



Guildford Cathedral

The Diocese of Guildford was created in 1927 through the partition of Winchester Diocese. A decision was made to build a new Cathedral, and, following a competition Edward Maufe was appointed architect. Construction began in 1936, but consecration of the new building was delayed until 1961, principally because of the disruption caused by the Second World War.

During the 1950s a congregation formed and worshipped regularly in the crypt. Once the main building was taken into use, this congregation expanded, and today the Cathedral has a Community Roll of nearly 600 members.

The new Constitution and Statutes were promulgated in 2002 in line with the provisions of the Cathedrals Measure (2000), and a Cathedral Council, College of Canons (clergy and lay), and Cathedral Community Committee came into being. The main administrative body is the Chapter, consisting of the Dean, Residentiary Canons, Lay Administrator and elected lay members; this body meets monthly and is responsible for day-to-day decisions and the formulation of policy.

In addition to the Dean there are two Commissioners Canons, of whom one is the Precentor. The Anglican Chaplain to the University of Surrey is also a Residentiary Canon, and the Archdeacon of Surrey occupies the fourth stall.

A small group of retired clergy assist on Sundays and occasionally at other times, and there is a Reader attached to the Cathedral who also arranges the rota of weekday chaplains.

The lay staff are headed by the Administrator and include the Dean's PA, Music Department Secretary, Events Director, Financial Controller, Friends' Secretary and Schools Officer.

There are three Virgers who are responsible for the daily management of the Cathedral building and site; they play a key role in the staging of services and the practical arrangements for the many special events which are held in the Cathedral in the course of the year, including concerts, degree ceremonies, exhibitions, and services for voluntary organisations.

The Cathedral Shop and Refectory are managed professionally, but the former relies on volunteer staff. In all, the Cathedral has around 400 volunteers who help in a variety of ways.

The Cathedral's music foundation is led by the Precentor, and staffed with an Organist and Master of the Choristers, Sub Organist, and Organ Scholar. The tradition of a daily choral evensong was established in 1961 and has been maintained ever since (though the Cathedral choir no longer sings on Saturdays, and Wednesday is the customary 'dumb' day). In 2003, a girls' choir was introduced, and the two children's groups, in conjunction with the six lay clerks, now sustain seven services each week between them. Recently, the music foundation, in partnership with Lanesborough School (the Cathedral's choir school), has been engaged in outreach to state schools through the SingUp! scheme; Government

funding has now come to an end, but strenuous efforts are being made to find new sources of support so that this important programme can continue.

The pattern of services on weekdays includes Morning Prayer (*CW Daily Office*) followed by the Eucharist (Order I, modern language), respectively at 7.30 am and 8.00 am. Evensong (BCP) is at 5.30 pm. On Sundays, 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) is followed by the Cathedral Eucharist (CW, Order I; BCP on first Sunday) at 9.45 am and Choral Mattins at 11.30 am, with Evensong (BCP) at 6.30 pm. Sermons are preached at the Eucharist, Mattins and Evensong. The Cathedral's liturgical tradition is perhaps best described as 'moderate Catholic': the customary eucharistic vestments are worn, incense is used on 'red letter' days, and some of the great festivals (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Whitsunday and Corpus Christi) are marked with processional services of music and readings.

There is a Creche and a Sunday School, and a small youth group. Although the regular members of the Cathedral congregation tend to be older, there are young families associated with the choirs, bell-ringers and servers, as well as some who have come to the Cathedral through marriage or the baptism of children.

The Cathedral's work with schools has expanded considerably in recent years. A Schools Officer and an Assistant Schools Officer, both part-time, are employed, and are assisted by trained volunteers. Large numbers of schools visit the Cathedral for a wide variety of workshops related to Key Stage projects and the liturgical year.

Over the years the Cathedral has maintained an extensive programme of learning opportunities for the congregation, including prayer, bible study, poetry and play reading groups, courses in spirituality and ethics, and Lent and Advent courses. Occasional study days and Cathedral lectures have also formed part of the programme.

The creation earlier this year of a new Events Department, and the launch of a campaign to recruit 'Patrons of Guildford Cathedral', seeks to open the building to a wider community, whilst addressing the Cathedral's urgent need to establish new income streams. The possibility of a major development of the Cathedral's extensive site, including housing, offices and a health centre, has also been under discussion. The Cathedral team approaches the end of the Golden Jubilee year celebrations much encouraged, and with a conviction that the future holds many exciting opportunities for exploring new initiatives, whilst affirming the place of daily worship at the centre of everything the Cathedral does.