

Future Fund Raising Events for the diary

Wednesday 14th September	For those business people that would like to join us. Our next breakfast meeting at the Chatham Historic Dockyard (Visitor Restaurant) at 8am. Our guest speaker will be Henry Swan , Procurement Manager from KCC speaking on "Selling to Local Authorities"
Friday 23rd September 	We are delighted to be partnering Abigail's Footsteps once again to present another amazing concert. This time it will be an evening of the haunting music of Adele. We welcome The Ruby Tuesdays, Jamie Johnson from The Voice and Beth Wilson from The X Factor, and more. Tickets £10 (incl) for unreserved seating in the Nave and available from www.thetuesdays.co.uk There are a limited number available from the Development Office.
Wednesday 16th November	The last Business Guild meeting of the year is our annual seminar/workshop this year a "Business Focus Day" with lots of different workshops to suit your business requirements. For further information please call 01634 810074 or email development@rochestercathedral.org
Tuesday 6th December	Save the date for the Messiah & Carols for All Concert!

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

Christmas Card

The Rochester Cathedral Trust will once again be selling Christmas Cards to support the Music Endowment. They are available from The Development Office at Garth House (telephone 01634 810074) or email development@rochestercathedral.org and are priced at £6 for a pack of 10 cards. They are also available from the Cathedral shop.

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 18th December, please contact the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email development@rochestercathedral.org

THE HAUNTING MUSIC OF ADELE



Performed by guest soloists and choirs. Featuring artists such as
Jamie Johnson from The Voice and Beth Wilson from X-Factor.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL 23RD SEPTEMBER
DOORS OPEN 7PM // TICKETS £10

Tickets from www.thetuesdays.co.uk



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

T: 01634 810074 Email: development@rochestercathedral.org www.rochestercathedral.org

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Rochester

CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



From the Deans desk...

Biblical scholars refer to the Antediluvian period when describing the time before the deluge or Noah's flood. There is a tendency at the Cathedral to do similarly now and remember the time

before the flood! From the pictures you can see that it was like an episode from the film 'Titanic'. Fortunately, there was no lasting damage and we have a restored crypt; the lights are back on to reveal the stunning space which will soon be open to the general public. There remains some further work to be accomplished, but we are back on track.

Our first exhibition in the refurbished Gundulf part of the crypt will be 'The Mystery Book of Rochester' and will see the return of the Textus Roffensis to its original home. I hope you will come and bring your friends to see this truly exceptional and important document and the other exhibits that will be on display. There will be a small charge for the Exhibition which is part of our sustainability plan for the future. The intention is to have the Textus on display throughout the year, but the exhibition side will change periodically to reveal some of the Cathedral's other hidden treasures. We are already working on the next exhibition which will be in conjunction with The Bridge Wardens Trust.

Keeping the exhibition open, of course, will require an increase in the number of volunteers, so please do encourage anyone who might be interested in getting involved to contact our Volunteer Manager, Lisa Johnson – 01634 810077.

The refurbished Crypt and Library mark an exciting turning point in the Cathedral's life and desire to serve; for which we give thanks. So, spread the 'good news' and thank you for all your support.

The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh
Dean of Rochester



Pledges and gifts for January to end of August 2016 total

£67,013.51

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

Rochester's Hidden Treasures Need You!

Rochester Cathedral needs more volunteers to join its exhibitions team. If you have a friendly and respectful approach and are enthusiastic about history, then Rochester Cathedral would welcome you to the team. Volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds but all share a passion for heritage, a love of the Cathedral and a desire to make all visitors feel warmly welcomed.

For the first time the Cathedral is able to share the library and crypt with everyone. Part of the crypt has become a very special exhibition space where Textus Roffensis will be on show. The historian and television presenter Michael Wood, who has supported the project says it is of 'extreme importance ... one of the few crucial works in history of the civilization of the British Isles.' The Textus Roffensis is the only existing copy of the first code of British law. The Textus Roffensis was written in Rochester Cathedral during the early 1120s and has had an important impact as it is believed to have influenced the words of Magna Carta in 1215 and the American Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Rochester Cathedral is ready to launch Hidden Treasures Revealed and it is looking for new volunteers to help run the exhibition space. There will be interesting training and development opportunities, fun, knowledge and a wonderful sense of community. If you want to become involved in this exhilarating and far reaching legacy project then please contact Lisa Johnson on 01634 810077 or lisa.johnson@rochester-cathedral.org



Where there's a Will, There's a way!

Enclosed with this edition of the Beacon is a copy of our Legacy brochure.

Rochester Cathedral receives no funding and as we do not charge an entry fee to visit this beautiful place, we rely on public donations.

If you would like to remember the Cathedral in your Will with a legacy to The Rochester Cathedral Trust, please do not hesitate to contact the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email development@rochester-cathedral.org

The Rochester Cathedral Trust exists to raise money for the fabric of the Cathedral as well as having established a Music Endowment to maintain our ancient music tradition.

Fenton Bresler, a lawyer for 30 years turned journalist wrote a book called "Second Best Bed" (a quote from William Shakespeare's Will leaving his wife his "second best bed"). It is full of amusing anecdotes about Wills and

families. He writes, "The glory of a well drafted Will, properly executed and signed, is that with certain exceptions, you can in modern law do virtually what you want with your own money. But there is one absolutely fundamental restriction: you must actually be alive when you make your Will.

In nineteenth century Ireland, that was not absolutely so. One contemporary writer records that if a man died without making a Will, or it was not legally valid for some reason, the situation could be remedied if a new Will were made for him and it was signed by a pen held for him in his dead hand – provided a live fly were first placed in his mouth. Why the fly? Because then the witnesses could truly swear that when the Will was signed, "there was life in him".

The English courts however, have – as one might have expected – never been so lax. Wills are strictly for the living: albeit with death in mind!"

Hidden Treasures Fresh Expressions project Update

I am delighted to tell you that our major project, Hidden Treasures – Fresh Expressions, is nearing completion. This is focused in two main areas – the crypt and the library - and they will shortly be revealed in their new beauty and with an exhibition area in the Gundulf crypt, which is the oldest part of the Cathedral.

The library roof was in a very poor state of repair and the 14th century timbers in danger. These are now repaired and, in some areas, replaced. The Kent peg tiles are re-laid and the ceiling restored. Our library volunteers are working to fill the splendid new bookcases with the thousands of books in our collection, many of which are hundreds of years old. A curved glass screen enables a clear view of the library even when it is closed.

The crypt is now, quite simply, breathtaking. The Purbeck stone flooring reflects the beauty of the stone work and the pillars and ribbed arches are enhanced by subtle lighting that creates an infinite sense of space. The lighting also enables one to see the restored ceiling paintings that survive in some areas.

The exhibition space is now prepared, with cases in situ. These have been designed to reflect the shape of the arches and will be filled with a display of treasures and a time

line leading to our greatest treasure – the Textus Roffensis. This inexplicably little known book is the only known existing copy of the first codification of English law and it holds a unique place in history as the basis for Magna Carta. This will be the first time that it will be on permanent public display since it was written in the 1120s.

We are busily preparing for a week of celebratory events in half term week, beginning on 24th October, with a number of family activities, after which the exhibition will be officially opened at a formal launch on 1st November, attended by our Royal Patron, key funders and other invited guests.

This is only the beginning – the exhibitions will be renewed in the years ahead, highlighting other aspects of the Cathedral's long and eventful history and its place in Rochester and beyond.

Please look at our website where all events will be advertised and also look out for our posters and leaflets, which will provide more detail on the timing and dates.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Gilly Wilford



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



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 and you will be added to the distribution list.

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

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