

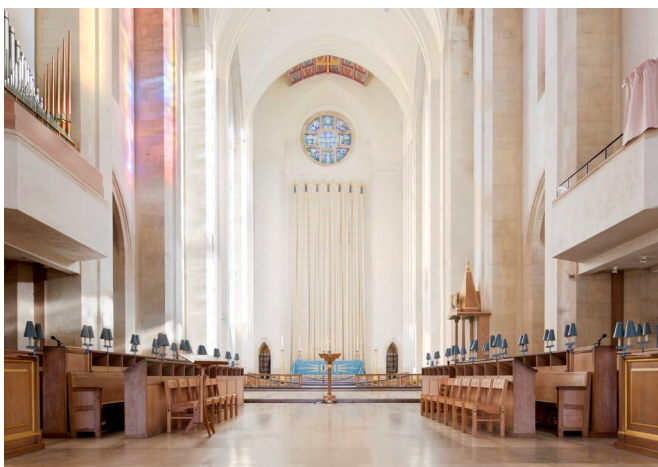


Guildford Cathedral Container Gardening Project

Project Proposal November 2017

We are seeking funding for 12 large wooden containers to enhance our green space and bring social and therapeutic opportunities to our specialist volunteers.

Project need: enhancing the Cathedral grounds



Guildford Cathedral has fully opened its doors once more after extensive repairs and building works. The Cathedral is looking stunning, following its comprehensive architectural improvements.

But with a fresh pair of eyes, some may reflect that the natural environment surrounding the Cathedral is bland and uninspiring. The formal layout consists mostly of banks of trees, lawns and a few borders of plants.

There is little colour or year-round interest, and during winter months in particular a visitor would struggle to find the space inspiring or attractive.

We seek to enhance the Cathedral grounds in order that they might complement the refurbished Cathedral; to provide an attractive and inspiring natural environment that our 100,000 yearly visitors will enjoy and offer focal points for plant diversity and wildlife.

With the addition of a minimum of 12 large, wooden containers – appropriate and in-keeping with this formal setting – the space could be enhanced to become a colourful feast of flowers and plants throughout the seasons. This would help transform and beautify the Cathedral's natural environment and provide a sense of wellbeing for those who seek space for reflection in our grounds.

Project context: offering therapeutic gardening opportunities to volunteers

Guildford Cathedral has approximately 350 volunteers involved in a wide range of roles. From behind the scenes tasks (cataloguing our archive and flowers arranging) to front of house roles (customer service in the shop and Guiding) our volunteers are the life blood of our ministry here.

As an inclusive community, Guildford Cathedral is keen to offer volunteer opportunities to people with different needs, including people with disabilities or those experiencing mental health problems. Our current range of volunteering opportunities is unlikely to suit their particular gifts and skills, and so we are seeking ways of diversifying our range of volunteer roles.

In conversation with the Dean and local charities, we are proposing to offer container gardening as a way of providing social and therapeutic opportunities.



The volunteers would sow, plant, tend and water the containers as appropriate. The containers have been chosen carefully so they complement and enhance the Cathedral space. The work will be overseen by two Cathedral volunteers and support workers if required.

Following on from the success of a project in North Yorkshire (albeit on a larger scale) we believe the project will:

- Help people to work together, make friends and build social skills
- Provide a safe environment for people to develop
- Provide the chance to learn new skills and work within a team
- Give people a sense of achievement through learning new skills



Further to this, social and therapeutic horticulture can help people:

- rehabilitate themselves after illness or trauma
- improve mobility and motor skills in those who have lost strength through long-term illness or disability
- increase a sense of well-being from getting outside and working with plants and nature
- develop at the rate that is right for them

We are excited by this opportunity to develop this area of our volunteering work. As a living and working Cathedral, we aspire to being a place of welcome and community. By diversifying our volunteering opportunities we can ensure that we really are at the heart of those we serve.

We ask that you join us in this exciting venture.

Proposed logistics

Location: for 12 wooden containers to be put in a range of locations (see appendix) over a phased period commencing with the North and South Garth.



Cost (not incl VAT):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------|
| • One container (800x800x560mm) | £560 |
| • One container plus compost (248 litres) | £610 |
| • One container plus compost and plants | £650 |

Materials and Design: wooden FSC timber planters have been specially selected for their simple and elegant design, which is sympathetic to the Cathedral grounds. They will last well in all weather conditions with a lifespan of approximately forty years, and can be adjusted for wheel chair users.

They will have FSC Chain of Custody Certification.

We are now seeking funding for 10 large wooden containers as we are pleased to announce that The University of Surrey and Charles Russell Speechlys Solicitors are supporting us in this project.

Plaques for each of the planters with each business logo on them are kindly being provided by James and Thomas Funeral Directors.

To support our Container Gardening Project and bring social and therapeutic opportunities to our volunteers.

Please consider joining us in this exciting project. Thank you.



Appendix: Proposed locations

- A. 2 in front of the North Garth and 2 in front of the South Garth
- B. 4 at the front of the marquee
- C. 2 positioned along the south path between the South doors and Ursula's Porch (either end of the bench currently in situ)
- D. 2 positioned along the south path between the South Garth and South doors (either end of the bench currently in situ)

