

Hidden Treasures- *Fresh Expressions*

Project Update 9 - September 2014

Capital Works It's good to report that the building work has now started. Outlined below is a summary of the building works to date:

- Buxton, the successful contractor, on site 29 July.
- The crypt, the library and the vestry have been totally stripped out.
- Some opening up work has also been progressed particularly from the vestry into the existing pigeon parlor.
- The disabled lift has been decommissioned and access to other parts of the building are now restricted.

Future Activity

- Scaffolding to be erected in preparation for the repair work to the library roof
- Archaeological exploration to the Library roof, cloister, lift and crypt areas
- Work to begin on the candle makers store
- Removal of asbestos – see below

Asbestos Alert

- Asbestos has been found in the crypt, vestry and the library. Further work in these areas is on hold until this has been removed.

Activity Plan

Work continues on the delivery our Activity Plan Programme. As we have not reported on this for a while, an update of what has been achieved to date is outlined below:

Library Activities

- 5 participatory 'show and tell events' have been held during the library closure
- Digitisation of some of the library collection including the beautiful medieval manuscript the *Textus Roffensis*, photographs and glass slides
- Conservation undertaken on documents
- Volunteers working on cataloguing projects
- Production of three facsimiles of the *Textus Roffensis*

Textus Roffensis



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- Production of an interpretative film of the Textus Roffensis featuring contributions from Dr Alix Bovey, a medievalist at University of Kent, and Michael Wood, a historian and presenter
- Developing an online feature entitled 'Leafing through the Library'. This will consist of an image from a volume in the library collection and an article focusing on some aspect of the content of, or 'book object'.

Exhibition & Community Engagement

- 1st Exhibition identity (Rochester Mystery Book) has been determined
- Exhibition 2 determined - Magna Carta
- Turning the Page App for the Textus Roffensis
- Delivery of three behind the scenes conservation tours for the medieval wall paintings
- Working with the Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) Art Group in a glass screen design project for the crypt
- Establishment of a Community Consultation Forum
- Delivery of two historic embroidery open days
- Commissioning of an object dialogue box for outreach
- Production of job descriptions for new volunteers who will be hosting the exhibitions and undertaking outreach talks

Skills Development

- Delivery of ongoing training for volunteers
 - Peer to peer training
 - Working with diverse audiences
 - Conservation of documents
 - Cataloguing and documentation

Further information can be found on our website:

<http://www.rochestercathedral.org/development/cathedral-news>

Or you can follow the Dean's blog on: <http://rochester604.blogspot.co.uk/>

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