



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

Introduction

1. A very sad month with the passing of our beloved Sovereign. There was a remarkable amount achieved as you will see by reading on further, and the huge contribution of our Volunteers was vital to the effort. I would like to add my personal thanks to those of Chapter members in paragraph 6, the finances of the Cathedral were greatly helped by the filming and the services and other activity provided by the Cathedral after the death of Her Majesty made a real difference to a large number of people.

From the Bishop of Guildford:

'Thank you so much to everybody for your speedy and excellent response to the death of Her Majesty over the weekend. The various events and services were beautifully put together and the choir was on especially stellar form for the county service. I'm really grateful, not least for the immensely long hours that many worked over those first few days.'

From the Bishop of Dorking:

'I wanted to thank you for all you've done in relation to London Bridge (activity following the death of the Queen) during the past 11 days. Even though I've missed much of it personally, its impact is evident. Joining the gathering yesterday for the Committal was just one tiny part but it was so apt and so appreciated. I gave a lift to a woman from Stoughton on the way home yesterday for whom it meant the world to have come, even though she knew nobody. Thanks for making the Cathedral a blessing!'

Volunteers – (Chaperones)

2. Do you enjoy choral music? Do you have 2 hours spare between 4.15 – 6.15pm one weekday afternoon (Tues/Thur/Fri)? If the answer to those questions is "Yes!" then please consider joining our team of chaperone volunteers. Worship is at the heart of our cathedral life, and our choir is an integral part of that worship. We currently have about 40 choristers, boys aged 7-13 and girls aged 9-18, each of whom sing at three services each week. But without chaperones we cannot have a choir, as our Safeguarding Policy requires there to be at least one adult for every 8 or 10 children present (dependant on age) to ensure their safety and wellbeing. The role is simply to help David Buckley, the Chaperone Coordinator, supervise the children before, during and after rehearsals & services; and full

training will be provided. If you would like to know more, then please contact David or Julie Mitchell (chaperone@guildford-cathedral.org or volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org).

Volunteers – Welcome

3. Welcome to new Volunteers Dan Bishop and Philip Kirby, both Guildford Cathedral Singers.

Worship

4. The service times have reverted to normal 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

5. The Cathedral has reverted to normal opening times 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 now 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 13 September, this was the first meeting attended by the new community representatives Ann Bourne and Berrie Norton. There was a financial update, including a briefing on the budget setting programme for 2023. A lengthy session on the Cathedral development included a presentation by a representative of Vivid Homes. Chapter members asked for their thanks to be passed on to all Staff and Volunteers for their flexibility and hard work during the location filming and for all the activity required in the ten days following the death of the Her Majesty the Queen.

Bellringing

7. The ringers responded to the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in several ways: on Friday 9 September ten of the ringers attended at very short notice to ring from 12 noon to 1 pm, as requested and in accordance with Operation London Bridge. That

evening a quarter peal of Stedman Cinqes was rung by a band previously arranged to ring something more complicated. On Sunday 11 September, in addition to normal service ringing, the bells were rung prior to a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Queen. The evening service ringing was a quarter peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus. On Saturday 17 September a peal of Stedman Cinqes was rung in 3 hours and 44 minutes in memory of the Queen. Finally on Monday 19 September the tenor was tolled for an hour prior to Her Majesty's funeral. All this ringing, except the tolling, was with the clappers half-muffled. At many churches, including Westminster Abbey, the bells were rung fully muffled with just the tenor open at backstroke, a practice only adopted on the death of the monarch. At Guildford the decision was taken not to do this because of concerns that fully-muffled ringing would not be heard beyond the immediate vicinity.

Development

8. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, has been working on a briefing for Guildford Borough Council, Surrey County Council, Surrey Police and the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner to secure support for the month the Knife Angel will be at the Cathedral in March next year. Nicola also prepared a bid for funding from the Friends of Guildford Cathedral which was generously approved at the Friends' Executive meeting on 12 September. Well done to Karen Taylor, Fundraising Officer, who has secured a grant to fund Godly Play in support of Family Engagement and Schools activities.

Facilities

9. Quotes have been received for the various items of work required around in the grounds. The Cathedral Architect has visited to investigate the ingress of water into the Stewards' Room and has suggested possible repair options. The University grounds team will be providing assistance with the planters at the western end of the Cathedral and by the South Path.

Families Engagement and Schools

10. The first Cathedral Tots service of the academic year took place on 14 September. Two families were welcomed, who had a lovely time making play-doh animals (even the grown-ups!) and learning the story of Creation to link to the 'Threads Through Creation' exhibition currently in place in the Nave. On Tuesday 20 September the Cathedral welcomed Year 2 pupils from RGS Prep School for a school visit. The children learned about Christian symbols, had a tour of the Cathedral, and again explored the 'Threads Through Creation' exhibition. In the afternoon, they were treated to a music workshop with Richard Moore, which was very well received!

Guildford Cathedral Development

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

Liturgy and Music

12. The new term has begun with the Reverend Canon Rachel Young being installed as the new Canon Liturgist on 18 September and Marcus McDevitt joining as the Organ

Scholar for one year. The whole team of clergy, musicians and choristers rose to the occasion magnificently to provide a special Evensong to mark Her Majesty's passing on 9 September, with the Proclamation of the new Sovereign and County Service of Commemoration and Remembrance for Queen Elizabeth II on 11 September.

Safeguarding Training

13. There is an opportunity to undertake Safeguarding Basic Awareness training in person at the Cathedral on Thursday 13 October at 10am or Thursday 17 November at 2pm. If you are interested, please contact Julie (Volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org).

Virgers

14. A massive thank you to the team for all that has been achieved this month in support of the location filming and services and events to mark the Queen's passing, as well as a very busy Cathedral diary, all achieved whilst they are short staffed following Andrew Hudsmith's departure. The very good news is that following the interviews on 15 September to select a successor for Andrew, an offer was made to one of the candidates which was accepted.

Visitor Experience and Events

15. The location filming took place on 5 and 6 September and went very well indeed. The film crews had just left the Cathedral when the sad news of Her Majesty's death was announced, so the following day was spent converting the Cathedral back to space where people could pay their respects, whilst at the same time setting up for the Jacqui Parkinson exhibition 'Threads Through Creation'. Subsequently the first abseil of the year took place on 24 September, and on 1 October the 'Craft and Flea' market will be hosted.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer