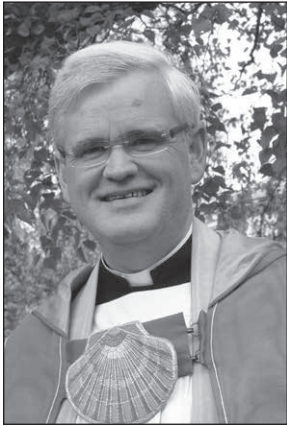


Rochester

CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



From the Dean's desk

After just over a month at the desk and in the stall of the Dean my first reaction to the place is one of delight! Everyone has been so welcoming and my introduction has included the dizzy heights of the Nave roof and the subterranean reaches of the organ blower room (which may even have a special name!)

As I have met people and seen their work two themes have emerged. The first is the great affection that people have for the Cathedral; whether members of staff, visitors or pilgrims everyone has a "wow" response to the building. The second is a real desire to enable more people to enjoy it, either through being members of our regular congregation or as visitors.

And this is where the Trust comes in as we seek to develop two parts of our life here in Rochester. Our music is fabulous and a central reason why people come to cathedrals for worship. But it is also very expensive and we do not have the historic resources of some other places. We need an endowment of £5M to provide a sufficient income to meet this need. We also need to take a long term view on the condition of the building. The current Heritage Lottery Fund application will address some issues but with a Grade 1 listed building a large repair bill is never too far away.

We hope to achieve this through legacies, through active fund raising such as the splendid dinner in the crypt this week and through approaches to other funders. I hope that you will want to be a part of this process and help us secure the fabric and worship of this delightful place.

Mark Beach
Dean

Sponsor a Chair project

Our "Sponsor a Chair" project is still running and the opportunity is still there for anyone to get involved and sponsor a chair in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a group. It costs just £150 and we will affix a brass plaque to a chair with your choice of inscription. Enclosed with this newsletter is our pamphlet with more information.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Volunteer, Alan McLean, for his many years of brass polishing in the Cathedral and he has recently taken on the job of keeping the chair plaques looking shiny too!



Text donations via Just Giving

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

£90,218.39

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

Caring for the future

Checklist to help you prepare to make a Will

The first step in making a Will is deciding what your wishes will be. You need to think about a range of topics including:

- What you own
- How you want to leave it
- Who will carry out your Will?
- Guardians for children
- Charitable gifts

Choose a solicitor:

Solicitors will usually offer a fixed price for straightforward Wills. There are websites that can help finding an advisor if you need it. The websites of both the Law Society and the Society of Trust and Estate Professionals (STEP) offer lists of professionals closest to your post code. If any reader that does not have access to a computer like to make use of this service, please contact the Development Office for a paper listing.

Meet your solicitor:

Take your checklist with you and your solicitor will advise how best to word your Will. Once you are happy that it reflects your wishes, you will need to sign it in the presence of witnesses. Most solicitors will arrange this for you.

Letter of Instructions:

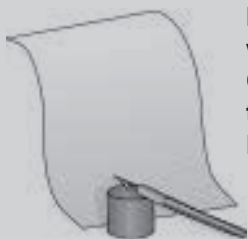
This is something else to consider and can cover a wider range of wishes you might like to express. For example, you may wish to describe your preferred funeral arrangements (favorite hymns, whether you would like flowers or donations to charity etc). Some people also write a list of useful information for their executors; details of all their bank accounts, investments, insurance policies, where they keep bills, documents, spare keys, address book, etc. This is entirely optional and does not form part of your will, but may prove helpful - as long as you keep it up to date! You could keep this in the same place as your will, although not physically attached to it.

Keeping your Will safe:

You can either keep your Will at home or some solicitors will offer to hold it for you. Do let your family and executors know where it is.

Keeping your Will up to date:

Over time things change. The arrival of children and grandchildren; changing of family circumstances; moving house. Many factors may cause you to want to change your wishes and it is recommended that you look at your Will every 5 years and revise if necessary.



If you need more information or would like to make provision for the Cathedral in your Will, please contact the Development Office in Garth House on 01634 810074

“A word to our Sponsors”

Over the past few years there have been companies and organisations that have sponsored and discounted various of our activities and fund raising events, and we would like to thank them once more for their continuing support.

Historic Dockyard,
Chatham

Ward Security

Restoration House

Southern Water Ltd

Visit Kent

BBC South East Today

innov8 graphic design

Re:al Print & Marketing

Smith's Gore

Maxim PR

Brachers Solicitors

Dickens House Wine

Emporium

Gillingham Football Club

British Film Institute

Park Circus

The KM Group Treasure

Chest

Our very grateful thanks go to them all.



For full details or to apply for prizes to support community fund-raising events
www.kmcharityteam.co.uk/treasure



While we wait to hear the outcome of our bid to The Heritage Lottery Fund, lots of work is still going on to try and ensure that all the project will be funded. Lots of grant applications have been and still are being sent off to potential funders for things such as the Education programme that will run once the project is complete; the digitisation of the Textus Roffensis and equipment to go with it; the ancient wall

paintings in the Crypt; the glassworks for The Treasury; the Northbourne Pall; bookbinding and not forgetting the re-ordering of the Library.

As soon as we have news on these bids we will let you know the results.

Lynne Bax

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

Portrait of a Monarch



We have been invited by the BBC to display The People's Monarch : Unique mosaic portrait of Her Majesty made up of 5,500 individual photos submitted by BBC listeners and viewers in the South East of England.

Many of the photographs in the 38 square metre artwork submitted are family portraits or loved ones lost. This photo-mosaic honours both the Queen's 60-year reign and the people who make Britain great.

Artist Helen Marshall, who led the project, viewed every photograph and painstakingly manipulated these images to ensure they were included within the final piece.

The People's Monarch has been shown in two of the South East's top art galleries: The Towner in Eastbourne from 26 May to 10 June, and at Turner Contemporary in Margate over the Jubilee weekend.

We will be lucky enough to have it here in Rochester Cathedral from the 8th to the 19th August. Entrance to the Cathedral will free as usual but you can make a difference to our work by making a donation.

For more information on this amazing piece of work go to www.helenmarshall.co.uk/peoples_monarch.html

Ruth Dent – Exhibition

There is to be an exhibition in Rochester Cathedral in October entitled 'Celebrating Evensong'. This is a series of 16 banners illustrating the visual journey through Choral Evensong, created from the original prints of Ruth Dent. The exhibition will mark the 350th Anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The original images can be seen at: www.ruthdent.com/evensong.php

The images have been reworked and a limited edition hand printed and bound book has been produced, where all of the images are screen printed.

The images have been reworked to increase their size by a factor of 5. Images from our 'test install day' can be seen at www.ruthdent.com/newsandevents.php

Quiz Night follow up....

Saturday 21st April saw this year's Quiz Night in the Crypt where we were able to raise almost £500. So our thanks go to all concerned, particularly David Barrett who was instrumental in setting a challenging set of questions with something for everyone.

Colin Tolhurst and Rob Ryan were great as Question Master and Score Keeper and not forgetting our Stewards and Alan Tolhurst who helped so much with the marking. A special thank you to Lynn Wallis Eade who provided many of the raffle prizes.

Dickens Workshops



Rochester Cathedral was loved by Charles Dickens, he even expressed a wish to be buried here. Renamed Cloisterham, Rochester is the setting for his last unfinished novel "The mystery of Edwin Drood", where the character Mr Grugious describes peering into the nave from the west door as, "like looking down the throat of Old Time".

The Cathedral Education team were very keen to do something special as part of the Dickens bicentenary celebrations.

The Ernest Cook Trust very generously funded the planning and delivery of five Dickens themed workshops aimed at special schools to be held in the Cathedral during May 2012. This meant that all workshops could be offered free of charge. Nearly one hundred and fifty students with a wide variety of learning and physical needs from four special schools in Kent and London attended the sessions.








Pam Alexander, a trained dance teacher, was commissioned to devise an Oliver Twist themed workshop to explore aspects of the text through movement. The resulting session was enjoyed by all participants and led to amused glances from

general Cathedral visitors as they observed students miming picking pockets in front of the High Altar! Special Needs Advisor, Keith Park, along with one of his talented students P.J., was commissioned to devise and run call and response Dickens themed workshops. Their workshops were noisy and fun and the cathedral really did ring to the echo of happy voices chanting phrases from A Christmas Carol, The Mystery of Edwin Drood and Oliver Twist, with P.J. taking on the role of Fagin. Charles Dickens would have been delighted to hear his words echoing around the building he loved bringing delight and enjoyment not only to the students participating, but also to casual visitors exploring the Cathedral.

Plans are now underway for Chaucer themed workshops in 2013.

Liz Simmons & Helen Bradshaw

DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

8–19 August	"Portrait of a Monarch" exhibition in the Nave , Come along and see this amazing piece of art in the Cathedral. Final dates are still to be confirmed at the time of going to press. Confirmed dates will be found at www.rochestercathedral.org and click on Development news and events. Admission is free but please make a donation.	
Friday 7 September	Annual Golf Day at Hever Castle Golf Club . Registration for individuals at £75 or teams of 4 for £275 for the day. Business Guild members may claim a discount	
Tuesday 11 September	"Made in Britain – Made in Kent" Seminar at The Commissioner's House in The Historic Dockyard, Chatham. For local businesses or anyone with an interest in Manufacturing. High profile guest speakers will be there. The Seminar finishes at 1pm with lunch.	
Friday 21 September	Cinema in The Cathedral . "A Matter of Life and Death", the 1946 Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger film starring David Niven and Kim Hunter. Adults £8 (Concession £7) available from the Development Office or on the door. Please make cheques payable to Rochester Cathedral Trust or have cash available.	
Thursday 8 November	The last Business Guild breakfast for this year at The Commissioner's House, Chatham Historic Dockyard.	
Friday 16 November	Choir Concert - Join us for an evening of inspirational Choral Music with Rochester Cathedral Choir conducted by Scott Farrell, together with The Mediaeval Babes at 7.30pm.	

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

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