

# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



### From the Canon Pastor's desk

As I write this Adrian is no doubt speeding his way through the highways and byways of Britain in his quest to reach John O'Groats. Reading through this edition of the Beacon others have equally 'got on their bike,' so to speak and given their time, money and effort in aid of the cathedral so that future generations might be able to enjoy its beauty and majestic presence.

Of course, the cathedral is so much more than just a collection of stones, it is a living, thriving community, one which continues to be inspired by that vision of God which led our forebears to build the cathedral as a sign; a sign of God's presence and God's love for the world. It is these 'living stones' that make things happen.

The cathedral in so many different ways continues to be a beacon of hope and inspiration to a great multitude of people. They are drawn from a wide cross section of humanity and united, if not at the same time, under one big roof. As Canon Pastor I see the side of these stones which offers protection, comfort and solace to those in most need and the difference that can make. At a time of economic hardship at home and military action overseas, the cathedral acts as refuge and sanctuary. This unseen life often goes unrecognised.

So my thanks to all those who continue to support the life of the cathedral and make both its public and hidden life possible. In so doing not only is the building's structure maintained but also its Benedictine inheritance of hospitality.

Canon Dr Philip Hesketh

## TEXTUS ROFFENSIS—ON DISPLAY

A rare and exciting opportunity to see first hand this ancient and important historical text. It's the **first time since 2004** so why hang about?

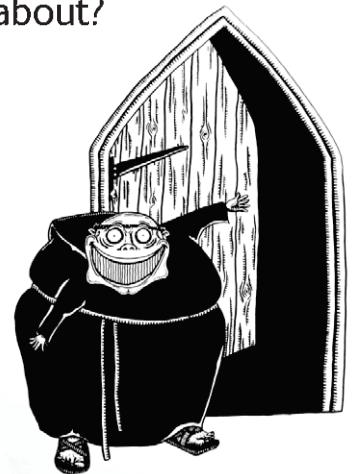
**When:** July 26 13:00 to 17:00, July 27 10:00 to 17:00  
July 28 10:00 to 14:00

**Where:** Rochester Cathedral Crypt—**ENTRY IS FREE**

Plus on the **27th July** bring the whole family and get ...

### TOTALLY MONKED!

An interactive interpretative trail which explores the monastic heritage of Rochester. There will be live demos of lost monastic skills; bee-keeping, wine-making, and calligraphy, to name but a few!



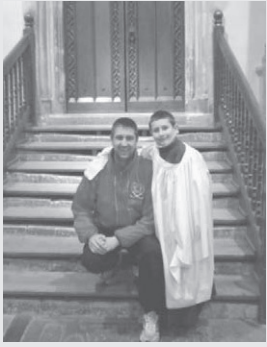
**For kids, and adults who are kids at heart!**

[www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)

GROSS FUND RAISING TOTAL FROM APRIL 2010:

# £25,643.75

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



## Paul Spooner-Lillingston – London Marathan

A very big thank you goes to Paul Spooner Lillingston who completed the London Marathan in just over 4hrs and has raised almost £3,000. Paul's son is one of our Choristers and the amount raised is being split between the Boys Choir and The Weald of Kent Hospice. Paul would like to thank all who supported him.

## 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](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org) and you will be added to the distribution list.

## Leviathan with a Fish-hook

Local author Sue Russell has written a Christian novel called 'Leviathan with a Fish-hook'.

To celebrate this book we will be holding an event at the Baptist Hall, Crow Lane, Rochester on Saturday 10 July 2010 at 7 p.m.

There will be a buffet supper, followed by an interview with the author, and a candlelight reading.

Tickets at £7.50 are available from the Development Office, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester, tel 01634 810074, email: [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org) or [sue-russell@talktalk.net](mailto:sue-russell@talktalk.net)

Leviathan with a Fish Hook is set in the summer of 1996, is the story of Eileen Harding, a middle-aged woman living an ordinary life in rural England.

In the woods where she walks her dog she meets Christopher, a young man afflicted by a mental illness, plagued by guilt and in spiritual torment. Eileen's meetings with Christopher form the heart of the story.



## Balgores

Folk, funny and home-made songs with a 1930s taste, brewed in Romford.

Line-up - guitar, mandolin, bass, bassoon, percussion and more.

## Summer Cheese & Wine Marquee Evening in Kings Orchard

You may remember in the summer of 2008 we had a Cheese & Wine Evening in a Marquee in Kings Orchard? We were entertained by the folk music of the Balgores Band. We had such a lot of good feedback after this event that we are very pleased to be able to let you know that they have very kindly agreed to come along to another event in Kings Orchard on Wednesday 28th July. To add to the entertainment we are delighted to have Steve O'Kane, musician, songwriter and poet, to perform for us as well. The venue will be the large Marquee in Kings Orchard.

We will provide a Cheese & Wine buffet and the evening will start at 7.15pm.

Tickets cost £13 and are available from the Development Office in Garth House, 01634 810074, email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

# Ancient Stones – Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project



## Multi-Sensory Magic.

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant has allowed us to expand our educational work in many ways – but the area which has given us most pleasure is the development of our offer to special schools. We now offer multi-sensory mini-tours which start with baptising a doll and end with the children donning mitres and sitting proudly on the Cathedra. We have a wonderful handling collection with artefacts and items which schools can use on self guided visits – binoculars to get close ups of windows and ceiling bosses, beautiful clay relief tiles made to order by Catherine Staziker, incense to sniff, photo cards to help explore the furniture, fittings and folk in the Cathedral. But the most innovative and exciting piece of work has been the development of a dance programme to help children with special needs explore spirituality and space. We have just completed

our pilot programme with the help of three enthusiastic schools – Abbey Court Primary from Rainham, Parkwood Hall from Swanley and Trinity from Rochester. Using lengths of floaty silk, a multicoloured parachute and a box of noisy percussion instruments we explored the stories of Noah and the ark and of Jesus calming the storm. Qualified dance teacher Pam Alexander joined the Cathedral staff to lead these sessions encouraging us to use movement, dance and all of our senses to tell stories in a unique and fun filled way. Comments from teachers included “Time flies when you’re having fun,” “For adults and pupils a rich learning experience.....it gave [the pupils] a feeling of awe and wonder” and “We had a lovely time”. From children, “A fantastic morning”, “I had so much fun I felt like dancing” and “Thank you, I had a wild time.” So if you happen to be passing through the nave and hear the crash of a cymbal, see wafting waves of silk and hear the musical sound of children’s laughter you’ll know what we’re up to!

**Helen Bradshaw**  
**Education Officer**

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



## TUDOR GATE FUNDING

The Tudor Gate is positioned in the railings enclosing the Cloister Garth to the south of the Cathedral and is badly in need of conservation and repair. The door frame is believed to be late 15th or early 16th century.

We are very grateful to the Ironmongers Livery who have very kindly granted our application for funding for the ironwork involved in this project.

On completion of this project we will be holding a Dedication Service.

## ROMAN WALL – NEW DISCOVERY

The Cathedral Archaeologist Graham Keevill and his associate Alan Ward have been digging exploratory pits around the Roman wall prior to any work commencing, and have made an amazing discovery! You may have already seen the item on GMTV about a window that was uncovered in the pit on the herb garden side...this tells us something new – that there was a substantial building there at some stage, probably the home of the Infirmar (a senior monk) who ran the medieval hospital at that time.

From the photograph you can see volunteer Malinda Henderson pointing to the cill running across the picture. We will keep you informed of any more exciting new discoveries as the project continues.



# LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS

We are halfway to achieving Adrian's target to raise £10,000 for his bike ride from Land's End to John O'Groats which is great news!

You will notice that a large map of the UK will be put up on the Development display boards at the West Door in July. When Adrian checks in with his progress reports we will be able to track his route.






He is doing this as part of a sabbatical, and in order to raise money to support the Cathedral's music tradition. Someone once described Choral Evensong as "the greatest free show on Earth". The reality is that it is free but far from cheap, and Cathedral music is in danger of disappearing from the English cultural landscape without a significant injection of funding. He hopes that 1,000 people will sponsor him a penny a mile for 1,000 miles – this will only cost £10 but will enable him to hit his target of £10,000 in total.

Adrian says, "Ever since I was a boy, and my eldest brother walked from Land's End to John O'Groats, I've had an ambition to do something similar. I've decided to add a bit to the traditional length of the ride in order to make it into a 1000-mile challenge. I know it won't be easy, but the physical challenge is part of the attraction for me. And I'm very pleased that I can raise money along the way towards keeping the musical tradition at Rochester Cathedral alive".

For further information or a sponsor form please visit [www.rochestercathedral.org/development/newsandevents.asp](http://www.rochestercathedral.org/development/newsandevents.asp) [www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust](http://www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust) or email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)



## DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

July 2010	<p><b>"Penny for Them"</b> - As part of his Sabbatical this Summer, the Dean is going to cycle a 1,000 mile route from Land's End to John O'Groats, raising money to support the Cathedral's music. We hope that 1,000 people will sponsor him a penny a mile for 1,000 miles – this will only cost you £10 but will enable Adrian to hit his target of £10,000 in total. We are a quarter of the way there already – thank you so much.</p> <p>Please contact the Development Office for sponsor forms or donate on-line at <a href="http://www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust">www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedraltrust</a></p>	
7.30pm 10th July	<p><b>An Evening with Sue Russell</b> will be held in the Baptist Hall in Crow Lane Rochester at 7.30pm on 10th July. A buffet supper will be followed by an interview and a short candlelight reading from her book 'Leviathan and a Fish Hook'. Tickets cost £7.50 each and are available from the Development Office 01634 810074.</p>	
7.15pm 28 July 2010	<p><b>The Summer Cheese and Wine in Kings Orchard</b> will be held again this year in the Marquee. We are very pleased that The Balgores Band will be entertaining us once more with their folk music, together with the musician, songwriter and poet, Steve O'Kane.</p> <p>Tickets for this event are available from the Development Office on 01634 810074 and cost £13 each.</p>	
3 September 2010	<p><b>Golf Day</b> - We are delighted to hold our 2nd annual Golf Day once again at Hever Castle Golf Club.</p> <p>Reservations and further information available from the Development Office on 01634 810074.</p>	
5 September 2010	<p><b>Come on Ladies!!!</b></p> <p>Don't forget to diarise the date for the Women's 5km. Run/Walk in Hyde Park. We would love you to join the team. Race T shirts supplied and a coach will be available so you can relax all the way there! This is such a nice day out for the family and a great way to raise some money for the cathedral. Sponsorship forms available from the Development Office.</p>	

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our fund raising events. Please contact Lynne in the Development Office (01634 810074) if you have some spare time and would like to be involved.

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

T: 01634 810074 Email: [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org) [www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)

Newsletter Design: Our sincere thanks go to Billie Wootton of innov8 graphic design for the very generous offer of her expertise with the Beacon layout. For your design needs, please visit [www.innov8gd.com](http://www.innov8gd.com)