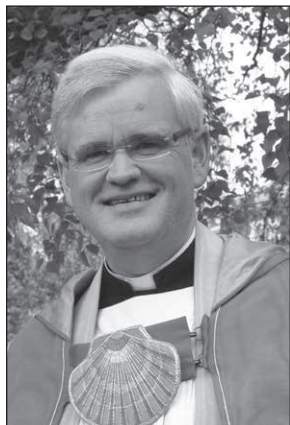


# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



### From the Dean's desk

4 months into life in Rochester and I have been amazed by the diversity of activity that goes on in the Cathedral!

Perhaps the highlight has been The People's Monarch. Over 30,000 people came to see the enormous portrait of the Queen and the knock on effect to our own trading and to shops in the

High Street has been vast. A very big thank you to Lynne Bax in the Development Office who saw the vision and made it all happen, with massive support from staff and volunteers. Now we need another Big Idea for next year!

But the day to day life of the Cathedral also goes on, with the regular round of prayer which has been continually offered here for over 1400 years, the music, the visits from

schools and other pilgrims and the planning for the re-development of the crypt and library.

There is just 1 week to go before we submit our Heritage Lottery Fund bid and the pace in the office is frenetic. Hundreds of pages of reports and aspirations have occupied staff members for many hours and soon it will all be parcelled up into a box and submitted.

We will know the outcome by the end of January and if successful, work will start in the Library and the Crypt in June and will last for just under a year.

So, never a quiet day in the life of the Cathedral and I thank you for your on-going support.

**The Very Revd Dr Mark Beach**  
Dean of Rochester

## The People's Monarch

Many of you will have seen the fabulous piece of work by Helen Marshall that was commissioned by BBC South East Today called "The People's Monarch". After its successful exhibit in Ramsgate, Margate and the Kent Show, Rochester Cathedral was given the amazing opportunity to be able to display it. Over 30,000 visitors viewed the piece over the duration of the exhibition, and these visitors not only came to the Cathedral but spent time in the High Street as well.

We received income from the sale of the souvenir cards, extra donations in the offertory boxes and candle donations. Sales at both the Welcome Desk and the Tea Rooms were vastly increased with all the extra visitors. Compared to the same period last year our income was increased by over £21,000, one of the most successful fund raisers we have had!

The publicity gained from the BBC live broadcasts was fantastic. Both the BBC and the artist, Helen Marshall, agreed that this was the best venue for the artwork and they look forward to working with us again.

We would like to say a very big "thank you" to all the Staff and Welcomers who worked so hard during this exhibition.



Picture by Paul Parkinson

PLEDGES AND GIFTS FROM 1ST JANUARY 2012 TO DATE TOTAL:

# £120,784.04

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)

## Education Dept Project - Tactile Plate and 3D fresco project.

Completed in 2004, Rochester Cathedral's Baptismal fresco is the first true fresco to be painted in an English Cathedral for 800 years. As part of our programme to make as many aspects of the cathedral as possible accessible to visitors with visual impairment we are producing a tactile rendering of the main features of the fresco.

In order to ensure that we are producing materials which are of use to sight impaired visitors the first stage of the project was an exploration of the fresco and its themes by sight impaired young people, aged between five and fifteen years, under the auspices of Medway Council's Aiming High programme (for sight impaired young people). They spent four days exploring the fresco and its themes and creating their own interpretations in 2D, collage, sketch, mixed media, photography, clay and plaster of Paris, working with the education department of Rochester Cathedral. Further interpretation work was undertaken by Kent Association

for the Blind Elders (partially sighted retired people) to research and develop ideas and create maquettes for three-dimensional representations of elements of the fresco in the North Transept.

After consultation with RNIB it has been decided that the plate will be mounted on a plinth which will be designed to be sympathetic to the cathedral architecture and compliant with the needs of visually impaired visitors. The plinth will also incorporate a cabinet and side pockets or draws which will contain "swell books" (3D foam representations of features on the fresco) and large print text descriptions of the fresco.

It is intended that the project will be completed by end of 2012 and there will be a "launch" of the tactile plate and an exhibition detailing how the eventual art work was achieved.



By the time you read this our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the major Crypt and Library works will have been lodged. Edwina Bell and her team have done a huge amount

of work on this so we are keeping everything crossed for a favourable outcome!

**Lynne Bax**

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

## MEDIAEVAL BÆBES & ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR CONCERT

**16th November 2012 Doors 7pm**

The Mediæval Bæbes formed in 1996 and immediately caused a stir with their choice mediaeval texts set to original music using mediaeval and classical instruments. Since then three of their albums have topped the classical charts and their contribution to the BBC production of *The Virgin Queen* resulted in a Ivor Novello Award 2007 for best television soundtrack. They have performed all over the UK, USA, Canada and Europe in venues as varied as London's Albert Hall, the great Cathedrals of England to the Carnglaze Caverns in Cornwall.

We are delighted that our own Cathedral Choristers will be performing with the Bæbes in a couple of numbers at this year's concert. Tickets are £17.50 and are available from <http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com/live.html>

From The Mediæval Bæbes website:

We are overwhelmingly excited to announce the dates for our next Christmas Cathedral Tour, which will accompany the release of *The Huntress*. The Mediæval Bæbes' 8th studio album featuring 17 new tracks is shaping up to be our seminal work and we will showcase it live in the acoustics of England's most breathtaking architectural treasures along with many olde favourites from our back catalogue. This is your opportunity to see the Bæbes, bejeweled, bewitching and bedazzling in perfect harmony, illuminated by candlelit and grace. You can meet the Bæbes in person after each show for autographs and photographs.

If you would like further information please contact Lynne on 01634 810074 or email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)



### Text donations via Just Giving

Donating a small gift has been made even easier now.

All you need to do is text the message

**RCTR46 £10 to 70070** and you can make a difference.

Via Just Giving

**justgiving**  
Fundraising made easy

## Christmas News

Less than 2 months to go and Christmas will be upon us. Once again our Tea Rooms Manager,



Helen Bannister, will be making another of her beautiful cakes and raffling it off for our fund raising. Tickets will be £1 each and will soon be available from The Tea Rooms.

## Community Christmas Card

We will be printing a Community Christmas Card again this year. If you would like to make a donation and have your name included on the card that will be distributed to the congregation at the 10.30am Eucharist on 23rd December, please contact the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

## Christmas Services

Advent Carol Service  
Sunday 2 December - 18:30

Lunchtime Carols  
Saturday 15 December - 12:30

Christingle Service  
Saturday 15 December - 15:15

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols  
Thursday 20 & Friday 21 December - 19:30

### Christmas Eve

The First Evensong of Christmas - 15:15

The Blessing of the Crib - 16:00

The Eucharist of Christmas Night - 23:30 -  
Preacher: The Dean

### Christmas Day

Holy Communion (BCP) - 08:00

The Eucharist of Christmas Morning - 10:30  
- Preacher: The Bishop

## FUTURE FUND RAISING EVENTS

Thursday 8 Nov 2012	<b>The last Business Guild networking breakfast</b> for this year at The Commissioner's House, Chatham Historic Dockyard. Our guest speaker will be Carol Lynch and Jane Brown from the Kent Community Foundation. Carol is Chief Executive of the Foundation and Jane has particular responsibility for Medway. 8am – 10am.
Friday 16 Nov 2012	<b>Mediaeval Bæbes and Rochester Cathedral Choir Concert</b> - Join us for an evening of inspirational Choral Music. Doors 7pm. Tickets £17.50 and are available from <a href="http://www.mediaevalbaebes.com">www.mediaevalbaebes.com</a> or speak to Development Office on 01634 810074.
Tuesday 29 Jan 2013	The new year starts with The Very Revd Dr Mark Beach addressing the Business Guild's breakfast at The Commissioner's House on "The business of being a Dean" 8am – 10am.
Wednesday 17 Apr 2013	Annual Dinner – please diarise the date of this year's Dinner in the Crypt.
Friday 17 May 2013	Cinema in the Nave – please diarise the date for the next classic film screening in the Nave. Further information to follow.
Saturday 29 Jun 2013	Concert with The London Welsh Male Voice Choir. More information to follow.
Wednesday 11 Sept 2013	The Annual Golf Day at Hever Castle Golf Club is scheduled, more information to follow.

For further information on any of these events, please contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074 or email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

Development Office, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester ME1 1SX

T: 01634 810074 Email: [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org) [www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)

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