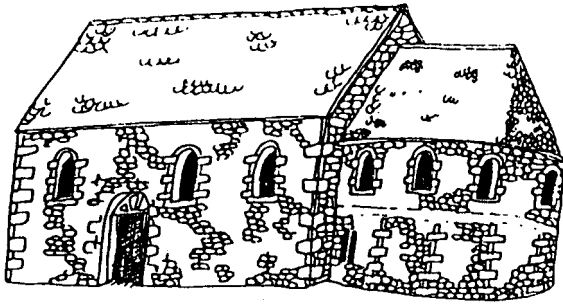


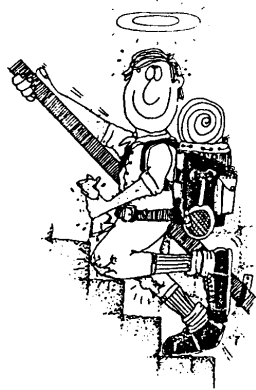
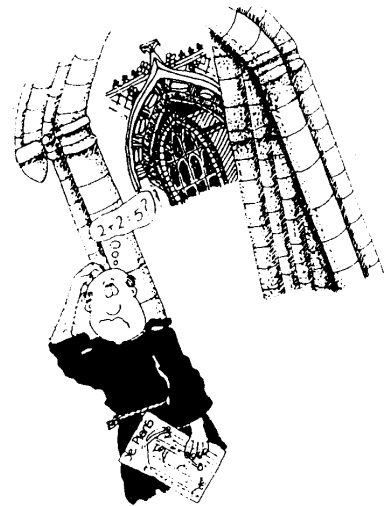
Rochester Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary



604 – Justus sent from Rome to help St. Augustine bring Christianity to Britain. A Saxon Cathedral was founded at Rochester dedicated to St. Andrew the Apostle. Nothing remains above ground of the Saxon Cathedral.

700 – 1000 A series of Viking raids during these centuries left the Saxon Cathedral in a sad and ruined state.

1077 – following the Norman Conquest in 1066 William the Conqueror sent for Gundulf, a French Monk from Bec. Gundulf became Bishop of Rochester and began building a new, Norman, Cathedral building. He also established a Benedictine Monastery at Rochester, with between 20 and 60 monks residing at any one time during almost five centuries of its existence.



1201 – William of Perth, a pilgrim on his way to Canterbury, was murdered near Rochester. His remains were brought to the Cathedral for burial, and miracles were said to be worked at his shrine. Thus Rochester became a popular place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages.

1500 –1600 The structure of the present Cathedral was completed by early Tudor times. In 1540 the monastery was dissolved by Henry VIIIth and the Cathedral became the Protestant Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1800 – 1900 The Cathedral was extensively renovated by the Victorians. Charles Dickens was a close neighbour of the Cathedral and worshipped here.

Into the new Millennium Prayers are still said and services held daily in this Cathedral Church – it is not a museum but a living church. In 2004 the Cathedral and Diocese celebrated 1400 years of worship in the Rochester area, and looked forward to another century of prayer and the 1500th anniversary.