



***Opus Anglicanum* Embroidery Project Volunteer**

SUPERVISION: Chairman - Mrs Diana Symes

TIME COMMITMENT: To meet once a week for a three-hour session, over an 8-10-month period.

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

- Exeter Cathedral is taking part in a historic Opus Anglicanum embroidery project sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Upholders in London. The purpose of this role is to use the traditional craft techniques taught by the Tapisers to create a textile masterpiece called 'The Circle of Life'. The project aims to teach enthusiasts new skills, allowing this rare craft to be passed on for future generations. This is a unique opportunity to be involved in a once-in-a-lifetime project with teams from 12 Cathedrals across England.

What is Opus Anglicanum?

- Opus Anglicanum is Latin for 'English work', describing the luxurious embroideries made in Medieval England from gold, silver and silk thread. English needlework was considered the best in Europe during the 13th and 14th centuries for its intricate style and technical craftsmanship. The Circle of Life will be the most significant piece of Opus Anglicanum embroidery produced since the Fishmongers Pall in 1530.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

- To be enthusiastic about needlecrafts
- To have a knowledge of basic stitching techniques or be willing to learn.
- To have good eyesight
- To enjoy working with others as part of a team
- To have a positive, friendly and helpful attitude
- To be willing to learn and take advice from the group leader
- Able to use initiative and judgement regarding needlework projects

DUTIES

- To attend on a weekly basis for the length of the project.
- To carry out assigned and agreed duties.
- To be aware of security risks at all times, including unattended items and the safety of your own possessions and to notify Cathedral staff of any perceived risk immediately.

EXPECTATIONS:

- To be representatives of the Cathedral and 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 and to wear Cathedral identification whilst on duty

- 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

Induction training which will include

- Health & Safety
- Fire
- Security

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 Rep or Clergy of any safeguarding concerns, however minor.
- Attend any Safeguarding training at the appropriate level for your role
- Induct and train others where this is possible.

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report all concerns about the safety or well-being of an individual to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Cathedral Safeguarding Representatives • the Diocesan Safeguarding Team • the Police (where there is an immediate risk of harm to a person) • Carry out a personal risk assessment for lone working (where applicable) • Keep a written record of all incidents or disclosures (signed and dated) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer confidentiality when you have a duty to report all concerns for safety • Investigate disclosures; simply get clarification of details and report the information shared

BENEFITS:

- Opportunity to develop skills through volunteering.
- Meeting and sharing knowledge with others.
- Opportunity to contribute to a high-profile project.
- Satisfaction in helping the local community and maintaining our heritage.
- Excellent high-profile entry for a CV where appropriate.
- Being appreciated and valued.
- A free drink in the café when on duty.
- Invitation to the grand unveiling of the 'Circle of Life' in London Guildhall with travel expenses covered. The 'Circle of Life' will then tour around 12 English Cathedrals.