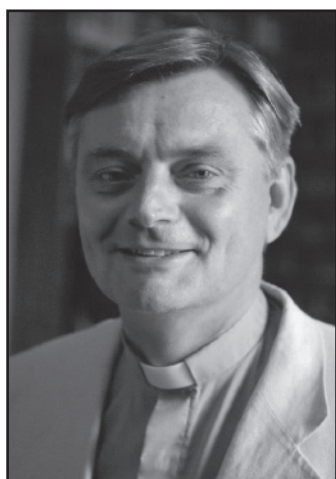


# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



### From the Acting Dean's desk...

As the summer fast approaches Rochester is preparing itself once again for a busy season of festivals and events. The Cathedral continues to play an active part in these activities and works closely and collaboratively with Medway Council. As a destination Rochester is

increasingly adding to its appeal with new attractions, such as the restoration work at Eastgate House and the opening of the new Huguenot Museum. Very soon Rochester Cathedral will regain its status as being the 'Home of the Textus' and more surprisingly perhaps the abode of the Rochester Dragon!

The Textus Roffensis admittedly is not the best illuminated manuscript to have once resided in the mediaeval library at Rochester. Nevertheless, its most illuminated page has not only one, but three dragons to its credit. Having viewed another of Rochester's medieval manuscripts now housed at the British Library, it would also seem that these dragons are unique to the scribes of Rochester priory. As Lincoln has its Imp, so Rochester has its Dragon. Over the summer we will be running a competition to find a suitable name for our dragon. The Cathedral Education Department will be hosting children's story trails and activities in the Cathedral and there will be an opportunity to suggest a name. The winning name will be announced on October 10th at our Family Fun Day when we will be celebrating the arrival of Magna Carta to be exhibited alongside the Textus Roffensis. This special exhibition will run until the beginning of December.

As increasing numbers of people visit Rochester I hope they will find its Cathedral, not only a place of

welcome and historical interest, but also a site of holiness and peace where the love of God is clearly evident. As a Cathedral we remain committed to being a place open to all free of charge. Of course, it continues to be a challenge to raise the necessary funds for the upkeep of such an ancient and historic building and we rely increasingly on donations and bequests. In many respects this has always been true and Cathedrals down the centuries have been reliant upon patrons and pilgrims leaving their offerings at shrines and altars.

Today's visitors may not necessarily see themselves as pilgrims, but I don't think they are that different. People continue to search for meaning and purpose, to seek enlightenment, knowledge and inner peace. They can also be as rowdy or devout as any of Chaucer's Pilgrims. For volunteers and cathedral staff this is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is to their credit that the vast majority of those who visit the Cathedral feel welcomed and affirmed.

In the coming months we will be recruiting new volunteers who will steward our forthcoming exhibitions. They will require particular skills as they engage with the public and the enquiring mind. If you are interested in learning more about this role please do contact our Volunteer Manager Rebecca Bramley on 01634 810070 or the Cathedral office on 01634 843366. We also have an Open Day on 18th July.

Thank you for your support and for enabling the Cathedral to continue its ministry and mission to those who visit, as in serving these we serve Christ.

Canon Dr Philip Hesketh  
Acting Dean of Rochester

Pledges and gifts for January to May 2015 totals

# £113,862.93

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

# Trust 30th birthday



One of the many extraordinary things about Rochester Cathedral is that it is to many people today an undiscovered iconic English Historic Gem. Surprising because the Cathedral is England's second oldest and has a rich history intermeshed with key historical events in

the history of England, the Crown and the Church of England.

The Rochester Cathedral Trust's purpose is to ensure the Dean and Chapter have sufficient financial resources to ensure that the life of the Cathedral can continue uninterrupted particularly in maintaining and renovating the building which is quite complex, challenging and never ending. Clearly, the Music Endowment goal is also a key challenge for the Trust. I, together with my Board of Trustees consider it be a great privilege to be

so involved and really do think that both Justus and Gundulf are watching us carefully. This year we celebrate 30 years since the Trust was started back in 1985 when The Very Revd John Arnold was Dean and Sir William Beach was Chair. The Trust was very pleased to welcome guests to a special Birthday Evensong in May where our Choir sang as beautifully as ever.

We have come a long way. Fund raising is always a challenge and The Trust works very hard to bring this glorious Rochester Cathedral to the attention of a far wider audience not only in our well populated Diocese, who may not have discovered this Iconic Gem not far from their own parishes, but also much further afield. We are extremely grateful to all who give their support to us and we thank them. I guarantee that to be involved in, contribute to or part of the continuing life of this 1,400 year old Community will be a very uplifting experience.

Michael P Aiken MBE  
Chairman, Rochester Cathedral Trust

## Education Update

### Story Trail

The Education team are developing story trails aimed at pre-school aged children. The development of these sessions is in line with the HLF Activity Plan.



It is a creative project to explore stories and book making, with young children. The session runs for a season of 6 weeks from 13.45 until 15.00 on a Thursday afternoon as a drop in session. We are aiming for 4 seasons a year – to cover some holiday periods as well, where we hope young visitors may visit with older siblings.

Our first season started at the end of April with the story of Noah. There were 6 stations around the nave of the Cathedral each telling a small part of the story, children collected one page at each

“station” which upon completion they were able to thread together to make a book. Each station had something for the children to engage with

- Set of tools
- Cuddly animals
- Rainmaker
- Small boat, bowl of water
- Playmobil Noah's Ark

The final station involved the material for the threading, as well as a craft activity – colouring, making a mask.

Our next season starts at the end of July and features Brother Ted and his friend – it follows a different route and encourages exploring different parts of the cathedral.



### STOP PRESS.....

Volunteer Open Day Saturday 18th July 10.00 – 14.00. We are now ready to introduce HTFE project related voluntary posts: Exhibition Host, Library Volunteer, Community Outreach Volunteer & Family Learning Volunteer. Come along and find out more about these roles and other volunteer opportunities in the Cathedral. To book a place or find out more call **01634 810066** or email [volunteermanager@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:volunteermanager@rochestercathedral.org)

## Hidden Treasures Fresh Expressions Project Update 13 - May 2015

Steady progress is now being made in most areas despite experiencing some further problems sorting out the service trenches in relation to the medieval foundations (basically the foundations do not exist!).

**Grants** - As well as further award of £326,700 from the HLF in March this year, the All Churches Trust has awarded the Cathedral a grant of £30k towards the works in the Ithamar Chapel.

**Building Works** - Excavation of the Pigeon Parlour is waiting the removal of the scaffolding to the library. Once removed archaeological diggings will commence. It is hoped that there will be no more unexpected finds! Completion date for the building works is end September following which the exhibition fit out will begin.

**Exhibition Fit Out** - Design development is progressing well with the final drawings for the exhibition having been issued for final sign off. A sample show case has also been received and installed in the cathedral so the ability to control the environmental conditions can now be tested. An object list has been drawn up and approved so the design of the objects lay out can progress as can some of the exhibition fit out fabrication. The Activity Table is also progressing and some of the proposed activities for inclusion in the Activity Table are brass rubbings, jigsaw and twist blocks (symbols and heraldry). The launch of the first exhibition remains as January 2016.

**Activity Plan** - March saw 6 tours of the Archaeological finds in the crypt before work progressed. Using

Eventbrite the initial 5 tours got booked up within 12 hours. An additional 4 tours were arranged for Cathedral Congregation and Volunteers; these too were quickly booked up. One tour was arranged especially for the Friends of Rochester Cathedral and one was for Major Donors. In all 124 people participated in these tours over 3 days.

Plans for the Cathedral to host the Faversham's copy of the Magna Carta are now finalised and a high specification case has been designed to house the Textus Roffensis so it can be on display at the same time. There will be a family friendly launch of this on the afternoon of the 10th October. The exhibition will run for 10 weeks.

Following the loss of the Library Development Officer, and delays in the Capital works, a review of the Activity plan has led to a slight restructuring of activities. The Education Officers are now planning a series of new activities all of which will focus on engaging and encouraging the target audiences to participate. This includes two six week Story Trails for preschool children. One Story trail took place 23 April and a further one is planned to commence 30 July. The story of Noah is being used as the baseline.

Cataloguing of the library collection has commenced by the University of Kent following a formal agreement. This will provide for a full catalogue of our collection for the very first time.

Gilly Wilford and Edwina Bell  
May 2015



Other funding: Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust, Friends of Rochester Cathedral, Garfield Weston, Rochester Bridge Trust, Wolfson Foundation, Headley Trust, All Churches Trust, ChurchCare and Department for Culture, Media and Sport

## Music News

Three of the Cathedral choristers have been successful in winning places through to the final of prestigious Woodward Young Musician of The Year competition to be held at St Johns Smith Square in May of this year. The children were successful after being selected by the judges following live recordings being submitted in the first round. The standard for this National competition is extremely high and I know the Cathedral will be extremely proud of the choristers. The three choristers are:

Raphael Jansens - Year 4 and Henry Skillern - Year 4 both singing  
Edward Hyde - Year 2 Trombone

### *Also whilst writing with great news....*

Following over 30 days of National Auditions Edward has also been awarded one of only five places on trombone within the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain for ages 10 and 11. Edward has been awarded full music colours by Kings School in recognition of gaining a place in the National Orchestra. This is fantastic news and certainly reflects and endorses the superb all round music education that being a chorister offers.

## Future Fund Raising Events for the diary

Friday 19 June	James Taylor Quartet Concert in Nave with The Rochester Cathedral Choir 7.30pm
Tuesday 21st July	Summer Garden Party in a Marquee in King's Orchard
Wednesday 9th September	Business Guild Breakfast (8am – 10am) at The Commissioner's House, Chatham Historic Dockyard. Local solicitors Thomson Snell & Passmore will present a talk entitled "Protecting the Crown Jewels – Legal Prevention and Legal Cure"
Wednesday 14 October	Business Guild 6th Annual Seminar 9am – 1pm at The Commissioner's House, Chatham Historic Dockyard "Degrees v Apprenticeship"
Friday 16 October	"Land of Hope and Glory Concert" in Cathedral 7.30pm  Special guest line up to include: Jonathan Ansell; Margaret Keys; Faryl Smith; Jamie Johnson; Katie Marshall; Tony Lorenzo; Kent Sinfonia Orchestra and The Ruby Choir.
Tuesday 8 December	Messiah & Carols for All concert in Cathedral at 7.30pm

**For more information or tickets for any of the above events, please contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074 or email [development@rochester cathedral.org](mailto:development@rochester cathedral.org)**

### Penshurst Place Memorial Concert

The miserable weather cheered up just in time for the event on Sunday 31st May.

The gardens were absolutely beautiful, the sun came out for the picnic and the music was glorious.

Special thanks to Christopher Thornton for all his arrangements and to Viscount and Viscountess De L'Isle for the use of the grounds and Baron's Hall. All profits raised will go to the Music Endowment. Our Choral Scholars sang, as did the Royal Tunbridge Wells Orpheus Male Voice Choir while we listened to the Enchanting sounds of the Medway String Quartet. We thank our audience for joining us.



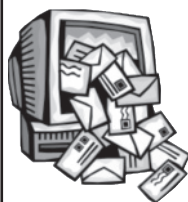
Friday 19th June 2015  
Jazz Night at Rochester Cathedral  
7.30pm

**James Taylor Quartet**  
and The Rochester Cathedral Choir



"This hugely exciting concert is the coming together of two disparate yet complimentary musical worlds, both of which are truly world class. It'll be a great fun night." James Taylor

Tickets £20  
(unreserved seating in Nave)  
Box office:  
[development@rochester cathedral.org](mailto:development@rochester cathedral.org)  
Telephone: 01634 810074 / 843366  
[www.rochester cathedral.org](http://www.rochester cathedral.org)



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Please email to:  
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and you will be added to the distribution list.



### THANK YOU

Thank you to Helen Bannister in our Tea Rooms who made a delicious birthday cake for the Trust's 30th celebration. It was yummy!

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