



**GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL**

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S NEWSLETTER FOR VOLUNTEERS 29 FEBRUARY 2024

Introduction

1. Another very busy and varied month, seeing some extraordinary services and events, as well as excellent fundraising activity and planning for the future. The income that is being generated via Renewed Giving, the Music Patron Scheme and events, as well as by various other means, is vital as the Cathedral tries to navigate its way through the financial challenges. Huge thanks to everyone who has donated or supported fundraising and events of any kind. Meanwhile the long term sustainability of the Cathedral will come into sharp focus as the date of the planning appeal draws closer. There is a good deal of pressure on many people, Chapter members asked me to pass on their particular thanks to all our Volunteers for their unstinting support at such a key moment in the Cathedral's history. Please see the attached flyer for the Easter Day Sunrise Service at St Martha's.

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 met on 20 February and received reports from the Development Committee to provide an update on the income generated in the last six months, and from the Nominations Committee on the work in train to form an Advisory Board and Cathedral Forum under the auspices of the new Cathedrals Measure.

Bellringing

5. The Cathedral ringers held their annual dinner at Puttenham Golf Club on Friday 26 January attended by around 30 members and friends. The chief guests were the Interim Dean and Sally Beake. Since then service and practice ringing has continued as normal, four quarter peals and one peal have been rung. The three learners have been making good progress and two of them have rung their first quarter peal at West Clandon.

Development Department

6. The appeal for financial help to replace the smashed Hutton window has been enormously successful and the target of £5,000 has been met. Nicola Pratt, Head of Development continues to work on the administration in the wake of the Music Patronage Scheme launch, which has been another great achievement thus far. Karen Taylor, Fundraising Officer has been planning for future fundraising events and working on applications for funding from trusts and foundations - a £2,000 grant from a trust to help with music provision has been received. There has been considerable media interest surrounding the silent discos held on Saturday 17 February and 24 February, see the links below (James Cannon show from 0837, Naga Munchetty from 1148). Matt O'Grady also appeared on BBC TV local news on Friday 16 February.

[Guildford Cathedral will host two silent discos in its nave - BBC News](#)

[James Cannon - 13/02/2024 - BBC Sounds](#)

[Celebration or desecration? England's cathedrals open doors to silent discos | Anglicanism | The Guardian](#)

[Naga Munchetty - 21/02/2024 - BBC Sounds](#)

Facilities

7. TJ Hunt have been contracted to effect repairs to the kerbstones around the Green where some have been displaced and others broken – especially near drains – causing an H&S concern. There has been exploratory work in the Diocesan Education Centre car park in preparation for an extension being built on to the building later this year, with the aim of returning Diocesan Staff to Stag Hill early in 2025. A meeting has been held regarding the power requirements for the building and as well as electric vehicle charging points, the funding for which will be provided by the Diocese.

Families Engagement and Schools

8. Nicola Cole, Head of Schools, is preparing her Easter workshops as well as continuing her marketing strategy to local schools, and she is also preparing for the Diocesan Eco-day on Thursday 7 March. Nicola enjoyed an interesting visit to Wintershall to compare notes with the Education Officer there and, in light of this, is looking forward to thinking about how she can further expand the cathedral's educational mission to schools. Nicola presented an assembly at the Cathedral's most local school, Queen Eleanors, on Tuesday 20 February, on the parable of the workers in the vineyard. Rachel Johnson, Family Engagement and Schools Officer, organised a successful Cathedral Tots on Wednesday 7 February and a Family Fun Day on Tuesday 13 February.

Guildford Cathedral Development (Land Sale)

9. Guildford Borough Council have created a micro-site which provides a wealth of information about the Public Inquiry into the land sale refusal following an appeal by the Cathedral and Vivid. Documents, programme, witnesses and how to attend, either in person or on-line are all contained in the link below – the Public Inquiry starts on Tuesday 5 March.

<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/article/27030/Public-inquiry-for-planning-appeal-at-land-at-Guildford-Cathedral>

Liturgy and Music

10. On Friday 2 February the choir sang the Eucharist celebrating the end of the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season on the Feast of Candlemas. The live broadcast of Choral Evensong on Ash Wednesday, featuring a world premiere of an anthem by Guildford's own Gregory May, was another spectacular success for all concerned – huge congratulations to everyone. You can listen again at the link below, and attached is a record of the wonderful feedback received. The same evening the Eucharist for Ash Wednesday was sung by Peter Hicks' Stag Consort and featured a stunning rendition of Allegri's 'Miserere mei, Deus'.

[Choral Evensong - Guildford Cathedral - BBC Sounds](#)

Virgers

11. Massive thanks to Paul Williamson, Steve Reeds, Jake Thompson and Nicola Goff for all that they do to keep the Cathedral safe and secure as well as supporting an extremely hectic programme of services and events. They are working incredibly long hours under challenging circumstances and their invaluable contribution to the Cathedral at this vital time is hugely appreciated.

Visitor Experience and Events

12. Every Saturday in February has been busy with 3 February seeing the return of the ever popular Craft and Flea market, and on 10 February an exciting new feature – the HongKongers' market. The latter attracted 3,800 visitors and was another huge success. 17 and 24 February saw the well documented silent discos, attended by a total of 2,200 people. There was also a very well received Coffee Concert on Thursday 8 February, featuring Staff member Karen Taylor's Rhythm of Life Community Concert.

M J O'GRADY Chief Operating Officer