



GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL

## CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 27 JUNE 2024

### Introduction

1. It seems a very long time since my last newsletter, which I wrote just before the news of the land sale refusal was received. I am only too aware of how much uncertainty this is causing, clearly the Cathedral is now facing an extremely difficult financial situation. Meetings have been held with the Church Commissioners, the Guildford Cathedral Music Development Foundation and a meeting is scheduled for early in July with the Diocese of Guildford. All are being very sympathetic and helpful during this period when time is being taken to consider the best way forward. On a brighter note, it has been a pleasure to welcome Catherine Barber as the new Events Officer, and Harry Talboys as the Volunteer Co-ordinator/Admin Assistant. The Cathedral is also applying for four new temporary posts using Church Commissioners funding (see note 7 below). Finally, and most importantly, interviews were held on 20 June for the vacant post of Dean of Guildford. The appointment process is ongoing, but there may not be an announcement for some months.

2. At the link below are details of the Christians Against Poverty courses which are running all this term; a Hope in Depression course which started on 13 May; a Surrey County Council Home Upgrade Grant; the Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy Annual Review; a concert at St John's Mellow on 20 July.

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

3. The Cathedral's monthly North Guildford Food Bank donation will be collected following the Cathedral Eucharist service on Sunday 7 July. The shopping list for this is below. Please leave any donations with the Development Team.

Tea bags  
Cloths & scourers  
Deodorant  
Rice  
Pasta sauce

### Worship

4. 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**

5. 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**

6. Chapter met on 11 June; the Bishop of Guildford was present at the meeting. There was a long discussion on the way forward following its Away Day determinations (when the financial options were discussed before the planning decision was known) and in the wake of the Public Inquiry decision. There were also updates on Safeguarding, from the Development Committee and the Nominations Committee.

### **Bellringing**

7. Having qualified for the final of the National 12 Bell striking Contest at Chilcompton on 15th June, the Guildford team rang well on the day but were placed 8th out of 10 teams. On Thursday 6th June the bells were rung to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings. Otherwise service and practice ringing has continued as normal and two more quarter peals have been rung. In the latter two of the young learners rang their first quarter on 12 bells.

### **Development Department**

8. Nicola Pratt, the Head of Development, has submitted an application to the Church Commissioners for a grant from the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund. The bid is for four additional personnel: an Assistant COO; an Events Virger; a second Fundraising Officer; a person to deliver a more capable website. Karen Taylor, Fundraising Officer, has been busy thanking donors and completing an Exhibition around 'Music on the Hill' and all that goes into our wonderful music, as a part of the Music Patrons' Scheme. Karen also organised a wonderful fundraising concert, 'Summertime Blues', on Friday 21 June, featuring the Cathedral's own Chris Hollingshurst and his son Matthew – over £600.00 was raised. Claire Waters-Duke, Marketing and Communications Officer, has produced the latest version of

'What's On'. There was also a book launch of the latest offering by the 'Teddy Bear Ladies' on Saturday 15 June, which was staged as a fundraising event for the Cathedral. £500 was raised and some books are still available priced £15.00. Anyone who is interested please contact Nicola Pratt.

## **Facilities**

9. After long delays wording for plaques for the memorial benches has been agreed and the plaques will be made and fitted shortly. Andy the handyman was able to construct the memorial planter that was in store thanks to generous support from the supplier. The University team will plant it when ready. The location of a water leak to the south of Ursula's Porch was found by a specialist leak detection team. During the repair two more leaks were discovered, repair work is ongoing. Apologies to everyone for the inconvenience caused.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

10. There was an ethics event with Freeman's School sixth formers on 6 June which went very well; Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, is planning more activity of a similar nature. The school leavers services in the Cathedral between 17 and 20 June and organised by the Diocesan Education Department were also very successful. Nicola is now preparing resources for families for the ordinations and planning her new workshops for September. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement Officer, ran another successful Family Fun Day on 29 May, and Cathedral Tots on 5 June was well received as always.

## **Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)**

11. Notification that the Planning Inspector had refused the appeal against the Cathedral and Vivid's planning application was received on 24 May. The KC who represented the Cathedral and Vivid does not believe that there are sufficient grounds for a Judicial Review Of the decision. A meeting is being held with Vivid on 1 July to discuss the way forward.

## **Liturgy and Music**

12. The joint Evensong on 9 June with the choir of Holy Trinity Church was a huge success, with a glorious sound being created by 94 choristers in the Crossing. Before Evensong on two subsequent Sundays in June there has been a short organ recital by a student learning to play the instrument under the tutelage of the Organist and Master of the Choristers. On Sunday 23 June the Cathedral Choir sang at the Joint Services Charities service at 11.30 am following Choral Eucharist, and on Saturday 29 June and Sunday 30 June they will be singing at ordination services. Jeremy Wan, the Organ Scholar's valedictory recital is also on 30 June followed by a joint Evensong with the Schola Cantorum of Tewkesbury Abbey Choir. This month the team has been delighted to receive news of a complete clean sweep of RSCM awards for all the candidates the Cathedral entered - one bronze, four silver awards and two gold awards - congratulations to Juliana, Marcus, Alex, Alex, Cicely, Ethan and Rebecca. The Cathedral has been in discussion with all parties concerned about how to solve the organ issues.

## **Virgers**

13. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve and Nicola who have been running the extremely busy programme of services and events as a trio whilst Jake has been on extended paternity leave. The Cathedral and its whole community is massively indebted to them.

### **Visitor Experience and Events**

14. The charity abseil season is in full swing with abseils taking place on Saturdays 8, 15 and 23 June. The final abseil this year is on 6 July. On Saturday 22 June the concert by renowned organist Anna Lapwood had to be postponed due to the ongoing problems with the organ – it is planned to hold the event again in October. The exhibition of Post-box Toppers, which ran until 2 June, was a huge success. As a result there were 3289 visitors to the Cathedral in May 2024, 78% more than in May 2023. May 2024 was the best month of May for visitors since before the pandemic.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer