



**GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL**

## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 27 JANUARY 2022**

### **Introduction**

1. Government and Church of England guidance has now been received about the relaxation of Covid restrictions ('Plan A'). From today, the legal limits on the numbers of people allowed to meet indoors and outdoors have been removed, including all capacity limits in churches and other venues, as well as removal of the 1 metre+ social distancing rules. Face coverings are no longer mandatory in any setting but may be recommended in enclosed or crowded places, particularly where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet. The Cathedral will still recommend to worshippers and visitors that face masks are worn, it would be preferred if those offering a welcome were wearing masks. Singing and musical performances of all kinds are allowed in churches, including congregational singing, and choirs and worship groups can perform without legal limitations. Changes to services in line with these recommendations will be made with effect from Thursday 3 February.

2. Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy are hosting a fundraising quiz and meal at St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford on 18 March in the evening. If anyone is interested in forming a Guildford Cathedral team, please let me know.

[Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

### **Volunteers - New Joiners**

3. Welcome to new Guildford Cathedral Singers Matthew Knight and Simon Wakefield, and new Server James Rogers. Shanie Orchard and Karen Taylor are taking on various Volunteer roles, and are very welcome in addition.

### **Volunteers – Servers**

4. The Cathedral is in need of some new recruits to the Serving Team. The Altar Servers are lay people who have felt a call to assist the clergy in the celebration of the Church's liturgies. The role of the server is mainly, although not wholly, centered on the celebration of the Sung Eucharist. We carry processional crosses and torches and when incense is used, one server is in charge of the thurible in which the incense is burned. The role of the servers is a very important part of the worship in the Cathedral, so if you feel you could contribute to our worship in this way please contact The Serving Committee [guildfordcathedralservers@gmail.com](mailto:guildfordcathedralservers@gmail.com) or Julie Mitchell [volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto: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 remains open for visitors and individual prayer on Sunday from 1.30pm until 3.30pm, then from Monday to Saturday from 10.30am until 3.30pm. 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 are now being reviewed in the light of the recent lifting of government restrictions and .

## **Chapter**

7. Chapter were unable to meet in January due to the absence of key members. In December Chapter members asked for their thanks to be passed on to everyone for their dedication and forbearance in the face of the latest upsurge in the pandemic.

## **Bell Ringing**

8. Since the last meeting, in addition to normal ringing for the 9.45 Eucharist and 6.00 Evensong each Sunday, bells were rung for the 11 pm service on Christmas Eve, the main service on Christmas Day, the 11.30 Matins on 16 January and the Gordon School service on 23 January. Two quarter peals have been rung, but the peal attempt due on Saturday 8 January was cancelled due to continued mask-wearing requirements.

## **Development**

9. Claire Waters-Duke joined as the Digital Marketing and Communications Officer on Monday 10 January. The marketing has focus has been on the 'Space and Life' illuminations event from 8 until 12 February. More than 3000 tickets have already been sold.

## **Facilities**

10. The York Stone slabs having arrived just before Christmas, TJ Hunt have now completed the long-awaited repairs on the west steps. Roofers from AE Hughes visited just before Christmas and made some repairs to the roof above the Shop entrance. Over the Christmas break damage was caused to the disabled toilet and the Cathedral plumber repaired the damage. The Cathedral was offered a short-term opportunity to refresh many of the road markings as a follow on to major works at the University and this was

completed at minimal cost. The houses in the Cathedral Close are being evaluated for their energy efficiency, and a sustainability survey has been conducted inside the Cathedral.

### **Families Engagement and Schools**

11. Cathedral Tots was held on Wednesday 5 January, with the theme of Epiphany. Six families attended and enjoyed making crowns, dressing up and crafting stars to explore the story of Epiphany. Planning for the Christingle Service, taking place on Sunday 30 January, has been underway - there will be a few changes required to the usual format in order to make the service Covid-safe. The service will raise money for The Children's Society as in previous years. Becki Hartley, Head of Family Engagement and Schools, has been working on creating new learning sessions for the two school visits taking place in the first week of February.

### **Guildford Cathedral Development**

12. The application for planning permission was validated by Guildford Borough Council in late December and the plans placed on their website on New Year's Eve. The consultation period ends on 28 January. The plans can be viewed at the link below (application number is 21/P/02333):

[https://www2.guildford.gov.uk/publicaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=GUILD\\_DCAPR\\_197347](https://www2.guildford.gov.uk/publicaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=GUILD_DCAPR_197347) (application number is 21/P/02333)

### **Liturgy and Music**

13. The choir returned from the Christmas break following the wonderful services during December and the boys sang at the Eucharist for the Epiphany on Thursday 6 January. The services on 3 January were sung by the visiting choir The Whyte Effect, who received a good deal of praise for the standard of their singing. The service of lessons and carols for Epiphanytide took place on 16 January, and the annual service for Gordon's School was on 23 January. The girl choristers have begun work on Cecilia McDowall's cantata 'Everyday wonder: A girl from Aleppo' for the 'Inspiring Women' concert on Saturday 12 March. There will also be a month of organ voluntaries by female composers leading up to and including International Women's Day - 42 organ voluntaries minimum!

### **Virgers**

14. Huge thanks to the team for keeping worshippers and visitors safe and the building secure during another period of elevated risk, uncertainty, and change. The latest guidance from the government and Church of England on the coronavirus restrictions will require more adjustments to signage, layout and routines, the amount of effort and extra work required is greatly appreciated.

### **Visitor Experience and Events**

15. Mary Beal has now joined as the Visitor Experience Officer. The next events on the calendar are the ESU final on 3 February and the Pre-loved market on 5 February. The team have been preparing for the busy events programme that follows, not least the 'Guildford Illuminated' light and sound shows, the 12 Bells competition final, and inquiries from third

parties who wish to use the site for extended periods. The stock take in the Shop has been completed successfully, well done to everyone involved.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer