



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 24 FEBRUARY 2023

Introduction

1. February has been hugely busy and with the season of Lent upon us, and the Knife Angel starting its residency on 1 March (a key theme in many of the updates below), the swift pace of life continues. The Cathedral Volunteers have yet again been at the forefront as we have attempted to deal with all the challenges whilst running a hectic programme. Chapter members have asked me to pass on their particular thanks to everyone for all their support in difficult circumstances, and these thanks are echoed by my own.

Volunteers – Welcome

2. Welcome to Allison English, a new Guide.

Volunteers – Servers and Stewards

3. Our serving team is in desperate need of new recruits! They are a friendly bunch of lay people who take part in the services, carrying candles and crosses, and helping the clergy to present the worship. There are no age restrictions, lightweight crosses are available and full training is given. If you would like to have a go, you can either speak to anyone on the team (they're the ones in white!) or e-mail guildfordcathedralservers@gmail.com.

4. If you enjoy Cathedral services, and find pleasure in providing a happy and welcoming environment as part of a team, you might be a perfect Cathedral steward! We are the folks who stand at the doorway, greeting visitors and friends, and providing a warm welcome to all. We help the clergy carry out their roles in various ways too, from inviting people to come forward for communion to lighting candles or supporting processions. We help at funerals and special services and festivals, especially those that take place at the busiest periods in the Christian calendar. Most of all, we are there to provide welcome and to ensure everyone feels at home here at Guildford Cathedral. We ask stewards to usually commit to around 2 Sunday services per month, either at Eucharist or Evensong. Each steward receives full training from our experienced and committed colleagues. If you are coming to the services anyway, why not come just a little earlier and be part of our team? If you want to know more, have a word with one of the stewards who will be glad to help. We'd love to tell you all about it! Alternatively, be in touch by email to stewards@guildford-cathedral.org.

Worship

5. Worship times have reverted to those that were in place before changes required by Virger shortages were instituted before Christmas (except Wednesday evening – see below). The times are 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.

No evening services on Wednesday or Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

6. The Cathedral opening times are as follows (please note early closing on Wednesday and Saturday due to Virger shortages):

- Sunday - 1.30pm to 3.30pm.
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 8.30am to 4.30pm (whole Cathedral); 4.30pm to 5pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - Nave only); 5pm onwards (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 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 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

7. Chapter meet again next week (28 February). They will receive an update on the budget and Visitor Experience and Events.

Bellringing

8. The ringers enjoyed a very pleasant annual dinner at Puttenham Golf Club on 27th January. The Dean and Martin Gwilliams came as guests, but regrettably the organisers, Robin and Gillian Leale, had tested positive for Covid the previous day and had to miss it. Since then service and practice ringing has continued as normal, two locally organised peals have been rung and one quarter peal. The newest recruit, Heidi Saddleton, daughter of Philip and Anthea, continues to make good progress.

Development Department

9. Preparations for the arrival of the Knife Angel on 28 February and its residency here throughout March are now in full swing. The programme is attached. To provide much needed financial support please visit:

[Guildford Cathedral: Knife Angel Guildford | Help us raise awareness of the impact of Violence & Aggression \(enthuse.com\)](#)

If anyone would like to attend the welcome reception on 1 March, please book here:

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/boxoffice/644>

10. The team are also looking for Volunteers to help at a Marquee that will be on the grounds during the month to provide information on the Angel. If you are interested in helping please contact Mary Beale by e-mail (visit@guildford-cathedral.org).

Facilities

11. The University grounds' staff have worked to make good the planters and also tidy the plants and bushes on the Flagpole Green before the arrival of the Knife Angel. Work continues with the Cathedral insurers on claims related to power and subsidence, and to provide cover for the arrival of the Knife Angel. Despite further visits from the engineer the North Porch lift is still not fully operational, although it is anticipated that once the batteries have been recharged it should be working again. The lightning protection has been repaired.

Families Engagement and Schools

12. Cathedral Tots took place on Wednesday 1 February exploring the story of Candlemas and thinking about God's love. Nine children joined in making heart-leaf trees and Valentine's Day cards, and the team welcomed some new faces too. A school visit was hosted on Thursday 2 February for pupils from Halstead Prep School. The Family Fun Day on Wednesday 15 February was a sell-out, the Cathedral welcomed over 100 children and their families to take part in a variety of activities. A School Resource Pack for the Knife Angel has been created and posted on the website for schools to choose their own activities to engage with the Knife Angel, and has been designed so that it can be used on-site here at the Cathedral and off-site in schools who are unable to visit in person. The first Lent Workshop took place on Wednesday 22 February, Ash Wednesday.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

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

Liturgy and Music

14. The Music Department has reflected on the success of the partnership Bach Cantata project with Charterhouse School which saw large congregations at Sunday Evensongs in January. The Cathedral celebrated the Feast of Candlemas on Thursday 2 February which brought the Christmas and Epiphany season to a close. On Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 February the team used this weekend to celebrate 20 years of girl choristers at the Cathedral. 12 girls met in November 2002 to form the girl choristers, launched at the Guildhall in March 2003. 16 girls joined the choir to sing Evensong on Saturday 4 February and on Sunday 5 February the Cathedral Choir was joined by the choir of girls, choral scholars and adult singers from Croydon Minster together with former University Chaplain Canon Dr Andrew Bishop at Evensong. On Sunday 12 February the services were sung by

the Guildford Cathedral Singers and Surrey Voices. On Sunday 19 February at Evensong there was a performance of a new anthem by renowned composer Jonathan Dove. Monday 20 February saw a number of candidates auditioned for the vacant Lay Clerk positions. The team is delighted to announce that Asher Oliver, presently Assistant Organist at York Minster, has been appointed as Sub Organist in succession to Richard Moore and will join the Cathedral on 17 April.

Virgers

15. Huge thanks to Steve Reeds and Jake Thompson who have continued to conduct the Virger duties between them, and to all of those who have helped move chairs and cover Evensong. Nicola Goff has been recruited as a part time Virger, and it has been a delight to welcome her to the ranks. However, with two Virgers on sick leave the situation still remains critical. Anyone who is willing to help please contact Matt O'Grady on dops@guildford-cathedral.org.

Visitor Experience and Events

16. The two commercial events this month were the Preloved sale on 18 February and Craft and Flea on 25 February. The team have been working very hard in support of the Knife Angel, organising the welcoming reception on 1 March and the Rock Choir fundraising concert on 15 March. Thursday 16 February's Coffee Concert featured the Cathedral's own Karen Taylor and her Rhythm of Life Community Choir.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer