



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 27 FEBRUARY 2025

Introduction

1. An extremely busy month with the programme bulging with extraordinary services and successful events. Thank you so much to our many Volunteers who have helped ensure all this came to pass – it would not have been possible without you. Dean Bob has been making his presence felt, he has set out his stall very clearly that everything we do will be missional based. The Dean's induction programme is almost complete, he appeared on Premier Christian radio last week and you can watch and listen to a recording at the link below.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bhTVa0l-uc6ww3bTP9o7pFpqdznc02EIVad--KnFSqeHk6ev-FM2MadDkV_Wm2_d.zINb-15oUQ8n6A_Y

2. At the link is an advertisement for a fundraising event at St Martha-on the-Hill on 21 April. There are also advertisements for Mental Health Awareness training which started on 25 January 2025, together with feedback from previous courses. There is also a note from the Brigitte Support Trust about bereavement support groups.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cq0aofuklgml0h4wlhxyz/ADzFWV-iNtaHVMbK0RHTfiU?rlkey=vn9stfi9by352eje36cyjt365&st=s3g6zhw9&dl=0>

Worship

3. The times of services are now:

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

Monday - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 9.00am Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evensong.

Tuesday - 8.00am Morning Prayer, 8.30am Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evensong.

Wednesday - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 9.00am Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evening Prayer.

Thursday - 8.30am Morning Prayer, 12.30pm Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evensong.

Friday - 8.00am Morning Prayer, 8.30am Holy Communion, 5.30pm Evensong.

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

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 11 February; it was Dean Bob's first meeting as Chair. The preparations for delivering a renewed vision and strategy for the Cathedral were discussed, Chapter will be holding an away day in April to take this way forward. There were financial and Safeguarding updates, the latter in the week that the new 'Future of Safeguarding' proposals were being debated by General Synod.

Bellringing

6. The bellringers had their annual dinner on Friday 31 January, once again at Puttenham Golf Club, organised by Robin and Gill Leale. The ringers were pleased to welcome Matt O'Grady as their guest and he updated the ringers on the finances of the Cathedral. The month's ringing has largely been focussed on practicing for the qualifying round of the National 12-Bell Contest at Liverpool Parish Church (St Nicholas, Pier Head) on 22 March, which included a trip to St Mary-le-Bow on Wednesday 19 February to experience ringing on heavier bells more similar to the bells at St Nicholas, Pier Head. The Farnham District of the Guildford Diocesan Guild visited on the morning of Saturday 22 February, giving many of its newer recruits the opportunity to ring on twelve bells. New ropes for the front (lighter) eight bells have been purchased and are gradually being fitted to the bells.

Development Department

7. There will be a performance of the 'Easter Oratorio' by Christoher Wood to raise money for the Cathedral on Saturday 12 April. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, has been working with the sponsor to pull together the marketing materials with the new graphic designer. A review of 2024 has been sent out to donors and the team have been working on several funding applications and sponsorship proposals, with four submitted covering music and school's work.

Daring Descent. Do you like a challenge? Do you want to abseil down the Tower? Are you free on Saturday 14 June? The Cathedral is looking for a team of people to abseil to raise money for the Cathedral. Full details to follow, but Karen would love to hear from you! See flyer attached.

Quiz for a Cause – Spring Edition. It was so popular, we have added a second quiz into 2025 on 7 March. Put together your best minds in teams of up to 8 and pit yourself against others in a pub style quiz with food. Desserts, raffle and drinks available for purchase on the night. See flyer attached. Bookings need to be made by 3 March.

Facilities

8. The Diocesan Staff will be vacating their current offices 3 weeks earlier than previously planned but will still occupy the upgraded 'Church House Guildford' a Stag Hill on Monday 31 March. There will be an official opening of the building on Monday 7 April. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, has held a meeting with the Home Office team making an assessment of ways in which the Cathedral could be assisted by their scheme for the improved security of buildings. Jim has also continued to be involved in data collection for the various surveys aiming to reduce the Cathedral's net carbon footprint and has been investigating ways of preserving heat within the Cathedral.

Families Engagement and Schools

9. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, delivered a lovely workshop on Tuesday 4 February where children heard about what Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God through his parables and then thought about what the world would be like if God's kingdom were here, right now. A very thoughtful time was had by all! There was a large scale school visit by Liphook School on Tuesday 11 February - 90 children over the day had the opportunity to tour the Cathedral, learn about its history and consider 'what is church' and how the Cathedral worships. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement Officer, organised and ran another highly successful Family Fun Day, which featured a specially made 'mini-cathedral', on Wednesday 19 February.

Liturgy and Music

10. Sunday 2 February's beautiful services for Candlemas were a great success. The Chingle service on the same day was prepared extremely well by Rachel Johnson and was a lovely occasion. Sunday 9 February was Racial Justice Sunday and the Eucharist featured a guest preacher (the Reverend Folli Olokose) and there were a number of Diocesan guests. On Sunday 16 February the services were sung by the Guildford Cathedral Singers and Surrey Voices whilst the choir and musicians were on half-term. The girl chorister weekend took place over Friday and Saturday 28 February and 1 March. Friday evening was based at the Cathedral with pizza post Evensong, a rehearsal, activities and a candlelit Compline to conclude. On Saturday, the girl choristers were based at St Catherine's School all day, in the Anniversary Hall, where they sang a free concert in the evening, showcasing their talents and the work they have done. They returned to the Cathedral to sing the Eucharist on Sunday morning, and in the evening the boys and Lay Clerks sang an epic anthem at Evensong – 'Take him, earth, for cherishing' by Herbert Howells, in memory of President John F Kennedy.

Virgers

11. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve, Andrew and Nicola, the Virger team. Another period of being short-staffed beckons, their dedication and amazing work ethic is really appreciated.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. Saturday 8 February's Hongkongers event was very challenging but a great success, congratulations to all those involved in the planning and delivery from across departments and thanks to all Volunteers who helped. The following Saturday (15 February)'s event was

Frankie Valli by Candlelight and then on Friday and Saturday 21 and 22 February the Silent Discos returned. The Craft and Flea market on 1 March means that every weekend this month has featured an event, which is very hard work but bringing in much needed income for the Cathedral.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer