



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 30 JANUARY 2025

Introduction

1. A busy and extremely significant month as we welcome the new Dean and his family to the Cathedral community. The Installation Service was a magnificent occasion, huge thanks to all the Volunteers who worked so hard to help make it happen. I would like to record my personal thanks to Stuart Beake, our outgoing Interim Dean, for his unstinting support, wise counsel and warm friendship over the years. We all wish Stuart and Sally a long and happy retirement, which is so richly deserved.

2. Please see at the link advertisements for Mental Health Awareness training which starts 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/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 14 January and were briefed on the financial situation; the budget was approved in December after the overall predicted deficit had been reduced following work by a budget working group. Chapter were also informed of developments in the governance of Safeguarding at a national and Diocesan level, and any potential impact on the Cathedral.

Bellringing

6. In addition to normal service and practice ringing, the bells were rung twice on Christmas Eve, for the main service on Christmas Day and prior to the Gordon's School service on 19th January. For the Installation of our new Dean the bells were rung prior to the service and afterwards, as is usual for new Deans and Bishops, a full peal of Yorkshire Surprise Maximus was rung taking 3 hours and 30 minutes. A peal was also rung on Saturday 18 January by a band of mainly local members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (a ringing society founded in 1637, based in London but with members all over the world) to mark the 300th anniversary of the Society's first peal, which was also the first ever peal on 12 bells. Since the last Senior Volunteers meeting five quarter peals were rung, two of which enabled Emma and Katy Shepherd, who only started ringing in June 2023, to ring their firsts of Cinques and Maximus. Finally, a selected Cathedral band has started practising for the qualifying round of the National 12-Bell Contest at Liverpool Parish Church (St Nicholas, Pier Head) on 22 March.

Development Department

7. Congratulations to Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, for confirmation of a £3,000 grant for the Organ Scholar's salary (via an application and relationship she holds) and to Karen Taylor, Fundraising Officer, who received a £3,000 cheque this week from a trust for the Organ Scholar's salary from an application she made in October!

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. (Also – Quiz for a Cause raffle – does anyone have anything lying around that could be used to form hampers for the raffle? Please let Karen know and she can collate donations to make some amazing raffle prizes).

Facilities

8. There has been work done on pointing the brick wall above the Development Office to eliminate water incursion. Groundwork has been undertaken to address health and safety concerns on the footpath to the Close. There have also been quotations from Aimis Trees to tackle some concerns about trees that appear to be unstable and to “lift” trees that are on Cathedral land to comply with transport requirements.

Families Engagement and Schools

9. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, conducted the annual visit from RGS Pre-prep on 14 January. She then attended the ‘Cathedrals Plus’ conference in Peterborough, to share ideas about welcoming people to cathedrals. She is working on a number of forthcoming school visits and rolling out a programme of ‘Godly Play’ (a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance) events.

Liturgy and Music

10. Monday 6 January saw the Feast of Epiphany Eucharist being sung by the Whyte Effect. The choir and musicians returned after the Christmas break to sing the Epiphanytide Procession and Carol Service on Sunday 12 January. On Tuesday 14 January a highly successful Evensong with the RGS pre prep boys (Year 2) took place, following an afternoon of workshops with the Cathedral’s very own Nicola Cole (cf para 9 above). Thirty year two boys from RGS pre prep sang the anthem by themselves to a very appreciative congregation and the boy choristers sang much of the service by themselves. Everyone worked extremely hard in preparation for the Dean’s Installation Service – choir, musicians, including deputy singers joining the team and Septura Brass - who made a special arrangement for the 'exit' music, 'Crown Imperial' by William Walton. The service was a wonderful success. Services for Candlemas take place on Sunday 2 February.

Virgers

11. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve, Andrew and Nicola for all their hard work, flexibility and conscientious approach during a busy January, following hot on the heels of a demanding Christmas period. Their efforts are massively appreciated.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. The first event of the year was the ‘Worth the Weight’ market on Saturday 25 January. The process of auditing in the Shop has begun, huge thanks to Sharon Collier, Shop Manager, for all the preparations carried out during the Christmas and New Year period. On Saturday 7 February the ‘Hongkongers’ event returns to mark the Lunar New Year. This was hugely popular last year.

M J O’GRADY Chief Operating Officer