



**GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL**

## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 29 AUGUST 2024**

### **Introduction**

1. A good month of consolidation with many Staff and Volunteers away on well earned breaks. Progress has been made on Chapter's three priorities, and recruitment for six posts is underway, three funded by the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund as they are designed to generate additional income. Huge thanks to all our Volunteers for their steadfast efforts in support of the Cathedral during the uncertainty. Another community meeting will be held on Sunday 15 September after the Cathedral Eucharist.

### **Worship**

2. The times of services are as follows until 9 September:

- 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, Thursday & Friday; at 8.00 and 8.30am on Tuesday, 9.00 and 9.30am on Saturday.
- Evening prayer at 4pm from Monday to Friday.

3. From 9 September Choral Evensong will be sung at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Evening Prayer will be at 5.30pm on Wednesdays and 4pm on Saturdays. From 5 September Holy Communion will be at 12.30pm instead of 9.00am.

### **Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons**

4. From 9 September the Cathedral opening times revert to:

- 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**

5. Chapter did not meet in August. During the month work has continued 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**

6. Family holidays have impacted on attendance in the tower in recent weeks, with the result that on some Sundays it has only been possible to ring 6 or 8 bells and on one Sunday morning ringing had to be cancelled. Since the last meeting one quarter peal and one peal have been rung.

## **Development Department**

7. Nicola Pratt, the Head of Development, is in discussion with a trust who may be able to help with building improvement and community impact grants. Recruitment for the new Music Patronage Scheme Alumni Project Officer (funded by anonymous donation) continues, the vacancy for the second Fundraising Officer post (funded by the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund) has also been advertised. Work has commenced on the 'What's On' that will cover November, December and January. Tickets are now live for the annual fundraising quiz in October. 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**

8. The Cathedral had a visit from a specialist plasterer who has made a start on resolving the disparity in colour of the plaster used to cover the wiring for one of the streaming cameras. The leak team that repaired the water leaks on the south side of the Cathedral has been on-site and identified a problem at the main supply point on Alresford Road. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, has requested Thames Water to effect a repair. Jim has also been in contact with contractors regarding the subsidence in a number of the Cathedral Close houses and he is working towards providing Chapter with the necessary details to make an informed decision on the housing stock. An anonymous donation enabled the painting of the step-edges (nosings) in mid-August; the steps will be power washed in the near future. The water supply to Seasons, the Visitor Centre and the Office was fractured on Thursday 15 August during the digging of foundations for the extension at Diocesan House (the former DEC); water was restored by the following lunchtime. The building frame for the extension was due to be erected by the end of August.

## **Families Engagement and Schools**

9. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement and Schools Officer, co-ordinated and ran very successful Family Fun Days on Wednesdays 31 July and 28 August. The next Cathedral Tots service is on Wednesday 4 September.

## **Liturgy and Music**

10. Laurens Macklon, one of the Lay Clerks, sang beautifully at the Eucharist on Sunday 28 July, and the service of Evening Prayer and Hymns later in the day worked very well. The following Sunday (4 August) another Lay Clerk, Peter Hicks took over as Cantor for the Eucharist, and the evening service featured Jeremy Wan on the organ for the last time in his tenure as Organ Scholar here. From 5 to 11 August the RSCM choir was in residence and sang Evensong on Wednesdays as well as both services on Sunday 11 August. On Sunday 18 August Peter Hicks was the cantor again in the morning, and his Stag Hill Consort sang at Evensong. On 25 August the Godalming Minster Choir sang the Eucharist, and in the evening the Stag Consort were at Evensong once more. The final services of the summer break on 1 September will be sung by the Guildford Cathedral Singers. Huge thanks to all of those who have made such wonderful contributions to the services whilst the choir and musicians have been away. The new Organ Scholar, George Baldwin, joins on 1 September and recruitment for the Organ Scholar for the academic year 2025/26 is underway.

## **Virgers**

11. Massive thanks to Paul, Steve, Jake and Nicola, for all they have done for the Cathedral at such a challenging time. Jake departs at the end of August for pastures new, and Andrew Howat has been offered a three month contract in the new Events Virger position (funded by the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund). The vacancy for a Full Time Virger is now being advertised.

## **Visitor Experience and Events**

12. The Coffee Concert on Thursday 8 August featured the Cathedral's own Peter Hicks accompanied by Oliver Morrell and was another huge success, massive thanks to all those involved in the organisation and to those who lent a hand. The only other events in August were the silent discos on 30 and 31 August. Tracey Pusey has now left the Cathedral and Catherine Barber has assumed the mantle of Events Officer. Recruitment of an additional Events Assistant (also funded by the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund) has been underway in August.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer