



## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 28 SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **Introduction**

1. September has been a very busy and interesting month, with the Cathedral sung services being the norm once more and many new Staff members to welcome. We said a fond farewell to Dean Dianna, who will be much missed. Meanwhile there has been much planning for the future, not least with the process of selecting a new Dean and the new Cathedrals' Measure to contend with. Could I thank our Volunteers for all that they do to support the Cathedral at a time of transition when there is much with which to contend.

### **Volunteers – Fair Trade and Schools**

2. Volunteers are urgently needed to help with the Fair Trade stalls on Sundays and at selected events, and also to help the Schools team for school visits etc. If you are interested in either of these opportunities please contact Matt O'Grady ([dops@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:dops@guildford-cathedral.org)).

### **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.
- 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**

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 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 and the Dean**

5. Chapter met on 12 September, which was Dean Dianna's final meeting. The Venerable Stuart Beake has now taken over as the Acting Dean, the process of appointing a new Dean will begin shortly and there will be an opportunity for members of the communities to submit their views on what kind of person the Cathedral needs to have as its new Dean. Chapter also discussed the work of the Development Committee and were given an update on the Cathedrals Measure. The new Constitution and Statutes will be available for public consultation from 2 to 31 October.

## **Bellringing**

6. A well-struck quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung prior to the Dean's final service, and afterwards she was thanked for her great support for bellringing at the Cathedral throughout her tenure and particularly for the hosting of the National 12-Bell Striking Contest in 2022. Two other quarter peals were rung, including a first on twelve for a talented young ringer from Midhurst, who has often attended the Tuesday practices with his brother and others from West Sussex. On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September there will be a peal attempt in the morning, followed by a birthday celebration in the Refectory for one of the ringers.

## **Development Department**

7. The team are working extremely hard to ascertain what funding opportunities might be available to the Cathedral, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Priorities are being discussed with the Development Committee. 'What's On' for the months of November, December 2023 and January 2024 has been prepared. On 6 October there is a fundraising quiz night with supper in Seasons Café. Teams of up to 8 people will be tested on 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.

## **Facilities**

8. The subsidence on the road to the south of the Cathedral Green, and a large pothole in the North Car Park have been repaired. There is conversion work underway in the office to make more space for the Dean, Clergy and the Dean's PA. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, is arranging for the broken windows on the north side of the Cathedral to be repaired. The recent heavy rain resulted in water incursion in the Sacristy and the Crypt. The roofing team have cleared the gutters, the carpet is being removed from the ANI Room and de-humidifiers are being run. A specialist structural engineer visited during the week commencing 25 September with a view to permanent repairs being affected.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

9. Nicola Cole has joined as the Head of Schools and is currently planning her first event - a visit by St Crispin's School on 5 October. Meanwhile Rachel Johnson has joined as the Family Engagement Officer, Rachel's first event is Cathedral Tots on 4 October. Welcome to them both.

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

10. 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**

11. The choir term has started, and the undoubted highlight thus far was the special Evensong to say farewell to Dean Dianna on Sunday 24 September, which included a piece of music sung especially for Dianna and Martin. Five new Lay Clerks joined the team on 1 September – Fraser Ellson, Hamish Garland, Peter Hicks, Laurens Macklon and Oliver Turner. Peter Hicks is also taking the role of the Lead Choir Chaperone. Additionally, auditions have been held for the Organ Scholar post in 2024/25 and an offer made.

## **Virgers**

12. Huge thanks to Steve, Jake, and Nicola for all their support, hard work, and dedication whilst the challenges posed by staff shortages remain. A message sending out requests for help during the month of October will be issued shortly, if anyone can help the Virgers in any way at all please contact Matt O'Grady ([dops@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:dops@guildford-cathedral.org)).

## **Visitor Experience and Events**

13. The two main events in September have been the graduation ceremony organised by the Association of Learning Providers (Surrey), which as always was a lovely event. The 'Worth the Weight' market is due to take place on 30 September and a busy programme of events follows in October.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer