



**GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL**

## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 06 MAY 2022**

### **Introduction**

1. There is a real feeling of recovery now to match the spring weather, with visitor numbers increasing, and several large-scale services and events attracting a high volume and wide variety of people. Well done to everyone for all they have done in this encouraging month of high achievement in the face of difficult challenges. How the Cathedral Staff and Volunteers continue to deliver excellence in demanding circumstances week after week is a real inspiration. The excitement being felt must be tempered with great sadness at the sudden loss of Andrew Hodges during Holy Week. Our Chief Steward, a Cathedral Guide and Tower Tour Guide, Andrew was a great friend to the Cathedral and will be greatly missed.

### **Volunteers – SOS New Servers Needed**

2. Our serving team is in desperate need of new recruits! We are a friendly bunch of lay people who take part in the services, carrying candles and crosses, and helping the clergy to present the worship. There are no age restrictions, lightweight crosses are available and full training is given. If you would like to have a go, you can either speak to anyone on the team (we're the ones in white!) or e-mail us on [guildfordcathedralservers@gmail.com](mailto:guildfordcathedralservers@gmail.com).

### **Volunteers - New Joiners**

3. Welcome to the following new Volunteers - Jill Barker (Choir Chaperone) Jing Huanmg (Events), John Hutchinson (Guildford Cathedral Singer), Charlotte Parrott (Events and Tower Tours).

### **Guildford Street Angels**

4. Could you be a Community Angel? Community Angels are volunteer befrienders supporting adults of all ages in Guildford who struggle with loneliness and isolation. They give weekly one-to one support for six months, offering a listening, non-judgemental ear, companionship, and encouragement to engage with the local community. They are seeing so much demand for befriending. Many people feel alone in the town, including new arrivals from Hong Kong and Ukraine. You could make all the difference. Why not learn what the volunteers do in their own words: [A conversation with Community Angels](#) If you have a couple of spare hours a week, they'd love to hear from you. They will provide all the training you need, match you carefully and appropriately with someone to befriend, and offer ongoing volunteer support and learning opportunities. The next training day will be

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022. To find out more, please contact Anne Thornton or Susanna Hoar at the Community Angels office on [communityangels@gtcc.org.uk](mailto:communityangels@gtcc.org.uk) or call 07825 799309. Community Angels is a project of the Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy [www.gtcc.org.uk](http://www.gtcc.org.uk).

## **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 did not meet in April. May's meeting will concentrate on Family Engagement and Schools in the context of the Strategic Development Plan and Chapter will receive an update on the Cathedral development. Two candidates from the community have put themselves forward to be Chapter members to fill the current vacancies.

## **Bellringing**

8. On Friday 1 April the ringers held another very successful Annual Dinner at Puttenham Golf Club. The Dean and Martin attended as guests and the Dean made a short speech. Later in the month a Sunday evening quarter peal was dedicated to the memory of Andrew Hodges and Tom Page, a ringer from Aldershot. Tom was the last survivor of the band that rang for the opening of the bells on 17 May 1965 and had been an active ringer up to a few months before his death at age 93. Over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend, the Cathedral ringers and friends enjoyed a successful 'weekend away' in the Birmingham area, during which they rang at 12 churches including Birmingham Anglican and RC Cathedrals and the parish churches of Walsall, Wolverhampton, and Solihull. Work has continued throughout the month on preparations for the National 12-Bell Contest on 25 June. It has

included visits from the Contest Secretary and Chief Judge and an Open Towers Day on Easter Monday, when 27 Surrey towers were open in succession for visiting ringers and which raised over £1,400 towards the cost of hosting the Contest and the Guild's Bell Restoration Fund.

## **Development**

9. The What's On leaflet for May, June and July 2022 has been completed, thank you to everyone who contributed. The Cathedral is at Stage 2 with its 'Knife Angel' application, and it is currently scheduled to come to the Cathedral for the whole of March 2023. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development is now putting together a strategy for working with external partners.

## **Facilities**

10. The University grounds team have done some significant pruning back around the flagpoles and planted new lavender. A contractor has removed the welcome signs from the foot of the South Steps and by the west approach road. They have been taken away to dry out naturally after which they will be refurbished and reinstated. Andy the handyman has been busy with a wide variety of tasks and has some painting and decoration work to complete in the offices and crypt. In line with national policy the Cathedral's defibrillator has been registered with the national register – 'The Circuit'.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

11. Wednesday 6 April was an extremely busy day for the Department, with Cathedral Tots and the Family Fun Day happening at virtually the same time! Cathedral Tots was able to cater for 22 children and 12 adults, and the Fun Day saw 151 children take part in a variety of Easter-themed activities of both a sacred and secular nature. The Good Friday service 'The Story of Good Friday' welcomed 16 children and 29 adults. The prayers were led by children, and all attendees took part in a prayer activity as part of the service. Refreshments and activities were well received. Cathedral Tots on Wednesday 4 May was well attended with 14 children present: a good mix of regular attendees and some new faces too.

## **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 and approval was given to proceed.

## **Liturgy and Music**

13. The Cathedral Choir worked very hard during Holy Week and Easter to support the worship. Daily rehearsals and services also included a meditative performance by Richard Moore of Philip Moore's 'Via Crucis' for organ. The 'Songs of Praise' recording for BBC TV on Tuesday 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. Preparations continue for the 'Gift of Life' concert with John Rutter on 21 May, tickets are

selling well. David Buckley has taken over the role of Lead Choir Chaperone to add to his current duties as a Lay Clerk.

### **Virgers**

14. Huge thanks to the team who have managed the complex arrangements required for Holy Week and Easter, the graduation ceremonies, funerals, and memorial services, and 'Songs of Praise' whilst once again suffering severe staff shortages due to illness. This they have achieved whilst keeping the building and community safe and secure whilst continuing the transition away from covid restrictions in a measured manner. Their hard work and commitment above and beyond are massively appreciated.

### **Visitor Experience and Events**

15. Thursday's Coffee Concert featured the wonderful Emily Bollen and her 'Motivation by Music' choir. The University of Surrey post-graduate ceremonies went well on 27, 28 and 29 April. It was wonderful to have the full atmosphere back and see the whole site buzzing with excitement. These were the first full scale graduations to have taken place since 2019 and everyone who contributed to their success is to be congratulated.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer