



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 25 JANUARY 2024

Introduction

1. It has been a very fast paced and busy start to the New Year after an extremely successful series of Christmas services. Chapter has asked me to pass on their thanks to all that is being done and the initiative and warmth of welcome that is continually being demonstrated by members of Staff and our Volunteers. Preparations for the future have included the beginning of the Music Patronage Scheme and a good deal of planning for the appointment of a new Dean, the land sale appeal, and the way ahead with the Cathedral finances. Unfortunately all this positive activity was tempered by the vandalism of one of the John Hutton glass panels in the West Doors. An arrest has been made, in the meantime arrangements are in hand for the replacement of the panel. The cost will be over £15,000 and is covered by our insurance, but a fundraising campaign has been launched to cover the excess (£5,000). Please see link below.

[Guildford Cathedral: Sentinel Angel Glass Repair \(enthuse.com\)](https://www.enthuse.com/guildford-cathedral-sentinel-angel-glass-repair)

Please also see the attached note from Canon Chris Hollingshurst on the Cathedral Prayer List.

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.
- 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.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer

- 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. Seasons and the Shop will be closed from 22 December 2023 (pm) until 1 January 2024 (am).

Chapter

4. Chapter met on 9 January. There was a report on Development Committee activity, and a further discussion on the Statement of Need for a new Dean, which is now ready for final production. Chapter were also asked to approve in principle the siting of screens in the Nave on a semi-permanent basis to assist with the audio visual experience for people attending service and events.

Bellringing

5. The bells were rung three times on Christmas Eve, prior to the 9.45am, 4.00pm and 11.00pm services, and again on Christmas morning. Since then, service and practice ringing has continued as normal. A good peal of Spliced Maximus was rung on Saturday 6 January by a largely local band as significant birthday compliments to two of the Cathedral ringers, Richard Burton (Ringing Master) and Maurice Edwards. Two quarter peals have been rung since the last meeting. The team which will represent the Cathedral at the 2024 National 12-Bell Contest have started practices. They have been drawn to ring in an eliminator at Reading on 23 March. The final is at Chilcompton, Somerset, on 15th June.

Development Department

6. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development, has been working on analysis of the results of the Renewed Giving campaign and delivering the launch of the Music Patrons scheme on Sunday 14 January. The former has seen parish giving increase by £6.5K and one-off donations amounting to £12.5K, and the latter was a very successful evening. Numerous pledges for the Music Patrons scheme have been received, analysis continues. Karen Taylor, Fundraising Officer, has continued to seek funding opportunities, a further £3,000 in support of the Organ Scholar salary has been pledged. The February to April edition of 'What's On' has been produced.

Facilities

7. The wet and windy weather has caused concerns in a number of areas; the wheelchair lift switches at the North Door were damaged by water and the roof above the Shop has been severely tested. There has been more water ingress in the Steward's Room and the window above the organ was a concern during Storm Isha. Fortunately A E Hughes cleared the gutters just before Christmas which prevented even more problems with water ingress, and they have been affecting a repair to the roof above the Shop and Seasons. They have also provided a quote for renewing the pigeon netting on the upper part of the Tower. The wet weather also delayed completion of the painting in the Office Block and the task will be completed as soon as possible. Jim Blake, Head of Property and Development, Jim has also requested TJ Hunt to visit to quote for a number of repairs to the kerb stones that

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer

are damaged and displaced by buses and HGV. Various issues regarding the toilets will be addressed as soon as the contractors are able to tackle them. The Hutton panel in the West Doors will be temporarily repaired using plain glass.

Families Engagement and Schools

8. The first Cathedral Tots of 2024 has already taken place, with Rachel Johnson (Family Engagement Officer) hosting a number of families at a successful service on Wednesday 3 January. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, delivered 2 completely different workshops during the week commencing 15 January, with her wonderful volunteers to RGS Pre-prep in conjunction with the Music Department, and St Lawrence Chobham, learning about 'What is the Kingdom of God?'

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

9. A proof of evidence is being prepared for the Cathedral witness at the Public Inquiry which begins on 5 March. This has been submitted to the KC acting on behalf of the Cathedral and Vivid, and feedback received. Final proofs have to be input by 6 February for the Inquiry, which will run until 15 March. The outcome will be known by 22 April.

Liturgy and Music

10. The wonderful services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were hugely successful, with numbers attending markedly higher than those of last year. The Eucharist for the feast of the Epiphany on Saturday 6 January was sung by the Whyte Effect. The Choir and Cathedral musicians returned on Sunday 7 January and highlights of the first few weeks have included the Epiphany Procession on Sunday 14 January, which was followed by the Music Patrons' launch featuring a question and answer session with choristers and musicians facilitated by the Canon Liturgist and the Organist and Master of the Choristers. On Friday 19 January the changed voices team joining the Lay Clerks for Evensong, and on Saturday 20 January the Chorister Experience afternoon took place. The fact that this is vastly oversubscribed shows how high the profile of the choir is at the moment.

Virgers

11. Huge thanks to Paul Williamson, Steve Reeds, Jake Thompson and Nicola Goff for all they do to keep the Cathedral safe and secure, and in support of its incredibly busy programme, with all the challenges caused by the weather and resource constraints. Particular thanks to Steve for his swift actions in the wake of the vandalism on Thursday night/Friday morning on 11/12 January.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. Wednesday 10 January saw a successful re-scheduled graduation ceremony for Farnborough Technical College, which was attended by Dame Floella Benjamin. On Saturday 13 January there was a 'Worth the Weight' market in the Nave, with 'Craft and Flea' to follow on 3 February. Thereafter February and March are very busy, and the rest of the year's events calendar for 2024 is full. An extra person is being recruited to help, financial support for the post being provided by the Cathedrals Sustainability Fund.

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