



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 29 JUNE 2023

Introduction

1. June has come and gone in a flash, remarkable for its unusually warm weather and very busy programme. We also learnt that the Dean will be leaving us after contributing so much to the ministry and work of the Cathedral during ten challenging years. Everything that has been achieved over the last month and during the passing of the years could not have happened without the steadfast support of our Volunteers, and I am very pleased that the Cathedral was able to hold a service of thanksgiving for everyone this month. It was most ably organised by Julie Mitchell, who has been responsible for Volunteer Co-ordination during four momentous years. Julie leaves us this month and I would like to record my personal thanks to her for all she has done to put the management of our Volunteers on a very sure footing.

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.

Volunteers – Welcome

3. A warm welcome to these new Volunteers:

- Anne Anthony, Bellringer
- Elizabeth Barrelet, Server
- Ruth Barrow, Shop Helper
- Suzanne Bloomfield, Intercessor
- Clare Chardin, Reader and Intercessor
- Angela Cook, Choir Chaperone
- David Hulley, Reader
- Carl McGray, Steward
- Berrie Norton, Reader
- Glenn Poyntz, Bellringer
- Tim Stansfeld, Bellringer
- Paul Turtle, Tower Tour Guide

Volunteers – Recruitment

4. There has been an upturn in Volunteering upturn of late. Thank you to everyone for responding to the calls for help, and for providing input to the Volunteers service in June which was a great success.

Worship

5. 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

6. 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

7. On 11 June the Dean made the announcement that she will retire this year. Her final Sunday will be on 17 September, and the Bishop will appoint Stuart Beake as Acting Dean from that date. Further details on Dianna's departure and the supersession programme will follow in due course. Chapter met on 13 June and the first item on the agenda was the discussion of the process for recruiting a new Dean. There was also a major agenda item on the new Cathedrals' Measure, focussing on the new Cathedral Constitution and Statutes, and an update on the Cathedral development.

Bellringing

8. Sunday service ringing has continued as normal, but while the Guildford Shakespeare Company have been rehearsing and performing 'Henry V' at the Cathedral Tuesday practices have been held at St Nicolas' Church. Since their remodelling and recasting of some bells a few years ago, St Nic's has a fine ring of ten bells and the Cathedral ringers are very grateful to the Rector and others for allowing them to hold practices there. Since the last Senior Volunteers' meeting four quarter peals have been rung. Taking part in one of them was Noel Gibbin, now living in Caterham, who learnt to ring at the Cathedral 50 years ago with his brother and sister when their father was one of the Cathedral Canons.

Development Department

9. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, continues to work on the music patronage programme and the communications strategy. Huge thanks to everyone who supported or donated to last month's enormously successful and enjoyable fundraising abseil. £8610 was raised for the Cathedral. The new upgrade to ThankQ, our database of contacts in the Cathedral community and beyond, is now live thanks to the generosity of the Friends. This will enable the Cathedral to have a much more effective communications and fundraising capability.

Facilities

10. After far too long the North Porch access lift is finally back in operation. It required the visit of a team of engineers from the manufacturer in Germany, but it is working as it should now. The dead tree on the Cathedral Green has been assessed and will be removed in the interests of health and safety. A suitable replacement is being considered. The graffiti applied to signs in the Cathedral has been removed; this graffiti appeared in the wake of the theft of the Ukrainian flag, which will be replaced. The ladies toilets in the Visitor Centre have been twinned with a toilet in Rubaya, Kabale District, Uganda.

Families Engagement and Schools

11. The Art Workshop which took place before half-term was a huge success with local artist Sophie Artemis working with three different age groups of artists to create collages, little books, and sketches. Cathedral Tots took place on Wednesday 7 June, welcoming 10 children to hear the story of Pentecost. The children created windy day pictures, windmills, and streamers. The Year 6 school leavers' services took place during the week commencing 12 June, run by the Diocesan Education Team supported by Becki Hartley, the Cathedral Head of Family Engagement and Schools. There was a successful visit by Liphook Junior School on 20 June, and activity packs for ordination services during the first weekend of July have been collated. The Head of Schools vacancy has attracted a number of candidates and

the process of interviewing them has begun. The Family Engagement Officer vacancy has also been advertised.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

12. 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

13. On Sunday 11 June there was a special service at Evensong to give thanks for the service of the Cathedral Volunteers. During the week commencing 12 June, many of the RGS Prep boys were away on activities week, so Evensong was expertly sung on Monday and Tuesday by 7 and 9 boys respectively. On the Tuesday, the two deputy head boy choristers conducted during the service! On Sunday 18 June, the clergy, musicians, and choir all took part in Evensong at Holy Trinity Church, whilst on Thursday 29 June, the choir sang the Mass for the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul. The team looks ahead to a busy weekend singing for the ordination services in early July, at which some of the choristers will be playing instruments. The lay clerks have been doing sterling work as always and it was also a great pleasure on Wednesday 28 June to welcome a visiting choir from Hall Grove prep school directed by the Cathedral's own alto lay clerk, Lizzie Post. Several of the choristers have been sitting RSCM exams - all ten of those entered for their RSCM bronze, silver and gold awards have passed. The team congratulate Ethan, Arthur, and James all of whom passed their Grade 6 theory exam – well done boys! Congratulations are also due to Ruby Skilbeck, who has been accepted as a member of the Genesis 16 foundation singers – a tremendous achievement! Successful interviews for the vacant Lay Clerk positions took place on Monday 19 June, and offers were made to three candidates, all of whom accepted. Hamish Garland, Laurens Macklon and Oliver Turner will join the Cathedral on 1 September.

Virgers

14. Huge thanks as always to Steve, Jake, and Nicola for their efforts during an extremely busy month. As well as the hectic programme of services detailed above and other activities, the Guildford Shakespeare Company commitment required late night working for almost three weeks, and all of this was achieved whilst short staffed and one of the team took a well-earned break. Thank you so much to everyone who helped with Virger duties yet again this month, if anyone can help in any way, please contact Matt O'Grady (dops@guildford-cathedral.org).

Visitor Experience and Events

15. There were two charity abseils on 27 May (including the Cathedral's own event), one on Saturday 10 June and one on Saturday 17 June. Saturday 3 June saw the return of the pre-loved market. The Guildford Shakespeare Company were in residence from 15 June until 1 July, giving a wonderful performance of 'Henry V' in the grounds of the Cathedral. A big thank you to the Events team and everyone who helped them during such a challenging month.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer