



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 31 OCTOBER 2024

Introduction

1. An amazingly busy month in which huge strides were made and incredibly successful services and events held. Of most significance was undoubtedly the announcement of our new Dean, the Venerable Bob Cooper, who will be installed on 26 January 2025. We have also appointed an Assistant COO (Jonathan Neil-Smith), an Events Assistant (see para 12 below), an Organ Scholar (see para 10 below) and a Full Time Virger (see para 11 below). Huge thanks are due to all our Volunteers who help in such a variety of ways and are providing such invaluable service at a vital time.

2. Please see at the link advertisements for Christians Against Poverty courses which started on 26 September, Mental Health Awareness training which started on 24 October and an 'Extraordinary Women of the Bible' concert at St Mary's in Guildford on 15 November. 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 - 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 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 met on 8 October. There was a discussion on the strategy for live streaming and Chapter members were updated on the three priority areas, which remain:

- creating an endowment to fund long term maintenance and repair requirements;
- refurbishment/replacement of the Cathedral Close;
- eradication of the deficit.

Bellringing

6. On Saturday 12 October the Cathedral ringers enjoyed a day out in Kent, ringing at Faversham, where the bells have recently been augmented from 8 to 10, Canterbury Cathedral, Chilham, Lenham and Leeds. In the 18th century Leeds had one of the foremost bands of ringers in the country and many of the ten bells date from that time. In 1761 they even rang the full extent on 8 bells, 40,320 changes - 27 hours of continuous ringing with 14 ringers taking part in relays. At the Cathedral, on 4 October the ringers of the Guildford District of the Diocesan Guild held a successful practice, well supported by the Cathedral ringers. This gave some their first opportunity to ring on 12 bells. As well as the usual service and practice ringing, three quarter peals have been rung.

Development Department

7. The first part of the month was busy with the planning for the announcement of the new Dean. This saw the Cathedral receive a huge amount of press coverage which continues. It has also helped forge new proactive links with the Guildford Dragon.

'What's On' for the months of November, December and January has been issued, as well as Advent flyers. A huge well done to Karen Taylor (Fundraising Officer) for organising the 'Quiz for a Cause' on 4 October, as well as Canon Chris Hollingshurst and his wife Kathy for all their help. £1500 was raised in support of the Cathedral funds. The Theology Hub event featuring Jeremy Begbie on 24 October was very successful. Well done to everyone involved. Another bid to the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund is being submitted this week to provide the wherewithal to improve the website. The John Rutter concert on 7 December is sold out and Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, is currently pulling together the programme content and advertising.

Facilities

8. The west steps of the Cathedral are being power washed during the final week of October. There has been a visit from surveyors sent by the Church Commissioners to assess our ability to improve the Cathedral's Net Zero performance. The refuse and recycling points have been moved to an area to the east of the offices pending completion of the Diocesan House extension work, which is proceeding well.

Families Engagement and Schools

9. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, had a great time taking the Trinity workshop out to Rowledge CE Junior School early in October. The school were really pleased with the work produced and Nicola made good relationships for the Cathedral with the local church who helped with the delivery of the day. Nicola ran a successful school visit by Lyne and Longcross C of E Primary School on Wednesday 16 October. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement Officer, prepared and ran a very popular and well received Family Fun Day on Tuesday 29 October. Nicola and Rachel had a wonderful time at the Godly Play training during the month and are now fully licenced Godly Play leaders. They will be including Godly play sessions in their workshops and groups and hope to share some Godly Play with the rest of the Cathedral community soon.

Liturgy and Music

10. Auditions for the organ scholar position in 2025/26 were held on 30 September and 1 October – Jozef Gaszka has been appointed. Changed voice chorister Oscar has been participating in the semi finals of the BBC ‘Young Chorister of the Year’. The girls and Lay Clerks sang evensong at St. Mary’s, Shalford on Sunday 6 October. Katherine Dienes-Williams, Organist and Master of the Choristers, gave a recital at St. George’s Lutheran church in London on Saturday 5 October and a pre Evensong recital at Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 6 October. Choral Evensong on Thursday 10 October was attended by the College of Canons, and on Friday 11 October the first of the ‘Evensong Project’ services which will be sung with state schools, started with the choir of George Abbot School. Katherine was chairing the Cathedral Organists’ Association conference at Manchester Cathedral during the week commencing 7 October. Choral Eucharist for Luke the Evangelist was sung on Friday 18 October, and during half term George Baldwin, the current Organ Scholar, played for the Farnborough University Centre graduation ceremony and the Sunday services, which were sung by the Guildford Cathedral Singers. On their return from half term the Lay Clerks sang the Eucharist for Simon and Jude on Monday 28 October, and the coming weekend is busy with All Saints Day on Friday 1 November and All Saints Day on Saturday 2 November.

Virgers

11. Massive thanks yet again to Paul, Steve, Nicola and Andrew for all they are doing to support an exceptionally busy programme under very difficult circumstances. Their dedication and hard work is hugely appreciated. Andrew Howat has been appointed as the new Full Time Virger, he will work four days per week initially.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. On Saturday 5 October there was the return of the Pre Loved market. There was also a dinner for the WRAC Association in Seasons on that evening, the fiftieth anniversary of the Guildford pub bombing in which two WRAC soldiers lost their lives. Thursday 10 October’s Coffee Concert featuring Emily Bollon’s Motivation by Music Gospel Choir was a remarkable success, with over two hundred people in the audience. On Saturday 12 October it was the turn of David Bowie by Candlelight, a very enjoyable and well attended concert. To round off an exceptionally busy month, the week commencing 21 October saw the Farnborough University Centre graduation ceremony staged on Wednesday, the

School-Centred Initial Teacher Training graduation ceremony on Friday 25 October, and the Anna Lapwood organ concert on Saturday 26 October, which was a sell out. Well done to the Events team and everyone from other Departments as well as Volunteers who have been helping. Robert Owen has been appointed as the Events Assistant and started work this week, please make him feel welcome.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer