



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 27 APRIL 2023

Introduction

1. Yet another term of hard work and immense achievement has flown by - April has been an extremely busy month and there are many challenges to face. However, there has also been an opportunity to recharge the batteries and look forward, and we step into the summer with our usual sense of optimism. Huge thanks are due to the Cathedral's dedicated volunteers, without whom neither our past successes nor future plans would be possible.

Tower Tours and Volunteers' Service

2. We are offering **FREE** Tower Tours to all our volunteers on Wednesday 7 June at 2.30pm. You will need to book a place using the following link:

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/boxoffice/671>

Then on Sunday 11 June at 6pm there will be a special Choral Evensong with a Thanksgiving for Guildford Cathedral Volunteers providing an opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of you who give so much of your time and resources so willingly.

Volunteers – Welcome

3. A warm welcome to new Bell Ringers Jenny Heyworth, Caroline Prescott, and Chris Ridley; also to Georgina Townshend (new Archivist).

Volunteers – Chaperones

4. Do you enjoy choral music? Do you have 2 hours spare between 4.15 – 6.15pm on a weekday afternoon, either Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday? If the answer to those questions is **“Yes!”** then please consider joining our team of volunteer Choir Chaperone.

Worship is at the heart of our cathedral life, and our choir is an integral part of that worship. We have about 40 choristers, boys aged 7-13 and girls aged 9-18, each of whom sing at three services each week. But without Chaperones we cannot have a choir, as our Safeguarding Policy requires there to be at least one adult for every 8 or 10 children present (dependent on age) to ensure their safety and wellbeing. The role is simply to help supervise the children before, during and after rehearsals and services. Full training will be provided.

Volunteers – Stewards

5. 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

6. 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.

No evening services on Wednesday or Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

7. The Cathedral opening times are as follows (please note early closing on Wednesday and Saturday):

- 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

8. Chapter's next meeting will be on 9 May, when the members will be presented with the Annual Report and Accounts and the 2023 budget for approval. They will also be

discussing the financial situation, with a small deficit estimated for 2023 it is important to have a zero budget in 2024 and 2025 so that income matches expenditure. This will preserve the reserves following challenging years during the pandemic and its aftermath.

Bellringing

9. After the silence of Holy Week (as in many churches the Holy Week practice is always cancelled), the bells rang out on Easter Day, with a quarter peal prior to Evensong. On other Sundays and Tuesdays ringing has continued as normal and two more quarter peals were rung. Visitors, both ringers and non-ringers, are always welcome at the Tuesday practices and those in April included two who used to ring at Holy Trinity in the early 80s and after a break are now ringing at Liss and Petersfield. They brought with them two lads from Midhurst who are making remarkable progress. On Sunday 7 May the bells will be rung prior to the County service and afterwards a peal will be attempted to mark the King's Coronation.

Development Department

10. Nicola Pratt, Head of Fundraising, has been holding discussions about fundraising strategy going forward as the Cathedral looks to increase its income in a variety of ways. The Fundraising Committee will be reconstituted as soon as possible once the membership requirements are met.

Facilities

11. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities is looking to see whether the Cathedral can readily make some minor repairs to the Cathedral Floor which has cracked slabs in some places and minor holes that should be filled. Martin Gwilliams, who is a qualified stonemason, will be helping with this task. The saga of the North Porch platform lift goes on. Allied Platform Lifts are having to bring technicians and spares from the manufacturer in Germany and will do so as soon as they reasonably can. Until that time the lift, regrettably, remains inoperative. The financial position means that other work has to be prioritised carefully. Clearly essential work in terms of Health and Safety is a priority but other repairs and routine maintenance may be delayed for a short time to avoid the costs of emergency call outs.

Families Engagement and Schools

12. The Good Friday Family Service was very successful welcoming a wide range of people of all ages. The 'moving around' nature of the service was well supported by the stewarding team, and the congregation enjoyed their hot cross buns! On Wednesday 12 April, the Family Fun Day welcomed 105 children to take part in Easter and spring themed activities. The team created an Easter garden on the chancel steps for children to add flowers to. The word hunt was again the most popular activity. The next event is Cathedral Tots on Wednesday 3 May.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

13. Discussions with Vivid homes are ongoing to determine the way forward in the wake of Guildford Borough Council's refusal of the Cathedral's application for planning permission last month.

Liturgy and Music

14. The Holy Week services began on Palm Sunday with a Procession and Liturgy and a Service of Readings and Music both taking place. The girls choir took part in a performance of Bach's St Matthew's Passion at the Royal Festival Hall on the same day. On Wednesday 5 April Richard Moore played the organ accompaniment to Via Crucis by Philip Moore, which also featured prayers by Eric Milner-White. Maundy Thursday's services were the Diocesan Chrism Mass and the Eucharist for the Last Supper. On Good Friday there was a three hour liturgy and Choral Evensong, and on Holy Saturday the Diocesan Confirmation (with Baptism). Easter Day was marked by the Cathedral Eucharist and a Festal Evensong, which was Sub Organist Richard Moore's final service after which there was a reception to bid him farewell. Richard will be very greatly missed, but Guildford's loss will Christ Church Oxford's gain. Asher Oliver has now replaced Richard as the Sub Organist and the busy summer term has begun.

Virgers

15. Huge thanks as usual to Steve Reeds, Jake Thompson, and Nicola Goff, for all they have done during a busy April which included Holy Week, Easter, and University graduations. Whilst they are still one Virger short the situation remains very difficult indeed and if anyone is willing to help could they please contact Matt on dops@guildford-cathedral.org. Specific requests for help in May have been issued.

Visitor Experience and Events

16. Congratulations and well done to the team for running a highly successful series of graduation events between 19 and 21 April, when some 4,000 post-graduate students from the University of Surrey were awarded their certificates. Some unusual challenges were posed but overcome with the team's customary aplomb. On Saturday 28 April there is a Worth the Weight market in the Nave.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer