



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 21 DECEMBER 2023

Introduction

1. As the year draws to a close I would like to thank all of our Volunteers for all that they have done for us over another incredibly busy twelve months. Chapter members have also asked me to pass on their gratitude to everyone for their various contributions to Cathedral life, services and events, whether taking part or in support, and for everything else that is being achieved with so many challenges being overcome. I would point to two outstandingly successful events this month which demonstrate the teamwork which is integral to our success – the Age UK carol service on 8 December and the Rutter concert to 9 December. I do hope that everyone has the opportunity for some precious time with loved ones during the break and would like to wish you all a prosperous and hopeful New Year.

Worship

2. Please note the slight changes to weekday morning worship times which started in December. The full list of services is 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, 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.

No evening service on Saturday.

3. During the Christmas break (26 December 2023 until 1 January 2024) weekday service times will be as follows: Morning Prayer on Bank Holidays will be at 9am, and from 27-30 December will be at 8.30am. On all days Evening Prayer will be at 4pm.

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 (whole Cathedral);

- Tuesday – 7.30am to 6.15pm
- Wednesday and Saturday – 8.30am to 6pm

5. Christmas and New Year opening times (Tuesday 26 December and Monday 1 January (Bank Holidays): 8.30am to 4.30pm
Wednesday 27 December until Saturday 30 December: 7.30am to 4.30pm

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. Seasons and the Shop will be closed from 22 December 2023 (pm) until 1 January 2024 (am).

Chapter

6. Chapter met on 12 December. The challenging financial situation was reviewed, and the budget for 2024 approved. The situation with regard to income generation from the various initiatives (Renewed Giving and Music Patronage) will be assessed at the end of March 2024 and contingency plans are being produced. The Statement of Need for the new Dean was agreed by Chapter.

Bellringing

7. Service and practice ringing has continued as normal except that one practice was cancelled due to a carol service. A good peal of Stedman Cinques was rung on Saturday 2nd December and a good quarter peal of Spliced Maximus was rung prior to Evensong on Sunday 10th December. The bells will be rung prior to the 9.45, 4 pm and 11 pm services on Christmas Eve and for the main service on Christmas morning.

Development Department

8. Pledges have been coming in following the launch of the Renewed Giving campaign on 19 November. The 'soft' launch of the Music Patronage scheme took place on Advent Sunday. The full launch will be at the Epiphany Service on 14 January 2024. Nicola Pratt and Karen Taylor (the Development team) provided excellent support to the Rutter concert on 9 December.

Facilities

9. The repurposing work in the Office has been largely completed, huge thanks to the Friends of Guildford Cathedral for making this possible. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, had a meeting with Environment Agency Staff who wish to install a rain gauge on site. Jim has provisionally agreed a site on the north-side of the Cathedral approach road. The Cathedral held its insurance review meeting on Thursday 7 December with EIG. The costs have risen and there will only be a small discount by making a 3-year agreement. Jim is also working on some equipment replacement in Seasons and has asked for the automatic doors there to be serviced as they are not always closing fully. The Cathedral is co-operating with the Diocese to provide access to the former DEC for various contractors as Diocesan plans for the building to be refurbished and put back into use as Church House Guildford in 2024 are realised.

Families Engagement and Schools

10. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, has had a quieter month planning for Lent and Easter workshops and booking in lots more dates for 2024/2025. She met with Diocesan colleague Jane Whittington to discuss how the Cathedral can match its educational workshops more closely with the new RE syllabus. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement Officer, has delivered another successful Cathedral Tots, with a lovely service having taken place on Wednesday 6 December. A successful Family Fun day also took place on 19 December.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

11. Following a meeting with the Inspector who has been appointed to preside over the Public Inquiry in March, 10 working days have now been set aside for the appeal to be heard from 5 March 2024. The Cathedral and Vivid will be submitting a list of 7 expert witnesses. The Inspector's judgement is expected to be made known by 22 April 2024.

Liturgy and Music

12. Congratulations to Annie for her performance at the final of the BBC Young Chorister of the Year on 3 December. She did herself the Cathedral choir proud. You can watch the programme again at the link below:

[BBC One - Songs of Praise, Young Chorister of the Year - Final](#)

13. Lovely feedback has been received following the run of superb services and concerts this month: the Advent Carol Service on 3 December; the Rutter concert on 9 December; the Service of Lessons and Carols on 17 December. Preparations are in train for the Journey to Bethlehem service and the First Eucharist of Christmas on 24 December, and the Christmas Eucharist and the second Service of Lessons and Carols on 25 December. Meanwhile there has been a busy programme of charity, school and university carol services, all of which have gone extremely well. Warm thanks to the Guildford Cathedral Singers who performed superbly at the Age UK and Air Ambulance carol concerts on 8 and 18 December.

Virgers

14. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve, Jake and Nicola for all the incredible support they have been providing for a massively challenging Advent and Christmas programme. Paul is almost back to full hours and has greatly appreciated the warmth of the welcome since his return.

Visitor Experience and Events

15. The exacting month that was November has been followed by another very busy three weeks in December. Saturday 2 December saw the return of the Etsy market to the Cathedral Nave, the team provided outstanding support to the Rutter concert on Saturday 9 December, and ran the Phyllis Tuckwell 'Light Up a Life' event on Sunday 10 December. The 'Snowman' concerts on Saturday 16 December were lovely events with an amazing atmosphere, and the Air Ambulance carol service on Monday 18 December was similarly successful. Events for January are advertised at the link below.

[GC What's On Nov Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 Final 23 Oct.pdf \(guildford-cathedral.org\)](#)

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer