

# Rochester

## CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



### From the Dean's desk

*When last I wrote for the Beacon, Adrian was on sabbatical and I didn't imagine for one moment that I would be writing again so soon, this time as Acting Dean. For at least the next 9 months I shall be in 'caretaker mode', whilst juggling my other hats and look forward to being a bit more involved in the work of the Development Office.*

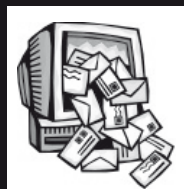
*The summer months were an opportunity for taking leave and taking stock as Adrian moved 'to fresh woods and pastures new' – although when Milton wrote of Elysian Fields he probably had something more pastoral in mind than the Mile End Road. We shall miss Adrian's energy, enthusiasm and his ability to look at challenges as opportunities. Yet, the mission and ministry of the Cathedral continues as it has done for countless centuries. As faithful stewards we are simply called upon to make a contribution and then hand on the baton or possibly the beacon to the next generation. Certainly, the Cathedral is in a much better place than it was six years ago but there is always still more to be done.*

*In October we shall know the outcome of the latest Heritage Lottery Fund submission. We know our application is a good one but the competition is stiff with many organisations asking support for 'worth projects'. If successful we will embark upon a new exciting episode in the life of the Cathedral and possibly the biggest disruption to its normal routine since the late nineteenth century. The work will involve major projects around the crypt and the library. Even if unsuccessful, Chapter is still committed to providing disabled access to the crypt and repairing the medieval roof of the library. We would need to find alternative streams of funding to enable this work and future projects. All this before a new Dean has even arrived. So alas, there is no time for putting our feet up on the desk!*

*As we enter this period of interregnum, may I thank you for all you have done thus far and for your continuing interest and support in the life of the Cathedral. Please do remember the staff of the Cathedral during this time and indeed pray for those given the important task of appointing a new Dean. As we contemplate the next six years we do so with hope and confidence that the best is yet to come!*

**Cannon Phil Hesketh**

Acting Dean



### 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.

### WWW...

For those that haven't had a chance to check it out – please go to [www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)

Our IT specialist, Dan Soper has been very busy redesigning the site and it looks great! You will find this site full of information that is very user friendly. To follow information on what fundraising is going on, check out the Development section. A page has been added for The Business Guild that John Spence chairs and regular updates will be made to this as events and news occur. You will also be able to view an online version of this newsletter if you need to.

NEW PLEDGES AND GIFTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2011:

# £95,466.85

# Adidas Women's 5km Challenge – Hyde Park

Our very grateful thanks to all the runners and supporters that came along to Hyde Park on Sunday 11th September 2011.

The team was: Sylvia May; Anne Sears; Jill Oxland; Nicci and Coral Jackson; Eileen Coleman; Lynne Bax; Suzanne Rogers; Sarah Anderson; Julie and Ellen Piercy; Gill Wood; Joanne and Nicole Conyers; Caroline and Emily Mills; Anna Graffath; Sue Redgewell; Kay McDowell; Ann West and Sharon Jones.

First home were Coral Jackson and Ellen Piercy in a time of 29 minutes. Congratulations!



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

## Education Work

KJV400

Happy New Year! September heralds the start of a fresh academic year with lots of new ventures for the Education and Visits Team. The first project off the starting blocks is KJV400 – a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. On Saturdays throughout September and October renowned local Graphic Artist Nick Stewart will be running workshops for a small team of sixth form students from Kent schools assisted by Sue Saville (volunteer with the education team).

The team aims to create thought provoking visual works inspired by the book of Psalms. All of the work will be hand generated using only Quink black ink and bleach, media which will produce exciting, ethereal and illuminating results.

This is a unique opportunity for local youngsters to work collaboratively as a team, guided by a talented professional, to produce a show that will hopefully inspire, provoke and engage a modern audience.

The show will run from Saturday 22nd October until Friday 4th November in the Cathedral Crypt. Entry is free.



To follow the progress of the project follow the links from our cathedral Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/KJV400/256256614393655>

For more information contact Helen Bradshaw 01634 810066 or email [helen.bradshaw@rochester cathedral.org](mailto:helen.bradshaw@rochester cathedral.org)

## KM Treasure Chest

KM Treasure Chest is a wonderful scheme that provides free quality prizes to support the raffles and auctions of good causes. They are an annual supporter of our Rochester Cathedral Trust Golf Day and we are pleased to be associated with them. Particular thanks this year go to Gillingham Football Club for their prize voucher.



Our very grateful thanks go also to Lynn Wallis Eade for her generosity in donating raffle prizes.

## The next big project ...

Phil mentioned our next project in his introduction on the front cover. Here it is in more detail!

### Hidden Treasures *Fresh Expressions*

Rochester Cathedral is a Grade I Listed Building and one of the oldest of England's small number of medieval cathedrals with the earliest parts of the building dating from 1080AD. The cathedral is open 365 days of the year; opening at 7:30 each morning; closing time varies from 4:30 at the earliest to late night when special events and concerts are held. There is no typical day in the cathedral, it can range from the relatively quiet with only the three statutory services to festival days when we can see thousands come through the doors in a single day.

The cathedral library is a fine 14th century building currently inaccessible to the general public. It contains books dating from the first half of the 12th century, eighteen of which pre-date the Reformation. The building is in great need of essential repair work to protect the collections. A re-ordering of the library is required in order to overcome the current barriers to physical and intellectual access to the material it houses. Similarly there is an urgent need for much improved storage, display, environmental control and light protection.

The project will use the cathedral's currently inaccessible and nationally significant artefacts and collections as a catalyst for exhibitions within the cathedral's Crypt and Library. These incredibly atmospheric and architecturally impressive spaces will be sympathetically opened up to improve access for all audiences. It will also carry out a range of critical roof repairs.

Rochester Cathedral believes in the power of people to bring the cathedral's heritage and history alive through activities

and events led by inspiring individuals and partnerships. We are passionate about connecting with and working with, people and communities through considered and stimulating experiences, encouraging them to discover and explore the wonders of our fabulous cathedral and its heritage.

This passion has developed from our recent HLF funded interpretation project "Ancient Stones, Untold Stories" which has enabled a radical improvement in the interpretation of the building.

We aim to challenge and excite our audiences reaching out to people who may not normally engage with us for a number of reasons. We will dispel myths, remove barriers and encourage them to reach in to the cathedral in new ways, creating a new model for cathedrals in the 21st century and beyond via a specially devised programme including of exhibitions, performances, lectures, workshops linking our heritage past present and future into our everyday lives.

The aims and objectives of the project are to:

- (1) Improve learning by developing a range of integrated activities for specific target groups inspired by our current collections and objects of interest, renewing interest for some and inspiring interest and awareness of our heritage for others.
- (2) Improve participation by working with local community groups and other organisations to create local ownership of the project.
- (3) Improve access both in terms of physical access to the Crypt and library and virtual access to on-line resources.
- (4) Conserve and repair a range of building fabric and artefacts currently at risk
- (5) Create a Treasury exhibition space within the crypt and other space to support the learning, participation and access work.

## Make a Joyful Noise

The fund raising Choir Concert this year will be held on Friday 18th November and is entitled "Make a Joyful Noise". The Rochester Cathedral Choir will be conducted by Scott Farrell and you are invited to join us for an evening of inspirational Choral Music. Tickets are £10 and include drinks and canapés at a reception after the Concert. Tickets are available from Kay McDowell at Garth House on email [kay.mcdowell@rochester-cathedral.org](mailto:kay.mcdowell@rochester-cathedral.org) or please telephone 01634 810062.



Funds raised from this event go to support the music tradition at Rochester Cathedral.

## Britain's Holiest Places

I was recently sent some information about a rather lovely book called "Britain's Holiest Places. It is a guide to 500 sacred sites in Britain of all different religions. The author had asked us for some information on our lovely cathedral which we sent to him. Happily it has been included in this very interesting book.



It is by Nick Mayhew Smith and is available on Amazon.

There is a website with the latest news and a bit more information about the book itself: [www.holybritain.co.uk](http://www.holybritain.co.uk)

## Legacy anecdotes

To continue our amusing legacy anecdotes feature, here are some extracts from "Second Best Bed" by Fenton Bresler

An American multi-millionaire named James McMillan Gibson, who died in 1966, directed in his will that he wished to be buried with Champagne at his head and feet. A three foot high Nebuchadnezzar of Bollinger was duly placed at each end of his grave.

When a businessman from Ipswich died in April 1976 leaving a net £58,070 estate, his will directed that everyone attending his funeral should be handed an envelope containing £1 and a note saying: "Have a smoke and crack a joke. Thanks for coming." His wishes were honoured and all of the eighty mourners leaving the funeral service at St Augustine's Church, Ipswich, received their envelope and the cash. Four years earlier, a wealthy London Company Director had an even more splendid idea: he left a legacy to each of his four executors "equal to four times the current price, at the time of my death, of the table d'hôte at The Savoy Hotel" with the wish that they "spend it on a good dinner together".

We have enclosed our new pamphlet with Legacy information with this Beacon. If you would like further information on how to leave a legacy to the Cathedral in your Will, please do get in touch with us.

"I give unto my wife my second-best bed..."

From William Shakespeare's will, 1616

## Report Back...

### Whistle Down the Wind

The centre nave was almost full on the evening of Friday 23rd September for a really good screening of "Whistle Down the Wind" and our thanks go to local film critic Nick Walker for all his help with this fundraising event. Special thanks also go to Darren Bramley for all his help with the audio visual.

All funds raised from this event will go support the Development of Rochester Cathedral.

Thank you so much to our audience for all the support.



## Text donations via Just Giving

Donating a small gift has been made even easier now. All you need to do is text the message

**RCTR46 £10**  
to **70070**

and you can make a difference.



## DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

Thursday 10 November 2011	<b>The last Business Guild breakfast</b> for this year at The Commissioner's House, Chatham Historic Dockyard. Our guest speaker is Mr Jonathan Neame of Shepherd Neame Brewery.	
Friday 18 November 2011	<b>"Make a Joyful Noise"</b> Join us for an evening of inspirational Choral Music with Rochester Cathedral Choir at 7.30pm – conducted by Scott Farrell.	
Saturday 21 April 2011	<b>Quiz Night</b> – Once again please diarise the date to join us in the Crypt for our Quiz night	

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.

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