



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 28 NOVEMBER 2024

Introduction

1. An amazing month, I do not think I have ever written so much in a newsletter, but there has been so much to record. All of the services and events, many of which have been generating vital income for the Cathedral, have been supported by our Volunteers and would not have been possible without them. Chapter members always ask me to pass on their grateful thanks to all Volunteers for all they are doing to support an exceptionally busy programme at a vital time.

2. Please see at the link advertisements for Christians Against Poverty courses which started on 26 September, and Mental Health Awareness training which starts on 25 January 2025, together with feedback from previous courses. There also a note from the Brigitte Support Trust about bereavement support groups and an advert for a charity gift wrap in aid of Real Change Guildford from 17 to 23 December.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cq0aofuklgmlh4wlhxyz/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 12 November, and members had a discussion with the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer (note new title) about two of the National Safeguarding Standards (No 1 (Culture, Leadership and Capacity) and No 3 (Recognising, Assessing and Managing Risk)). They were also briefed on the financial situation; the budget is not yet ready for approval and will be presented again in December.

Bellringing

6. In addition to normal service and practice ringing, the bells were rung for the All Saints Day service on 1 November. For Remembrance Sunday the bells were half-muffled and a good quarter peal of Stedman Cinques was rung before Evensong. One other quarter peal was rung, a first of Maximus for Paul Buckley. On the morning of Saturday 9 November the ringers of St Mary's, Shalford, came for a practice. Some of their ringers are in the earlier stages of ringing and, with the help of three Cathedral ringers, were able to do some simple change ringing on 10 and 12 bells.

Development Department

7. The Cathedrals Sustainability Fund application to fund improvements to the website was rejected by the Bishops and Cathedrals team in Church House London. A meeting with the Bishops and Cathedrals Department financial planner took place on 28 November to discuss this and potential ways forward. Work continues on the Music Patronage Scheme Alumni project, with Oliver Turner, the co-ordinator, having sent the first email to ex-choristers. Karen Taylor, Fundraising Officer, is compiling the next 'Notes for Music Patrons', the 2024 Review and the next 'What's On' (February to April 2025). Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, has met with a donor and artist to talk through a potential fundraising project for the Cathedral's 65th birthday in 2026, more on this soon! A Cathedral team attended the Cathedral Music Conference in Leicester on Thursday 14 November to discuss the sustainability of cathedral music and worked with Volunteer Richard Davey and the Music Department to film the choir for this year's virtual Advent Calendar. Nicola has also been working on the arrangements for the John Rutter concert on 7 December, which is already a sell out. Once again, the Benefact Group are doing a draw to give away £1,000 to 120 charities over 12 days in December. It would be great to enter Guildford Cathedral as many times as possible. It is quick and easy to do, just follow the link and nominate Guildford Cathedral (charity number 1207356):

https://movementforgood.com/?utm_source=Email-giving&utm_campaign=12days24-launch&cmp=1&utm_medium=HTMLEmail#nominateACharity

Facilities

8. The West Steps have been partially power washed. The locksmiths have attended to resolve some problems with door locks and a report is awaited. Jim Blake, the Head of

Property and Facilities, is liaising with the University and Diocese regarding the trimming of trees adjacent to the Diocesan House extension construction. The Cathedral team also held meetings with Diocesan colleagues to address a range of issues covering utilities, parking, waste management and other matters appertaining to the impending move to Stag Hill. The Cathedral was surveyed this month on behalf of the Church of England with regard to energy use and consumption. Jim is responding to various minor requests from the team before they complete their report. The source of the leak in the water system in the Visitors' Centre has been identified and repair work will take place as soon as possible.

Families Engagement and Schools

9. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools delivered 2 sessions, introducing the topic 'the Kingdom of God' to pupils from year 4 at Guildford Grove school. They were very well behaved! They now know that Jesus said, 'God's kingdom is like a mustard seed' – it grows into a tall tree that birds can build nests in. In the words of Godly play, 'I wonder what this tree really could be? I wonder how the birds felt as they made their nests in it?' . Worth a ponder for us all. Nicola has also delivered a Nativity workshop and an Advent workshop to some lovely schools. She is so grateful to the willing band of Volunteers who offer their time and skills to enable the schools visits and workshops to happen. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement Officer, hosted a very successful Family Fun Day on Tuesday 29 October. There were many favourable comments about the activities having no link to Halloween. Rachel also delivered another wonderful Cathedral Tots service on Wednesday 6 November, which required careful management as it was conducted at the same time as preparations were being made for the Coldplay by Candlelight concert that evening. Another Cathedral Tots is being organised for Wednesday 4 December.

Liturgy and Music

10. The Lay Clerks sang the Eucharist of Simon and Jude on Monday 28 October. On Friday and Saturday evenings (1 and 2 November) the All Saints Day and All Souls Day services took place, which were sung by the boys (Friday) and the girls (Saturday). Throughout the month the Cathedral Choir rehearsed for Advent and Christmas, which is always a cause for great excitement. On Friday 8 November, the Semper Fidelis singers of Gordon's School joined with the choir for Evensong as part of the Schools' Evensong Project. Lovely feedback was received. On Sunday 10 November the boys and Lay Clerks sang the Requiem by Gabriel Faure at 6pm in its liturgical context as an act of remembrance, following the morning Remembrance Sunday service. On Monday 11 November Katherine Dienes-Williams (Organist and Master of the Choristers), Asher Oliver (Sub Organist) and Rebecca (Schools Evensong Co-ordinator) attended a Surrey Music hub launch event at the Menuhin School. On Thursday 14 November Asher and Katherine, with other members of staff, attended the National Cathedrals Day in Leicester discussing Cathedral Music at which Katherine chaired panel discussions. Whilst the team were away George Baldwin, Organ Scholar, played the organ and directed the choir at Evensong, no mean feat. A wonderful day of workshops for the girl choristers was held in Oxford on Tuesday 19 November where they visited Queen's College, Merton College and joined with the choir of Christ Church Cathedral and Guildford's former Sub Organist Richard Moore for Evensong. Friday 22 November was St Cecilia's Day, the patron saint of music, and the choir anthem at Evensong was accordingly 'Hymn to St Cecilia' by Herbert Howells. On Saturday 23 November several of the choristers sat their RSCM award examinations. On Sunday 24 November, Songs of Praise featured the Cathedral's changed voice chorister Oscar starring

as a semi-finalist in the senior section of the BBC Chorister of the Year (watch again on BBC iPlayer link below). The services on Sunday 24 November celebrated Christ the King, the end of the liturgical year, with former chorister Ruby Skilbeck returning to sing a soaring solo at Eucharist. In the evening during the Evensong at which new Honorary Canons were installed, there was a power cut which affected the organ – the musicians did extremely well to switch to the piano to accompany the remaining hymns and play a ‘piano voluntary’ to conclude the service.

[Songs of Praise - BBC iPlayer](#)

Virgers

11. Massive thanks to Paul, Steve, Andrew (who has now been confirmed in post as Full Time Virger) and Nicola for all their hard work, dedication and continuing conscientious approach in the face of difficult circumstances and an enormously challenging programme in November.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. Friday 25 October’s School-Centred Initial Teacher Training graduation ceremony and the Anna Lapwood organ concert on Saturday 26 October were enormous successes. A huge vote of thanks to all who helped, particularly on the Saturday when the Events team and Virgers were supported wonderfully by a willing team of Staff members from other Departments and Volunteers. A large and appreciative audience enjoyed the ‘Coldplay by Candlelight’ concert on Wednesday 6 November, thanks are again due to the Events team as well as Staff from other departments and Volunteers who assisted. Saturday 9 November saw the return of the Craft and Flea market to the Nave. Thursday 14 November’s Coffee Concert featuring the Melos Quartet went very well, and the Christmas Fair on 22 and 23 November was a huge success, some saying it was the best Christmas Fair they had been to anywhere. It was yet another team effort across Cathedral Departments with additional help from many Volunteers, which was greatly appreciated. On Saturday 30 November the Etsy market returned.

M J O’GRADY Chief Operating Officer