



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 26 OCTOBER 2023

Introduction

1. A momentous month indeed. If you have not watched the recording of the Acting Dean's address on Sunday 1 October, please do so ([link below](#)) – it provides an excellent overview of where we are. Thank you to everyone for all that is being done to keep the flag flying in these uncertain times.

[Guildford Cathedral - 1 October 2023 | Address by the Venerable Stuart Beake, Acting Dean \(guildford-cathedral.org\)](#)

Worship

2. Worship 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.

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 (whole Cathedral);
- 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 10 October. The main topic of discussion during normal business was the financial situation, which is very challenging. The Cathedral is looking at ways of increasing its income through planned giving (which will be the subject of a refreshed campaign starting on 19 November) and the Music Patronage Scheme (launch date 9 December). There will continue to be a focus on commercial events, and more resource is being arranged to facilitate this. The afternoon was taken up discussing the Statement of Need for a new Dean, which will be used by the selection panel as part of the recruiting process. The interviews for the new Dean are taking place on 19 and 20 June 2024.

Bellringing

5. A busy month. On Saturday 14 October the Cathedral ringers and friends travelled to Gloucestershire for their annual outing, ringing at Cheltenham Minster, Cheltenham St Mark, Painswick, Stroud and Tetbury – all good rings of bells. Since the last meeting a peal of Stedman Cinques was rung on 30 September and quarter peals were rung on Sunday 8 October prior to the service at which the Rt Rev Paul Davies was installed as Bishop of Dorking, and on Sunday 22 October as part of a quarter peal weekend by members of the Guildford District of the Diocesan Guild of Ringers. Finally, on Friday 6 October the Guildford District held their annual practice at the Cathedral - for some a rare opportunity to ring on 12 bells.

Development Department

6. Karen Taylor (Fundraising Officer) organized the 'Quiz for the Cause' on 6 October, which was attended by 83 people and raised £1215. Nicola Pratt (Head of Development) has been working very hard on an application for a grant from the Cathedrals' Sustainability Fund was submitted on 14 October. Feedback has already been received and the amended application is now ready for re-submission, it will be considered by the Bishops and Cathedrals Committee on 9 November. The bid includes requests for funding to help with Development and Visitor Experience and Events.

Facilities

7. An office refurbishment, kindly paid for by the Friends of Guildford Cathedral, is being carried out which will provide more space for the Dean's PA and a better welcome at Reception. New, more cost effective photocopiers are also being provided. An assessment of the repairs required in the Stewards' Room and the Ani Room has been carried out, and cost estimates will be obtained as soon as funding has been secured. Two memorial benches will soon be ready for delivery for the Memorial Garden. The broken fence on the steps to Cathedral Close has been made safe.

Families Engagement and Schools

8. Nicola Cole (Head of Schools) has now completed two school visits (St Crispin's School on 5 October and Lyne and Longcross School on 17 October) and Rachel Johnson (Family Engagement Officer) organised a successful Cathedral Tots on 4 October and Family Fun Day on 25 October.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

9. The appeal paperwork has now been lodged, the Cathedral now awaits news of when the central government Planning Inspectorate will convene a Public Inquiry. Briefings for Cathedral personnel who will be expert witnesses have taken place, and there was a meeting in October with Guildford Borough Council members to discuss the overall strategy for building houses on Stag Hill.

Liturgy and Music

10. There have been a number of special services in October. On Friday 6 October, the girls' choir were joined at Evensong by their opposite numbers at Portsmouth Cathedral, and on Saturday 7 October the Guildford Cathedral Choir Association were present to sing at Evensong. The Bishop of Dorking was installed at the Cathedral during the 6pm service on 9 October, which he described thus: 'a beautiful and incredibly uplifting act of worship which has sent me into my new ministry with joy and gratitude.' On Monday 9 October the 'changed voices' singers went to Portsmouth to sing at the Cathedral for Evensong, and on Sunday 15 October, the boy choristers sang at St Mary's Church, Horsell. Barry Rose, who was the first Organist and Master of the Choristers at Guildford Cathedral, was in the building on Monday and Tuesday 23 and 24 October making some recordings on the organ.

Virgers

11. Huge thanks to Steve, Jake, and Nicola for all they have done to support the Cathedral during a busy year, when there have also been very serious Staff shortages with which to contend. Paul Williamson (Dean's Virger) will commence a phased return to work on 7 November.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. There was a 'Worth the Weight' sale on Saturday 30 September, 'Fleetwood Mac by Candlelight' on Wednesday 11 October and a 'Preloved' marked in the Nave on 14 October. Another Candlelight concert was held on Wednesday 18 October, this time featuring the music of Queen, and the very next morning there was a Coffee Concert featuring by Cantatrice Voices Choir. Also on Thursday 19 October were the Reserve Forces' and Cadets Associations' Awards (presented by the Lord Lieutenant), and to finish off a very busy period the Cathedral hosted the School Centred Initial Teacher Training graduation ceremony on Friday 20 September.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer