



Exeter  
Cathedral

# Volunteers

BE PART OF OUR STORY

# Guide Volunteer *Application pack*





**Volunteer Role:**

Guide Volunteer

**Department:**

Visitors

**Supervision:**

Visitors Department

**Time Commitment:**

Minimum 2 daily tours per month and specialist pre-booked tours on a rota

**Location:**

Exeter Cathedral



## Purpose of the role

Guides are a key point of contact for many visitors to the Cathedral who wish to learn more about the history, architecture and liturgical context of this magnificent building. The guides provide organised, time specific tours of the building to visitors. They share their passion for and knowledge of the Cathedral whilst effectively engaging with each group they guide, providing an entertaining, warm, informative and pleasant experience for visitors. Guided tours are offered to groups including: tourists, international language schools, specialist teams, historical groups and pilgrimage groups.



Prospective Guides are expected to participate in comprehensive training prior to taking up their role. The training focuses on the Cathedral, its worshipping life, history and architectural heritage, presentation

skills and on customer relations.

Guides are expected to continue to develop their knowledge once in post and to attend further training events from time to time.

## Volunteer Profile

- Enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the Cathedral, its purpose and its history.
- Excellent communication and customer service skills, including the ability to speak clearly and with an engaging manner with a wide variety of individuals, including those for whom English is not their first language, young people and visitors with specific needs.
- A positive, friendly, helpful attitude.
- Willing to undertake training and to contribute to the training of new Guides and Stewards.
- Able to use initiative and judgement.
- Ability to speak another language (desirable but not essential).
- British Sign Language trained (desirable but not essential).







## Duties

- To attend for guiding sessions as agreed in advance with Visitor Services and to notify the office in advance if unable to attend.
- Ability to adapt according to the interests and needs of each group and prepared to answer questions and enter into dialogue with tour members.
- To provide tours flexibly according to the various events which take place in the Cathedral, and according to the varying needs of our visitors.
- To respect hourly prayers and honour requested periods of silence, and to encourage visitors to do likewise.
- In case of difficulty to seek support from the visitor's office, particularly if a dispute or inappropriate behaviour should occur by a visitor, or any form of danger to individuals or to the building becomes apparent. Guides should not enter into arguments with visitors and should refer matters to Visitor Services.
- To effectively use the communication radio, enabling contact with Visitors Services, the Shop and Virgers and others.



## Expectations

- Volunteers are representatives of the Cathedral and should at all times treat other volunteers, staff and visitors with respect and consideration. Volunteers should expect the same treatment in return.
- To dress and conduct themselves appropriately for the environment in which they are assisting.
- Volunteers are expected to notify their Manager if they are unable to attend for their volunteering session.
- Respect and maintain confidentiality.
- To be familiar with the Cathedral Health and Safety Policy, Fire Procedures, other emergency procedures and the Safeguarding Policy.

## Training

All volunteers must undergo

- Safeguarding Training - Basic Awareness
- A higher level maybe required depending on the role

Induction training which will include:

- Health & Safety
- Fire
- Security
- First Aid (role dependant)

## Safeguarding

The Cathedral is committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### **Safeguarding responsibilities:**

- Implement safe and healthy working practices
- Risk assess all activities
- Listen to other workers and volunteers
- Protect yourself
- Tell the Cathedral Safeguarding Officer or Clergy of any safeguarding concerns, however minor.
- Attend any Safeguarding training at the appropriate level for your role.

Please Do	Please Do Not
<p>Report all concerns about safety or well-being of an individual to the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your team leader</li><li>• The Cathedral Safeguarding Lead</li><li>• The Police (where there is an immediate risk of harm to a person)</li><li>• Keep a written record of all incidents or disclosure (signed and dated)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offer confidentiality when you have a duty to report all concerns for safety</li><li>• Investigate disclosure; simply get clarification of detailed and report the information shared</li></ul>

## **Benefits**

- Active participation in the life of the Cathedral
- Excellent training, including access to experts and specialists
- Meeting and sharing knowledge with visitors from across the world
- Skills and CV development
- Access to 2 of the 10 free tickets allocated to Volunteers per Cathedral organised event on a first come first serve basis
- 10% discount in the Cathedral Shop, Café and Ten Fifty.
- A complimentary drink in the Café during each volunteering session.





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## How to apply

Please complete the application form, available on our website at:

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/support-us/volunteer-with-us/>

For an informal conversation about this role please email:

[volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

Applications can be sent by email or post to:

Catherine Escott, Chief Operating Officer, 1 The Cloisters, Exeter, EX1 1HS

Email: [volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

Application Deadline: 5pm on Friday 27 February 2026.

Thank you for your interest in this role.

We look forward to hearing from you!