



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 26 JANUARY 2023

Introduction

1. After an extremely busy Advent and Christmas it has been more measured in January, with much of interest in the programme and also the opportunity taken to plan for the future. I am so grateful to everyone who has helped whilst we have been short of Virgers, I have never been short of offers of assistance of many kinds. Thank you to all our Volunteers for all that you do, not only in your own areas but in showing such flexibility and willingness to assist in other areas.

Volunteers – New Joiners

2. Welcome to George Duncan, Archivist Helper, and Graham Allan, Welcomer/Guide.

Worship

3. 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

4. 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

5. Chapter met on 24 January and were briefed on Family Engagement and Schools plans, the development, Health and Safety and Safeguarding. The budget has still not been agreed, two groups have been formed; one to look at ways of driving up income and another investigating how expenditure might be looked at in other ways.

Bellringing

6. The bells were rung for both services on Christmas Eve and for the main service on Christmas Day. Since then service and practice ringing has continued as normal. Quarter peals were rung on Sunday 8 and Friday 13 January. The latter acted as the first practice for the Guildford Cathedral team who are entering the 2023 National 12-Bell Striking Contest. They have been drawn to ring in an eliminator at Hursley, near Winchester, on 25 March. The final will be at Sheffield Cathedral on 24 June.

Development

7. Preparations for the arrival of the Knife Angel on 27 February and its residency here throughout March are now in full swing. A press release has been issued and a sponsorship document prepared. If anyone would like to provide financial support please visit:

[Guildford Cathedral: Knife Angel Guildford | Help us raise awareness of the impact of Violence & Aggression \(enthuse.com\)](https://www.enthuse.com/guildford-cathedral-knife-angel-guildford)

Facilities

8. The Cathedral Architect has approved the proposed repair at the west end to stop water ingress into the Stewards' Room. He and the Organ Consultant have also proooped a solution to the ventilation problem in the Song Room. Work to address the former has been programmed for late February. Andy Saunders, the handyman, has removed much of the ivy from the walls and roof area at Seasons and cleared the gutters. Hopefully this will help address some of the issues regarding water ingress. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, has had a meeting with the University Grounds' Team to discuss various eco measures, tree management and preparing the planters before the end of February.

Families Engagement and Schools

9. The Family Fun Day on Wednesday 21 December was a great success, welcoming 92 children to take part in a variety of Christmas crafts. All Christmas family activities went well, with the Journey to Bethlehem being well-attended and with many positive comments received. The first Cathedral Tots of the year took place on Wednesday 4 January, and was open to older siblings who may not have yet returned to school; this boosted attendance

and the team welcomed 20 children to the informal service. The Diocesan Schools Eco-Day took place on 26 January, and was well received by all who attended.

Friends

10. There is a 'Cathedral Day' being run in conjunction with the Friends of Guildford House on 15 March. If you are interested please contact the Friends (friends@guildford-cathedral.org).

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. The Christmas services, the Service of Lessons and Carols on 18 December, Journey to Bethlehem and the First Eucharist of Christmas on Christmas Eve, and the Christmas Day Eucharist and Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Day, were all huge successes. Congratulations to everyone involved in the preparation and during the services themselves - numbers attending in person were strong and on-line viewing figures were very high. A feature of Sunday Evensongs (8, 22 and 29 January) has been a series of Bach Canatas, with vocal solists and orchestral accompaniment. Noticeably larger congregations have again been in evidence to enjoy the worship. A special Evensong attended by members of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen took place on 19 January. The team are delighted to announce that Peter Hicks has accepted the vacant post of Alto Lay Clerk from September 2023, and a successful set of auditions for the Sub Organist post took place during the week commencing 23 January.

Virgers

13. Huge thanks to Steve Reeds and Jake Thompson who have been conducting the Virger duties between them. Massive thanks too to all those who have stepped in to fill gaps at Evensong and to help move chairs etc. With two Virgers on sick leave the situation remains critical. Anyone who is willing to help please contact Matt O'Grady on dops@guildford-cathedral.org.

Visitor Experience and Events

14. Stock-take took place in the Shop during the first week of January, and the results were very pleasing. Some of the team visited the London trade shows during the month to shop for spring and summer stock. The first event of 2023, a 'Worth the Weight' used clothing sale, took place on 21 January. The rest of the year is brimmed with many exciting and challenging adventures for Visitor Experience and Events.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer