



**GUILDFORD  
CATHEDRAL**

## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 25 JULY 2024**

### **Introduction**

1. It has been a very busy month, with ordinations, the end of the choir term and University of Surrey graduations all having been great successes. Chapter members have asked me to pass on their very warmest thanks to our Volunteers for all that they have done in supporting the Cathedral of late, particularly as there has been so much uncertainty. Chapter discussed the consequences of the land sale refusal at its July meeting, and you can read about the deliberations in paragraph 5 below.

2. At the link below are details of the Christians Against Poverty courses which are running all this term; a Hope in Depression course which started on 13 May; a Surrey County Council Home Upgrade Grant; the Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy Annual Review..

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/cq0aofuklgmlh4wlhxyz/ADzFWV-iNtaHVMBkKORHTfiU?rlkey=vn9stfi9by352eje36cyjt365&dl=0>

### **Worship**

3. 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 (please note there is a visiting choir during the week commencing 15 August and Evensong will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 5.30pm that week).

There is no evening service on Saturday.

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

4. The Cathedral opening times are as follows during the summer:

- Sunday – 7.30am to 7pm.
- Monday, Thursday and Friday – 8.30am to 5pm.

- Tuesday – 7.30am to 5pm.
- Wednesday and 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 12noon.

## **Chapter**

5. Chapter met on 11 July and considered the way forward in the wake of the refusal of the appeal against the Cathedral Development planning decision. Chapter is looking at three main problem areas, the aim being to provide some breathing space for the new Dean who is expected to be installed early in 2025. The three areas are as follows:

- Creating an endowment to fund long term maintenance and repair requirements.
- Refurbishment/replacement of the Cathedral Close.
- Eradication of the deficit.

Work is ongoing in all three areas as a matter of urgency and Chapter will be updated at its September meeting.

## **Bellringing**

6. In addition to normal service and practice ringing, the bells were rung prior to the Ordination services on 29 and 30 June and following the wedding of Grace Newman and Robert McKinnon on 20 July. For the latter occasion the opportunity was taken to ring a 12-bell quarter peal which included two of the young learners, who are making excellent progress having started to ring just a year ago. On 14 July a quarter peal was rung by a band from the Surrey Association, which covers South London and the eastern half of Surrey, and another quarter peal on 19 July was rung in memory of Chris Kippin, an extremely competent ringer and organist well known to most of the band.

## **Development Department**

7. The Cathedral's application for £145,644 from the Cathedrals' Sustainability Fund was approved this week – well done to everyone involved in preparing the bid. The funding will allow four new posts to be established for up to three years – Assistant COO, Events Virger, Fundraising Officer and Website Project Manager. 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 works on the extension of the old Diocesan Education Centre have commenced and are due to complete by the end of the year; this will place additional pressure on parking on site. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities, has shown the Deanery to two surveyors of different companies. They will produce tenders that will be sent to the insurers and Chapter will then be able to deliberate on the proposals/costs to restore the

building. The repairs to the water supply leaks have been completed but were more extensive than anticipated and are an ongoing concern due to the age of the pipes. The Cathedral has changed gas and electricity suppliers.

### **Families Engagement and Schools**

9. After successful provision of children's activities during the ordinations, Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, is looking to expand the offer of ethical workshops and similar to secondary schools. She has also reviewed her year, looking at how schools connect with the Cathedral and how it can make stronger links and offer some more accessible spiritual input into the lives of the children, young people and teachers who come to visit. Nicola has also finalised the details of her new Trinity workshops and accepted a number of bookings for the next academic year. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement Officer, delivered another excellent Cathedral Tots service on 3 July, eight families were present. There will be a Family Fun Day on Wednesday 31 July.

### **Liturgy and Music**

10. The ordination services on 29 and 30 June were a stunning success, congratulations to everyone involved. On Sunday 30 June there was also an excellent valedictory recital by Jeremy Wan the Organ Scholar, and the same evening the choir was joined by choristers from Tewkesbury Abbey for Evensong. Sunday 7 July saw the final services of the choir term, including valedictories for leaving choristers at Evensong. The following Sunday (14 July), the services were sung by the Guildford Cathedral Singers. From 12 July the organists were playing for the University degree ceremonies and planning the music for the remainder of July and August, as well as for the Michaelmas term. Plans are afoot for a new commissioned carol for the Carol service and preparations are even underway for the girl chorister concert at St. Catherine's next year. Katherine Dienes-Williams, Organist and Master of the Choristers, has attended an Organists' Charitable Trust meeting following on from an organ recital at St. Mary's Redcliffe Church in Bristol and delivering a speech as part of the Southern Cathedrals' Festival, playing for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert of the chamber choir she used to conduct, Southern Voices, and delivering a Come and Sing Evensong at St Lawrence Church Alton on Sunday evening. The Lay Clerks will be leading some of the music making during the coming weeks and all are very grateful to them.

### **Virgers**

11. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve, Jake and Nicola, the wonderful team of Virgers who have been so supportive and worked so very hard during an extremely busy programme in June and July.

### **Visitor Experience and Events**

12. On Wednesday 3 July there was a Guildford County School awards ceremony, and a knife crime awareness event in Seasons featured the Guildford Shakespeare Company. On 12 July, the six days of graduation ceremonies began. The Cathedral welcomed over 10,000 students and guests to fourteen ceremonies in the last week. This huge multi-departmental event was both a challenge and a joy, and everyone involved did an outstanding job. Tracey

Pusey has now left the post of Events Officer, Catherine Barber has assumed the mantle in her stead. Recruiting will now take place for the vacant post of Events Assistant.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer