



GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL

## CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 24 NOVEMBER 2022

### Introduction

1. An extremely busy month in which a great deal was achieved despite the very challenging circumstances due to reduced numbers in many areas. I would like to add my own personal thanks to everyone as usual, in addition to those offered by Chapter members at paragraph 5 below. As another hectic period approaches as we move into the season of Advent, please look out for each other and report anything that appears unsafe or unusual and might have security implications.

### 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 year. 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](mailto:volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org).

### Volunteers – Stewards

3. We are always pleased to welcome new members to our team of Stewards. Their main duties are to welcome worshippers, hand out Orders of Service, assist with movement during services and take retiring collections. Stewards are usually on duty for just one or two Sunday services per month, and for an occasional special service. Advent is our busiest time with numerous Carol Services each week! If you are interested, and would like to find out more, do chat to one of the Stewards (wearing a badge and red ribbon) after the service. Or email [stewards@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:stewards@guildford-cathedral.org).

### Volunteers – Welcome

4. Welcome to Ariel Cortez (general helper, and Hilary Goff (Shop helper). Sadly we must say farewell to Max New and Judy Wedderspoon, who are both relinquishing their roles as Stewards after many years service.

### 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**

The Cathedral opening times are as follows:

- 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 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 8 November and were given updates on Fundraising and Visitor Experience and Events. Chapter members asked for their thanks to be passed on to Staff and Volunteers for their continuing efforts, and for particular gratitude to be expressed to those who have been required to work or volunteer for extra hours to cover those who are absent.

## **Bellringing**

7. The first week of November was particularly busy in the tower, with ringing for the All Saints Day Eucharist on 1<sup>st</sup> November, for the All Souls Day Eucharist on the 2<sup>nd</sup> (for which the bells were half-muffled) and on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> for the start of COP27. Ringing on that day included 'firing' – when all the bells are rung at the same time. The next day it was back to normal Sunday service ringing. The following Sunday the muffles were on again for Remembrance Sunday, when a quarter peal of Stedman Cinques was rung prior to Evensong. There will be peal attempts on the next two Saturday mornings (26 November and 3 December), the first organised by former Cathedral ringer, Peter Joyce, and the second organised by Chris Rogers for members of the Cambridge University Guild of Ringers.

## **Development**

8. Further discussions on the Knife Angel took place this month, with a positive meeting between the Cathedral and the Leader of Guildford Borough Council. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, has been to a meeting with the Cathedral Music Trust to discuss donation priorities for the coming year. She also held a very positive meeting with the Surrey Masons.

## **Facilities**

9. There are a number of ongoing issues affecting the Cathedral and properties. There is a leak into the Crypt, problems at 3 of the houses, and water leaking into Seasons at several points. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities is continuing to follow-up on the disabled lift repair at the North Door. Regrettably it was installed by a sub-contractor and various permissions and agreements have to be reached when work is done on it. Jim has also completed two energy surveys for the Church of England.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

10. The Advent Workshops have been a great success, with sessions on 9, 15, 16, 23 and 24 November. Positive feedback has been received from staff and pupils. There was also a school visit on 22 November. Preparations for Advent are in full train, aided by the printing of the 'Advent for Families' flyers detailing all of Advent activities taking place through this season. Plans to hold a Christmas Family Fun Day on 21 December have been boosted by receiving funding from Ecclesiastical and resources for this day are on order. The Christingle Service on 4 December is now registered as an event on The Children's Society website, and Becki Hartley, Head of Families Engagement and Schools, is keeping in touch with the local community relationship manager regarding supporting the event with flyers and guests attending the service.

## **Guildford Cathedral Development**

11. Discussions between Vivid Homes and the Guildford Borough Council planners continue.

## **Liturgy and Music**

12. The Feast of All Saints' was celebrated with a Eucharist on Tuesday 1 November, and All Souls' with the Requiem mass setting by Maurice Duruflé on Wednesday 2 November. The County Remembrance Service on Sunday 13 November was similarly successful, with a Requiem Eucharist for Remembrance that evening featuring choristers playing various instruments. On Tuesday 15 November the girls' choir spent a fascinating and rewarding day at St John's College Cambridge. On Thursday 17 November Katherine, as its Chair, hosted the Cathedral Organists' Association conference at St George's RC Cathedral Southwark. On Sunday 20 November the Cathedral Choir and the Guildford Cathedral Singers sang together at Evensong. On Monday 21 November there were auditions for the three vacant Lay Clerk positions, with two candidates potentially being offered positions.

## **Virgers**

13. Jake Thompson has joined the team as Full Time Virger, a key moment for the Department which has been severely depleted for several weeks because of the vacancy and health related absence. Huge thanks are due to all of the Virgers, who have successfully supported an extremely busy programme including many high profile services, commercial markets, schools activity and the Cathedral's own Christmas Fair.

## **Visitor Experience and Events**

14. The Guildford County School Awards took place on 10 November, and there was a Pre-loved Kilo market in the Nave on 12 November. Well done and huge thanks to everyone who was involved in the incredible amount of planning and preparation for the Christmas Fair on 18 and 19 November, and for running stands or helping at the entrance. It was a wonderful event which drew many people to the Cathedral and provided much needed income.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer