



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 27 JULY 2023

Introduction

1. July has been hugely busy with ordinations and graduations, very well done and huge congratulations to everyone involved. It has also been a time for preparation and planning, much discussion being held on providing a sustainable financial platform for the Cathedral going forward. I am also conscious that it has been a time when people spend richly deserved time away with friends and loved ones, and that some have left the Cathedral for pastures new. I would like to add my own personal thanks to those of Chapter members who asked me to thank all of our Volunteers for everything they have done for us during such a hectic period.

Volunteers – Benefits

2. Volunteer discount cards have been given to cohort leaders to distribute. However, there will be a batch of volunteers who have multi-roles or staff supported roles and their discount cards can be picked up at the Cathedral Shop. Most Cathedrals have free entry but cathedrals offering benefits to Volunteers from other cathedrals on presentation of a Volunteer discount card are:

- Chichester Cathedral – free entry including free guided tour;
- Exeter Cathedral - free entry (normally £7.50) plus 10% discount in Shop and Café;
- Peterborough Cathedral - free highlights tour but pre book on website using code VOL23;
- Wells Cathedral - speedy entry with ID card and 10% discount in shop;
- Christ Church, Oxford - free entry but useful to contact in advance.

It is always worth phoning prior to visit to check whether the cathedral might extend benefits to volunteers, as many Julie Mitchell spoke to felt it was something worth introducing.

Worship

3. 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.
- Evening prayer at 4pm Monday to Friday in August.

No evening service on Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

4. The Cathedral opening times are as follows (please note early closing on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 5pm during choir holidays):

- 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 5pm

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 and the Dean

5. The Dean's final Sunday service will now be at 3pm on 24 September. Details on Dianna's departure and how to donate to her leaving gift will follow shortly. Chapter met on 11 July and discussed the new Constitution and Statutes, the setting up of a Development Committee and the budget improvement measures. There was an update on the Cathedral development.

Bellringing

6. At the beginning of July the bells were rung for the ordination services and on Wednesday 12 July the ringers welcomed visiting ringers from St Giles in the Fields, London. Now into the holiday season, it has often not been possible to ring all 12 bells for Sunday services and the ringers have been particularly grateful to some of their regular supporters for helping out. Two quarter peals have been rung, both on ten bells, and on Saturday 15 July a peal was rung by a mainly visiting band. Two new learners are currently being taught to handle a bell. They are the daughters of a former ringer and it may be that they will entice their father back.

Development Department

7. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, continues to work on the communications strategy and the music patronage programme as well as Knife Angel legacy work. Chapter has agreed on the Terms of Reference and aims and objectives of the new Development Committee, which has begun its work.

8. On 29 September the Fundraising team are running a fundraising quiz night with supper in Seasons Café. Teams of up to 8 people to test everyone's trivia knowledge. There

will be an open bar and a raffle to complete the evening and raise as much as possible for the Cathedral. Tickets £20 including food and a donation to the Cathedral. Come as a team or spread the word to friends and family (poster attached).

Facilities

9. The dead tree on the Cathedral Green has been felled and a replacement was planted at a ceremony on 26 July. The damaged grand piano in the Nave has been repaired. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, is working to review the parking enforcement arrangements and drafting new standard responses for some of the requests received. Jim would like to remind all Volunteers that it is important to update any changes regarding their vehicles so that the list held by the Cathedral is accurate.

Families Engagement and Schools

10. Activity packs for children attending the ordination services at the beginning of July weekend were provided to keep youngsters entertained during the service. Cathedral Tots happened on Wednesday 5 July, welcoming both returning childminders and families and a few new faces. 14 children enjoyed the toys and activities before hearing the story of Noah's Ark and making animals out of playdough. Notes have been written for the split of the current Head of Family Engagement and Schools role into two separate roles ('Head of Schools' and 'Family Engagement Officer') to enable smooth handovers to prospective members of staff taking up these roles. Becki Hartley's final week as Head of Family Engagement and Schools was marked by a Family Fun Day which was attended by a VIP guest.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

11. Discussions are ongoing with Vivid Homes to determine the way forward in the wake of Guildford Borough Council's refusal of planning permission for the development.

Liturgy and Music

12. The highlights of July were the ordination services during the first weekend of the month, which went very well indeed. The Department was delighted to receive the good news that all ten of the Cathedral choristers entered for their RSCM bronze, silver and gold awards had passed – huge congratulations to them all and thanks to Asher Oliver, Sub Organist, and Marcus McDevitt, Organ Scholar, for their excellent teaching and preparation. The final Sunday of the choir's academic year on 9 July was a celebration of the year's activity whilst tinged with sadness as farewell was bid to Lay Clerks Tom Noon and David Buckley (also leaving his role as lead choir chaperone) and Marcus McDevitt (Marcus gave a hugely impressive valedictory recital on Sunday 3 July). The team are hugely grateful for all they have given and wish them all the very best as they move on to future endeavours. In early September the team will be joined by five new Lay Clerks – Fraser Ellson, Hamish Garland, Peter Hicks, Laurens Macklon and Oliver Turner. The new Organ Scholar, Jeremy Wan, joins at the same time.

Virgers

13. Huge thanks to Steve Reeds, Jake Thompson, and Nicola Goff as always for their hard work during ordinations, graduations and in so many other areas whilst still suffering from shortages in the team. The situation remains serious, so please contact Matt O'Grady if you are able to help the Virgers in any way.

Visitor Experience and Events

14. The Guildford Shakespeare Company Residency continued until Saturday 1 July. Huge thanks to everyone who has helped in any way to support the staging of the production, and for the forbearance of all in accommodating this event. Over 6 days later in July, 15 University of Surrey ceremonies were completed, during which 9,000 graduands received their degrees in the Cathedral.

15. For the next art exhibition in the Cathedral, "Sea Henge", the artist Andrew Rafferty is holding a private view on Thursday 3 August. There will be light refreshments from 6.45 pm with a presentation from 7.15 pm about the artwork. If you would like to come, please e-mail Tracey Pusey on events.officer@guildford-cathedral.org so that catering can be arranged.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer