



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 24 MAY 2024

Introduction

1. Another busy month is already halfway complete. There has been the usual variety of services and events, and an excellent exhibition for everyone to enjoy. A number of meetings have been held to plan for the future whilst the Cathedral Development appeal decision is awaited. Chapter members have asked that their particular thanks be passed to all our Volunteers for their sterling support during these uncertain times. I am pleased to announce that Harry Talboys will be joining as our new Volunteer Co-ordinator on Monday 17 June. I am sure everyone will make him feel welcome. Application is being made to the Church Commissioners (Cathedrals Sustainability Fund) for four more posts: COO Assistant, Events Virger, Fundraising Officer; person to update website. A full update will be given to everyone at a Cathedral community meeting on Sunday 9 June 2024 after the Cathedral Eucharist.

2. At the link below are details of the Christians Against Poverty courses which are running all this term, a Hope in Depression course which started on 13 May and a Surrey County Council Home Upgrade Grant.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cq0aofuklgmlh4wlhxyz/ADzFWV-iNtaHVMbK0RHTfiU?rlkey=vn9stfi9by352eje36cyjt365&dl=0>

Worship

3. The times of services remain as follows:

- Sundays – Holy Communion at 8am, Cathedral Eucharist at 9.45am, Evensong at 6pm.
- Morning Prayer and Eucharist at 8.30 and 9.00am on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday; at 8.00 and 8.30am on Tuesday, 9.00 and 9.30am on Saturday.
- Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Evening prayer at 5.30pm on Wednesday.

There is no evening service on Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

4. The Cathedral opening times are as follows:

- Sunday – 7.30am to 7pm.
- Monday, Thursday and Friday – 8.30am to 6.15pm.
- Tuesday – 7.30am to 6.15pm.
- Wednesday and Saturday – 8.30am to 6pm.

The Shop is open from Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 4.30pm. Seasons is open from Monday to Saturday from 9am until 3pm, and on Sunday from 9am until 12noon.

Chapter

5. Chapter met on 14 May and were given updates from the Development Committee on income generation and from the Nominations Committee on the work underway in constituting the new Advisory Board and Cathedral Forum. There was also a brief from the Diocesan Safeguarding team and a discussion of the financial position. Finally Chapter looked at the communications plan required once the outcome of the Cathedral Development (land sale) Public Inquiry is known.

Bellringing

6. The Cathedral ringers and friends enjoyed an excellent three days over the early May bank holiday weekend ringing in Somerset. They rang at 6 churches with rings of 12 bells, three with rings of 10 and three with rings of 8. They included Wells Cathedral, which has the heaviest ring of 10 bells (tenor 56 cwt), Taunton Minster and St Mary's Bridgwater, which both have fairly new rings of 12. At Norton Sub Hamdon their ringing formed part of the local church and village festival and was much appreciated.

Development Department

7. The Development Committee met on Wednesday 1 May. It was a good, positive meeting with lots of ideas shared. It was lovely to welcome the Theology Hub to the Cathedral on Thursday 2 May, a talk was given by Professor Maggi Dawn. All look forward to another excellent evening planned for October.

Facilities

8. TJ Hunt have been on-site repairing the damaged kerbs, particularly around the drains. They are trying some new methods of seating the kerbstones to try to overcome them moving when hit and creating a hazard. Jim has also had the roofing team visit to remove as much detritus and other material from the gutters and hoppers and ensure the downpipes are clear. They have also investigated some faults reported on the Tower roof regarding the pigeon protection. Dyno-rod have visited twice to clear a blocked drain that may have caused some water ingress into the Crypt. Technicians have also visited to make alarm checks, maintain the CCTV, deep clean Seasons' kitchen hood, and check the foul water pumps. There is a water leak to the south of the Cathedral; the location of the split in the pipe has been identified and a repair plan is awaited.

Families Engagement and Schools

9. There was a successful service of Cathedral Tots on Wednesday 1 May, and on Wednesday 15 May there was a very busy day when Christ's College hold their retreat day at the Cathedral. The Bishop of Dorking took part in the event.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

10. The Public Inquiry is now closed; the Inspector's judgement is expected in late May.

Liturgy and Music

11. On Sunday 5 May the choir continued its programme of outreach in the Diocese, with the boys and Lay Clerks singing at Evensong at St Mary's. Long Ditton. On Thursday 9 May (Ascension Day) the musicians climbed to the top of the Tower to sing an appropriate hymn. Later in the evening there was a Eucharist to celebrate Ascension Day. The special Evensong to mark the 90th birthday of Barry Rose, the Cathedral's first Organist and Master of the Choristers, took place on Saturday 11 May and was a great success. On Thursday 16 May the College of Canons gather at Evensong and on Friday 17 May a special Eucharist will be held to mark the anniversary of the consecration of the Cathedral. On Sunday 19 May the Cathedral choir and the Guildford Cathedral Singers will sing the Eucharist together on the occasion of Patronal Festival of Pentecost.

Virgers

12. Massive thanks to Paul, Steve, Jake and Nicola for all they are doing to support a very busy programme, as well as keeping the building and congregations and visitors safe and secure under very difficult circumstances. The whole community is grateful to them for their efforts.

Visitor Experience and Events

13. There has been a pleasing number of visitors to the Postbox Toppers exhibition all month. Thursday 9 May saw a Coffee Concert by pianist Yoon Seok Shin was a great success – 124 people attended. On Saturday 11 May the Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy (GTCC) and their supporters ascended and descended the Tower multiple times to collectively clock up 75,000 steps, to represent the number of individuals GTCC have helped since they were established in 2008. There will be a Pre-Loved market on Saturday 18 May. Catherine Barber has accepted the offer of employment as Events Officer and will be Tracey Pusey's replacement when she leaves later this term. Recruiting will take place soon for a further member of the Events team, funding provided by the Church Commissioners for three years.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer