



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 27 OCTOBER 2022

Introduction

1. An extremely busy month in which, as well as the normal and special services, there have been a wide variety of Family Engagement and Schools events, and a great deal of commercial and community activity. The pace of life for everyone involved has been unrelenting and I would like to add my own thanks to those expressed by Chapter members in paragraph 6 below. Please look out for each other during this hectic time, if anyone notices anything that is potentially unsafe, please contact the Chief Operating Officer or the Virgers.

Volunteers – Cathedral Archivist, Servers and Christmas Fair

2. After many years' dedicated service, Liz North will be retiring from her position as the Cathedral Archivist at the end of the year. If you are interested in taking over this fascinating and fulfilling role, or know of someone who might, please contact Julie on volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org.

3. Our serving team is in desperate need of new recruits! They are a friendly bunch of lay people who take part in the services, carrying candles and crosses, and helping the clergy to present the worship. There are no age restrictions, lightweight crosses are available and full training is given. If you would like to have a go, you can either speak to anyone on the team (they're the ones in white!) or e-mail the team on guildfordcathedralservers@gmail.com.

4. The Cathedral is having a two-day Craft Fayre on Friday 18 and 19 November 10am-4pm. This has been a very successful and popular event in the past. We will be running a Guildford Cathedral stand which promoting volunteering and the variety of opportunities that are on offer. As you know, there is no better way to attract volunteers than someone hearing how much fun it is to be involved so your voice is particularly important. Julie is looking for 6-12 volunteers to help me on the stand – could you be one of them? If you are able to spare a couple of hours on either day, please let Julie know the times you are available. Do email Julie on volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org. She looks forward to hearing from you.

Volunteers – Welcome

5. Welcome to new Volunteers Catherine Carretto (Choir Chaperone), Rowan Dickinson (Server), Martin Johnson (Guide), Paul Mitchell (General Volunteer), Gordon Stewart (Events), Ann Sweeney (Chaperone), Roshan Varghese (Chaperone).

Worship

6. The service 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 and no evening service on Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

7. The Cathedral opening times are as follows:

- Sunday - 1.30pm to 3.30pm.
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 8.30am to 4.30pm (whole Cathedral); 4.30pm to 5pm (Nave only); 5pm onwards (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 met on 11 October and were given an update on Family Engagement and Schools by the Dean. There were also updates on Safeguarding and the Cathedral Development. Chapter members asked that their thanks and admiration be passed on to all Volunteers for the achievements during recent months, not least the changes required by the filming and the events staged in the wake of Her Majesty's death.

Bellringing

9. After the additional ringing following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, October has been a quieter month in the Tower. Service and practice ringing has continued as normal; two Sunday evening quarter peals were rung, one as part of a quarter peal weekend by the Guildford District of the Diocesan Guild; and a full peal was rung on the morning of Saturday 22 October.

Development

10. A meeting with Guildford Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss support for the Knife Angel residency took place on 18 October. A grant of £25,000 from the Benefact Trust has been secured, and two legacies have also been received.

Facilities

11. The Cathedral suffered a power failure on Saturday 1 October and a number of equipment failures resulted which have now been resolved. There is also a problem with the Cathedral boilers, the Cathedral electrician and plumber are working together to affect a repair. Work is underway to refurbish No 2 Cathedral Cottages to enable the new residents to move in on 1 November. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, is assessing the repair to the handrail on the Cathedral Close steps with a view to repairing the rotted posts. Jim is also in the process of making returns to the Cathedral insurers for the annual review of the Cathedral's policies.

Families Engagement and Schools

12. On 5 October there was a very successful Cathedral Tots gathering welcoming 6 families to think about Harvest. On 6 October the department also hosted 224 pupils from St. Crispin's School which wouldn't have been able to go ahead without the excellent volunteer team who supported the visit. On Thursday 13 October, a class of Year 6 pupils experienced a visit to tour the Cathedral and view the 'Threads Through Creation' exhibition as well as take part in a newly written workshop about peace. A Family Fun Day for half term took place on Wednesday 26 October.

Guildford Cathedral Development

13. Discussions between Vivid Homes and the Guildford Borough Council planners continue.

Liturgy and Music

14. Congratulations to Jeremy Wan, who has been appointed as Organ Scholar for the academic year 2023/24 after a successful interview this month. On Sunday 2 October and Sunday 30 October at Evensong a number of new Honorary Canons were installed. On Thursday 13 October there was a special Evensong attended by senior staff from RGS and parents. The services on Sunday 16 October featured music by Ralph Vaughan Williams to mark the composer's 150th anniversary. Looking forward, the Feast of All Saints' will be celebrated with a 7 p.m. Eucharist on Tuesday 1 November, and All Souls' with the Requiem mass setting by Maurice Duruflé on Wednesday 2 November at 7 p.m.

Safeguarding Training

15. There is an opportunity to undertake Safeguarding Basic Awareness training in person at the Cathedral on Thursday 17 November at 2pm. If you are interested, please contact Julie (volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org).

Virgers

16. Another extremely busy month featuring concerts, awards ceremonies, exhibitions, and markets as well as the usual round of services of course. This has been achieved yet again with the team short staffed and with one member invariably being on leave, so huge thanks to all. The excellent news to report, however, is that Jake Thompson will join the team in the vacant Full Time Virger post on 16 November.

Visitor Experience and Events

17. Saturday 24 September's abseil in aid of Parkinsons UK was a great success, with a full programme of abseils for 2023 being planned. There has been a busy period of markets in the Nave, with Craft and Flea on 1 October, Pre-loved on 8 October and Worth the Weight on 22 October. There have also been two graduation ceremonies, one for the School Centred Initial Teacher Training on 21 October, and one for Farnborough Technical College on 25 October. The Coffee Concert on 20 October featured pupils from St Catherine's School who agreed to stand in for the performer previously booked at extremely short notice – huge thanks to Richard Moore, the Cathedral Sub Organist, for making this happen.

18. Please see the comments below on the Jacqui Parkinson exhibition that ended on 16 October. Well done to everyone who contributed to its success.

'Stunning exhibition. Incredible work and attention to detail. Amazing place to view in Guildford Cathedral.'

'A beautiful palace of peace. A gift to walk around, quiet to pray.'

'The memory of this wonderful exhibition will stay with us.'

'The simplicity of the cathedral is an excellent showcase for this awesome exhibition.'

'Absolutely wonderful work. Totally inspiring. All the more so on a day when we have just lost our beloved Queen Elizabeth.'

'Totally stunning, especially with the choir singing Mozart's requiem around us.'

'My dear friend and I have relished the precious moments reflecting in front of each piece. The powerful symbolism woven into the stunning beauty combine to form a truly spiritual experience.'

'Stunning backdrop to our school's commendation service. My son and his friends were totally captivated.'

'Stunning! A meditative work of glory. Each stitch a prayer-an icon.'

'An inspiring exhibition. An amazing use of God's gifts of creativity and handcraft to provide a pathway through this great story.'

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer