

Rochester

CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



From the Deans desk...

Reborn, Restored, Revealed aptly sums up the re-opening of the Cathedral crypt and new exhibition space. Visitors have been overwhelmed by the improvements and how imaginatively the crypt has been restored, revealing the architecture in all its simplicity and glory. I hope that in the next four months the work will be completed on the Gundulf shaft and a simple Servedy established enabling the crypt to be used for dinners and other functions.

This is an important part of the Cathedral's business plan. It will be a spectacular and unique setting for a dinner or a wedding. We are grateful to the Friends of Rochester Cathedral for helping us financially to achieve this piece of project work. What the medieval monks would have made of the prospect of fine dining in the crypt can only be imagined, although they were far from against having a few parties themselves.

The Church needs to respond to the challenges of each generation which inevitably involves change. The Cathedral similarly needs to be open to new ideas and fresh thinking, so long as we don't lose our spiritual moorings. The poet, T. S Eliot wrote: 'And the Church must be forever building, and always decaying, and always being restored' – let us pray that together we can continue to enable the change that brings transformation and makes known the love of God in Jesus Christ.

The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh
Dean of Rochester



Pledges and gifts for January and February 2017

£37,898.50

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

Royal Event at the Mercers' Hall, London

On Tuesday 22nd February the Dean of Rochester, The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh, and the Chairman of Rochester Cathedral Trust, Mr Michael P Aiken MBE, welcomed their Royal Patron, Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex GCVO to a Reception which was hosted with the generous support of the Mercers' Company at their Hall in Ironmonger Lane, London.

The reception is was part of an ongoing series of fund raising events being held by The Cathedral Trust to develop new relationships with potential donors based in London.

The Cathedral's new "Children's Community Choir" was there to entertain the Countess and the guests and charmed everyone with their delightful singing. They were conducted by Clare Innes-Hopkins and accompanied by Cathedral Director of Music, Mr Scott Farrell. This new Choir is part of the Cathedrals outreach work to give the opportunity to any child in Medway who loves to sing to be able to join the Choir. Already one young singer was spotted as having great talent and has been offered a bursary by King's School and has been accepted as a probationer chorister in the Cathedral's Choir.

The guests were also entertained with a speech from Vice Patron, Dr David Starkey CBE, who amused all with his historical anecdotes yet still conveyed the need of Rochester Cathedral to those present.

Rochester Cathedral Trust has set up a Music Endowment Fund so that interest earned from it can ultimately pay the running costs of the ancient music tradition in the Cathedral, which costs £225,000 annually. The short term goal is to achieve an amount of £2 million which will be met by having each Chorister sponsored at £50,000 each. This money would be deposited in the Endowment Fund and the earnings accrued on it would be put towards the annual costs of 'their' Chorister and the Endowment could remain intact in perpetuity. Each Choristership sponsor has a silver medal

struck in the sponsor's name and the selected Chorister wears it at all services for the course of their life in the Choir. When they leave a new probationer is selected.



The Community Children's Choirs conducted by Claire Innes-Hopkins and accompanied by Scott Farrell



Left to right: Johnny Robertson (Master of Mercers' Company) Philip Hesketh (Dean) HRH the Countess of Wessex and Mike Aiken (Trust Chairman)



The Countess chatting to the Choir members

Thank you for the super photographs to Colin Tolhurst.



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@rochester cathedral.org to be added to the distribution list.

Family Fun Days at the Cathedral

Saturday 18th February saw a busy day in the Cathedral with our Family Fun Day; we had about 200 children and their friends and families through the doors.

We were able to offer a variety of activities which included: Brass Rubbing; Design a shield; Make a book mark; Make a badge; Embossing (with Wendy Daws, a local artist).

In the South Transept we had an area entitled Library corner, this included the activities: Illuminate a letter and Calligraphy, it also included Bendy the Monk as well as some of our Librarians talking to interested parties about Textus (facsimile on show) and we included the Joshua book – always popular with the evidence of the book worm.

Dolly Dimples a balloon modeller was wandering around, and as normal proved a very popular draw. All of our "I Spy" trails were available, and people could find out a little about Monastic life including trying a robe on, to get into character – very popular with the dads!

Our Embroiderers, also joined with us and had prepared 50 packs of small cards using off-cuts of their material – both adults and children responded positively and all the packs went.



We again had invited our heritage neighbours, The Huguenot Museum, who demonstrated weaving and children were able to have a go on their own cardboard looms, there were only 4 left at the end of the afternoon, and Medway Heritage who took advantage of publicising the Battle of The Medway through their activity.

The Friends of Rochester Cathedral had a stall and sold Textus bags, but gave people the opportunity to decorate their bag for free; they sold 62 (£93) during the course of the day, and sold out!

We received some lovely feedback, here is just a taste:

"Felt really welcome"

"What a fantastic day, really good. Everyone friendly and children loved it. Thank you"

"A wonderful event, lots of friendly helpers – we all enjoyed it!"

"Today was fun - I loved it"

"Fantastic family event"

"A great day with loads to do and try. Thank you".

We really could not do it without the support of our Volunteers.

We are able to offer the activities free of charge, as a result of a generous donation made by a member of the congregation and money raised through brass rubbing during the school holidays, otherwise the activities would only be offered on alternate years.

Sue and Helen
Education Officers

Musical Tour Supper Evening

You may recall from the last Beacon that another Musical Pilgrimage was being held on 9th March. We can report that it was a super event, fully sold out and enjoyed by all.

Special thanks to The Dean, the Music Department and to Markham Chesterfield for his organisation. Over £1,000 was made which will be paid over to Friends of Rochester Cathedral Music (FORCM). Keep an eye out for next year's date!

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 **JustGiving™**

Diary of 2017 Events

Sunday 14th May 3.15pm	Rochester Cathedral Trust Annual Evensong. Join us to hear the Girls and the Men celebrate the work of the Trust with beautiful music. Refreshments afterwards.
Monday 29th May 7pm	The Abrams Concert Part of the "Big Church Day Out" UK Tour. This hugely talented brother-duo stand as some of Canada's biggest Country and Blue Grass music stars.
Wednesday 30th May 8am	Business Guild networking breakfast at The Commissioner's House, Historic Dockyard, Chatham Subject "Training in Kent"
Wednesday 21st June 6pm	Speaker and Supper at Canterbury Christchurch University campus. Subject "The Best in Kent : Innovation meets Business" Come to hear a well known Professor talk about Stem cell regeneration in Kent and an ENT Consultant who will talk about Innovations in Healthcare. A Kentish sourced supper to follow and an opportunity to look around the training wards.

For more information on events, please contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074
or email development@rochestercathedral.org

Rochester Cathedral welcomes The Abrams

Rochester Cathedral was very excited to be approached about being a venue for The Abrams 2017 UK tour and is delighted that they are to perform on Bank Holiday Monday - 29 May 2017 - at 7 pm - straight on the back of their 2017 performance at the Big Church Day Out.

The Abrams are an incredibly energetic five-piece band from Canada, playing a combination of blue grass, country and folk/pop-rock. Their live performances are something that just has to be experienced - including an interesting Coldplay cover and witnessing one of the fastest fiddle players you are likely to see.

Following an incredibly successful UK tour in 2015, which culminated in a Main Stage performance in front of around 20,000 people at the Big Church Day Out, The Abrams are back in the UK.

Tickets are available for just £12 per adult and £10 per child (group and family rates available) from www.rochestercathedral.org/news/special-events

Tickets are also available from the Cathedral shop (open 10am to 4pm most days).
Tel: 01634 810067.

More information on The Abrams at www.theabramsmusic.com



Rochester
CATHEDRAL

Rochester Cathedral Trust

The Dean of Rochester Cathedral with the Chairman & Trustees of Rochester Cathedral Trust invite you to join them at a special Evensong on Sunday 14th May at 3.15pm to celebrate the work of The Trust.

Refreshments will be served after Evensong at 4pm
Please RSVP to Lynne Bax:
development@rochestercathedral.org
Tel: 01634 810074

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