

# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



### From the Dean's desk

As this edition of the Beacon arrives with you I'm well in to my plans for a sabbatical, which I'm taking from May to July. I was ordained 25 years ago, in 1985 - the year that the Church of England produced its seminal report about urban deprivation, Faith In The City. I'm going to be looking at the ways in which the Church is still engaged with urban ministry around the country, and asking if the flame of our commitment to some of the toughest parts of our cities is still burning brightly.

It was Archbishop William Temple who is attributed with saying that the church is the only organisation in the world that exists solely for the benefit of its non-members. It's a challenging saying, but it reminds me that all of the projects and work that we fund here have to serve a higher purpose - ultimately we're not raising money for the Cathedral, but to liberate the Cathedral to best serve its community.

So I will be thinking of you while I'm away, as I recharge my batteries and re-connect with the core purpose for the Church, Rochester Cathedral, and my own ministry. As you will have seen from elsewhere in the Beacon, as well as doing something for my mind and my spirit while I'm away, I'm going to set my body a challenge too - cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats. Support me if you can - it would be great if 1000 people could sponsor me 1p per mile, which is a tenner for the whole 1000 miles.

See you later in the Summer!

*Adrian Newman*

### UPDATE ON BUILDING WORKS - TREASURY ROOF

You will have noticed the presence of scaffolding in the south west corner of the cathedral to allow for the removal of the old heating flue. Once this has been done, the wall will be lime-washed ready to take the new Royal Engineers memorial. Scaffolding is also being installed, externally, on the north east corner of the Cathedral to allow for much needed repairs to the treasury roof and the masonry around the windows. I expect the scaffolding to be in situ for some months and I hope repairs will be finished in the summer.  
*Colin Tolhurst.*

### TUDOR GATE FUNDING

The Tudor Gate is positioned in the railings enclosing the Cloister Garth to the south of the Cathedral and is badly in need of conservation and repair. The door frame is believed to be late 15th or early 16th century.

We have been in touch with a Consultant in the conservation of Joinery who drew up a report on the condition of the gate and gave us a suggested action plan. The door frame is seriously decayed, mostly due to rain and damp, as is the surrounding brickwork. The actual door is not Tudor and is made of modern timber hung on modern strap hinges of pseudo 12th/13th century style. We intend to replace this wooden door with a wrought iron gate that can reflect the railing design. This will reinstate the focus on the frame rather than the woodwork as a doorway.

Funding applications are being made and we will let you know in future issues of Beacon how we get on!



TOTAL FOR YEAR ENDING 06 APRIL 2010:

# £214,000.21

PLEASE HELP US AND DONATE NOW By phoning 01634 810074 or go to: [www.justgiving.com/rochester-cathedral-trust](http://www.justgiving.com/rochester-cathedral-trust)

## Rochester Cathedral Business Guild

Our Business Guild is chaired by John A Spence DL a Trustee and Chair of the Cathedral Council. The Rt Hon the Lord Astor of Hever DL is our patron.

Plans for the new financial year are well underway. The third Annual Dinner has been planned for Tuesday 27th April in the Crypt, and we are delighted to have Lord Carey of Clifton (former Archbishop of Canterbury) and his wife Eileen, join us as our special guests. Lord Carey will give an after dinner talk entitled "Challenges of our Times". If you would like to attend this dinner and perhaps bring along some business associates or clients, please contact the Development Office for tickets.

The planned programme of Events for the Business Guild is as follows:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Breakfast meeting (Chatham Historic Dockyard)                 | 23 June  |
| Rochester Cathedral Golf Day (Hever Castle Golf Club)         | 3 Sept   |
| Seminar at Historic Dockyard                                  | 30 Sept  |
| Members and Guests Reception (Bridge Chambers)                | 9 Nov    |
| Classic FM Concert and Champagne Reception                    | 15 Dec   |
| Christmas Carol Service (Ticketed)                            | 21 Dec   |
| 4th Annual Business Guild Dinner in Rochester Cathedral Crypt | Mar 2011 |

If you would like to become a member of the Business Guild, either individually or by nominating your company, please contact us for details on email [development@rochester-cathedral.org](mailto:development@rochester-cathedral.org)



John A Spence



Lord Astor of Hever

## Paul Spooner-Lillingston – London Marathan

Paul Spooner-Lillingston, father of one of our boy choristers, is running the London Marathon this year in support of Rochester Cathedral's boys choir and the Heart of Kent Hospice. Here he writes about his reason for doing so.

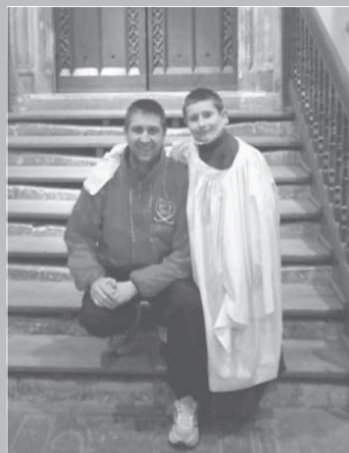
"...Whilst attending Evensong I was struck by the following thought.

Here are around 16 boys and their mentors working their hearts out to achieve excellence - including miniscule detail – away from the glare and the 'glitz' of huge numbers of public audience; this would have

gone on at this standard had we not been there and it was a true team effort. So why mention it here, then? Well, it reminded me that everything that the choir do every day of the year, in all its detail, and however unseen by those outside, is in so many ways just as important as the 'big stage' showcase events – it is of course the former that makes the latter so successful..."

Although my late father's stay in the Hospice was very short, the care and attention he received during that time made his passing very peaceful and easier for my mother and our family to accept. We, too, are very grateful for the care shown to us by everyone at the Hospice. With this year being the 10th anniversary of my father's passing I felt that this was a great opportunity to thank them as well as provide the team of professionals and volunteers who provide specialist palliative care to the people of Maidstone and the surrounding local communities with much needed funding."

Please go to [www.rochester-cathedral.org/development/newsandevents](http://www.rochester-cathedral.org/development/newsandevents) to download a sponsor form



Our Development Officer, Lynne Egide, has been studying for the last 18 months, working towards attaining her certificate in Fund Raising Management. We have been officially advised that she has passed this qualification and has now been upgraded to full membership of the Institute of Fundraising. Well done Lynne!

**Adrian Newman**

## Leviathan with a Fish-hook

Local author Sue Russell will be talking about her Christian novel 'Leviathan with a Fish-hook' at the Baptist Hall, Crow Lane, Rochester on Saturday 10 July 2010 at 7 p.m.

There will be a buffet supper and drinks, followed by an interview with the author, a brief reading, and the opportunity to buy a signed copy.

Books are priced at £9.99 each, and for every book sold on the evening £1 will be donated to the Cathedral Development Fund.

Tickets at £7.50 will be available from the Development Office 01634 810074, [development@rochester-cathedral.org](mailto:development@rochester-cathedral.org) or [sue-russell@talktalk.net](mailto:sue-russell@talktalk.net)

# Ancient Stones – Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project



You may be forgiven for thinking that the installation of the glass doors signals the end of the HLF project. Well, you'd be wrong! In fact, in many ways the most important work is being developed and delivered as we speak – and will continue to do so for the next two years. 'What work is this?' I hear you cry. Let us elaborate...



In January members of an art group run by local artist Wendy Daws and funded by Kent Association of the Blind (KAB) began a six week 'residency' in the Cathedral. The group members, all of whom are retired and with a variety of degrees of visual impairment

have been using the Cathedral as inspiration for their work which includes photography, drawing and sculpture. They will return in the summer for a further stint. We are aiming to

create an interactive 'trail' of their work, exhibited at various sites around the Cathedral environs during October. This coincides with the national festival The Big Draw, which aims to raise awareness of the many types of drawing and the methods which can be used. The KAB art project will seek to challenge the need for 20/20 vision to create interesting, engaging, interpretative work and will explore notions of drawing other than with pencil and paper.

At the opposite end of the age scale, in February the Education Department held a Family Fun Day for children from the age of 18 months to 80 years plus! Visitors that day were able to take part in a variety of activities – from making a mitre, brass rubbing, Morris dancing and parachute games, through to heraldry and a bracelet workshop run by the Sunday Club. Our Special guest for the day was Eggie the Eagle – who had flown in especially from her new roost in the treasury roof scaffolding to meet some of her fans. She seems to have enjoyed the day as much as the children and all in all it was a fantastic day with over 500 visitors between 10am and 2pm, half of which were young people.

**Annie Harvey**  
Interpretation Manager

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

## MACBETH

MOPA Theatre Company will be performing Shakespeare's Macbeth in the stunning setting of Rochester Cathedral.



This unique production will bring alive the religious imagery and metaphors of the play in ways that are simply not possible in a secular context. It is guaranteed to entertain, provoke thought and reveal a layer of the text that is rarely exposed in a theatre.

The production will be touring to a small number of churches and cathedrals following its Manchester Cathedral premiere on 20th May 2010. It will be performed in Rochester Cathedral at 7.30 on the 28th May.

Tickets cost: Adults £12 Children/Concession £8

Drinks will be served in the interval

MOPA's production will demonstrate the play's power and meaning as a morality play about the eternal battle of man and society against the forces of evil. It is akin to the Everyman tale. The production captures the imagination of a wide audience and communicates what is perceived to be the deeply moral message of the play. To this end the aim is to perform the play in Church and Cathedral settings, where the setting will highlight and enrich the moral themes.

Tickets available from The Development Office  
01634 810074

[development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

## JOHN O'GROATS TO LAND'S END



For those of you that are not aware of this, in July the Very Rev'd Adrian Newman, Dean of Rochester is cycling alone from John O'Groats to Land's End. His route will take him on a 1,000 mile journey which he will do over the course of two weeks.

He is doing this as part of a sabbatical, and in order to raise money to support the Cathedral's music tradition. Someone once described Choral Evensong as "the greatest free show on Earth". The reality is that it is free but far from cheap, and Cathedral music is in danger of disappearing from the English cultural landscape without a significant injection of funding. He hopes that 1,000 people will sponsor him a penny a mile for 1,000 miles – this will only cost £10 but will enable him to hit his target of £10,000 in total.

Adrian says, "Ever since I was a boy, and my eldest brother walked from Land's End to John O'Groats, I've had an ambition to do something similar. I've decided to add a bit to the traditional length of the ride in order to make it into a 1000-mile challenge. I know it won't be easy, but the physical challenge is part of the attraction for me. And I'm very pleased that I can raise money along the way towards keeping the musical tradition at Rochester Cathedral alive".

For further information or a sponsor form please visit [www.rochestercathedral.org/development/newsandevents.asp](http://www.rochestercathedral.org/development/newsandevents.asp)

[www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust](http://www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust)

Or email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)









## NEWSFLASH: TEXTUS ROFFENSIS comes home...

Rochester Cathedral is delighted to announce that the Textus Roffensis will be on public display this summer for the first time since 2004. It is a rare opportunity to view this fascinating text.

Textus Roffensis is a Rochester Cathedral book of the early 12th century that holds some of the most significant legal texts issued by England's various early medieval kingdoms going back to the laws of King Æthelbert of Kent (c. 604). It also preserves abundant records from one of England's earliest episcopal sees. A conference will be held from 25th – 27th July and will gather, for the first time, work in the disciplines of history, English, linguistics, political science and codicology in order to address the context for the creation of Textus Roffensis, the language of its texts, English laws and their legal, political, and cultural agendas, the relationship of the Church and royal government, and the legacy of the book and its texts. There will be featured talks by Martin Brett (University of Cambridge), Nicholas Brooks (University of Birmingham), Carole Hough (University of Glasgow), Mary Richards (University of Delaware); a private tour of Rochester Cathedral; and a private exhibition of Textus Roffensis itself and Rochester and Canterbury Cathedral papers of the same period. Michael Wood, broadcaster and historian of early medieval England, will deliver a public lecture on the legacy of Textus Roffensis.

Please contact Kenneth Fincham on [K.C.Fincham@kent.ac.uk](mailto:K.C.Fincham@kent.ac.uk) for more information.

## DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| 16 April 2010    | <p><b>Corpse in the Crypt</b> – Alternate Shadows production of the Puzzle Murder Mystery. Tickets £6 for a performance in the Cathedral at 7.30pm on 16 April.</p> <p>“Watch the events leading up to the murder, ask questions to the suspects and see if you can solve the murder!”</p> <p>Complimentary interval drinks. Tickets available from 01634 810074<br/><a href="mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org">development@rochestercathedral.org</a></p>   |    |
| 28 May 2010      | <p><b>Macbeth</b> – MOPA Theatre Company will be putting on a performance of Shakespeare's Macbeth, in the Nave. Their production will demonstrate the play's power and meaning as a morality play about the eternal battle of man and society against the forces of evil. MOPA would like to ensure that their production captures the imagination of a wide audience and communicates what they perceive to be the deeply moral message of the play and are performing the play in Church and Cathedral settings throughout the UK, where the setting will highlight and enrich the moral themes. Their series of performances starts in Manchester Cathedral on 20th May. Tickets available from the Development office at £12 adults / £8 concession.</p> |   |
| July 2010        | <p><b>“Penny for Them”</b> - As part of his Sabbatical this Summer, the Dean is going to cycle a 1,000 mile route from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising money to support the Cathedral's music. We hope that 1,000 people will sponsor him a penny a mile for 1,000 miles – this will only cost you £10 but will enable Adrian to hit his target of £10,000 in total. We are a quarter of the way there already – thank you so much. Please contact Development Office for sponsor forms or donate on-line at <a href="http://www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust">www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust</a></p>  |  |
| 28 July 2010     | <p>The Summer Cheese and Wine in Kings Orchard will be held again this year in the Marquee. We are very pleased that The Balgores Band will be entertaining us once more with their folk music, together with Steve O'Kane.</p> <p>More information to follow on this event.</p>  |  |
| 3 September 2010 | <p><b>Golf Day</b> - We are delighted to hold our 2nd annual Golf Day once again at Hever Castle Golf Club. Reservations and further information available from Development Office on 01634 810074</p>  |  |
| 5 September 2010 | <p>Come on Ladies!!! Don't forget to diarise the date for the Women's 5km Run/Walk in Hyde Park. We would love you to join the team. Race T shirts supplied and a coach will be available so you can relax all the way there! This is such a nice day out for the family and a great way to raise some money for the cathedral. Sponsorship forms available from the Development Office.</p>  |  |

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 and would like to be involved.

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