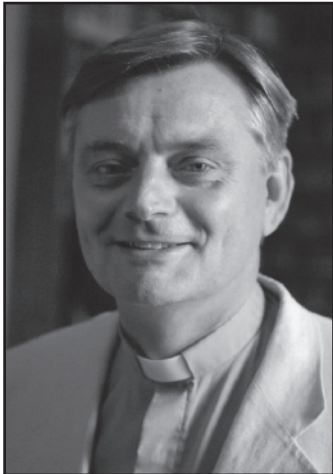


# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



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

Thanks to those who made the nave dinner event such a wonderful occasion. It was definitely one of the highlights of the year and the Cathedral looked simply stunning

bathed in candlelight and everyone conversing in their finery. The choir gave us an ethereal moment as plainsong drifted from the quire stalls. We learnt that evening that the James Taylor Quartet and Rochester Cathedral Choir 'Mass' had won a Medway Cultural Award. Congratulations on a fantastic achievement and I understand the accolades are pouring in from all quarters.

The Magna Carta/Textus Roffensis Exhibition has had so far over ten thousand visitors. There

are still a few weeks remaining until it comes to an end at the Dickens Christmas Weekend. If you haven't seen it yet, or would like another viewing, please make haste.

Our final Trust Event of this year will be 'Carols at Chevening', which will be a very special evening. This will be our second visit to this spectacular home and we are most grateful to the Chevening Trustees for making it possible. In June the boy choristers sang at a formal dinner, this time it will be the girl choristers who get the privilege. I hope to see you there, but if not, I pray you have a very joyful Christmas and perhaps see you in the Cathedral at one of our festive services.

Philip

Canon Dr Philip Hesketh  
Acting Dean of Rochester

#### CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT CHEVENING

Our last Music Endowment fund raising event for this year is a Reception and Performance of Carols, sung by our Girl Choristers in the wonderful historic setting of Chevening House in Kent. The event is with the kind permission of The Chevening Trust and is on 9th December 2015 from 7pm to 9pm, tickets are available at £35 from the Development Office.



Proceeds from the event will support our ongoing fundraising for the Music Endowment. Rochester Cathedral has a long history of making music and for nearly a thousand years this building has been brought to life by melody and harmony. A jewel in the crown of our artistic heritage with our Choristers singing at over 200 services and events each year. Your help in keeping this going is so appreciated.

Pledges and gifts for January to end October 2015 totals

# £269,915.33

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



### **From Paul Francis – Canon for Discipleship**

It is an honour and a privilege to be able to write this as your recently appointed Canon for Discipleship here in Rochester Cathedral;

Sunday September 27th, the day of my installation, was a memorable occasion.

Although I am new to the Cathedral the Cathedral is not so new to me, it has been part of my life in one way or another for many years. I was a seven year old boy when I first came through the doors, my father was a student at the then Rochester Theological College and the college chapel was in the crypt and I remember being taken down there to see the place 'where daddy says his prayers' – I remember being fascinated by the medieval paintwork of stars on the ceiling, still there even now. My father was ordained both deacon and priest here in 1961 and 1962 respectively; I was confirmed here in 1964 at the age of twelve and then also ordained deacon and priest exactly twenty years after my father by the same Bishop, David Say. So as I say it is a privilege and an honour to be included now in the worship and work of the Cathedral in a deeper way.

I am married to Audrey and we have celebrated our 42nd anniversary this year. Audrey was born and raised in Chatham so for both of us it is a bit like coming home. We have two grown up children, Edward (married to Connie) and Caroline, and one granddaughter, Ilsa, who is just one year of age. Audrey has worked in the Health Service in various roles ever since she was sixteen and is currently a Health Visitor for Older People and works in Croydon.

Before ordination I worked in banking, then in industry then finally at the BBC before training for ordination at Salisbury and Wells Theological College. I have a degree in theology and a post-graduate diploma in 'Management for Ministry' and I have undertaken training in Spiritual Direction and Reflective Practice. My ordained ministry has been exercised entirely in the Diocese of Rochester; I served my curacy at St Mark's Biggin Hill before taking up my first incumbency in the parish of Fawkham and Hartley then moving to Aylesford, then to the parish of Riverhead with Dunton Green (where I also served as Rural Dean of Sevenoaks) then finally to St George Beckenham. Linked to parish ministry I have a passion for seeing others grow and flourish in their ministry, both ordained and lay, and to this end among other things I have worked with four Assistant Curates as their Training Incumbent, I co-lead and teach on the Rochester Clergy Leadership Programme, I conduct ministerial reviews both formal and informal, and offer Spiritual Direction.

So what about my role as Canon for Discipleship? Though I know the Cathedral well my ministry thus far has been entirely that of a parish priest so I need first to learn the immediate context of the Cathedral, the rhythm of its life and worship, what makes it 'tick', and to really get to know all who are part of the Cathedral family. There are two main aspects to this role, the first is walking alongside people and knowing them, and the second is to enable people to know and recognise that God is at work in them. There are affinities with the story of Jacob's ladder – helping people understand how God has been working in their lives all along when they may not have known it – and thereby encourage them in their discipleship.

This is an aspect of ministry as an ordained priest that I find most fulfilling, walking with others as we grow in faith and discipleship, and it is very much 'we' not 'they' for I am a learner and a disciple too.

I very much look forward to what is to come on our 'walk' together, I look forward to getting to know you and to sharing with you in our witness to the people of the area and to our Diocese.

Paul Francis

## **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™**



## James Taylor Quartet and The Rochester Cathedral Choir

JTQ return with a brand new album, The Rochester Mass, which has been released by Cherry Red Records on 27 November on CD, limited vinyl LP and download!

The album is a unique proposition from James and the band - a funk mass, no less, recorded in just a day with The Rochester Choir. It spins off unique performances at Queen Elizabeth Hall and Rochester Cathedral earlier this year.

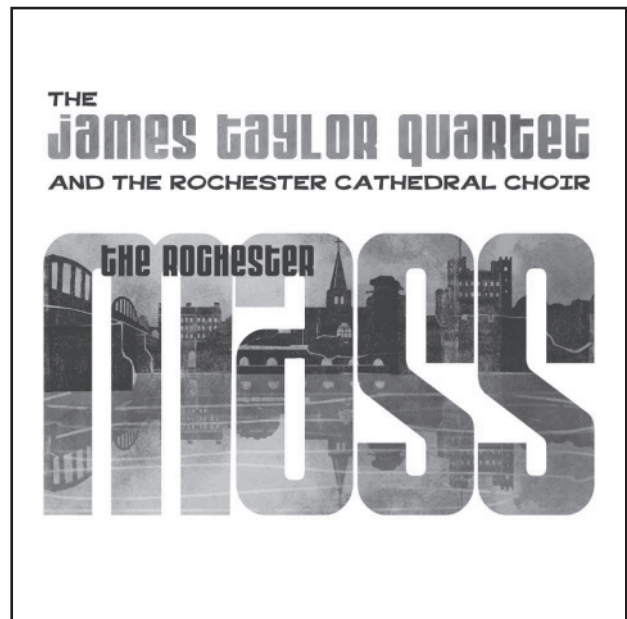
Here's the track listing:

1. SANCTUS Part One
2. SANCTUS Part Two
3. AGNUS DEI Duet
4. AGNUS DEI Part One
5. FLUTE CADENZA
6. AGNUS DEI Part Two
7. BENEDICTUS
8. GLORIA Part One
9. GLORIA Part Two
10. KYRIE

You can pre-order copies direct from Cherry Red (hopefully, James will be signing these copies, too!):

CD: <http://shop.cherryred.co.uk/shopexd.asp?id=5212>

This has been followed up by being on the A Playlist at Jazz FM and also has a really good review from Jazz critic Nick Churchill. Some of which is quoted here.



*"By approaching the voices as a musical resource Taylor seems to have climbed around the holy origins of the source material without falling into easy irreverence. Equally, the Mass proves to be far more flexible than a layman might have thought, adapting well to the JTQ's slick grooves. Sanctus Part Two is an immaculate showcase of the choir's vocal skills, while Agnus Dei Part One allows Lockrane's flute to take centre stage in the cadenza and the Gloria offers a restful opportunity for reflection. The Rochester Mass is possibly the least obvious album of the year, but certainly one of the most intriguing."*

## Magna Carta Dinner in the Nave 23rd October 2015

What a very special evening we had on Friday 23rd October 2015 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, which is on display with our very own Textus Roffensis.

In the magnificent setting of the Cathedral we had the opportunity to enjoy a drinks reception and listen to some of the choristers perform accompanied by James Taylor which gave us a taste of the wonderful music that needs our support. This was followed by a delicious candle-lit, four course dinner in the atmospheric surroundings of the cathedral nave. We were delighted that our Trustee, Dr David Starkey, well known historian and TV personality was able to entertain us as our after dinner speaker.

The dinner had very kindly been sponsored by our Chairman, Michael P Aiken MBE, so the maximum amount possible will go towards the Music Endowment.

Our grateful thanks go to all who bought tickets to attend this event.



# Future Fund Raising Events for the diary

Tuesday 8  
December

Messiah & Carols for All concert in Cathedral at 7.30pm

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

## Community Christmas Card

We will be printing a Community Christmas Card again this year. If you would like to make a donation to Rochester Cathedral Trust and have your name included on the card that will be distributed to the congregation at the 10.30am Eucharist on 20th December, please contact the Development Office on **01634 810074** or email: [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

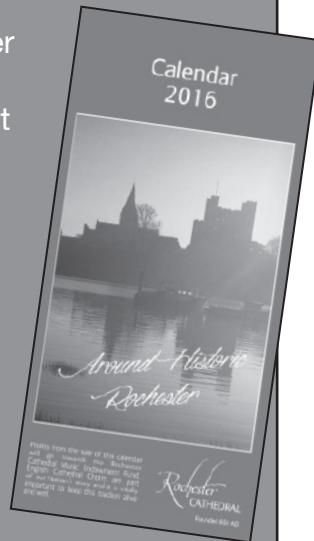
## Christmas Cards

We also have stock of our A5 sized Cathedral Christmas Cards at £5 for 10 available from the Cathedral Shop or from The Development Office in Garth House



## 2016 Rochester Calendars

Together with Lucy Horner from Francis Isles the Rochester Cathedral Trust has produced a calendar for 2016 showing views of historic Rochester. It is being sold to raise funds for the Rochester Cathedral Music Endowment and is available from the Cathedral Shop, The Tourist Information Centre, Francis Isles and the Development Office in Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester at a selling price of £4.95. For further information email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)



Rochester CATHEDRAL

PART ONE

# MESSIAH

## CAROLS FOR ALL

Rochester Cathedral  
8 December 2015 at 7.30pm

**Tickets £15/£12**  
in aid of Rochester Cathedral

Rochester Cathedral Shop  
10am - 4pm daily, 12 - 4pm Sundays  
01634 843366  
[www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)

Photo Roger Vaughan © www.kentpixs.co.uk • leaflet produced by oleydesign.com

**Tickets available from the cathedral website at [www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)**



## 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.

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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