



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 25 MARCH 2024

Introduction

1. Another immensely important and exciting month with the appeal Public Inquiry proceedings continuing, a new Chief Finance Officer joining (please make Helen Hopkinson welcome), services, activity for young people and large scale events taking place one after the other. Chapter members have asked me to pass on their deep gratitude and admiration to all Volunteers for helping to keep the programme going and maintaining the Cathedral routines despite all the challenges. Please see the attached flyers for the Recovery Fair on 10 May and an advert for an Autism Friendly event at G Live on Monday 13 May.

Worship

2. The times of services remain as follows:

- 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, and Saturday; at 8.00 and 8.30am on Tuesday, 9.00 and 9.30am on Saturday.
- Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Evening prayer at 5.30pm on Wednesday.

There is no evening service on Saturday.

Opening Hours the Cathedral, Shop and Seasons

3. The Cathedral opening times are as follows:

- Sunday – 7.30am to 7pm.
- Monday, Thursday and Friday – 8.30am to 6.15pm.
- Tuesday – 7.30am to 6.15pm.
- Wednesday and Saturday – 8.30am to 6pm.

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

4. Chapter did not meet on 20 March as programmed. This was because the Public Inquiry was still underway (see para 9 below) and it was felt that an extra month to assess the impact of additional income generation would be beneficial. Meanwhile the Cathedral received official notification of its charitable status, part of the process of coming under the Cathedrals Measure 2021 (the Cathedral's new charity number is 1207356). The process of selecting a new Dean continues, with the selection panel meeting for the first time on 18 March. The next meeting of the panel will be on 22 May, when the sift of candidates will be undertaken, with interviews programmed for 19 and 20 June.

Bellringing

5. The Bellringers held their Annual Meeting on Sunday 3 March, chaired by the Interim Dean. The Tower Captain reported on a good year, with mainly well attended practices and service-ringing and a continued high standard of 12-bell ringing. The Steeplekeeper said that a new set of ropes was on order and that experiments to improve the internal acoustics were continuing, with limited success. Two quarter peals had been rung since the last Senior Volunteers meeting and on Saturday 23 March the ringers would be taking part in one of the qualifiers for the 2024 National 12-Bell Striking Contest.

Development Department

6. This month has seen the first meeting of the new Development Committee on Monday evening. Fundraising is tasked with bringing in £204,000 in income, the Committee will support the Development Team in exploring opportunities and building relationships. An application to the Cathedral Music Trust has been submitted for a Schools/Colleges Choral Evensong Project. The Rock Choir Concert on Saturday 23 March was a sell out! All funds raised went to support the Cathedral. A huge thank you to those who were working or came along to help, on what was a wonderful evening organised by Karen Taylor (Fundraising Officer).

Facilities

7. The work to replace the flooring in the Ani-Room in the wake of the water ingress last year has been completed. The power sockets that were problematic during the Hongkongers' Event have been repaired, and the electricians have been in discussion with the Diocese about the power supply to the refurbished Diocesan Education Centre, and the cabling for the proposed Electric Vehicle charging points. There have been further problems with the North Porch accessible lift and Jim Blake, Head of Property and Facilities has requested that an engineer visit. The Cathedral is taking the opportunity to upgrade a couple of the CCTV cameras and provide better coverage of the West End/Flagpole Green and the North Car Park.

Families Engagement and Schools

8. Cathedral Tots was held on Wednesday 6 March, and the Diocesan Schools Eco-day on 7 March. The latter received some lovely feedback – 'this was the best school trip ever!' and equipped the youngest school children to change the world for the better. During the

week commencing 18 March the team had an amazing week sharing the story of Holy Week with 90 children at Easter Workshops. They delivered a new 'Holy Week walk', where children filled their 'Holy Week box' with items to help them remember the story.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

9. The ninth and final day of the Public Inquiry was held on Friday 22 March. The Inspector was due to be undertaking a site visit on Monday 25 March, which will include a Visit inside the Cathedral building and an opportunity to view the proposed location of the development from the top of the Tower. He is expected to deliver his report and verdict on the outcome of the appeal in late May.

Liturgy and Music

10. Sunday 10 March (Mothering Sunday) saw the boys' choir singing with the Guildford Cathedral Singers, whilst the girls' choir sang at St John's Merrow, where the vicar is Tim Clifford-Hill, a former Lay Clerk at the Cathedral. More recently the Cathedral choir has been preparing music for the Holy Week services, after which it will take a well-deserved three week break, and the team will welcome Guildford Cathedral Singers, the Whyte Effect and the Stag Consort who will lead the worship during this time. The RGS chamber choir from the senior school joined with the Cathedral choir to sing Evensong on Thursday 21 March, and the Mothers' Union held their annual service on Friday 22 March. On Sunday 17 March at Eucharist, two of the boy choristers accompanied the communion motet on cello and violin. Plans are well underway for a 90th birthday celebratory Evensong for Dr Barry Rose on 11 May at 5pm, but this is not all that is to come! As soon as the Cathedral Choir returns on Monday 22 April, the boys will sing in concert with RGS school at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford in a performance of Benjamin Britten's cantata 'St. Nicolas' on Wednesday 24 April, the Cathedral choir will undertake its termly Diocesan visit to sing Evensong on Sunday 5 May at St. Mary's Church, Long Ditton, and rehearsals will begin with George Abbott School for their joint Evensong with the Cathedral choir on 16 May - all in addition to regular sung services.

Virgers

11. Huge thanks to Paul, Steve, Jake and Nicola who have been working so very hard to support such a busy programme, which will of course become even busier during Holy Week and Easter to follow. All are extremely grateful to them for their efforts.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. The incredibly busy programme continues – after the silent discos last month (with 2200 people in attendance), there was a Pre-Loved sale in the Nave on Saturday 2 March. Tina Turner by Candlelight followed on Saturday 9 March, and Fleetwood Mac by Candlelight on Wednesday 13 March. On Thursday 14 March the Coffee Concert featured a recital by the Cathedral's own Jeremy Wan, with 120 people in the audience. Saturday 16 March featured an all-day event celebrating the centenary of Safeguard coaches, attended by 2800 people. The first Tower Tour of the Season took place on Friday 1 March, and an amazing exhibition of Ukrainian icons on ammunition boxes has been on display in the Nave since 18 March; preparations are in train for an exhibition of post box toppers from Tuesday 16 April.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer