

# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



### From the Dean's desk

#### CENSUS SENSATIONS

On 27 March the national Census is taken all across the UK. Every 10 years we allow our informational pulse to be taken and see what's changed in the preceding decade, drawing out trends

to help us match public services to the changes taking place in society.

While I sometimes feel that the modern world drowns in information, it's not a bad idea, every now and then, to take stock and see if we're sailing in the right direction. Elsewhere in this edition of The Beacon you'll see a statistical summary of what's happened over the past 5 years in the fundraising for Rochester Cathedral. It makes

for extremely encouraging reading! I doubt if many people would have thought it possible, 5 years ago, that we would be able to raise £5.1m for the Cathedral, here in the Medway Towns, at the same time as another small Cathedral down the road was launching a major campaign. Oh yes, and half of that time in the teeth of the worst recession for years. But by the grace, goodness and generosity of God (and a lot of his people) the statistics speak for themselves.

Thank you for your part in making this possible. And please help us keep the momentum going as we look ahead to the next 5 years...

Adrian Newman

### Thank You

Once again Eileen Coleman and Helen Bannister had great success with their Christmas Cake raffles and raised £42 and £88 respectively. Our grateful thanks go to both and to everyone that bought a ticket.

Congratulations to the lucky winners!

### Quiz Night

The Quiz Night was once again very well attended on 5th February and our very appreciative thanks go to all who made it possible, not least our Quiz Master, Rob Ryan and Colin Tolhurst who was Adjudicating.

Andrew Coulson did a brilliant job with the equipment and Angela Watson and her team of Stewards were so helpful.

We had some lovely raffle prizes and thanks go to Lynn Wallis-Eade, John & Anne Sears, Felicity Osborne and Rosemary Clemence. Last but not least thank you to all that attended.



### 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.

NEW PLEDGES FROM 1ST APRIL 2010:

# £1,025,999.53

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

# The clock at the cathedral has stopped!

## ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL CLOCK

The tower clock at Rochester Cathedral has been put out of commission so that work, financed by the Friends of Rochester Cathedral, can be undertaken by clock engineers Gillett and Johnston. The works will cover a range of items but fundamentally the clock and bell hammers will be removed to the Gillett and Johnston workshops for an overhaul, clean up and repairs.

The clock workings will be off site for approximately 8-10 weeks but the face of the clock will remain and the hands will be positioned at 12 o'clock. While it's in the workshop it will be rebuilt and monitored. The moving parts and bell hammers will be thoroughly cleaned and any parts that are in bad shape will be replaced. The clock will be re-built and returned to site and reinstalled.

The three motors that drive the clock will also be replaced by gear driven motors that run more efficiently; the current motors date back to the early 70's and they contain mercury so they need to be removed. Each motor has a different role to play within the operation of the clock.

One motor winds the clock up – the clock is still mechanically driven by its original method and if it wasn't for this motor someone would have to run up to the tower once a week to wind the clock up. One motor winds the springs for quarter chimes and the final motor winds the springs for the hourly strike.

When the clock returns and is up and running the quarterly and hourly strike of the bells will again be operational and make a very welcome return. The chimes have been greatly missed over Rochester.

The night silencer will also be re-instated – this is a separate unit that stops the bells from ringing overnight. In addition a pendulum regulator will be fitted to the clock. This is remotely controlled and will ensure that the clock keeps accurate time.

Unfortunately the Cathedral does not have enough funding available at the moment for any work to the dial of the clock which means the actual hands on the three faces will not be removed. This would cost a further £5,000 plus scaffolding charges, so the funding search is ongoing.

The funders of this project, The Friends of Rochester Cathedral, play a very important role in maintaining the fabric of the Cathedral.

Chairman, Mr Bob Ratcliffe said, "We are delighted to be able to fund this project and I am looking forward to hearing the bells ring out over the City after a long period of silence".

Further information available from Head Verger Colin Tolhurst on 01634 810075



**ALTERNATE  
SHADOWS**

**Alternate Shadows presents**

An All New Pyramid Puzzles Murder Mystery

**'ENIGMA'**

A Fund Raising Event with Rochester Cathedral.

There is a dead man on the cathedral floor.  
Did the Captain of the Home Guard think he was a spy?  
Then there's the lady from the tea shop. Did she kill him  
in a jealous rage, because, he was flirting with the local  
barmaid? Why was Reverend Pilbright so very distraught?  
And who was the stranger in the crypt?

This is a tough one for Insp Grimpole.

Be there to see him solve a very enigmatic mystery!

**Friday 1st April 2011**

The performance starts at 7.30pm in Rochester Cathedral  
(doors open at 7pm)

**Ticket Price £6**

Box Office:- 01634 810074 For more details:-  
email – [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

# Ancient Stones – Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project



As part of our commitment to our volunteers, staff and HLF, we have begun a series of training programmes designed to support, train and develop our skills and offer the very best we can to our visitors.

12 new guides have been interviewed and have begun an intensive training programme which started in early March, masterminded by Annie Lucas and blue badge guide supremo, Ros Hutchinson.

The two month course will involve 3 intensive 2 day sessions, a series of specialist seminars and over 120 hours of personal study to help them achieve the required level 2 accredited standard from the Institute of Tourist Guides. So don't be surprised if you see a number of people wandering around the cathedral talking to thin air, they are just practising their tour skills. Our amazing existing guide

team have been instrumental in advising what new guides need to know and have just attended our very first guides' conference. The breadth of knowledge was staggering and many interesting debates were held with lots of new things learned as well. A huge success for all those involved.

Training doesn't stop there - Day Leaders from the Welcomers team, will be attending a Welcome All training session, organised by Tourism South East, to develop best practice for welcoming our visitors who have a disability. The training will be rolled out to all Welcomers over the coming months.



**Debra McGee**  
Interpretation Manager

Over the next few months, we will also be running a signing course, to support us in working with the deaf and hard of hearing.

So, as our HLF programme comes to a close, we will ensure that we are up to date with best practice and have the very best standards possible.

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

## How much have we raised and where did it come from?

As mentioned in The Dean's editorial, we are pleased to summarise all the pledges and gifts we have received since we started our fund raising campaign.

SOURCE OF FUNDING	AMOUNT
Business	86,998.11
Individuals	763,242.57
Legacies	793,683.02
Landfill Tax	23,591.04
Parishes	63,189.36
Schools	4,639.55
Trusts & Foundations	3,026,876.81
Charitable Groups	361,905.45
Interest Received	8,765.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,132,890.93</b>
Includes Gift Aid of	94,977.89

The gifts that have been received from Businesses mostly come from The Rochester Cathedral Business Guild that is headed up by our Trustee John Spence. This Guild is made up of a group of local business people who are provided with opportunities for entertaining people who are provided with opportunities for entertaining customers, suppliers or staff in a unique setting. The Guild's networking breakfasts and Seminars attract high profile speakers (last September we were lucky enough to be able to welcome Paul Carter, Leader of KCC, to our Seminar at the Chatham Historic Dockyard) and stimulate ideas on business practice and ethics. The surplus funds from these events support the Cathedral's Music and Outreach work.

We are aware of Legacies to the value of £793,683.02. The majority of these are for the Music Endowment. We started off our campaign with a long term £5m target for the Music Endowment and it will take many years to achieve this.

Gifts from private individuals totalled £763,242.57 and are dedicated as per the wishes of the donor. What a difference ticking the box for us to be able to claim gift aid makes!

INDIVIDUAL GIFT SUMMARY	AMOUNT
Undedicated Gifts	569,484.84
Music – Running Costs	44,200.09
Music Endowment	133,370.95
Fabric	13,876.88
Education / Interpretation	2,309.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>763,242.57</b>

For the first time we made a Landfill Tax funding application and we were delighted when this was successful and conservation work was able to commence on the Roman Wall. The finished project will be launched just after Easter. (Please contact the Development Office if you would like further details on this).

Our Parishes have been fantastic and have supported us by giving generously and also by joining the 604 Society. Over £63k has been raised through the Parishes. We are so grateful as we are very aware that so many parish churches have their own fund raising issues. £4,639.55 has been received from schools for the Chair project. This is money that has been generated by the children themselves to buy plaques that name their school on the chairs.

The bulk of the gifts received and pledged to us come from Trusts and Foundations and all sorts of other Charitable Groups that are so supportive of our projects. £3,388,782.26 has been pledged or given to us by these organisations. Without all these people, organisations and businesses, Parishes, Schools and Environmental Bodies, (and indeed the tax man) we would not be able to continue our work here in delivering first and foremost a beautiful place of worship and song, but also a sought after venue offering a first class educational experience in such an inspiring historic environment.

Thank you so much to all who make it possible.

**Lynne Bax**

## Tornado Hits Cathedral!

February is normally a fairly quiet month for the education department, but 2011 has seen us involved in a whirlwind (or possibly tornado) of new initiatives made possible by HLF funding. Firstly on 8th February we hosted "An Evening with Peter Owen Jones". The inspirational Rev Owen Jones spoke briefly about his experience of spending three weeks in isolation in a cave above St Anthony's Monastery in Egypt during the making of the hit BBC programme "Extreme Pilgrim". He then read from a book of letters penned whilst in the cave. After an illuminating question and answer session Peter made himself available to sign copies of his book, "Letters from an Extreme Pilgrim" and to chat to audience members individually. The evening raised around £800 which will be used to fund free family events in 2011 and 2012.

With hardly time to catch breath we welcomed classes of 5 to 7 year olds from Sherwin Knight Infant School on Friday 11th February for a day of historical role play exploring the impact of Henry VIII on Rochester Cathedral. The children played the part of monks, pilgrims and soldiers, all in costume,



and acted out the dissolution of the monastery. Five sessions in a row left us exhausted but exhilarated!

After a good night's rest we were back in the Cathedral on the morning of Saturday 12th to run our first ever Brownie Badge Day. 60 Brownies from 7 local packs found out about baptism and communion in role play sessions, reflected with the help of interactive prayer activities then composed prayers in the Lady Chapel, and dramatised the work of water aid charities.

On Wednesday 16th February the whole of Trinity School visited to explore the story of St William of Perth through dance, drama and music. The day ended with a performance of their work to almost 100 parents. Cathedral staff and volunteers were stunned by the response of the children. The final performance was truly moving.

Throw into the mix over 900 pupils "regular" school visits and you will agree with us that February really did see a tornado of activity hit Rochester Cathedral.

None of our work would be possible without the support of a fantastic team of volunteers. Thank you all so much.

**Helen Bradshaw**

## DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

Friday 1 April 2011	<b>Murder Mystery</b> "Enigma" in the Nave performed by the Alternate Shadows. Can you guess "whodunnit"? Tickets available from Development Office at £6. Tel 01634 810074 or email <a href="mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org">development@rochestercathedral.org</a>  The play will start at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7pm.	
Friday 13 May 2011	<b>Rochester Cathedral Business Guild</b> – Business Networking Breakfast at The Commissioners House, Chatham Historic Dockyard from 8am to 10am.  Tickets £15 available from Garth House or email <a href="mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org">development@rochestercathedral.org</a>	
Saturday 2 July 2011	<b>'Allo Allo'</b> - In the King's School Hall. Ticket details to follow.	
Tuesday 19 July 2011	<b>Annual Business Guild Dinner</b> in the Crypt. A date for the diary for local business	
Friday 2 September 2011	<b>Annual Golf Day</b> – Hever Castle Golf Club  If you have a team you would like to bring along, please let us know.	

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 Sharp 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)