



## CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 31 JULY 2025

### Introduction

1. The summer break is now upon us, but there was an extremely busy period building up to the end of term as you will read in the paragraphs below. Massive thanks to all our Volunteers for all that they did to make these services and events possible. Chapter members have asked me to pass on their particular thanks for all that is being achieved as the way forward is contemplated. The work on the Vision and Strategy has now begun.
2. At the link is an advertisement for an event at Guildford Baptist Church on Saturday 9 August, Listening Training on 30 August, and Mental Health Awareness Training available from 12 September.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cq0aofuklgmlh4wlhxyz/ADzFWV-iNtaHVMbK0RHTfiU?rlkey=vn9stfi9by352eje36cyjt365&st=s3g6zhw9&dl=0>

### Worship

3. The times of services in August are as follows:

**Sunday** – 7.30am Morning Prayer, 8.00am Holy Communion, 9.45am Cathedral Eucharist, 6pm Evensong.

**Monday** - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 9.00am Holy Communion, 4pm Evening Prayer\*.

**Tuesday** - 8.00am Morning Prayer, 8.30am Holy Communion, 4pm Evening Prayer\*.

**Wednesday** - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 9.00am Holy Communion, 4pm Evening Prayer\*.

**Thursday** - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 12.30pm Holy Communion, 4pm Evening Prayer\*.

**Friday** - 8.00am Morning Prayer, 8.30am Holy Communion, 4pm Evening Prayer\*.

**Saturday** 9.00am Morning Prayer, 9.30am Holy Communion, 4pm Evening Prayer\*.

\*There is a visiting choir during the week commencing 18 August, but Evensong will still be at 4pm during week days that week.

### Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

4. The Cathedral opening times are as follows:

- Sunday – 7.30am to 5pm.
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – 8.30am to 5pm.

- Tuesday – 7.30am to 5pm.
- 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 12 noon.

## **Chapter**

5. Chapter met on 8 July and were given a financial update. It is now anticipated that the Annual Report and Accounts will be signed at the Chapter meeting on 9 September. There was also a meeting of the Vision and Strategy Steering Group, at which the communications plan was discussed. A letter to the Cathedral community outlining the process will be issued on 1 September.

## **Bellringing**

6. The Cathedral team rang very well at the National 12-Bell Contest final at St Mary, Redcliffe, Bristol, but against strong opposition were placed 7th out of 9 teams. The very popular winners were the local team, the first time that Bristol had won the contest, despite having instigated it in 1975 and having entered every year. Service ringing and practices at the Cathedral have continued as normal, although attendance has sometimes been affected by holidays. Three quarter peals were rung in July, all on 12 bells and two of them in complex methods. A peal attempt by a visiting band on 12 July was lost, partly due to the hot weather.

## **Development Department**

7. The Rock Choir returned for a successful fundraising concert on Saturday 5 July. Nicola Pratt (Head of Development) has been continuing work on the replacement website and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database, and fundraising opportunities for the toilet refurbishment are being sought. The new Head of Fundraising post has now been advertised and a number of candidates have applied for the position. Karen Taylor, Fundraising Officer, has now left the Cathedral after three successful years. All wish her well as she commences her studies at Theological College at Durham University in September.

## **Facilities**

8. Work has been undertaken to put in place a fence at 4 Cathedral Close marking the boundary of property. There have been problems with the internet, overnight parking, toilets and the water supply, all of which have been resolved.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

9. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, has been catching up with meetings and preparing for next term's work, all the while booking in a good number of schools for next academic year! Rachel Johnson hosted another lovely Cathedral Tots service on Wednesday 2 July, which was very well attended, and a Family Fun Day on Wednesday 30 July, which was a great success once again.

## **Liturgy and Music**

10. Well done to everyone involved in the ordination services on 28 and 29 June. The valedictory recital by Organ Scholar George Baldwin on Sunday 29 June was a lovely occasion with an excellent turn out. On Saturday 5 July there was a special service for the licensing of Lay Ministers, and on Sunday 6 July the final services of the choir term took place. Valedictions for leaving choristers and musicians took place at Evensong, with Lay Clerks Hamish Garland and Laurens Macklon leaving the team thereafter, George Baldwin stays at the Cathedral until the end of August, when his successor Jozef Gaszka joins the Cathedral. The choir tour to Denmark during the week commencing 6 July was a hugely enjoyed by all. Sunday services since the end of the choir term have been sung by the Guildford Cathedral Singers (13 July) and by individual Lay Clerks and Deputy Lay Clerks (20 July and 27 July).

### **Virgers**

11. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve, Andrew and Nicola for all their hard work during ordinations, the final choir services and graduations. Some of the team are managing to get away to take some well-earned leave, meanwhile those that remain have been keeping the Cathedral safe and secure during the quieter weeks. Their efforts are massively appreciated.

### **Visitor Experience and Events**

12. Monday 7 July saw the return of Guildford County School for their annual awards ceremony, and then the preparations for the University of Surrey graduation ceremonies began, with ceremonies on Friday 11 July and throughout the week commencing 14 July. Well done and thank you to everyone involved - about 12,000 people were welcomed to the Cathedral in total. There were more tweaks to the processes this year, which helped make the ceremonies better than ever. Straight after the last ceremony it was necessary to turn the building around in order to welcome the 'Vintage Superstore' market on Saturday 19 July, and then back again into a cathedral in time for Sunday services. There is now a short break until the next event – the return of 'Silent Discos' on Saturday 23 August.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer