



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 25 APRIL 2024

Introduction

1. April began with a break after the hectic activity of Holy Week and Easter, since then it has been extremely busy once more. Chapter members asked me to thank all our Volunteers for all that has been achieved, and for all their forbearance during difficult circumstances. Pressure on the team will be alleviated in the future with two new Staff members being appointed (one in Events, one as Volunteer Co-ordinator and Admin Assistant). Discussions are also underway with the Church Commissioners with a view to their funding more posts to help with income generation later this year. Please see the attached flyers for the Recovery Fair on 10 May and an advert for an Autism Friendly event at G Live on Monday 13 May, and at the link below details of Christians Against Poverty courses taking place throughout the term. Please also be aware of the following:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cq0aofuklgmlh4wlhxyz/ADzFWV-iNtaHVMbK0RHTfiU?rlkey=vn9stfi9by352eje36cyjt365&dl=0>

A Guildford Theology Hub event with the Revd Professor Maggi Dawn of Durham University Thursday 2 May at 7.15 for 7.30pm at Guildford Cathedral (Lady Chapel)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/871654902277?aff=oddtcreator>

Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy come to the Cathedral on the morning of 11 May as their supporters will attempt to ascend and descend the Tower multiple times to collectively clock up 75,000 steps, to represent the number of individuals GTCC have helped since they were established in 2008. To sponsor the team please visit [Angel Ascent - JustGiving](#).

Worship

2. The times of services remain 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; at 8.00 and 8.30am on Tuesday, 9.00 and 9.30am on Saturday.
- Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Evening prayer at 5.30pm on Wednesday.

There is no evening service on Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

3. The Cathedral opening times are as follows:

- Sunday – 7.30am to 7pm.
- Monday, Thursday and Friday – 8.30am to 6.15pm.
- Tuesday – 7.30am to 6.15pm.
- Wednesday and Saturday – 8.30am to 6pm.

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

4. Chapter met on 9 April. They were given updates by the Development Committee and the Nominations Committee, who are providing advice on the appointments required for the new Advisory Body. There was a lengthy discussion on the communications required once the outcome of the planning decision is made known, whatever the outcome. The process of selecting a new Dean is going well; the selection panel met on 18 March and agreed the contents of the job advertisement, which appeared in the Church Times on 12 April. The closing date for applications is 12 May, and the next meeting of the panel will be on 22 May, when the sift of candidates will be undertaken. Interviews programmed for 19 and 20 June.

Bellringing

5. It is good to report that the Cathedral team which took part in the qualifying round of the National 12-Bell Striking Contest came third out of eight teams and thus qualified for the final, which will take place at Chilcompton, Somerset, on Saturday 15 June. They have already been to Chilcompton for a practice. In addition to normal service and practice ringing, two quarter peals have been rung, a peal was rung by a visiting band on 6 April, and a visiting band from the University of London Society rang for an hour on 20 April. The ringers are looking forward to a ringing weekend in Somerset over the early May bank holiday weekend.

Development Department

6. This month the Cathedral has received a grant to cover the cost of Godly Play training for Schools and Family Engagement. The Development team has passed the first hurdle in securing a grant from the Cathedrals' Music Trust, which is no mean feat. They are also examining possibilities of securing funding support for the Head of Schools post. A member of the Virger Department, Nicola Goff, ran the 'virtual' London Marathon on Sunday 21 April in aid of the Cathedral. You can still donate here: <https://guildfordcathedral.enthuse.com/cf/nicola-goff-runs-the-tsc-london-marathon-my-way>

Facilities

7. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, is working through various documents with regard to establishing a 'wayleave' for an additional fibre to the Bell Tower for EE and also, as a separate project, changing some of the antennae by the Angel. He is also hoping to get TJ Hunt on-site shortly to tackle the kerbstone repairs. Jim is also moving forward with work on the telephone system following the cessation of ISDN and renewing the utilities' contracts. Finally Jim has been in contact with the Diocesan Project Officer regarding the plans for the refurbishment of the former DEC; the plans have been approved by Guildford Borough Council and the Cathedral Fabric Advisory Committee, and the Diocese are planning to move on site by February 2025.

Families Engagement and Schools

8. There was a successful Good Friday family service on 29 March, and a Family Fun Day on Wednesday 3 April. Nicola Cole, the Head of Schools, is preparing materials for a large retreat day in May and a philosophy and ethics day in June.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

9. The Public Inquiry is now closed, with closing arguments being submitted in writing on 17 April. The Inspector is required to make his judgement known within 4 to 6 weeks of that date; his report is therefore expected in late May.

Liturgy and Music

10. The choir and musicians took a hugely well deserved three week break after an extremely successful series of services for Holy Week and Easter. Services on Sunday 7 April were sung by the Guildford Cathedral Singers (GCS), and on Sunday 15 April it was GCS again in the morning and The Whyte Effect for Evensong. On Sunday 22 April both services were sung by the Stag Consort. A busy term is in the offing, which will include a special service of celebration to mark Barry Rose's birthday. Barry was the first Organist and Master of the Choristers at the Cathedral, and is 90 this year.

Virgers

11. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve, Nicola and Jake for all they are doing to support and extremely busy programme of services and events at the Cathedral in difficult circumstances. With Jake's second child on the way very soon, he has now become the Part Time Virger whilst Nicola Goff will be carrying out the duties of Full Time Virger for the time being.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. The three days of graduation ceremonies on 10, 11 and 12 April were wonderful successes despite the unsettled weather. On Tuesday 16 April the much anticipated 'Post Box Toppers' exhibition opened, and on Thursday 18 April there was a Coffee Concert featuring Jeanne and Theo Kalorkoti, a mother and son duo playing xylophone and piano. On Saturday 20 April the Worth the Weight market returned, and on Saturday 27 April it is the turn of Craft and Flea. On Friday 5 April there was an unannounced inspection by the Visit England tourist attraction assessor who was very pleased with what she found; well done to all concerned.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer