

BUSINESS GUILD DINNER

The Rochester Cathedral Business Guild are having their annual Business Networking Dinner in the Crypt on 19 February 2009 at 7pm.

The evening will start with a champagne reception in the South Transept followed by a silver service dinner in the Crypt. There will be plenty of networking opportunity so any one that would like to attend with their clients and suppliers will be very welcome.

Lord Astor of Hever is our host for the evening, and the Right Rev'd Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester will be presenting a talk called "Amoral, Immoral or Moral; is ethics in business possible? Tickets for the event are £75 each and a whole table of 8 can be reserved if necessary. Contact the Development Office to reserve your place.



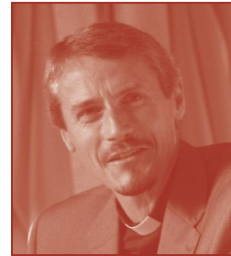
BEACON

The regular newsletter of the development of Rochester Cathedral

January 2009

From the Dean's desk

Waiting for No-one



The new year is here again so soon, and time waits for no-one. It recently struck me with some force that I have been here for four years. When I arrived here, a recent Quinquennial Report was fairly hot off the press and it formed the basis of a lot of the fabric work that we had to fund through the campaign. Looking back it's good to see how much has been achieved over the past few years, but now the latest Quinquennial Report is about to land on my desk and inevitably new challenges are coming to light. This is the nature of looking after mediaeval buildings – however much work you do on the building, things keep needing attention.

At a time when the credit crunch is making it far harder to raise money from businesses, trusts and individuals, and when the increase in public debt means that even the limited English Heritage grants for cathedrals are going to disappear, we are entering very challenging times for the Cathedral's fundraising. Your support and ideas become even more crucial at a time like this. Thank you for all that the supporters of Rochester Cathedral do to help us – I appreciate it more than words can say.

I do wish you all an extremely happy new year filled with love and laughter.





All the very best,

Adrian Newman

NEWS JUST IN!

The Cathedral has been awarded £123,000 from the Wolfson Foundation and English Heritage towards much-needed repairs for the Treasury roof and associated high-level masonry works. The full cost of the project is £¼ million and we will be looking at potential sources of match funding in order to carry out this work in the next financial year.

DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

21st March 2009 7.30pm	Murder Mystery: Please note that due to Chapter commitments the date has changed for this event. The venue is now confirmed at St Williams Church Hall in Walderslade. We are all looking forward to seeing members of our Chapter performing in this play. Cast list to follow!!!!	
23rd March 2009 9.00am	Golf Society Day: The wonderful golf course at Hever Castle Golf Club together with their Dining room is the venue for The Rochester Cathedral Trust's Golf Day. Each team will consist of four players. To keep the game moving only the best two scores to count at each hole. The competition will be followed by lunch, raffle and prize giving. The day will end at approximately 3.30pm. We only have room for 18 teams of 4 people each. Entry fee will be £150 per person or £500 per team of 4. Contact the Development Office for further information on 01634 810074.	
18th April 2009 7.00pm	QUIZ NIGHT: Our Trustee, Diana Paul is arranging a Quiz night at the Kippington Hall in Sevenoaks at 7pm on Saturday 18 April 2009. If you would like to go along or can organise a team of 8, please call her on 01959 563617 for further details.	
16th May 2009 7.30pm	Kent Police Male Voice Choir in Concert with Dan Soper (Organ): We are thrilled to host a performance of this choir in the Cathedral Nave at 7.30pm. Further details to follow.	

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our fund raising events. Please contact Lynne in the Development Office (01634 810074) if you have some spare time or energy!

A Magnificent Heritage

There has been Christian worship at Rochester for over 1400 years. Today many thousands of people each year come here to enjoy the beautiful surroundings; to listen to uplifting music; to take part in activities or to join in worshipping God in this very special place.

The Building and life of Rochester Cathedral would not exist as we know it today if it were not for the generosity of men and women down the ages who, by gifts and endowments, have left us such a magnificent legacy. If we want to leave a similar legacy to future generations we need to follow their example.

It is not just the Great and the Good who can leave something behind for future generations. Everyone should make a Will and most of us can use our Will to do something wonderful for those who will come after us.



"We did say we would give, maybe. It's time we put it in writing"

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NEWSLETTER DESIGN: Our sincere thanks go to Billie Wootton of innov8 graphic design for the very generous offer of her expertise with the Beacon layout. For your design needs, please visit www.innov8gd.com

FUND RAISING TOTAL THIS FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE:

£130,255.37

PLEASE DONATE NOW

By phoning 01634 810074 or go to www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust

Chorister Outreach Project

Having only been in post for a matter of months it is a real thrill to announce that we have successfully applied for and received a grant of nearly £30,000 from the Government to run a Singing Outreach Project on behalf of the Choir Schools Association and Sing-Up. The project lasts for two terms in the first instance and will see us delivering a singing programme in fourteen schools throughout Medway and into Kent.

To lead the project we have appointed a Choral Animateur, Suzie Vango who is a young, lively and talented teacher of singing with a proven track record in communicating a love of singing and enthusing children. Each school will be visited nine times by Suzie and will also have a workshop/concert presentation from the Cathedral Choir. In the school visits, the children will be introduced to a wide range of repertoire in preparation for a final concert in which all the schools visited that term will be brought together in the Cathedral.

Each cluster will perform to the others, as well as all of the children singing together alongside the Cathedral Choir. There will also be a fun demonstration of the Cathedral organ!

The other part of the project offers a programme of continuing professional development for staff at the participating schools in an effort to empower them in using singing as part of their everyday classroom life and to hopefully give longer life to the work that we will have done.

An exciting and busy time is ahead!

Scott Farrell

SCRABBLE Mary and Owen Woodfield have raised £1,060 throughout 2008 for their Scrabble evenings and we would like to thank both Mary and Owen, as well as everyone who came along to play. What a great effort!



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

We would like to thank all the various people who worked hard over the Christmas period with fund raising.

Firstly, Anne and John Sears for all their efforts over the sales of "Rochester Remembers".

Over £2,500 has been raised so far and sales are continuing. We were also very fortunate to have Mr Henry Sandon in the Cathedral on Christmas Eve who very kindly signed personal copies of the book. Thank you to David Sandon for arranging this visit.

Sugina Hesketh and George Poku have been working very hard on the sales of the Sunday Club calendar thank you so much.

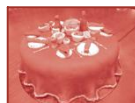
Thank you to Eileen Coleman who made and raffled a Christmas cake and held an afternoon tea in her home and raised £95.

Another fabulous Christmas cake made and raffled was by Helen Bannister (manager in our Tea Rooms). Tina Clark was the lucky winner and she has sent in a photo. Our thanks to Helen, her raffle raised £108.

The Community Christmas card raised over £100 which was a great start. We hope that next year we can get more people to participate, while we raise more and stay "green". Thank you to all who participated.

Christine Hubbard very kindly donated funds she raised from Carol singing.

Thank you so much to all these people, and indeed everyone that works so hard to help us.



Gifts

Since our last Beacon we have received £51,255 in gifts. £28,000 was from the Choir School Association (see article by Scott Farrell for more information) for our Chorister Outreach programme. £5,000 was received from D O'ly Carte Charitable Trust and is dedicated to the Music Outreach programme. A further contribution to the Music Endowment was received from Gads Hill School in the sum of £3,300. The balance of gifts received were for the John Bromley Davenport performance of "A Christmas Carol brought to us by our Trustee The Hon. Mrs Robin Denison-Pender; sales of Rochester Remembers; The Auction; Missa Carolae CD sales; Sunday Club calendars, Community Christmas card, Carol singing and donations towards the Cathedral Golf Day being held in March 09.

Rochester Remembers Book Launch

The book sales got off to a great start at the end of November and to date we have reached over £2,500 mainly due to the hard work of John and Anne Sears. The response to the book has been fabulous, and people have been very moved by the memories evoked. It has to be mentioned that this book could not have been compiled without all the contributors making the effort to write down their memories. Thanks also to our printing sponsors, Bactec International Ltd, The Waterhouse Group and Eon at Kingsnorth Power Station.



Pictured above at the Book Launch in November are Ted Chambers and the late Chris Chambers who sadly passed away in December. Our sincere condolences go to all the family and friends.

Ancient Stones Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project

Interpretation Project Update



It was a busy end to 2008 as we submitted the required documentation to gain the necessary permissions from the various committees who over-see the care of the Cathedral's Fabric and interests.

The good news is that these proposals were approved which means we have now moved onto the next stages of the various elements of the Interpretation Plan!

Audio-guides and audio visual

The proposed storylines for the General and Family tours have been reviewed by the Steering Group, Chapter and the Education Department and work is now continuing on the actual scripts. The groups of Consultant Cathedral Guides have commented on the General tour first draft and their comments were worked into a second draft which is now being reviewed by Chapter.

A similar process will take place with the Family Tour and it is anticipated that production will begin by the end of January.

ATS have been on site to further refine the locations of the projectors and trouble shoot potential Fabric issues. They continue to work closely with the Cathedral architect, the Vergers and the Steering group to ensure that the best possible results are achieved. They are also working on a system to enable easy allocation of the handsets to our visitors which is great for the Welcomers!

Graphic Design

The new Graphic Styling and the designs for the Interpretation Panels and external signage have been approved. The Cutting Edge is now working the actual content into their proposed signs and these will need to go to the FAC and then to Chapter for final sign-off before production can begin.

Proposed lay-outs for the new Guide book and leaflets have been submitted and reviewed by the Steering Group. Work is continuing on the development of the text and the new photography will take place at some time in January.

Furniture

Having received approval from the CFCE and the FAC for the proposals for the new Reception Desk, the next stage is to hone the fine detail. This will be the exact shade of material to be used for construction, the exact situation within the North Transept, even how many power sockets will be required!

West and North Doors

Invitations to tender for this work went out late in 2008, and I am pleased to announce that Berwicks have been awarded the contract. We continue to aim for completion of the new entrances by Easter.

Volunteers

Following a successful 'trial' open morning for new recruits in November, a second is planned for 14th February 2009. We offer interested parties a guided tour, a short presentation with some refreshment and an opportunity to ask questions. If you know anyone who is interested in volunteering with us and who might want to come please put them in touch with Annie on 84 33 66 or annie.harvey@rochester-cathedral.org to put their name down or find out more!

Annie Harvey Interpretation Manager

PLEASE NOTE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS
01634 810074

First Lesson Murder!

Calling all amateur sleuths Why not join us on Sat 21st March at St William's Church, Walderslade for a fun evening of drama and detecting.

Gerald Bosworth is the newly appointed Head of Fulmington School for Boys. During an inspection visit from Chair of Governors Lady Hermione Atwell-Dupont, relationships with his staff come to a head. Can he control his over ambitious Deputy Euphemia Primsbottom? Is his mousey secretary Miss Rustington reliable? Is caretaker Arthur Crank on really his side? Will energetic PE teacher Roger Flashnet ever calm down? And just who is that new boy Rupert Ranger? Everyone seems to have a secret. Mr Bosworthy is about to find out that working at Fulmington can be murder!

An all star cast featuring The Very Rev Adrian Newman, Canon Jean Kerr, Catherine Staziker, Colin Tolhurst, Liz Simmons, Canon Phil Hesketh and Canon Neil Thompson come together for a unique performance.

Tickets £10 include a light supper. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. Doors open 7.30 for a prompt 8pm start. Contact 01634n810074 for tickets.