

Rochester

CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



From the Dean's desk

We're nearly there!

As you will see from the article at the bottom of this page, the building work for the Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions Project will begin on 28th July. You have no idea how relieved we all are.

A few months ago the whole project seemed to be in jeopardy as the tender prices came in considerably over budget but through lots of hard work it looks as though the build will go ahead as planned.

We are most grateful to the organisations and trusts that have supported the project:

Heritage Lottery Fund
Colyer Fergusson Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Rochester Bridge Trust
Wolfson Foundation
The Headley Trust
The Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation

You will be able to follow the progress through my blog which can be found at:
<http://rochester604.blogspot.co.uk/>

James Taylor Quartet: One of the highlights of the last few months has been the Trust promoted concert featuring James Taylor Quartet and the Cathedral Choir (as reported in the last edition of The Beacon). The nave rocked that night and I was probably the only person who steadfastly refused the invitation to dance!

This partnership has grown considerably over the last year or so and I am sure that it will continue to flourish in the coming months.

There is information about upcoming concerts on the back page of this edition.

Summer sun? And so after a busy few months we look forward to the summer. I hope that if you are able to get away the sun will shine, but do remember ... the end of the quote "the sun shines on the righteous..." is "and on the unrighteous too". We are all in this together!

Thank you for your continued support of our beautiful Cathedral and I look forward to seeing you very soon.

The Very Revd Dr Mark Beach
Dean of Rochester



LOTTERY FUNDED

Hidden Treasures

Fresh Expressions

Main Build

It is pleasing to report that following a number of false starts to the project the Cathedral has now instructed the successful contractor, Buxton Group, to commence the building works.

Building work is now expected to start on site in late July in order to avoid the busy period of university graduations and school leavers services. There will be plenty of preparation work going on behind the scenes throughout July. However to get to this position it has not been without further setbacks. Following the return of the tenders for the building works, which came in £800,000 over budget, work was undertaken to reduce the scope of the project to get it back on budget. However, following a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery fund for an additional grant (£286.7K) this now means that the majority of areas of work that were identified to be omitted can now be undertaken leaving only a small area of work that needs to be deferred until other funding is secured.

Pledges and gifts from 1st January 2014 to the end of June totals

£79,896.94

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

The Buxton Group is the main contractor for the following work:

- Repair to the library roof
- New library interior
- New strong room
- Disabled lift from Quire to Crypt
- Crypt renovation (apart from interior of Ithamar)
- Creation of permanent exhibition space in the older part of the Crypt
- Re-modelling of the vestries to create multi-purpose music, education and vestry space.
- New servery in the Crypt

At the moment the work to the cloisters and the internal work to the Ithamar chapel have to be excluded but grant applications are in hand to try and bring those areas back into the project.

Activities

The project also involves a wide range of activities, many of which are already underway and some of which depend on the completion of the building works. A summary of activity to date is outlined below:

Library news

Progress with the Textus Roffensis is being made with the online Textus Roffensis to be hosted by John Rylands Library, University of Manchester. The University's Press Office has offered to help, free of charge, to publicise and promote this with the Cathedral. <http://enriqueta.man.ac.uk/luna/servlet>

The Project Team is also meeting with the Library, University of Kent, to, hopefully, move forward with a potential partnership to develop an online catalogue which meets international standards and ensures sustainability for the Library collections. Once a proposed service level agreement has been reached HLF consent can be sought.

Kent Heritage and Library Centre (KHLC) will soon commence with the digitisation of the photograph collection. Volunteers will help

add catalogue details in due course. Similarly, volunteers will play an important role adding catalogue information to the now digitised glass slide collection.

Framed pictures, including the Tristram watercolours of the wall paintings in the crypt, have had conservation treatment and have also been digitised.

'Leafing through the Library', an online initiative inspired by Canterbury Cathedral Library's '**Picture This...**'

<http://www.canterburycathedral.org/conservation/library/picture-this/>

is awaiting a date to launch. This is likely to be in September and will feature a number of items from the Library collection, a variety of contributors and will be edited by Jayne Wackett, University of Kent.

Exhibition and Community Engagement

The exhibition now has a new title 'Rochester's Mystery Book'. This new title has been developed after feedback from the Community Consultation Forum. Now that a main contractor has been chosen it is full steam ahead for the exhibition and the Content Development team are just beginning to meet up and talk about training so that they can research and write text for the exhibition.

The Crypt Glass workshops with assisted adults were a great success and Wendy Daws is spending some time developing the final design.

A second Embroidery Open Day was held on 5th June which was well attended by visitors but it is felt that we could probably structure things a bit more next time and make sure it gets the publicity it deserves through the pew sheet and the weekly communication or parish reps.

Further information on the project timetable will be published on the Cathedrals website www.rochestercathedral.org once the timetable has been finalised.



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.

Education Department

It's almost a year since I joined the Education and Visits department as one of the Education Officers working alongside Helen.

It's certainly been a busy one – a happy one and seen some challenges along the way!

We have been kept busy with 10341 school children to date coming from 226 schools. I am always amazed at the distances some schools travel – we have parties who are local as well as those from Hampshire, Essex, Cambridge and all areas of London, not to mention foreign students. We cater for pupils aged 5 to 19 – and all come with their own understanding and questions. Schools need to book in and that way we can ensure access to the Cathedral and help deliver the programme of work they are looking for. We offer various workshops – and this year I have had to learn several new ones. I was fortunate that I had been a volunteer in the Education department before, and so had already learnt some of the activities we offer, but this summer I have got to grips with Monks! During June alone we ran this session 41 times – and if you average each group as being 25 – that's a lot of monks in Rochester!!

We started the academic year with a Pilgrimage Party for some of our Special Needs schools. Funding was

very helpfully provided by the Business Guild, it was gratefully received and made the activity worthwhile and of huge impact on the students – one school so enjoyed it, that their students asked to come back to Rochester Cathedral for an end of year outing.

The challenge we knew we would face from September was having to reduce our numbers and working areas due to the HLF project work, whilst things have obviously not moved as quickly as we had all envisaged, it has meant we have been able to offer some different activities. We were able to run some Easter activity mornings – with children following a trail around the Cathedral following the Easter story. We have also offered some “Interactive “ mini tours – where some of our volunteers appear dressed as a Monk, a Pilgrim perhaps even a knight or a Bishop!

I know that we would not be able to offer all of these activities if it were not for our wonderful group of volunteers – all of whom have made me most welcome this year.

We look forward to the next academic year – and this really will see the challenges that the HLF project work will present to us – the Monks will have to move out from the Crypt, and the number of students we can have in the Cathedral will be limited to 90, however we know that we will receive the support for this work from all those involved in the Cathedral's development.

Sue Gray

WW1

Do you own any memorabilia belonging to your family from WW1 or just an ancestor's name you would like remembered?

If so Barbara Lloyd, one of our Lay members of Chapter would like to hear from you. Rochester Cathedral is planning to mount an exhibition in August to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of War and to share our gratitude for our families with one another.

Please contact Barbara on 017 32 834327 or

barbaramlloyd@gmail.com.



The Rochester Cathedral Trust will be selling Christmas Cards this year in aid of 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 £5 for a pack of 10 cards.



Diary of Future Events

11 September	<p>Business Guild Breakfast Speakers: Bill Ferris & Mark Beach talk about an investment of £13m “Regeneration at ME1 1SX and ME4 4TY”</p>
26 September	<p>The Kings Singers Concert Back by popular demand we are very pleased to present a further concert performed by these amazing voices. Tickets priced at £5, £15 and £20 and are available from The Development Office.</p>
29 October	<p>Business Guild Seminar/Workshop To be held at Chatham Historic Dockyard. The Subject to be “Flexible Working”</p>
9 December	<p>Messiah & Carols for All Choir Concert</p>

**For further information on any of these events, please contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074
 or email development@rochestercathedral.org**

The King’s Singers will be performing their amazing concert in the Cathedral on Friday 26th September at 7.30pm. They have just finished a tour of Australia and New Zealand singing their Great American Songbook programme. They now travel to Riga in Latvia for The World Choir Games.

Tickets are available from The Development Office at Garth House and are priced at £20 for the centre Nave, £15 for North and South Transepts (to the side of the performing area) and £5 for Nave side aisle seats (some of these have a limited view of the performing area)



Concert in the Nave

On 27th June we were fortunate enough to be able to host a fabulous concert of The James Taylor Quartet, featuring the Rochester Cathedral Choir performing some of James’ especially written works.

The Medway Messenger reviewed the event and headlined it as “Hometown Jazz hero has them dancing in the Nave” and people certainly were! The Choir were delighted to be able to perform with James and his musicians.

The Nave was full and all profits will go towards the Music Endowment.

