



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

Introduction

1. An extremely fulfilling month with the choir back from their summer break and much activity in other areas. Planning for the future has proceeded apace, with interviews for 3 posts being held, two of them new positions funded by the Cathedral Sustainability Fund. The announcement of the new Dean will take place on 3 October, a special Evensong that day will be attended by the new Dean and all are welcome to attend (please see invitation attached). Chapter members have asked me to extend particular thanks to our Volunteers for all they do under difficult circumstances.

Worship

2. The times of services are now:

- Sundays – Holy Communion at 8am, Cathedral Eucharist at 9.45am, Evensong at 6pm.
- Morning Prayer and Eucharist at 8.30 and 9.00am on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday; at 8.00 and 8.30am on Tuesday; at 8.30am and 12.30pm on Thursday; at 9.00 and 9.30am on Saturday.
- Evensong at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- Evening prayer at 5.30pm on Wednesday and 4pm on Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

3. The Cathedral opening times are as follows:

- Sunday – 7.30am to 7pm.
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – 8.30am to 6.30pm.
- Tuesday – 7.30am to 6.30pm.
- 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

4. Chapter met on 10 September. The CFO briefed Chapter on the current financial situation and the Annual Report and Accounts were approved. Chapter members were updated on the three priority areas as follows:

- Creating an endowment to fund long term maintenance and repair requirements.
- Refurbishment/replacement of the Cathedral Close.
- Eradication of the deficit.

Bellringing

5. On Sunday 1st September the Cathedral ringers were privileged to ring at St Paul's Cathedral for the 3 pm Evensong. St Paul's has grand ring of twelve bells with a tenor of 62 cwt - twice the weight of the Guildford tenor. One of the regular St Paul's ringers commented that the standard of ringing was rather better than that produced by most visiting bands. In addition to normal practice and service ringing, three quarter peals have been rung, one of which was by members of the Farnham District of the Diocesan Guild, and the other two were of a complex nature well executed. A successful peal was rung on 14 September by a young band mainly from York. The ringers are looking forward to their annual outing on 12 October, this time to Canterbury Cathedral and other towers in Kent.

Development Department

6. Ollie Turner, one of the Lay Clerks, is now co-ordinating the Music Patronage Alumni Project as well as his other duties. Karen Taylor, Fundraising Officer, successfully completed the 3 Peak Challenge on Tuesday 17 September. You can still sponsor Karen here (proceeds in support of the Cathedral):

<https://guildfordcathedral.enthuse.com/cf/national-three-peak-24-hour-challenge>

BBC Radio Surrey came to interview Janet Mathews about the kneelers and the result is a wonderful listen on the link below:

[From Sacred Place to Outer Space](#)

How a unique embroidery project captured Surrey's hopes and aspirations in 1950s Britain.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0jm95pn>

Tickets are now live for the annual fundraising quiz on 4 October. All proceeds will go to support the Cathedral. Gather your teams for a fun night of quizzing and great food – book at the link below:

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/boxoffice/794>

Facilities

7. Passers-by will have noticed that the steel frame for the extension of the former DEC (now being called Diocesan House) is now in place. Much remains to be done both internally and externally. There have been subsidence surveyors in Cathedral Close assessing the current state of the houses. The Cathedral awaits tenders from the companies that have assessed the Deanery. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, has requested TJ Hunt to power wash the steps as the dirt is evident following the partial cleaning for the painting of the edges of the steps. Recent heavy rainfall has caused great concern with ingress in a number of locations. Jim has consulted the Cathedral Architect and the roofing team to look at ensuring gutters are clear and for any weaknesses of the

roofs. Linked to the water ingress there have been some electricity faults and outages which are being addressed. A grant is being applied for to refurbish the Visitors' Centre toilets.

Families Engagement and Schools

8. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, has been taking bookings for forthcoming workshops. The first of these took place on 17 September (Riverview C of E School). She has been planning with another church school to take the workshop out to deliver it in their school later in the term; some schools cannot afford the expense of sending its children to the Cathedral. Nicola has also completed the 'RE Hubs School Speaker and Places of Interest' training so the Cathedral is now an RE Hub and Place of Interest for schools and will go on a nationally recognised database which should bring in more schools work. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement Officer, arranged and ran an excellent Cathedral Tots service on Wednesday; the congregation was quite small, but it was a lovely service.

Liturgy and Music

9. This month has seen the full return of the Cathedral choir, from its Lay Clerks to the three organists, including George Baldwin the new Organ Scholar, to its changed voices and boy and girl choristers. The team welcomes them all back, together with their families and the choir chaperones, and look forward to the busy term ahead. On Sunday 8 September the Cathedral installed Alex and Marcus as head choristers and Alex and Theo as deputy head choristers. On Sunday 15 September Bella was installed as Head chorister and Molly as Deputy head chorister. On Sunday 22 September the choir and musicians also gave the Guildford premiere of a former organ scholar, Ghislaine Reece Trapp's mass setting, 'Mass for the Mystery of Faith', and are very grateful to a congregational member who purchased copies of this for them. Katherine Dienes-Williams, organist and Master of the Choristers, has given recitals at Glasgow and Rochester Cathedrals. Evensong on Sunday 22 September was sung jointly with the Chapel Royal Choir from Hampton Court, and on Sunday 29 September Evensong is sung jointly with the choir of St Mary's Wimbledon.

Virgers

10. Massive thanks to Paul, Steve, Nicola and Andrew, for all their hard work and dedication in support of a very busy programme at an extremely difficult time. The interviews for the Full Time Virger post take place on Tuesday 1 October.

Visitor Experience and Events

11. The silent discos at the end of August went well and brought in significant much needed income for the Cathedral. Thursday 5 September's Nave dinner was also very successful, despite horrendous weather during the preparations and the event itself. Thursday 12 September's coffee concert was by the wonderful by Emily Bollon, one attendee commented:

'Absolutely beautiful voice, as always 😊 Well done, Emily ♥ Thanks to Guildford Cathedral for your kind hospitality once again'.

The Association of Learning Providers (Surrey)'s awards ceremony took place on Friday 13 September and the concert by the London Concertante on Saturday 14 September.

Saturday 21 September saw the return of the 'Craft and Flea' market and on Saturday 28 September it's the turn of a Radiohead tribute concert.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer