



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 16 DECEMBER 2021

Introduction

1. A very challenging month yet again, many difficult decisions have been necessary and a great deal of fortitude in a difficult environment. I would like to add my own personal thanks to those expressed by Chapter below, the flexibility and can-do attitude shown by our Volunteers at present is extraordinary and is helping keep the Cathedral open for people desperately in need of spiritual comfort. I do hope everyone can enjoy a joyous Christmas and that we can all look forward to a peaceful and prosperous 2022. Please continue taking lateral flow tests before coming to the Cathedral.

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

Volunteers – New Joiners

2. Welcome to new Guides Tessa Johnson and Jonathan Neil-Smith.

Volunteers – Bell Ringers

3. The team would like to recruit some more bellringers to join the band at the Cathedral. Bell ringing suits all ages and ideally they are looking for youngsters aged 10 or older, and could teach their parents at the same time. Ringing can be a lovely shared activity within a family, with all ages contributing in equal measure. Learning to ring is a long term project and needs some commitment from both sides, the existing band of ringers and the new ringers. We are wondering if we could find recruits from those already connected to the Cathedral? The Central Council of Church Bellringers provides some publicity material to assist with such recruitment: <https://cccbr.org.uk/resources/publicity-material/> The Ringing Master would be very interested to hear from you and discuss any aspect of being a volunteer bellringer. Please contact Julie Mitchell in the first instance.

Volunteers - Readers

4. Would you like to read a lesson at the Eucharist on Sunday mornings? There is a rota of people to share round the readings each month, and it would be lovely if more voices could be added to it! Training will be given, to get used to the acoustic and provide a confident delivery. Please do let Carolyn Howard-Jones know if you are interested, by emailing liturgymusic@guildford-cathedral.org and she can arrange a practice read for you. The clergy are also looking for more people to step forward to take on the role of leading the Intercessions during the Sunday morning Eucharist. Due to various changes in the past

year our regular lay team has been depleted, and it would be wonderful if you felt that you would like to contribute to the Cathedral worship in this way. Guidance will be offered by clergy, so please contact Carolyn if you are interested

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 kept under review and it is hoped that the opening hours can be extended when circumstances allow.

Chapter

7. Chapter met on 14 December and approved the 2022 budget. Members also discussed the report by the Peer Review panel, and had a discussion about live streaming. The programme to achieve the requirements of the new Cathedrals' measure, which include transferring under the governance of the Charity Committee, was also outlined. Chapter asked for their thanks to be passed to everyone for their commitment and dedication in the face of the latest surge of the pandemic.

Bell Ringing

8. On Tuesday 30 November the ringers of All Saints, Crondall, attended the practice. For some it was the first time they have rung on 12 or even heard 12 bells being rung. The next two practices had to be cancelled because of carol services, but the bells were rung for the University and Guildford High School carol services. On Saturday 4 December a very good peal was rung in 3 quite tricky methods - it is hoped that those attending the Craft Fair that morning enjoyed it! Over Christmas the bells will be rung for the 4 pm and 11 pm services on Christmas Eve and the 10 am service on Christmas Day.

Development

9. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, has now completed the virtual Advent Calendar in conjunction with Richard and other members of the Music Department team, look out for it on the Cathedral Facebook page, it looks wonderful. She has also been helping the Head of Family Engagement with the physical version of the Calendar (cf para 11 below).

Interviews have taken place for the vacant Digital Marketing and Communications post, it is hoped to make an appointment in the near future. Nicola has held a meeting with Surrey Police about bringing the 'Knife Angel' to the Cathedral, probably in 2023. Publicity for the 'Guildford Illuminated' sound and light show (gala dinner on 8 February, shows 9-12 February 2022) is now on the streets, and the box office is open.

Facilities

10. To assist with plans to plant additional trees for the Queen's Green Canopy Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, has asked for some assistance from the Tree Curator at Kew Gardens to select suitable trees and advice on planting and maintenance. The suppliers of the stone for the west steps are being chased by T J Hunt to confirm when the Cathedral might expect the stones to be delivered. Jim is still waiting for information regarding the repairs and parts for the access lift by the North Door.

Families Engagement and Schools

11. Bible verses, reflections and objects were all been sourced and prepared for the physical Advent Calendar put together in the Cathedral ahead of Advent Sunday. For three consecutive days at the end of November, the team welcomed infant pupils from three different schools to the Advent Workshops. The Workshops included a morning of learning about the Nativity Story with an afternoon focused on the season of Advent as a time of waiting and preparation, with children taking part in Prayer Stations enabling them to also explore the whole Cathedral. Huge thanks go to the volunteers who have support the delivery of these days: Ann, Lesley, Mary, and Lulu. Cathedral Tots took place on Wednesday 1 December with the theme of Christmas and exploring the Nativity story. The children made Christmas decorations and an angel halo, and shared their usual refreshments together. Six families attended, with three newcomers who were warmly welcomed to the group. Becki Hartley, the Head of Family Engagement and Schools, has been contacting Diocesan Schools about re-booking places for the Eco-Day, which has been rescheduled (from March 2020) and will now take place in March 2022.

Guildford Cathedral Development

12. The application for planning permission submitted at the end of October continues to be validated by Guildford Borough Council.

Liturgy and Music

13. Choristers have been recorded singing for the Advent Calendar (cf para 8 above). After a beautiful Advent Carol Service and preparations have been in train for the Christmas services. Huge congratulations to Guildford Cathedral chorister Ruby for winning the BBC Young Chorister of the Year competition this year. If you have not yet seen the final you can catch up here:

[BBC iPlayer - Songs of Praise](#)

Virgers

14. Another hugely busy month for the team, who gave wonderful support to the Christmas Fair and the Advent Workshops at the end of November, Cathedral Tots and the Etsy Fair in early December. Then began the series of external carol services, some being reduced to a recording only, and others cancelled completely at very short notice. The 'Plan B' restrictions have needed thought and implementation, and assistance at commercial events has been required. This has been achieved yet again despite acute staff shortages and all are hugely grateful for the Virgers efforts.

Visitor Experience and Events

15. The events this month have been the Etsy Fair on 4 December, and the charity event for Phyllis Tuckwell, which included the Cathedral being lit by Peachy Productions on Tuesday 7 December. A full programme for 2022 is being planned.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer