



## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 31 AUGUST 2023**

### **Introduction**

1. August has been a quieter month, with many of us getting away to spend time with friends and loved ones. There has been a good deal of activity nonetheless, and much planning for the future. Thank you as ever to all our Volunteers for everything that they do to keep the Cathedral going in these difficult times.

### **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 think it is something worth introducing.

### **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.
- Evening prayer at 5.30pm Monday to Friday from 4 September.

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 did not meet in August. The Dean's final Sunday service will be at 3pm on 24 September. Details are in the attached note, including information on how to donate to Dianna's leaving gift. Bookings can be made at the link below.

[Guildford Cathedral - Box Office \(guildford-cathedral.org\)](http://guildford-cathedral.org)

## **Bellringing**

6. Ringing has continued for Sunday services and practices, sometimes with depleted numbers due to holidays. A peal was rung on Saturday 12 August, which was a first on 12 bells for a young ringer from Woking, and two quarter peals have been rung.

## **Development Department**

7. On 6 October (please note change of date) the Fundraising team are running a fundraising quiz night with supper in Seasons Café. Teams of up to 8 people will be formed to test their 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 (poster attached).

## **Facilities**

8. Jim has completed a return for the Church of England regarding the Cathedral's use of energy as part of the aspiration to be Carbon Net Zero. The University grounds team has tidied the boundary bushes and trees. The damage to the grand piano has been repaired by the specialist that was recommended. All the boilers have been serviced and inspected. There is a switching issue on one boiler in the Cathedral which is being addressed.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

9. Nicola Cole joins as the new Head of Schools on Tuesday 5 September. A candidate for the vacant Family Engagement Officer post was interviewed on Wednesday 16 August, and there will be a further interview with the candidate in early September.

### **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. During August the Sunday services were sung by the Prometheus Consort, organists and cantors, and the choir of St Mary's, Ewell. The first service in September will be sung by the Guildford Cathedral Singers, and the choir return for Sunday 10 September's services. In early September the musicians' team will be joined by five new Lay Clerks – Fraser Ellson, Hamish Garland, Peter Hicks, Laurens Macklon and Oliver Turner. The new Organ Scholar, Jeremy Wan, has already joined.

### **Virgers**

12. Enormous thanks as always to Steve Reeds, Jake Thompson, and Nicola Goff for keeping the Cathedral safe and secure during August whilst still suffering from staff shortages. The situation remains serious, so please contact Matt O'Grady if you are able to help the Virgers in any way.

### **Visitor Experience and Events**

13. The highlight of August was the Luna cinema weekend, during which the following films were shown on the Cathedral Green to packed houses: "Elvis", "Dirty Dancing" and "Barbie".

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer