Final on 25 June. There have been one meeting of the ringers' Steering Committee, two planning meetings with Cathedral staff and much work behind the scenes. Four of the competing teams, from Melbourne, Ipswich, Birmingham, and London, have been for their permitted practices at the Cathedral, and our own team has been practising the test piece whenever possible. A quarter peal on Sunday 15 May was rung as a Ruby Wedding compliment to David and Jane Beadman.

## **Development**

9. The 'Knife Angel' is coming to the Cathedral in March 2023, a planning meeting with Guildford Borough Council, Surrey Police, and the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's

Office will take place in June. The advertisement for the vacant Fundraising Officer post has been re-issued after having been revised significantly. There is a good deal of interest in the post, so there is a high confidence that an appointment can be made soon. Fundraising proposals are currently being drawn together for Families and Schools Work and Visitor Experience.

## **Facilities**

10. The North Porch access lift has been repaired this week following a delay whilst spares were awaited. After some consultation it has been decided to make the area around the entrance to the Shop and Seasons a no smoking zone and, in support of this change, the boxes for cigarette ends that were mounted on the walls by the seats have been removed. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, is working towards implementing improved security for the rear door at Seasons following an apparent attempt to gain entry. The CCTV System will be serviced soon and will also resolve the concerns regarding the CCTV that covers the South Path. TJ Hunt visited and completed work on a couple of holes in the car park and some Health and Safety trip issues that had been identified. They also had the drain-sucker deployed and cleared the drains on the site.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

11. Cathedral Tots on Wednesday 4 May was well attended with 14 children present: a good mix of regular attendees and some new faces too. The children loved following the lion footprints down the main aisle and being able to roar loudly as they heard the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. Trinity Workshops took place during the week commencing 23 May, with more to follow after half term during the week commencing 6 June. There will also be a Cathedral Tots service and Family Fun Day on 1 June.

## **Guildford Cathedral Development**

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

## **Liturgy and Music**

13. The 'Songs of Praise' recording on 3 May was a joyful occasion with a packed Cathedral of people singing their hearts out splendidly supported by the Cathedral Choir - who were magnificent throughout. The John Rutter concert, 'The Gift of Life', on 21 May was also a huge success, everyone involved on the night or supporting behind the scenes is to be congratulated. Katherine Dienes-Williams, Organist and Master of the Choristers, gave a recital in Norwich Cathedral on 2 May, and in Christchurch Priory, Dorset on 5 May. Katherine is now Chair of the Cathedral Organists Association who held their annual conference in Portsmouth during the week commencing 23 May.

## **Virgers**

14. Huge thanks to the team as always, an extremely busy month has included 'Songs of Praise', Cathedral Tots, the 'Craft and Flea' market, the Coffee Concert, the John Rutter concert, mounting an art exhibition and a large funeral, as well as providing support at all the daily and Sunday services. Members of the Department have also managed to take some

well-earned leave, whilst all have kept the Cathedral and its community safe and secure throughout. Long- and short-term planning meetings have also been attended.

### **Visitor Experience and Events**

15. 'Craft and Flea' returned for a fantastic gift and craft sale on 7 May. The Coffee Concert on 12 May was well attended, with those present being treated to an extraordinary performance at the piano by Yoon Seok Shin. He has promised to return, and every effort should be made to hear him if possible. The Cathedral was used as a logistics hub for a film production being shot in Guildford on 25 and 26 May, further discussions with film companies are being held.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer