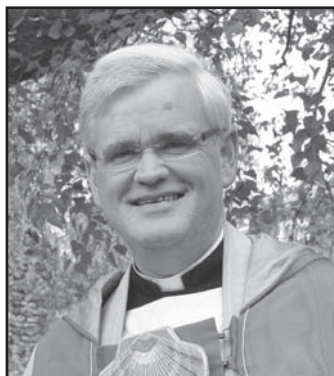


# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



### From the Dean's desk

**My first full year as Dean of Rochester has gone like a flash, and now 18 months into the job I feel like I have more of an understanding of what makes this place tick. And what a tick it is!**

The regular highlights come and go, one off events that require the fabulous team work of office and Cathedral staff keep us on our toes and at the heart of it all is the regular worship of the Cathedral community and pilgrims who come from all over the world to be with us.

At the heart of this worship is our musical tradition which your Trust is working hard to secure. Alongside the usual Trust events this year, which are described elsewhere in The Beacon, we are planning a re-launch in West Kent in June. A fabulous venue has been secured and we hope to strength our links with people in that part of the Diocese and attract more supporters for our essential task.

We are also planning a launch in London at which we hope to gain the support of city businesses, Livery Companies and others who share our vision for the life of the Cathedral. More details of both of these events will follow shortly but if you are able to help us in planning either of

them or know people who would like to be invited, please do let me or Lynne Bax know.

The third strand of this development is to write to key people in the five largest Rochesters in the USA to see if there in any mileage in setting up a "Friends of Rochester Cathedral USA". Again if you know people living in any of those cities, please do let us know.

We have also now had the report of our five yearly inspection of the Cathedral fabric. This did not contain any surprises but still comes with a hefty £7M bill over the next five year period. We have begun to explore ways in which this money can be raised and good news is anticipated from the Government in support of fabric repairs. Again watch this space.

#### **Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions Update**

As with most projects of this size, the HLF Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions building work has slipped due to the delay in getting the main tender out. However, this is now done and it is anticipated that work will start after Easter, leaving us free to deliver business as usual during this important time in our calendar.

The Very Revd Dr Mark Beach  
Dean of Rochester



### Hidden Treasures Fresh Expressions Timetable

There has been further delay to the main build timetable and as a consequence the next phase of on-site work is now due to start just after Easter.

Work	Timetable
High Altar Storage works	Due to be completed February
Wall paintings conservation	Completed
Main build (library and crypt)	April to Oct 2014
Exhibition/library fit-out	Oct/Nov 2014
Client fit-out of library and exhibition	Nov/Dec 14
Exhibition launch	Jan 15

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

# £31,357.87

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

### Capital work completed to date

The 14th century wall paintings on the ceiling of the Crypt have been conserved by Perry-Lithgow over a period of 3 months. The conservators will return once the main building work is finished to undertake a final clean.

The new storage unit has been created behind the High Altar. This is an incredible piece of design provide much needed specialist storage for a wide range of items ranging from altar frontals to candle sticks. It is completely hidden and will be infinitely more useful than the piles of boxes that were there before.

The contents of the library have been carefully cleaned, packaged and transferred to the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone where they are being kept in optimum archival conditions whilst the Library roof work is undertaken. The decant was managed in house by a team of committed and enthusiastic volunteers and events team with support from our Library Development Officer and an external specialist advisor.

A range of enabling works to create storage for that which will be displaced by the work in the Crypt and to enable contractors to work on site more effectively has also been completed. A number of external drainage issues have also been dealt with. These are all largely hidden from public view but are an essential forerunner to main building works as well as providing some longer term benefits.

### Library and Crypt main building project

Finalising the design and putting together the tender documents has taken much longer than expected. There are a number of reasons for this but primarily it comes down to the complexity of the project, the need to co-ordinate designs between architects, structural engineers, mechanical and electrical services advisors and a range of other professional advisors. It is critical in such a significant building as the Cathedral to get the design right

and some areas have had to be revisited in order to get the necessary permissions to move forward. However the tender for the main building contract has now gone out and the successful contractor is expected to start shortly after Easter. This is obviously much later than originally planned and once the contractor is on board the timetable will be revisited to see when the Crypt and Library will be open to the public again; the best estimate at present is towards the end of this year.

### 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:

### Digitisation and conservation

The Textus Roffensis and the Customale Roffensis have both been digitised by the Centre for Heritage Imaging and Collection Care (University of Manchester Library) Facsimiles, as well as digital images for both documents, have been received which can be used for interpretation. As part of the process a short video about the Textus Roffensis and the digitisation process has been produced and contains interviews with a number of experts including Michael Wood who continues to champion the importance of the documents to English history.

In moving the library contents into storage a number of books and paintings, in need of conservation, have been identified and the Kent History and Library Centre, who have a purpose built conservation studio, are undertaking this work for us.

### Exhibition and community engagement

An interpretation strategy has been produced and approved along with a clear direction for the first exhibition.

There is a good ongoing relationship with the Kent Association for the Blind and a small group is being set up with them to provide help in selecting and/or producing tactile objects that can be incorporated into the timeline in the Exhibition area.

A Community Consultation Forum has been established and has had its first meeting in January. It is anticipated that this will encourage increasing community involvement in developing the first and future exhibitions.

### Skills development

A range of opportunities for skills development have been provided including "Behind the scenes" talks by the wall painting conservators. Some more specific training for library volunteers in general cleaning and care of historic collections and specialist paper conservation has also taken place. A detailed training plan is being drawn up to ensure that staff and volunteers receive the training necessary to both look after our various collections and to interpret them to visitors.



## Auction

*We would like to have a fund raising Auction again sometime this year, so we need to collect more "lots". Can you please see what you have tucked away that you no longer have a need for and would like to contribute?*



## 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.

# James Taylor Quartet to perform in the Cathedral in June

On Friday 27th June we are really delighted to be able to present The James Taylor Quartet performing in the Cathedral. At a recent meeting with James he said, "As a long term admirer of the Rochester Cathedral musical output, the chance to collaborate with their choir and to perform with them in such a fantastically evocative, historically significant, and aesthetically stimulating environment as the Cathedral Nave, is hugely exciting for me and all of us. It represents the coming together of two disparate yet complimentary musical worlds, both of which are truly world class, both of which emanate from Rochester. To join an ecclesiastical choral sound with a jazz funk sound is also significant in that it is a first, and therefore something genuinely new in music. More importantly, it'll be a great fun night."



So please do join us. Tickets are £15 (unrestricted seating in the Nave) and are available from the Development Office. Please email [development@rochester-cathedral.org](mailto:development@rochester-cathedral.org) or telephone 01634 810074 or you can speak to Jill on 01634 843366.

James is collaborating with the Rochester Cathedral Choir on 24th March in London at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in the Southbank Centre. More information on James' website [www.jamestaylorquartet.co.uk/newsite/index.php/tour-dates](http://www.jamestaylorquartet.co.uk/newsite/index.php/tour-dates)

If you or your company would like an opportunity to sponsor this event, please do get in touch with us here at the cathedral.

## Family Fun day



Rochester Cathedral held a very successful Family Fun day on Saturday 22nd February. Almost 200 children and their families visited the cathedral during the course of the day to undertake a wide variety of activities. Children were able to make Mitres – we had a good number of under 8 year old female Bishops! They found out about heraldry and designed their own coat of arms. Brass rubbing and making their own badge

proved very popular. The Bishop Gundulf Morris Novices performed two sessions of dancing, inviting others to join in some of the dances, Eggy the Eagle (the Cathedral mascot) was seen participating in this as well as later on joining in the parachute games.

Children could find out about the Cathedral embroidery and have a go at undertaking some basic stitches to make a small card. Wendy Daws, a local artist helped children create a memory blanket with pictures of parts of the cathedral that meant something to them; the

blanket grew as the day progressed.

Pupils from Wouldham Primary school used their puppetry skills to perform popular hymns – favourites being "Who's the King of the Jungle" and "Father Abraham".

Also in attendance were a balloon artist and local representatives of Master Gardeners, where potatoes were planted to take home.

The cathedral displayed some of the suggested characters for family trails that will be developed in the future due to HLF funding and everyone was invited to choose their favourite.

All in all it was a great day for the cathedral and local community.



Helen Bradshaw & Sue Gray, Education Officers

## Volunteer Joiner / Carpenter

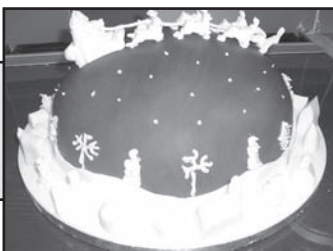
Is there a Carpenter / Joiner in the community that would like to help us with a small project? Please do contact the Development Office if you can help.



## Diary of Future Events

5 April	<p>Murder in Mind – A Pyramid Puzzle Murder Mystery.            Eccentric Aunt May is turning 60 – and has invited the close family to the cottage for a weekend party. Great Aunt Florence has a bee in her bonnet, for Aunt May has invited a spiritualist to her birthday party and is looking forward to having her palm read. However, last time the family sat at a table with ‘Mystical Martha’,            Great Uncle Henry died suddenly and Aunt May has a really bad feeling about the whole weekend gathering...            Tickets from the Development Office, Garth House at £6 (£5 concession).            Performance starts 7.30 at King’s School Hall, The Precinct, Rochester.            See if you can work out “whodunit”!</p>
22 May	<p>Business Guild Networking Breakfast at The Commissioner’s House at Chatham Historic Dockyard            Speaker: Lesley Chater, Innovation &amp; Enterprise at University of Kent            “Technology, Expertise &amp; Talent : Accessing Knowledge for Innovation”</p>
27 June	<p>James Taylor Quartet &amp; The Cathedral Choir            Concert in Nave. This is going to be a fantastic concert so do make sure you reserve your seat early!            Tickets £15 (unreserved seating in Nave)</p>
9 July	<p>Business Guild Annual Dinner - The Marquee at The Commissioner’s House, Chatham Historic Dockyard</p>
11 September	<p>Business Guild Breakfast            Speakers: Bill Ferris &amp; Mark Beach talk about an investment of £13m            “Regeneration at ME1 1SX and ME4 4TY”</p>
29 October	<p>Business Guild Seminar/Workshop            (Half day at Dockyard) Brachers to sponsor</p>
9 December	<p>Messiah &amp; 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](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)**



**Our thanks go once again to Helen Bannister in the Tea Rooms for another tasty Christmas cake raffle. It raised £204 and was won by Sue Malthouse in the cathedral office – who was delighted!**