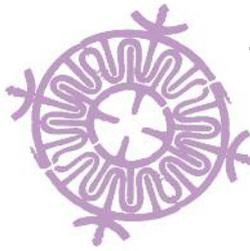


BEACON



The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral **SEPTEMBER 2021**

From the Dean's desk...



Recently, I was sent a copy of *The Fields that Heal* by John Hunter which tells the story of the creation and evolution of the children's charity, Dandelion Time. It is a remarkable story and the Cathedral played a small part in its early days. The Book arrived at one of those providential moments when I had been thinking about how the Cathedral could best respond to support people post lockdown.

Certainly, the impact of Covid-19 on mental health is well documented. The series of national lockdowns has served only to re-emphasise the importance of open spaces to health and well-being; in particular, being in touch with nature. My own spiritual and mental health over this challenging time, was sustained by working in the Cathedral Orchard and creating a new garden. I was fortunate, blessed even.

For some years, I have been keen to explore how the Cathedral's own green spaces and gardens can be developed to further the mission of the Cathedral. Moving The Deanery back into King's Orchard has given focus to these ideas. It was a pleasure to share some of the thinking on the Cathedral Garden Tours.

Of course, the Cathedral is a small organisation with limited resources. Nevertheless, it is important to remain open to the promptings of the Spirit. Indeed, the gardens and open spaces are part of the Cathedral Estate and their potential would have been fully realised by the Benedictine monks. They knew the transformative power of nature nor were they slow in recognising a commercial opportunity! It is wonderful that after several centuries of just fruit trees, we have honey bees and vines, back in King's Orchard. Last year we had our first crop of King's Orchard honey – hopefully we may have wine in the future.

Without trustees, supporters, volunteers and friends, very little would be possible. Any new project needs funding and to be

sustained, alongside all the ongoing commitments. By the grace of God, some have felt a special calling to this work and we have already appointed our first garden volunteers under our exceptional Head Gardener, Graham Huckstepp.

If you would like to know more about how you can get involved or if you would like a tour of the gardens then please do get in touch.

The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh DL
Dean of Rochester

Bishops Gate Project

We are very pleased to advise that this project is now fully funded and work will commence on 4th October. The contractor tells us that there is a 16 week delivery time for the stone so we'll have to do the work in two phases. The initial inspections and preparations in October; and the restoration in the Spring. We will keep you advised of progress!



Rochester
CATHEDRAL
Growing in Christ since AD604

Please note: You are receiving this newsletter because we think you have an interest in Rochester Cathedral and its events. If we have got this wrong please let us know by emailing development@rochestercathedral.org or telephone 01634 810074.

In order to process your kind donations, keep you updated with news and events, and carry out our work effectively, we will need to store and use the information you have provided to us. We are committed to treating your information with respect and in a transparent way. To find out more, please read our fundraising promise at <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/cathedral-trust/>

Pledges and gifts from 1st January to end August 2021 is £540,860.39

Forthcoming Events

Business Guild Dinner

The **Business Guild Dinner** in the Crypt on 20th October. Tickets are £55 each and are available as singles, doubles, or a table of 8. We have a delicious menu choice that is being catered for us this year by Rebecca Collins and her team at the new Vines Hotel in Rochester.



All are welcome at the dinner. We have a sparkling reception before dinner and the after-dinner speaker is always interesting. Please book your tickets early so you are not disappointed.

On the 10th November we have our first in-person **Business Guild breakfast** since before Covid-19. This event will be in the Crypt, and please be assured the breakfast will be just as delicious as we have previously had at the Historic Dockyard.

To book tickets at £55 each for the Business Guild Dinner, or to register your interest in attending the Guild breakfast please email: lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org

Space Voyage

A lightshow by Luxmuralis

Travel the universe without ever leaving Rochester Cathedral

5th, 6th, and 7th October 2021



Space Voyage takes visitors on an immersive journey through light and sound. The visual spectacular allows viewers to go on a journey through space and time and gives visitors the chance to walk amongst the stars. Sound and light art will be projected onto the stunning architectural features within the Cathedral and visitors are enveloped with bespoke music as they view and experience a journey to the edge of the Universe and back. Visitors will walk through projection art installations, be immersed in the sound and light, and have the chance to explore and contemplate their own personal journeys.

This is the first time Space Voyage has been shown at Rochester Cathedral, but it has been installed in other cathedrals, including Lichfield and St Albans, across the country to rave reviews and sold out tickets.

To book a timed entry ticket (the first entry is at 6.40pm) please visit www.rochestercathedral.org but be quick: they are going fast!

Garth Garden Roses

The existing Garth Garden on the south side of the Cathedral has been a place of tranquillity and beauty for many centuries, set within the ruins of the monastic cloisters. Some of the existing roses have come to the end of their natural life and so this is an opportunity to replace them in memory of those who have recently died. We have space for about 100 roses and I hope that in some small way this will help re-create the garden and remember loved ones.

The roses have been specially chosen for their fragrance: *Chandos*, *Galway Bay* and *Paul Shirville*. A donation of £30 will help cover the cost of a rose, reparation, planting and recording.

If you are interested in being part of this scheme, or for Rochester Cathedral Trust payment details, please contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074 or email lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org Please Gift Aid your donation if you can.



Retiring Trustees



David Ward & John Spence OBE DL

Rochester Cathedral Trust is very sad to advise that **John Spence** will be retiring as a Trustee after 19 years' service in November. Prior to John joining the Trust he was Chairman of the Gillingham Synod and Lay Chairman of the Deanery Synod. He also served on the Diocesan Finance Committee and of course, chaired the Cathedral Council for many years. His association with Rochester Cathedral goes back many, many years.

John has been an amazing inspiration to us all and a mentor to me personally over the years. Not least by his hard work in establishing the Business Guild over 12 years ago which is now being chaired by David Ward. We hope John has a very happy retirement in his new home in East Sussex.

We have also said goodbye, with regret, to two other long term Trustees this year:



Clare Denison-Pender

The Hon Mrs Robin Denison-Pender has retired from our Board, after very long service of over 20 years. Clare was our 'go to' person when we were organising Trust Golf Days and always worked very hard on our Event Committees. We are so grateful for all the time she gave us.



Mrs Georgie Warner DL

Mrs Georgie Warner DL also left the Board this year and we have always appreciated her opinions and wise advice over the years.

We wish them all well for the future.

Lynne Bax
Development Officer

Garden Party at Doddington Place



On 20th August, Amicia and Richard Oldfield kindly invited members of the Gundulf Society and others to Doddington Place for a garden party. Doddington Place has been the home of the Oldfield family for a century and was built around 1860. The gardens still evoke the Edwardian spirit of one of the

original owners Mrs Douglas Jeffreys (nee Oldfield) who was responsible for much of the architectural detail and layout of the heart of the garden.

The view was magnificent from the front lawn, where we gathered for drinks and canapes. We were blessed with dry weather and the garden looked particularly delightful in the soft evening light.



Many old and new relationships were (re)kindled and following brief introductions from Richard Oldfield (Chair of Cathedral Trust), Lars Lemonius (Chair of Gundulf Society) and Philip Hesketh (Dean of Rochester Cathedral), we toured the garden (in fairness most people got lost) and inspected the newly erected 'old' cathedral pinnacle, which had been replaced in 2019. Jacob Scott (exhibition assistant at Rochester Cathedral) gave an informative and entertaining talk about the pinnacle's history.



It was the most joyful evening and the first outing for many following a long and arduous lockdown. Many thanks to Amicia and Richard for their generosity and to Trevor Sturgess for being a superb photographer as always.

VIRTUAL CATHEDRAL project

Comprising over five hundred 3D models, the **Virtual Tour** is an incredible record of the architecture, history and collections of Rochester Cathedral.

Available online at
rochestercathedral.org/virtual-tour

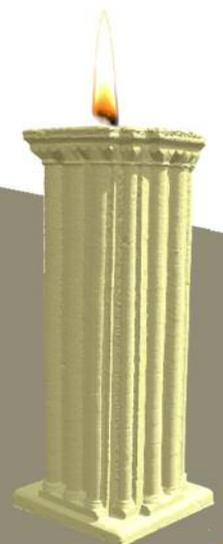
...and coming soon

A 3D printing service for tactile exhibitions, prayer foci, gifts and souvenirs inspired by the finest sculpture and items from the Cathedral collections.

Do you have experience in 3D printing, wood routing, casting, or jewellery design? Get in touch and share your thoughts and ideas as we develop this innovative new service:

jacob.scott@rochestercathedral.org


Grimacing monk
corbel c.1240 CE
North Nave Transept
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