



## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 30 MARCH 2023**

### **Introduction from the Dean**

1. You will have all heard the disappointing news that our application for planning permission was refused by the members of Guildford Borough Planning Committee. The application heard before ours took 80 minutes, most councillors participated and all had views about the details of the application – particularly gutters, rainwater discharge and parking.
2. The committee then turned to our application. The Planning Officer presented her report and recommended refusal. This is despite the following: our site is allocated for homes in the Guildford Local Plan. It would introduce a Community Orchard; two areas of biodiverse meadows, three ponds, improved pedestrian and cycle access, 47 affordable homes (houses and flats), air-source and solar heating and new landscaping. Not to mention the planning benefit of an endowment which would provide an income stream for repairs and maintenance of the cathedral itself. We anticipated an interesting and informed discussion among the committee. Sadly this was not to be. One councillor used his three minutes to object to the application and another raised a concern about which variety of fruit trees were planned for the community orchard. When the Chair invited comments and questions from other councillors no one spoke and so she called for a vote. All members of the planning committee voted for refusal, save one who abstained. The whole item took 8 minutes and we remain unclear as to the grounds for refusal. We were not allowed to speak.
3. This outcome puts severe pressure on our financial reserves. We expect a substantial return when planning permission is granted and the funds we have expended in the application process (since 2012) will be repaid and the reserves brought back into a prudent state. However, this is now delayed. Chapter continually looks to maintain a prudent cashflow, reserves, and expenditure based on income. There has been calls on our reserves and the small amount of investment we receive. We have not recovered financially

after covid and all are working very hard to keep costs down and increase income. Due to a delay in receipt of any funds from the land sale and in order to return our reserves to a correct level Chapter has asked that all budget holders look at their current income and expenditure budget for the calendar year 2023 and identify a 30% improvement. In addition this will be necessary for 2024 and 2025. We are ALL in this together. Once the reserves have returned to a healthy place we will still need to look for that 30% improvement. Matt and Malcolm are available to discuss any questions/advice/ideas you may have as these improvements are identified. Thank you from Chapter for all you do. Your work is valued and continually celebrated. We can all play our part in moving to a more financially healthy place.

### **Volunteers – Welcome**

4. Welcome to Fiona Dick (volunteering in the Archives and as a Guildford Cathedral Singer), Adeoye Oke (Choir Chaperone) and Frances Williamson (Guildford Cathedral Singer).

### **Volunteers – Chaperones**

5. Do you enjoy choral music? Do you have 2 hours spare between 4.15 – 6.15pm on a weekday afternoon, either Tuesday, Thursday or Friday? If the answer to those questions is “**Yes!**” then please consider joining our team of volunteer Choir Chaperone. Worship is at the heart of our cathedral life, and our choir is an integral part of that worship. We 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 (dependent on age) to ensure their safety and wellbeing. The role is simply to help supervise the children before, during and after rehearsals and services. Full training will be provided.

### **Volunteers – Stewards**

6. If you enjoy Cathedral services, and find pleasure in providing a happy and welcoming environment as part of a team, you might be a perfect Cathedral Steward! We are the folks who stand at the doorway, greeting visitors and friends, and providing a warm welcome to all. We help the clergy carry out their roles in various ways too, from inviting people to come forward for communion to lighting candles or supporting processions. We help at funerals and special services and festivals, especially those that take place at the busiest periods in the Christian calendar. Most of all, we are there to provide welcome and to ensure everyone feels at home here at Guildford Cathedral. We ask Stewards to usually commit to around 2 Sunday services per month, either at Eucharist or Evensong. Each Steward receives full training from our experienced and committed colleagues. If you are coming to the services anyway, why not come just a little earlier and be part of our team? If you want to know more, have a word with one of the stewards who will be glad to help. We'd love to tell you all about it! Alternatively, be in touch by email to [stewards@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:stewards@guildford-cathedral.org).

### **Volunteers – Tower Tour Guides**

7. Can you help our visitors reach the dizzying heights of the top of the Tower?

As we enter a new season of Tower Tours our faithful trained team of volunteers is very small, as members have moved away, and others are no longer available. It is a role that requires training, health and safety considerations and a certain level of fitness (there are 249 steps to the top of the Tower). The Cathedral Tower Tours are frequently requested and interests the public greatly. It is a great asset of the Cathedral that we have such splendid viewpoint across the county. As the present team is small, we have only managed five dates for this year but urgently need to grow our team so we can offer more tours. If you are interested please contact Julie Mitchell ([volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:volunteer@guildford-cathedral.org)).

## **Worship**

8. Worship times remain as follows, except when the choir are on holiday when weekday Evensong Prayer will be at 1600:

- 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.

No evening services on Wednesday or Saturday.

## **Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons**

9. The Cathedral opening times are as follows (please note early closing on Wednesday and Saturday, and on all weekdays during choir holidays due to Virger shortages):

- Sunday - 1.30pm to 3.30pm.
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday – 8.30am to 4.30pm (whole Cathedral); 4.30pm to 5pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - Nave only); 5pm onwards (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - 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**

10. Chapter met on Tuesday 28 March and were given a full brief on the financial situation in the context of Guildford Borough Council's refusal of the planning application.

## **Bellringing**

11. The Annual Tower Meeting on 19 March was chaired by the Dean and Canon Rachel Young also attended. Under Election of Officers, Philip Saddleton took over from Nigel Smith as Secretary. The other officers were re-elected: Chris Rogers as Tower Captain, Richard Burton Ringing Master, Matthew Beadman Deputy Ringing Master, Jane

Beadman Treasurer and David Beadman Steeple Keeper. It was agreed to create a class of Associate Membership for those whose primary affiliation is to another tower but who also support Cathedral ringing through frequent attendance at practices, on Sunday evenings and for other occasions. Six days later a team representing the Cathedral ringers took part in an eliminator at Hursley, near Winchester, for the 2023 National 12-Bell Striking Contest. They rang well but were placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of seven and thus just failed to qualify for the final, which is at Sheffield Cathedral on 24 June. Since the last meeting service and practice ringing has taken place as normal. In addition, a quarter peal was rung on Monday 13 March to mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter, the Farnham District ringers came for their annual visit and members of the Southampton University Guild were welcomed.

## **Development Department**

12. The Knife Angel Residency has been a stunning success, with approximately 15,000 people visiting the site during the month. There were a large number of school visits, amongst other highlights were:

- 1 March Civic reception and welcome event
- 5 March Choral Evensong celebrating Knife Angel
- 9 March Street Strong, Street Safe training (Cathedral and Woking Sportsbox)
- 13 March Guildford After Dark briefing sessions (Cathedral and The Keep pub)
- 15 March Rock Choir fundraising concert
- 20 March Talk by Dr Neville Lawrence (Christ's College)
- 21 March 'Court of the Future' simulation (University of Law)
- 23 March Installation of High Sheriff including art exhibition prize giving
- 28 March Visit by HRH The Duke of Gloucester
- 30 March Vigil and farewell event

## **Facilities**

13. Regrettably water is still getting into the Stewards' Room, despite the seal put in place between the ramp and the west wall. The Cathedral Architect has been involved and visited and there will be a couple of investigations to carry out, which will be undertaken as soon as possible.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

14. Cathedral Tots took place on Wednesday 1 March, with the theme of Lent. The team welcomed three new families alongside regular members of our Cathedral Tots community. On Tuesday 14 March, two year groups from Christ's College school walked up to the Cathedral to visit the Knife Angel. A visit by The Green Room alternative provision school to the Knife Angel went well on Wednesday 22 March with students engaging with a workshop about the Knife Angel and learning about the Cathedral. Students from Farnborough College of Technology also attended the Knife Angel sculpture on the same day. Thursday 23 March saw a group of pupils from St. Matthew's Infant School attend the Cathedral for an Easter Workshop. On Tuesday 28 March Christ's College returned again, this year with Year 10 pupils who held their annual 'away day' here to reflect on the Knife Angel and undertake other learning activities. It is with great sadness that it must be announced that Becki will be leaving

the Cathedral's employ at the end of July. Becki has done a superb job as Head of Family Engagement and Schools and has also been another great all-rounder at the heart of 'Team Guildford'. Returning to the teaching world, Becki has secured a lovely job at a local primary school where she will continue to excel.

## **Friends**

15. A very successful joint event with the Friends of Guildford House took place on Wednesday 15 March. A working group has been set up to develop a Job Description for the Friends' Secretary position.

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

16. Please see the separate message from the Dean.

## **Liturgy and Music**

17. On Friday 3 March there was a CD launch of Sub Organist Richard Moore's recording of 'Via Crucis' by Philip Moore. Congratulations to everyone involved in the recording for BBC Radio 4's 'Sunday Worship' on Tuesday 7 March, and the live broadcast of Choral Evensong for BBC Radio 3 on Wednesday 8 March. The former was broadcast on Sunday 19 March (Mothering Sunday). You can listen again at the links below. On Sunday 12 March the boys sang Evensong at St Mary's Shalford, whilst the girls were joined by the Guildford Cathedral Singers to sing Evensong at the Cathedral. The team welcomed RGS 'Schola Cantorum' to join with the Cathedral Choir singing Evensong on Tuesday 21 March and sang for the installation of the High Sheriff on Thursday 23 March. The team is very pleased to announce the appointment of two Lay Clerks, Fraser Ellson (tenor) and Matthew Welch (bass), who will both join on 1 September. Finally, the Cathedral says farewell to its brilliant Sub organist Richard Moore on Easter Day after Evensong at 7 pm. Please do come if you can.

[Choral Evensong - Guildford Cathedral - BBC Sounds](#)  
[Sunday Worship - Forgiveness - BBC Sounds](#)

## **Virgers**

18. Massive thanks to the team, Steve Reeds, Jake Thompson and Nicola Goff, for all they are doing in support of a busy programme in such difficult circumstances. Whilst they are still two Virgers short the situation remains very difficult indeed and if anyone is willing to help could they please contact Matt on [dops@guildford-cathedral.org](mailto:dops@guildford-cathedral.org). Specific requests for help in April have been issued.

## **Visitor Experience and Events**

19. Very well done to everyone involved in the highly successful welcome reception for the Knife Angel on Wednesday 1 March. It was very well attended by the great and the good, but also from a representative cross section of the Surrey community. Julie Somerville, whose son Daniel was a victim of knife crime, spoke extremely well and her speech made a very deep emotional impact. Two further very successful and enjoyable events took place during the month, firstly on Wednesday 15 March the Rock Choir

concert to raise funds for the Knife Angel project. 350 people attended and £1500 was raised, an amazing effort. The very next day (Thursday 16 March), the team gathered again to set up and deliver the monthly Coffee Concert, featuring the Cathedral's own Marcus McDevitt on organ and piano. Marcus played brilliantly, an excellent crowd of 130 souls were in the Cathedral to witness his performance. Finally the team managed the excellent Vigil and farewell event for the Angel on Thursday 30 March.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer