



# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

December 2010



The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



### From the Dean's desk

#### A Timeless Christmas Gift

Just over 3 years ago when Mary Smith died, she left a wonderful gift to Rochester Cathedral in her will - the family small-holding in Shorne, called Barratts Folly.

This October it was sold at auction for £370,000, and this extraordinary gift has been applied to support the Cathedral's music – as a 10 year reducing fund with the balance of the money going to the music endowment at the end of 10 years.

Mary Smith was confirmed here before the 2nd World War, and her association with the Cathedral was such that

she wanted to make a bequest in her will. As a small way of recognising Mary's gift to us we have established an Endowed Day of Music in her honour in November each year, on the date of her birthday.

This lovely gift demonstrates the way in which a bequest can make a substantial difference to the Cathedral. Enclosed with this issue of the Beacon are details of how to leave a legacy. It represents an unusual Christmas Gift which costs you nothing for the time being but endows the Cathedral with a timeless gift at some stage in the future.

At this time of year when our minds turn to the gift of Christ to the world, I wish you a very Happy Christmas

Adrian Newman



### Annual Choir Concert

On November 12th we were very pleased to present The Rochester Cathedral Choir in a concert entitled "Remembering – A Celebration in Song". The singing was beautiful and it was wonderful to hear the Choir outside of a Sunday service. Our thanks go to The Choir and Lay Clerks, Scott Farrell and Sam Rathbone for their fantastic effort. Thanks also go to Roger Sayer who played the organ so magnificently for the performance. We appreciate so much all the support of these people giving their time to help us raise funds for Cathedral music.

This will become an annual event and will take place each November. We got off to a brilliant start and look forward to next year.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our supporters a very happy and blessed Christmas with a very peaceful New Year



NEW PLEDGES FROM 1ST APRIL 2010:

# £996,645.44

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)

## New Chairman for the Trust



Rochester Cathedral Trust is delighted to announce that a new Chairman was appointed at the last Trustee meeting at The House of Lords in November. The Trustees welcomed Mr Michael Aiken as the new Chair replacing the retiring Lord Astor of Hever.

### Michael Aiken

Following commissioned army infantry service in his early twenties Michael entered the business world; achieving senior appointments in both the leisure and shipping industries. Latterly, he became Principal Shareholder and Chief Executive of Wightlink Shipping Ltd but has now retired. Michael is Chairman of The Mary Rose Trust, The Aiken Foundation and Tall Ships Ltd, a Board Member of Tall Ships (Youth) Trust and The Historic Dockyard Trust in Portsmouth, and a Council Member of The Prince's Trust in the South East. He has been a Trustee of The Leadership Trust since 1985. Michael is a keen and experienced yachtsman.

### Who are the Cathedral Trustees?

Mrs Carolyn Bartholomew  
Mrs Jean Callebaut  
The Hon Mrs Clare Denison-Pender  
Mr Eifron Hopper  
Mr Nick Hely-Hutchinson  
Very Revd Adrian Newman  
Mrs Diana Paul  
Mr John A Spence, OBE, DL  
Mr Rory Sutherland  
Canon Precentor Neil Thompson  
Mr Allan Willett CMG  
Mr Peter Beesley – Trust Secretary

# thank you

We would like to thank the Trust Consultant Bishop Michael Turnbull (who stood down in November) for his many years service to the Trust and his invaluable support.

For further information on the Trust or Trustees, please contact the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

## Raising Money for Family Fun Days

Peter Owen Jones is an Anglican clergyman based in Firle, East Sussex. He has presented many programmes for the BBC including "Around the World in 80 Faiths", "How to Live a Simple Life" and "Extreme Pilgrim". Peter is also an author and will be visiting Rochester Cathedral on 8th February to lead an evening of readings and reflections based on his bestselling book, "Letters From an Extreme Pilgrim – Reflections on Life, Love and the Soul." Ticket information on back page.

Excerpt from the Sunday Times 31st December 2007



## A pilgrim's physical progress

Graham Hoyland

Who's the bravest vicar in Britain? My money's on Peter Owen Jones. No typical sherry-sipper, this man started as a farm labourer and ran a mobile disco on the side.

He then moved into advertising, but heard the Call and became vicar of a parish in Cambridgeshire.

Now, 15 years later, he feels that the Church of England is too much a faith of the head and not enough a faith of the soul. So he set off on a quest in search of a more physical and mystical path to enlightenment.

# Ancient Stones – Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project



Autumn into Advent – A Time of New Arrivals and Angels.

A big welcome to our newest team member! Debra McGee took on the mantle of Interpretation Manager on 15th November and is coping valiantly with getting to grips with life at the Cathedral.

Snow has once again caused chaos in the Education Department. At the start of the year our newly planned Brownie Badge Day had to be cancelled when Rochester became snowbound. The recent flurries have caused more disruption to our programme with the cancellation of Christmas Activity Days aimed at 4 – 7 year olds.

This newest venture involves a whole day of Christmas activities. Pupils are met by the innkeeper's wife who introduces the Christmas story. They then explore the theme further through a variety of workshops. By dancing like angels, designing Christmas themed windows, creating journey music, composing carols and going on a nativity treasure hunt in the Nave children have a chance to engage with the story of Christmas. The day concludes as we retell the story forming a live nativity tableau.

Education volunteers enjoyed an interactive day of training for these new activities....yes, many of them did

take up the challenge of performing the angel dance in the Cathedral and hidden talents came to light as we composed and sang in the crypt!

The Christmas activities were taken out to Warren Wood Primary school in late November, but snow has since disrupted the programme leading to the cancellation of Cathedral based activities and possible further outreach days. One school due to visit the Cathedral in December has asked if they can reschedule to visit in early January where our Christmas activities will take on more of an Epiphany theme.

**Helen Bradshaw**



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



## EMAIL REQUEST

To those of you that are online ..... Would you like us to email your copy of Beacon to you in future? Besides being greener, there is a cost saving too!

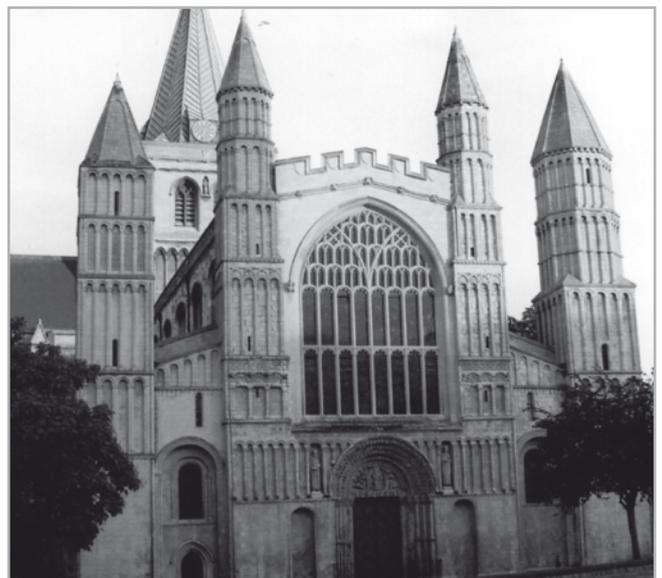
Please email to [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org) and you will be added to the distribution list.

## Reception At The Bridge Chamber, Esplanade

The Business Guild held a reception at the Bridge Trust Chambers on the Esplanade on 9th November at 7pm. This was a really interesting evening with a difference. Over a canapé reception Sue Threader from the Bridge Trust and Bob Ratcliffe from the City of Rochester Society gave a co-ordinated presentation on the comparative history of the Cathedral and the Bridge. Our thanks to the Rochester Bridge Trust for their hospitality. Funds raised by the Rochester Cathedral Business Guild support the Cathedral's outreach in Music and Education.



Rochester Bridge



Rochester Cathedral



# Passing on your Christian heritage

Rochester Cathedral has always played a very special part in the lives of people in this part of the country. For centuries it has been a place of pilgrimage, where strangers are welcomed. It has always been the spiritual heart and soul of our community, where regular worshippers and casual visitors alike have been able to draw closer to God, through music and liturgy; through art and architecture or just by sitting and listening.

Now, as Rochester faces a time of change and growth, we have an exciting opportunity to play a significant part in the community and to engage with the real needs of the people around us.

From the very beginning, when King Ethelred donated the land on which the cathedral was built, the cathedral has depended upon the generosity of men and women whose gifts and legacies made possible first the building of the cathedral, and then the growth and development of its mission.

In more recent times, legacies have made possible many major projects such as the repairs to the Treasury roof and the work on the North and West doors that has made such a difference to the welcome people receive when they visit Rochester. Gifts in Wills have also helped to secure Rochester's musical tradition and supported our work with thousands of children and young people.

As we go forward, through the twenty-first century and beyond, we will have to rely more and more on such personal generosity. If we are to meet the challenges of providing a safe, welcoming and accessible building with a no charge for entry policy, making the cathedral a centre of musical excellence for the whole community and continuing to welcome visitors, young and old, we need people to continue to give.

When we look at the rich heritage of somewhere such as Rochester, it would be very easy to think that leaving a legacy is something that only very rich people do. That couldn't be further from the truth. Up and down the land many thousands of people each year decide that, after making sure their families and friends are provided for, they will leave something to support a cause or a place they have loved. They want to see the work live on and they want to be part of that work.

If Rochester Cathedral is a place that is close to your heart, and you would like to ensure that the things that are important to you live on, please contact Lynne Egide at Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester, ME1 1SX or email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

**Eifron Hopper**  
Trustee

## DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

27 January 2011	<p><b>Rochester Cathedral Business Guild</b> – Business Networking Breakfast at The Commissioners House, Chatham Historic Dockyard from 8am to 10am.</p> <p>Tickets £15 available from Garth House or email <a href="mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org">development@rochestercathedral.org</a></p>	
05 February 2011	<p><b>Quiz Night</b> – Book your table of 6 or individual seat for £5 each for this event at 7pm in the Cathedral. Bring your own refreshments. Raffle prize donations will be appreciated.</p>	
08 February 2011	<p><b>An Evening with Peter Owen Jones</b> – Reading letters from his best selling book "Letters from an Extreme Pilgrim – Reflections on Life, Love and the Soul"</p> <p>Join us at 7.45pm in the Cathedral Nave for this evening to raise funds for our Education Department's Family Fun Days.</p> <p>Tickets £7 from Garth House or email <a href="mailto:assistofficer@rochestercathedral.org">assistofficer@rochestercathedral.org</a></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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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](http://www.innov8gd.com)