



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 22 DECEMBER 2022

Introduction

1. It has been a busy year in general, and December has been particularly hectic. I would like to thank all our Volunteers for all that they do to help support our services, events and behind the scenes in such challenging circumstances. At this time of acute Staff shortages it has been very re-assuring to know that there is a large number of people available to step in and help, everyone's flexibility and 'can-do' attitude is hugely appreciated. May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyous Christmas and all good fortune in a healthy and happy 2023.

Volunteers – Archivist

2. We are still looking for an archivist to take over from Liz North who will be retiring from her position as the Cathedral Archivist at the end of the month. If you are interested in taking over this fascinating and fulfilling role, or know of someone who might, please contact Julie on volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org.

Volunteers – Guildford Cathedral Singers

3. Guildford Cathedral Singers are having a busy month - we sang Eucharist and Evensong on the 11 December, and we have two Carol concerts in the Cathedral. One to raise funds for the Air Ambulance and the other for Age UK. GCS sings the Sunday services approximately once a month when the Cathedral Choir are unavailable and twice a year the Cathedral Choir join us at a service that enables us to sing music written for a larger choir. We are an auditioned group of singers and rehearse on the Friday before our Sunday commitment. Our repertoire is varied and interesting - we have just sung a new two choir Mass composed by our Musical Director John Bawden. Although we all live far and wide, we are trying to increase the number of social events that we organise. GCS is currently trying to expand its pool of singers (as many have other choirs and commitments) so if you are familiar with Church music and Liturgy, can offer a commitment of once a month and can sing music from the dots then we would love to hear from you. We would particularly like to hear from Sopranos, Tenors (as always) and Basses. Interested? email chris.syner@gmail.com

Worship

4. For the weekdays after Christmas (Monday 26 December to Saturday 31 December, and on Monday 2 January), there will be Morning Prayer and Eucharist at 9.00

and 9.30am (including Tuesday). There will be no Evening Prayer on these days. On Sunday 1 January there will be Morning Prayer at 7.45am, Holy Communion at 8am and Cathedral Eucharist at 9.45am. There is no Evensong or Evening Prayer on 1 January.

Thereafter, on 3 January service times revert to the following:

- 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 (except on Tuesday 3 January and Wednesday 4 January when there will be no evening services).

Evening Prayer at 5.30pm on Wednesday and no evening service on Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

5. For the weekdays after Christmas (Monday 26 December to Saturday 31 December, and on Monday 2 January), the Cathedral will be open to visitors from 10am until 1pm. Thereafter on 3 January, the opening times will revert to the following:

- 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 and Seasons will be closed from end of business on 23 December until 3 January. Thereafter 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

6. Chapter met on 13 December to consider the budget; a further update will be given to them in the New Year. Chapter members once again asked for their gratitude to be passed on to Staff and Volunteers for all that they do, particularly at the moment when such acute staff shortages are being experienced.

Bellringing

7. Service and practice ringing has continued as normal with good attendances for most occasions. Three quarter peals have been rung and on Sunday 4 December, when the Cathedral choir was singing Evensong at St Nicolas church, three of the Cathedral ringers took part in a quarter peal there before the service. The peal attempt on 26 November was not successful, but a very good peal was rung on 3 December by members of the Cambridge University Guild of Ringers, some of whom had travelled a long way to take part.

Development

8. The first full planning meeting for the Knife Angel residency in March has taken place. Third parties who could help with funding and logistics have been approached. A further meeting took place on 20 December, and another is planned for 10 January.

Facilities

9. Some repairs have been made to the roof at Seasons and the internal work on the radiator covers has been completed. There was a major water outage due to pumping problems at the treatment works in late November. The lack of water necessitated a short-term hire of 'Chambers' Pots' – portable toilets. The welcome signs that were being refurbished have been completed and reinstalled at the foot of the south steps and beside the western approach road. The water ingress into the Stewards' Room has been discussed with the Cathedral Architect and he has approved a proposal to attempt to seal a small gap alongside the ramp and then close it with lead flashing.

Families Engagement and Schools

10. The Advent Workshops were a great success, over 6 sessions the Cathedral welcomed 175 pupils, and Becki Hartley, Head of Family Engagement and Schools is extremely grateful to the wonderful volunteer team who lead activities so successfully. The Christingle Service on Sunday 4 December was well attended, welcoming new families and our Cathedral community to a very informal service in Seasons. The Family Fun Day took place on Wednesday 21 December, with a variety of craft activities based around the theme of Christmas. 92 children enjoyed a lovely morning at the Cathedral.

Guildford Cathedral Development

11. The Guildford Borough Council Planning Committee will consider the Cathedral and Vivid's application for planning permission on 13 March 2023.

Liturgy and Music

12. Choristers Ruby and Arthur performed to a packed-out Royal Albert Hall on 6 December under the baton of John Rutter and accompanied by the RPO. The Cathedral's brilliant chaperones safely escorted choristers and probationers up to and across London to both concerts. Katherine Dienes-Williams, Organist and Master of the Choristers, could hardly have felt prouder than to hear John Rutter tell 10000 people about his and the RPO's special and wonderful relationship with Guildford Cathedral. December has seen the normal round of school carol services (and Age UK on 16 December), and the Cathedral's Advent Carol Service on 27 November and the Service of Lessons and Carols on 18 December were great successes.

Virgers

13. With two Virgers on sick leave and one on paternity leave the situation is now critical. Anyone who is willing to help please contact Matt O'Grady on dops@guildford-cathedral.org.

Visitor Experience and Events

14. The Christmas fair on 18 and 19 November went well with high attendance. The event has cleared £13.5K which is a huge amount of money. This simply would not have happened without the input of the whole team of Staff and Volunteers. This was the first year the Cathedral offered a local charity a complimentary stall - Phyllis Tuckwell was delighted to join the throng. Next year's date is already in the diary. The Canterbury Care trust enjoyed their Christmas Activity day on 29 November, and the ETSY fair on Saturday 3 December attracted 3261 visitors, with the Shop and Cafe having brilliant days too. The final commercial event of the year was the Air Ambulance carol service on 13 December which was another great success.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer