

Friends of Rochester Cathedral Report 2015/2016



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EDITORIAL...Julian Shales

This report includes the Message from our current Vice-President, Reverend Canon Dr Philip Hesketh, the Dean Designate and the Friends' President in Waiting. It also includes a quite extensive Archaeologist's Report from Graham Keevill who has been working in association with the structural projects currently underway.

Helen Colvin of the Flower Guild and Scott Farrell our Director of Music have kindly given their time to contribute articles from their fields of work and expertise. This year, Markham Chesterfield and Heather Sinclair have provided the Social Committee report of activities.

The number and size of the contributions this year has been such that an article by Canon Precentor Neil Thompson and a comprehensive guide to the Cathedral's non-military Monuments by David Carder will be held over until the next Annual Report in May 2017.

I thank all of the above contributors for their hard work and Angela Watson and the other members of the Publicity Sub-Committee for their assistance with the production of this report.

Julian

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT...Terry Wood

It was my privilege to congratulate Philip Hesketh, on behalf of the Friends, on being appointed Dean of Rochester. Since the resignation of his predecessor, Philip, as Vice-President, has been the sole appointee of Chapter on Council and has served us well. Thank you, Philip, for your unfailing support. As Philip's installation is set for the day after the Friends' AGM, your new Chairman will have the pleasure of welcoming Philip to Council as the new President, and we look forward to Chapter's nomination of a replacement Vice-President.

At a time of much change in the Cathedral, I have had the luxury of retaining the services of all the Council's sub-committee chairmen. I thank them all and their committee members for their continuing enthusiasm and support. There is a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes and it is these people who act to keep the Friends alive. Vice-Chairman Chris Bostock and Publicity Committee Chairman Julian Shales attended the 2015 national conference of Friends of Cathedrals and major churches which gave us an insight into what our fellow associations are doing and set us thinking about what we can perhaps do better. Chris chairs a small committee to consider the future of the Friends on a continuous basis, there is no laid down agenda for the committee and discussion and considerations have included the constitution, subscriptions, recruitment and fundraising. As appropriate, other committees consider and follow up ideas.

Julian and his committee are set the task of reviewing publicity material and in addition are organising a fundraising concert to be held in the Cathedral on 23 July, featuring the Medway Singers and the Brook Concert Orchestra. Julian, with assistance from Angela Watson, also edits the Annual Report.

Markham Chesterfield and the Social Committee have put together some excellent visits and evening events, which are reported on elsewhere, and together with Chris arranged what would have been a most interesting visit to Belgium, which sadly we were obliged to cancel due to insufficient interest and the recent fall in the value of sterling against the euro which removed the price flexibility that had been built in.

John Dalley, our Hon. Treasurer chairs the Finance and Grants Committee and continues his efficient monitoring of our financial affairs. Our accounts are subject to independent examination by Chartered Accountant Richard Abel. Our office is very ably run by Christine Tucker, whom I thank for all the assistance and support she gives to each of us. It really is a team effort and I thank everybody on Council for the way they support one another in everything we do.

As I write, the Cathedral is still in the hands of the builders and the crypt, library, south quire transept and the garth all remain out of bounds. At the invitation of Chapter Clerk

Gilly Wilford I have been able to inspect progress and can report at first hand that there is a replacement chair lift on the Kent steps and that the installation of a platform lift at the east end of the crypt is imminent. Our original plan to provide access for disabled users of the Cathedral may not be being precisely matched, but there will be good provision for which the Friends can be credited. Chapter has requested that the Friends support the additional costs involved in completing the unexpected shaft work in the Gundulf crypt together with fitting out the crypt vestry and servery and Council has approved grants totalling £180,000 towards these works, which will be largely funded from recently received bequests.

Other grants approved but still delayed pending completion of the crypt include organ maintenance and repairs, and provision of a list of bishops, but we have been able to assist in repairing the crumbling wall alongside the memorial garden in the south west corner of the garth and a similarly potentially dangerous wall alongside the path leading to the south east corner of the garth, together costing £25,000. The annual grant of £7,500 for garth maintenance will go some way towards putting this precious space into good order again. The list of vergers is now in place. We will continue to work with Chapter to ensure that the funds raised by us are put to appropriate use in supporting Rochester Cathedral as laid down in our constitution.

I should like to welcome into the Cathedral community and wish success to the new organisation set up by Chapter together with members and supporters of the Music Department specifically to support the Cathedral's music and its choirs, called The Friends of Rochester Cathedral Music (FoRCM). We, the Friends, support all aspects of Cathedral life, including such things as organ repairs, and together with the Director of Music, the Assistant Organist and the Lay Clerks we have this year raised money for the Music Department in our Candlelit Musical Tour of the Cathedral. I am sure we will work with FoRCM but their brief is separate from ours and it should be noted that despite the similarity in their name, FoRCM is completely independent of and should not be confused with the Friends.

I thank you all for the support you have given to me, to Council and to the Friends during my time in office, and offer my best wishes to our new President, to my successor as Chairman and to the new Council.

Finally, I beg your indulgence. It is the ongoing duty of the Chairman to remind members that without your support, the financial assistance we give to the Cathedral would falter. There is, this year, an item on the Agenda for the AGM, which has not appeared for many years. Council has decided on more than one occasion since I first joined it that it has not been appropriate to increase subscriptions. I recently had occasion to look back twenty-one years to 1995 and discovered that subscriptions then were the same as now. Costs have risen considerably in that time and in order to avoid expenditure on administration eating into capital Council is now of the opinion that subscription

increases are now necessary. These proposals are shown on the formal notice of the AGM. Please do bear in mind that the increase has had to be significant because gradual increases have not been applied previously and when compared to subscriptions of other Cathedral Friends and similar Associations our subscriptions remain reasonable. Please encourage friends and family to join us, and please remember that Donations (Gift-aidable) and Legacies in favour of the FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL can be sent to our office as shown inside the front cover. Thank you.

Terry

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Reverend Canon Dr Philip Hesketh, the Dean Designate

Dear Friends

It is with great joy that I write as the Dean designate of Rochester and your new President in waiting! Since the announcement by Downing Street in February I have been overwhelmed by the generous goodwill and kind comments of so many people. The challenges which face the Cathedral at present are certainly daunting, but I feel most blessed in being surrounded by such a dedicated and committed staff, supportive group of volunteers and enthusiastic cathedral community.

The Friends of Rochester Cathedral have played such a vital role in the life of the Cathedral since its formation under Dean Francis Underhill. Since then The Friends have supported the fabric and mission of the Cathedral in generous and consistent ways and the recent support of the *Hidden Treasures Fresh Expressions* project has been essential. I look forward enormously to working closely with the Friends in the future and thank God that we have such an active and faithful group of people.

Despite the recent setbacks, I'd like to pay tribute to the resilience and patience of the Cathedral staff as they have tried to manage the shifting sands of the Project. Not only were they able to deliver the Magna Carta/Textus Roffensis Exhibition on time, albeit in a different space, but it proved to be a mammoth success and our exhibition volunteers were superb! This is encouraging for future exhibitions.

The task of raising a substantial endowment to secure the Cathedral's music and fabric is beyond the capability of any one person and so I know that it is only together that a difference can be made and provision for the Cathedral's future secured. It is my hope that in the coming years more and more people will want to be part of the Rochester Cathedral family, not just because of its breath-taking architecture and its inspirational music, but because they desire to be part of something bigger which gives meaning and purpose. I believe that what we are doing now is making an important contribution to

the wider community and hopefully leaving a legacy for future generations, which will enable them, in turn, to serve their generation. We must not let these stones fall silent, nor let them fall down! Yet, this is not because stones and music are in themselves important, but because they are vehicles through which the human spirit is elevated and our common humanity enriched. May the Cathedral continue to be a place where together we 'grasp the heel of heaven' and find inspiration for living; thank you for helping to make it so.

Philip

MEMBERSHIP REPORT...Mrs Christine Tucker

Our total membership as at 31 December 2015 is 974 composed as follows:

406 Life Members	18 Schools and Colleges
407 Ordinary Members	2 Companies
5 Families	26 Associations
110 PCCs	

During the financial year (1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015) we have welcomed 44 new members, 33 Ordinary, 1 Corporate, 1 School and 9 Life Members as listed below. 20 members have either resigned or, despite our best efforts to trace them, have not renewed their membership.

New Members

Mr J E Bailey	Mr R Hawkes	Mr J Smith
Mrs H M Bailey	Mrs G Hawkes	Miss M K Treacher
Mr C Burrows	Mr P Heavens	Mr J Tuff
Miss M Campbell-Widgey	Mrs A Heavens	Mr A E Wallace
Mr R Carrington	Mr M H C Hydes	Mrs J C Wallace
Mrs E Carrington	Mr A P Latimer	Canon R Ward
Mr D Cordier	Mr G F Licence	Mrs L Weavers
Mr R Cowen	Mrs W P Licence	Mr P Weller
Ms P Dearing	Mrs S A McKernan	Mrs P Weller
Miss J Fox	Mr J M D Meade	Mr P A J White
Mrs J Gay	Mr J Newcombe	Mrs J M Whiting
Mr P S Glass	Mrs S Newcombe	Sir Joseph Williamson Lodge 4605
Mrs P S Glass	Dr J Rosenberg	Woodlands Junior School Tonbridge
Mr D Harris	Mr S Rowan-Robinson	The Ven Dr P Wright
Mrs J Harris	Mr J Scott	

It would be a great help if subscriptions could be paid by Banker's Order. This saves the need for a reminder letter and the resulting postage. A Gift Aid Declaration for

donations by those eligible to pay tax provides additional funds for the Friends of the Cathedral.

Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to all members who are 90 this year but especially to Betty Trollope and Alan Mclean, two stalwarts of Council over the years who were honoured to receive the Royal Maundy from HM The Queen at Windsor.

Obituary

It is with sadness that we have been informed during the year of the death of 19 members.

Mrs M E Ashfield

Mr A Bell

Mrs B E Bourne-Tuplin

Mr D J Bradley OBE

Mrs C A Foord

Major R D Hale

Miss G L D Harmer

Mrs J Johnstone

Mrs W Lang

Mrs C McKee

Mr T Robinson

Miss M B Rogers

Mrs J E Sharp

Revd R D Smith

Mrs P Spence

Mr E W Tuff

Mrs P Vousden

Mr R Webb

Mrs K Woodfield

THE ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL FLOWER GUILD...Helen Colvin

The flower guild has evolved over the years from a time when only the Canons' wives, the Dean's wife and some invited friends were allowed to decorate the cathedral. The Guild team is now about 12 strong with members coming from as far afield as Gravesend to Sittingbourne, with as many as possible being local. For most members their turn comes round about 4 times a year plus special festivals and events. There is also a rota of valuable volunteers who water the arrangements to keep the flowers going through the week.



The Guild tries to keep within a modest budget each year with flowers required about 35 weeks of the year. No flowers for Lent or Advent. The Guild receives a grant from the Dean and Chapter of £800 a year but we also have to make money on events

such as the Graduations, Civic services Speech days, and Weddings, although not all the organisations that use the Cathedral want extra flowers, or indeed are prepared to pay for them. Every week we put flowers at the High Altar, the organ steps, the welcome table by the West door and a small posy on the table by the memorial books.



For festivals and special events we do extra flowers at the West door, the font, the Lady Chapel, the tomb by the Pilgrim steps, the South Transept and the Crypt steps when available.

Several members of the team are also members of The Guild of Church Flower arrangers where four times a year we go to different Churches in the Kent countryside for demonstrations by nationally renowned demonstrators. Not only does it get us into some lovely parish churches around Kent but this year in March, the Cathedral hosted the meeting.

The lovely flowers you see about the Cathedral are mostly grown in Holland and come via the Holland market to a wholesaler in Lordswood. (Or a quick trip to Tesco.) We do not use any artificial flowers other than the poppies for remembrance. The arrangers are reimbursed for the flowers but have to provide their own foliage. The Friends very kindly provided us with splendid green aprons with the logo on and so now visitors come and talk to us whilst we work and talk about their own church flowers.

We are always able to welcome new arrangers and look forward to more people sharing with us the pleasure of decorating such a lovely Cathedral.

Helen

ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT ...Graham Keevill (see plan on back cover)

Last year I was able to report some remarkable findings on the Hidden Treasures – Fresh Expressions project. As I said then (in a slightly different context), this project has offered us a once in a lifetime chance to study the cathedral in a grand scale. Indeed we have been able to peer into many crucial nooks and crannies of the building (and the cloister), uncovering many 'hidden treasures' in doing so. As I write this year's report, our work on site is finally drawing towards its close: the building contract (in its somewhat reduced form) is almost complete, and all the areas we needed to keep an eye on are finished –



North-east corner of the earlier Norman Cloister
(marked by the scales)

just about! We have continued to make remarkable discoveries right to the end, particularly with regard to the development of the Norman cathedral, as you will see below. That said, now is certainly not the time to make 'definitive' statements about our discoveries: many months of careful analysis and research will be needed before we can understand the full significance of our

findings. What follows is therefore very much in interim statement – a work in progress, one might say. Next year I should be able to offer you some final thoughts and interpretations.

Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains

It is scarcely surprising that we have found plenty of evidence for Roman Rochester in our excavations.

The cathedral occupies a fairly central location in what we know of the Roman town, after all. Alan Ward and Tim Tatton-Brown had previously found Roman pits under various parts of the crypt during the 1990s. Most likely these were just the bottom parts of what had been larger features, the rest of them having been cut away when the Norman and later crypts were built. We have had a glimpse of 'what might have been' right at the end of our work: even as I write, Alan is still on site recording part of J T Irvine's tunnel under the Quire. This had to be re-opened and extended to alter the organ pipework. Here we have found archaeology untouched by the building of the crypt, including a thick soil layer of Roman date - perhaps pit fills? More Roman pottery has come from this small area than any other part of the site. Given all this, it was slightly surprising (and impressive) to find remnants of a small building directly under the main crypt floor. It was scarcely a palace – we only have one room for certain, though there may have been more, and the clay floor did not suggest any particularly high status. Furthermore, the building had numerous pits around it – perhaps small quarries for brickearth originally, and then used for getting rid of rubbish. Never mind – Roman buildings of any sort have been quite hard to find in Rochester so far, so this was a good result.

Meanwhile in the Cloister Garth we found clear evidence that a substantial Roman building (maybe more than one) must once have stood nearby. A deep pit needed to be dug close to the centre of the Garth for a new soakaway to take the rainwater from the cathedral roofs. This excavation was not especially exciting, but quite a large amount of Roman tile came from one layer. These were not roof tiles, though: they were the flat,

thick tiles typically used in the *pilae* (pillars) and floors of Roman hypocausts (under-floor heating systems). A large amount of heavy building debris like this is unlikely to have been carried far before it was thrown away. Who knows – perhaps in future archaeologists might locate the hypocaust itself somewhere in the Cloister area.



Pottery from Irvine's shaft



Irvine's Tunnel/Shaft

The dearth of Anglo-Saxon archaeology has been the one (probably the only) disappointment of the project. Given that our work concentrated so heavily on the crypt, the small amount we have found is perhaps not that surprising: we can show very clearly that the building of the successive Norman and Gothic crypts involved cutting down deeply into existing ground levels. This could well have removed any evidence of Saxon remains. In fairness, we have found soil layers of this era – the so-called 'dark earth' often found in disused Roman towns – below the floor of the Ithamar Chapel, in the cloister, and when re-excavating part of J T Irvine's tunnel. More of that in a moment: suffice it to say for now, the Saxon cathedral itself remains tantalisingly difficult to find!

The Norman Cathedral

Last year I reported quite extensively on the recording of the Norman cathedral's east end under the crypt floor, and especially the unexpected staircase of the same era which stopped the new access lift from the Kent Steps to the crypt being built. Since then we have made several further discoveries relating to this same period, in some very different locations. We start with our most recent findings, in Irvine's tunnel under the Quire.



Norman floor ('roof' of the tunnel) at the top, and the dumped layers under it in the side/section.

J T Irvine dug his tunnel in 1874 to provide new wind trunking for the organ. It seems to have been a remarkable exercise: two shafts were sunk from the Quire down to the requisite level – just above the floor of the Norman crypt – and the tunnel itself was driven through from the latter's west wall almost to the crossing. I had read the contemporary record of this work with fascination, not to say wonder. It scarcely seemed to

be the safest of exercises ... But I had forgotten one point: Irvine made use of one very fortunate feature. Luckily for him (and us) the original floor of the Norman cathedral was found to survive, almost 2m below the Quire floor. This first floor, of flint and stone in mortar, was (and still is) as solid as concrete. Irvine was able to use it as the roof of his tunnel in complete safety.

Irvine drew sections showing the floors and other archaeological layers in both sides of his tunnel. These have some inconsistencies, but they are an excellent record of his work – especially as they were drawn more than 140 years ago. The sections suggested that the Norman floor had been laid against, and therefore was later than, the west wall of the so-called Gundulf Crypt. This is crucial, if controversial, because it would show that this part of the crypt must be among the earliest surviving Norman fabric in the whole building. Many scholars have disputed this, suggesting that Irvine was incorrect and the crypt must have been added after the floor had been laid. In this hypothesis the crypt (and indeed the whole of the Norman east end) could be pushed well into the 12th century rather than the late 11th or early 12th century. The opportunity to re-examine his tunnel at the crucial point where it passed through the back of the crypt wall was therefore an unmissable opportunity to re-examine Irvine's work. In short, he was right. Both Alan Ward and I inspected the re-opened tunnel very carefully. This is what we saw.

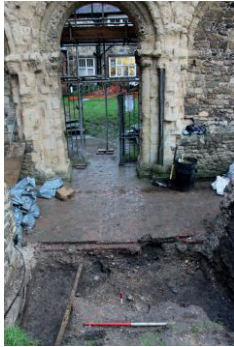
1. The west wall of the Norman crypt is cut into the Saxon dark earth, and soil layers of Roman date beneath it. The level from which it was cut is well above the original (in this context Norman) crypt floor level. The height seems to be about the same as the threshold of the Norman door we found under the Kent Steps, though we need to confirm this. The top of the wall trench is marked by a very distinct mortar construction layer. The wall itself is of flint nodules in light brown mortar.
2. The west wall corbels out slightly twice above the construction layer. These upper 'steps' have a series of dumped layers against them. These continue right up to the underside of the first Norman floor (= the roof of Irvine's tunnel) and must have been

dumped there as make-up for the floor itself – after the crypt had been built. Irvine shows these layers on one of his sections. The mortar of the Norman floor is white/very pale buff, and very distinct from that in the wall.

3. The floor is solid. Had the west wall been cut through it, this would certainly have caused a major scar/disruption in the floor. There is no trace of this. Instead, it is clear that the floor was laid against the back of the crypt wall once that had been built. The floor, stratigraphically, is certainly later than the wall.

It will take us some time to work out the full implications of this discovery (perhaps it would be better to say rediscovery, in deference to Irvine's work). The sequence and dating of the Norman cathedral have been hotly debated topics among leading academic researchers for many years. I have no doubt that the latest findings will generate yet more debate, and perhaps even controversy. Archaeologists tend to like that sort of thing!

Our Norman findings have not been confined to the crypt. Further evidence has also come to light in the cloister, and this is just as exciting. We know, of course, that the east range and Chapter House are Norman, though there is an equivalent debate to that about the dating of the crypt and east end here too. That need not concern us at the moment – there have been several papers in previous Friends' Annual Reports on the subject after all. What we have found is clear evidence for an earlier Norman cloister, slightly smaller than the existing one. We definitely have the foundations for the north and east sides of this earlier cloister, and probably the west side as well. Most remarkably, we have also found remnants of a room with a polygonal apsed east end projecting from the east range. It is tempting to describe this as an earlier Norman Chapter House, and this is our favoured interpretation at the moment. But there are problems – we have only seen a small part of this building so far, and the evidence for its width in particular is currently inconclusive. On one interpretation of the evidence, the building seems too narrow to be a Chapter House – though it could 'fit' with the historical evidence for the quite small monastic community Gundulf brought to Rochester at first. At least one completely different scenario could be suggested, though: our cloister might actually belong to the first Infirmary (with the great cloister further to the west), in which case the projecting apse might belong to a chapel. The suggestion that the first great cloister might have lain further to the west (a more conventional position than the present one alongside the east end) does not fit very well with the known topography of the cathedral (or even the Roman town 'beneath' it), however, although it is a possibility we need to examine carefully. Ultimately we will certainly need to carry out further excavations (but after HTFE is finished!) before anything like final answers can be provided. That is all too often the frustration of archaeology: one question answered will most likely end up asking at least two more.



Cloister explorations

The Library and Vestry

It would be tempting, but wrong, to think that the Norman cathedral has been our whole focus. In fact we have been looking at evidence for later medieval work in several areas – the main crypt and Ithamar’s Chapel being obvious cases in point. Interesting new evidence about the foundations of these areas has come to light, but nothing that has caused us any great surprises. The building work has also given us an excellent opportunity to study the Library roof (previously only accessible via an inconveniently placed and very precarious access hatch), and this has been of real interest. A dendrochronology survey has shown that the original oak timbers belong to two distinct groups, felled in 1342–63 and 1355–80. These date ranges overlap, giving rise to the possibility that all timber was felled in a single operation in 1355–63. Alternatively, the slightly different felling date ranges may indicate the use of stockpiled timber, something which was not uncommon, especially amongst large and wealthy institutions such as cathedrals. Irrespective of this, these results show that the roof belonged to the same scheme of work (or one immediately succeeding it) as the magnificent doorway through which access to the Library is gained.

The vestry below the Library has also repaid careful attention. We have recorded earlier foundations underneath its floor and thus clearly pre-dating the vestry/Library. These may have been boundary walls within the monks’ part of the precinct. Finally we found a late medieval (or perhaps Tudor) tiled hearth under the floor in the eastern half of the vestry. Curiously this seems to have been open within this downstairs room, with no chimney or other obvious way to vent smoke to the outside. This is another little conundrum for us to think about when we start analysing the results of our work in detail.



Chapter Room / Library roof beam work

Late medieval tiled hearth found under the Vestry floor

Leaving their mark ...

Last year I reported the finding of a portrait boss in the Chapter House – our ‘cheeky chappie’. He is still there, of course, and will doubtless become a popular attraction once the area is re-opened. Expect him to feature in lots of ‘selfies’ ... He hasn’t been our only discovery with a personal touch. Stripping out the old strong room in the Library foyer revealed two interesting sets of old pencil graffiti. One, in a fine script, had a nicely official feel to it: “This Book Case was built the 23rd Oct 1835, Edw^d Bradley, Rich^d Garrett, builders. In Dean Stephens and D^c Markham’s Time”. The main signature, though, was that of Verger Isaac Kingham. This pleased Colin Tolhurst! The second set of graffiti dated from April 1907 and was somewhat less official: choristers F G Robinson, I Scoones and the rather more coy ‘A P’ marked their departure from the cathedral in that month on the library wall!

In conclusion ...

It is only right to end an article like this with some words of thanks. The first of these are due to the Friends themselves. You have supported this project, and Chapter, through many difficult times. All of us appreciate this hugely: the financial help has been critical of course, but the moral support from Friends locally and further afield has been just as important.

The second ‘thank you’ may need a little more explanation. I have made liberal use of what might look suspiciously like the ‘royal we’ in this report: ‘we have found’ etc. More often than not, what this actually meant is ‘Alan Ward has found ...’! I have been hugely fortunate to have someone as dedicated and expert in his knowledge of Rochester to help me throughout the HT-FE works. Alan has been on site much more than me, and deserves a lot of the credit for the success of our archaeological endeavours.

Finally, I wish to express my thanks and very best wishes to Ian Stewart on his retirement as Surveyor of the Fabric. It has been a joy to work with him throughout this and the many other projects we have shared. I will miss you greatly, Ian!

Graham

THE CATHEDRAL'S ORGAN ...

Scott Farrell

It seems rather odd writing an article about something that I have neither played nor heard in 18 months, but here I go on the subject of our 3808 pipe cathedral organ.

Although some pipes can be dated back to the 1791 organ of Samuel Green, what we see now is a combination of a glorious case by Gilbert Scott (1875) and an instrument that has at its heart the organ of 1905.

This instrument built by JW Walker and Son contains some older pipe work, but was essentially a new instrument albeit of relatively modest proportion having 3 keyboards (manuals) and 40 stops (c.2230 Pipes). Nothing major happened to this organ for fifty years, other than routine maintenance and, in 1934 a general overhaul at which point some stops had their pipework replaced.

In 1956 Robert Ashfield came to Rochester as Organist and with a new organist came new ideas. Although there were some very conservative plans already under consideration which predated Dr Ashfield's appointment, these were revised and expanded and the work was carried out, again by Walkers in time for Easter 1957. Quoting Paul Hale, "this scheme transformed the rather restrained old-worldly 1905 organ into a much more colourful, considerably brighter, and - when necessary - very powerful instrument. However in trying to do so much it sowed the seeds of its ultimate demise."



Barry Ferguson inherited this instrument and although loved by some, it had some very major failings and tonal imbalances as well as some quite serious technical issues. This is an instrument that I remember hearing as a member of the choir of Dover Grammar School for Boys when we came to sing choral

evensong in about 1985. I asked a friend who had played for the service what they thought of the organ; the response was telling.... "Nothing that a match wouldn't sort out!"

When it came to finding a builder to do the work Mander, a company of organ builders in London were selected. Mander had rebuilt and restored very successfully the grand organ of St Paul's Cathedral, Chichester Cathedral, Eton College, Birmingham Town Hall

and also the organ in Canterbury Cathedral and were well known to the then Assistant Organist Paul Hale as they had rebuilt the organ in Tonbridge School Chapel when Paul was the organist there. Paul is very knowledgeable indeed about organs so it was perhaps obvious to ask Paul to advise on the rebuild at Rochester, especially as he knew the organ so well: all of its potential and all its failings.

Within the glorious 1875 cases, the organ was new both structurally and mechanically. The Mander work of 1989-90 introduced a large number of new pipes and tone colours (2140 new pipes, which equates to about 28 entirely new stops), some new and beautiful casework (the choir organ on the Quire side of the case, which looks like it has always been there), a 4th manual, a cleaned and restored organ case and a much more "present" sound...a real "cathedral organ", if you like.

The tonal design was quite brilliant' giving the organist nearly every colour required for cathedral repertoire as well as all the organ literature and not only that, but the technical design was ingenious allowing for what was in reality a bigger instrument in a very restricted space.

Not only was it physically larger: on the first occasion that the instrument was used, Barry commented on how much louder the instrument was!

I remember very well the opening recital by Simon Preston and also attending an evensong when the choir sang Stanford in A and Roger Sayer played the Sonata Eroica of Joseph Jongen at the end. Very thrilling it was too!

Arriving in 2008, I was very excited to get to know the ways of this very fine instrument and what better way was there to do that than listen to it in the hands of its master? Roger Sayer had known this instrument from the day it opened and no one knew how to draw the most beguiling sounds out of it better than he. Certainly I, my assistants and organ scholars listened open mouthed in wonderment at the skill Roger showed at creating the most beautiful, symphonic soundscapes to accompany the choir.

It was with great sadness that in September 2014 the organ was de-commissioned whilst work continued in the crypt which necessitated the removal of some of the essential wind trunking which carried the air from the blower to the organ.

Fortunately we have been able to use an electronic organ owned by Douglas Henn-Macrae, running a very clever piece of software called Hauptwerk, which effectively allows us to play on recordings of different instruments (called sample sets). We have been playing on the Hereford Cathedral sample set and have enjoyed the colours and versatility that has given us in accompanying the choir. In the initial handover between the Mander and the electronic, we did our best to balance the two instruments stop for

stop, but it became clear that the speaker system could not “move the air” in the Cathedral in quite the way that the pipe organ does.

It was felt that advantage could be taken of this and the opportunity should be taken to do some housekeeping work on the organ, which The Friends are most generously helping us with. Twenty five years is quite a long while in an organ’s life and so some of the work that we felt necessary included repairs to some pipes that had collapsed under their own weight and the wholesale replacement of three stops that were coming to the end of their lives (and which never sounded as good within the new scheme as they had



in the old). Other work is being undertaken to postpone a major overhaul for as long as possible – as you can imagine after twenty five years of daily use things do wear out and also get very dusty indeed!

It goes without saying that all of us musicians are praying for the day when we get our wonderful instrument back and to hear its clear tones ringing through our beautiful building.

Scott

SOCIAL EVENTS ... *Markham Chesterfield and Heather Sinclair*

DENBIES WINERY



Our first visit for 2015 was a day trip to **Denbies Wine Estate** in March. Located just outside Dorking the vineyard's terroir has been planned and grown similarly to that of the Champagne region of France. Here we saw the vineyards planted with some 28 varieties of grape; the later ripening varieties being hand picked. In 2014 the latest pickings took place on November 19th.



After an entertaining and informative "train" ride through the estate we returned to an audio-visual presentation and subsequent wine tasting in the cellars.

A superb lunch was served and after purchasing local produce, souvenirs and of course, wine our party of 43 returned to Rochester. An enjoyable trip for all.

CRYPT ARCHAEOLOGY TOUR

Friday 13th March: Cathedral Friends were treated to a review the progress made and see the difficulties being faced by the team.

HEREFORD

Tuesday 19th May - Friday 22nd May – a **Residential visit to Hereford**, with visits to the American Museum in Bath, Stokesay Castle, a full day in Hereford, including the Cathedral, Malmesbury and Chavenage Manor House.

After an uneventful journey we arrived at the American Museum in Bath. The museum traces the history of North America from its native roots through early settlers to present day. It is housed in a beautiful mansion overlooking the city and members enjoyed an excellent lunch here.



Arriving in Hereford some two hours later, we made base in our hotel and after a pre dinner drink and a superb dinner, all retired for the night.

The next day saw us visit Stokesay Castle, an incredible example of a fortified Manor House. From there we visited Dunkertons cider mill for a light lunch and we then returned to

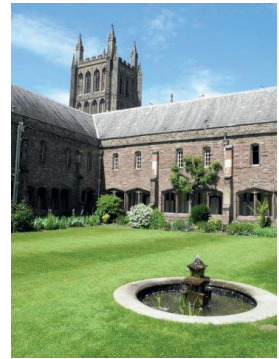


Hereford through the countryside.



Day three, in the morning, the Chairman and a very small group, visited Belmont Priory, a Benedictine monastery and the home of the Prior of Rochester. Unfortunately the whole group could not visit as the prior, Father Luke, is frail and the monastery not large enough to take us all.

For the rest of the day we were guests of the Friends of Hereford Cathedral. They entertained us "right royally", covering our every need. Tours of the Cathedral, the beautiful gardens, lunch, Mappa Mundi together with the chain library and Magna Carta and then completed with afternoon tea and Evensong all included.



We were finally waved goodbye by the Secretary of the Friends, Mrs June Chase. A day to remember for a very long time.

Our final day having left the hotel we stopped briefly for coffee and visited Malmesbury Abbey and then called into Chavenage Manor. This is still a family home and the family took us around their beautiful home explaining all its history and entertained us to afternoon tea. A definite highlight of the tour.

We arrived back in Rochester at the end of a very busy and enjoyable four days.



Markham

ELY

Saturday 5th September saw the Friends on a wonderful coach trip visit to Ely Cathedral organised and led by Heather Sinclair.

We left Rochester as planned by 09 30 with a full coach, and only one absentee. New Enterprise coaches gave us an excellent service and we made good time, arriving at Ely in comfort and earlier than expected. Because it was a Saturday which suited many of our members, especially those working during the week, we did experience some minor problems in communicating with the Friends of Ely Cathedral, which was disappointing, however, all plans went well, the weather was fair, and the feedback from participants was very encouraging.

Ely cathedral had several other groups to deal with but we were given a tour as expected at noon and we all found somewhere to eat and drink whenever we wished. Some even found free drinks at a stall outside the cathedral!

The day was deliberately planned to give plenty of time and scope for Friends to follow



their own inclination; some walked to the river; some visited the Cathedral's stained glass Museum or Oliver Cromwell's house; all of these are situated within easy walking distance, and there are plenty of fine shops too – so something for everyone.

We reconvened at 15 45 to meet with and hear an organ recital from Edmund Aldhouse, who was once our Assistant organist and now in post at Ely. We are very grateful to Edmund for his help in making this day so successful and we enjoyed his expertise on the organ.

There was time for tea before sung Evensong at 1730 which was led by the girls' choir and thereafter, we found our coach and driver waiting outside the West Front to bring us home. Another excellent journey with no holdups saw us back in Rochester earlier than the time anticipated.

Heather

JACOB SCOTT'S TALK AND DEMONSTRATION OF 3D IMAGING

On the 5th November **Jacob Scott** gave an enjoyable, informative and entertaining talk on his **3D Imaging Projects** in respect of the Architectural elements of the Cathedral, the Castle and the Synagogue to an audience of 80 in the King's School Hall.

ADVENT LUNCH

On Wednesday 2nd December, the Advent Lunch was held at the **Rivers restaurant at Upchurch Golf Club**. There was an excellent take up for tickets, namely 79. The guest speaker this year was Father John Thackeray, the recently retired school chaplain at the King's School. Father John has now returned to parish life in Ipswich. We are therefore most grateful to him for taking the time out to return to Kent for us. He spoke about School life and the strong link between the School and Cathedral and was well received. The caterers produced an exceptionally fine meal and our thanks go to them. Thanks to all who supported the event.

CANDLELIT MUSICAL PILGRIMAGE OF THE CATHEDRAL'S HISTORY WITH SUPPER

On the 3rd March 2016, this event was open to members and non members alike, and included a series of stops at points of historical interest around the Cathedral where a Cathedral Guide spoke, followed by music relating to that particular period of history. A short Organ recital ended the tour followed by a light Supper with drinks.

We had a full house for this, the first Musical Pilgrimage ever to be held at Rochester. The lay clerks directed by Scott led the music, Brian Micklewright delivered the commentary, lighting was organised and directed by Andrew Coulson, this together with enormous help from Colin Tolhurst and his team made for a most memorable evening. The evening ended with a superb supper, provided by the King's School caterers, and was served in the South transept. The monies raised will be donated to the Cathedral Music Trust. It is hoped to repeat the occasion next year. My thanks go to all who supported this unique event.

FRIENDS' VISIT TO FAVERSHAM AND BELMONT HOUSE

On the 12th April, blessed with wonderful weather all morning 50 Friends visited Faversham for a brief walking tour. This was led by the Rev. Peter Lock, well known to most as our former Archdeacon.

We walked via the Market place, with the market in full swing, to the beautiful parish church with Peter pointing out interesting buildings en route. During the tour of the church we were able to see the exhibition commemorating the centenary of the great explosion at the Gunpowder Mill of Faversham.



Then walking via the former Grammar School, Arden House and Abbey Street we had coffee at the Sun Inn.

We then drove on to Brogdale Fruit Farm for lunch.

After lunch we drove to Belmont House arriving in a brief hail storm however the weather changed. A most informative tour of the House and its world famous clock collection was conducted by expert guides, after which we then we enjoyed a generous cream tea in the Orangery. By now the sun had returned and some walked in the beautiful grounds. It was great to see this splendid Regency house in all its glory.

We returned to Rochester at precisely 6 pm after a most enjoyable day.

FUTURE EVENTS

Planned trips include a day trip to the Chichester and the Flower Festival on Saturday 4 June, a tour of Allington Castle on Tuesday 19 July and a four day visit to Yorkshire next year on 16 May.

We are hosting a concert in the Cathedral by the Medway Singers and the Brooke Orchestra on Saturday 23 July, and the Advent lunch will be held on Wednesday 30 November at West Malling Golf Club.

Markham

A PRECIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in the King's School Hall, The Precinct, Rochester on Saturday 20 June 2015

78 Members were present.

The Vice President, Canon Dr Philip Hesketh, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The Vice President read the names of the 23 members who sadly had died since the previous AGM.

Apologies for absence were received from The Rt Revd J and Mrs Langstaff, Cllr B Kemp, Mayor of Medway, Miss T Crouch MP, Mrs K Tolhurst MP plus 31 members.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 June 2014, having previously been circulated, were signed by the Vice President as a correct record.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Vice President thanked the Friends and members of Council for their support and encouragement during this eventful year.

Reporting on the Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions project the Vice President said there were continual challenges and setbacks but he was confident of new timescales with a completion in October. He was proud of the support of many different groups and the Friends had been continually helpful. He used the expression 'value engineering' referring to obtaining best value when using and reapplying for funds. Work is commencing on the pigeon parlour and vestries where he hoped nothing else would be found to stop or delay the project. With the arrival of the Textus and the Magna Carta it will be a very exciting time. It is planned to hold a fund raising dinner in the Nave with David Starkey which should prove very interesting.

The Cathedral is in good heart and the Vice President said that he expected to be Acting Dean until April. We have a great deal to be thankful for here in Rochester so go and tell others to be Friends of the Cathedral in the hope that we can reach the 1000 mark. He thanked everyone for their support.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the Vice President for his address, for presiding at the meeting and for his support of the Friends.

He thanked the retiring members of Council for their valuable service over many years and thanked the former President, Mark Beach for his support during his tenure as Dean.

Planned grants have been postponed due to the Hidden Treasures project delays but authority remains in place for Bishops and Vergers lists, organ maintenance, donation boxes and the Garth maintenance grant continues. We are in discussion with Chapter about funding some of the budget creep, and have helped to fund training for young volunteers and 3D imaging.

There has been a full programme of social events and this will continue as Markham Chesterfield and his Social Committee plan forward into next year.

I thank Bob Ratcliffe for again editing the Annual Report, also David Carder for his insert on Building Stones, the Interior and all the other contributors. Julian Shales has enthusiastically led the Publicity Committee and has updated our pages within the Cathedral website, as we endeavour to improve our communications with members.

John Dalley continues to look after our finances and he will report separately. Every organisation needs a good treasurer and I thank John for being just that and for chairing our Finance and Works Committee.

The Vice Chairman, Chris Bostock has taken on the task of reviewing the future of the Friends and her Committee is beginning to produce ideas.

The Chairman thanked the Office Administrator, Christine Tucker for all the hard work she puts in for the Friends, and also Andrew her husband who helps on many occasions.

And finally, thank you all for attending today and for supporting the Friends of Rochester Cathedral.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the Accounts for the year to 31 December 2014, presented in the Annual Report, approved by the Trustees, had been inspected by our Independent Examiner. Full copies of the Accounts were available from the Friends' Office.

The grants paid to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral during the year only amounted to £8,300 due to the delays in the project as mentioned by The Vice President and a legacy of £30,000 had been received.

With a steady increase throughout the year, investments had risen to £952,000.

Looking forward the Treasurer encouraged members to consider leaving a legacy to the Friends.

The Treasurer thanked Christine Tucker for all her help during the year.

There were no questions from the floor.

The acceptance of the Accounts examined by Mr Richard Abel and set out in the Report for the year to 31 December 2014 was put to the meeting for approval. Mr Robert Ratcliffe proposed their acceptance and they were approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF FOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

There were four vacancies on the Council following the retirement of Mrs Jean Callebaut, Mrs Eileen Coleman, Mr Colin Hoad and Mr Robert Ratcliffe.

The Vice President announced that Mrs Jill Armitage, Mr Michael Bailey, Mr Archie Johnstone, Mrs Margaret Ratcliffe, Mr Mark Snoswell and Mrs Jenny Wallace had offered themselves for election.

Following an election Mrs Jill Armitage, Mr Michael Bailey, Mr Archie Johnstone and Mr Mark Snoswell were elected by ballot to serve for three years.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

With only one nomination received, Mr Terry Wood was elected as Chairman for one year.

ELECTION OF HON TREASURER

With only one nomination received, Mr John Dalley was elected as Hon Treasurer for one year.

ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Mr Richard Abel, having notified that he was prepared to act, was appointed Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vice President announced that none had been notified to the Office by the due date.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held at 2pm on Saturday, 18 June 2016.

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Registered Charity: 273973

Report of the Officers and Members of Council

We submit our report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2015.

Objectives and Policy of the Charity

The charity was formed in 1935 to apply its income towards the furtherance of the upkeep and welfare of Rochester Cathedral by support from members paying subscriptions and income from legacies and fund raising events.

Organisation

The Council meets at suitable intervals during the year to consider the Association's performance and to decide on appropriate grants.

The charity has one part-time employee and, apart from the office costs and the annual report issued to members, has minimal administration costs.

Review of the Year

The income during the year was £172,701 which was mainly due to substantial legacies received. The overall capital value of the fund has remained static despite the Stock Market Fluctuations.

The grants paid to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral during the year were:-

	Paid in Period
Upkeep of Garth Gardens	7,500
Collection Boxes	3,215
3d Imaging Softwear	395
Young Volunteers Training	550
Repairs to Precinct Walls	5,508
	<u>17,168</u>

These Accounts represent the year to 31st December 2015.

I report that our Investment Portfolio has remained static despite the Stock Market fluctuations and Global Market trends, however we have continued to enjoy an investment return in excess of 3%.

I consider our Investments to be of a long term nature and in place to generate income for the future.

The main source of our income has been from dividend receipts, subscriptions, donations and legacies.

During the year we received £227 from HMRC as a tax refund in respect of Gift Aid.

We received £130,500 in Legacies during the year of which £100,000 has been temporarily transferred to our Investment Portfolio.

We continue to closely monitor all expenditure and I can report that we are on budget in all areas.

I would again like to thank Mrs Christine Tucker for her hard work and for her continued efforts in the management of the Office and control of expenditure for the Friends.

The Charity Commissioners' recommended format for the Accounts of a Charity has resulted in a document of considerable size which would be uneconomical to produce in full in this report.

These figures are an extract from the Accounts to 31st December 2015. Independently Examined copies of the full accounts will be available to any member upon request.

John A Dalley
Hon Treasurer

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2015

INCOMING RESOURCES	General Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 31.12.15	Total 31.12.14
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	7,457		7,457	9,090
Gift Aid Tax Relief	227		227	4,772
Donations	1,239		1,239	1,800
Surplus on social events	1,156		1,156	818
Dividends	31,398		31,398	31,847
Surplus on publications	701		701	666
Book of memory surplus	10		10	-50
Legacy	130,500		130,500	1,000
	<u>172,688</u>		<u>172,688</u>	<u>49,943</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Grants	17,168		17,168	8,300
Other expenditure				
Management and administration	16,158		16,158	15,885
	<u>33,326</u>		<u>33,326</u>	<u>24,185</u>
Net Incoming resources before transfers	139,362		139,362	25,758
Transfer to Portfolio	-100,000	100,000	0	0
Unrealised gain on investment held		31,190	31,190	94,722
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS AND FUND BALANCES				
Net movement in funds	<u>39,362</u>	<u>131,190</u>	<u>170,552</u>	<u>120,480</u>
Fund balances brought forward	<u>87,792</u>	<u>902,487</u>	<u>990,279</u>	<u>997,502</u>
Fund balances carried forward	<u>127,154</u>	<u>1,033,677</u>	<u>1,160,831</u>	<u>1,117,982</u>

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Notes to the Accounts – for the year ended 31st December 2015

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities and applicable UK Accounting Standards and with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Management and Administration Expenditure

	Total	Total
	31.12.15	31.12.14
	£	£
Salary	7,404	7,200
Office Expenses	4,381	5,117
Postage, Printing and Stationery	1,533	1,186
Annual Report	1,680	1,680
Accountancy	510	510
AGM	0	192
Conference Costs	650	0
	<u>15,885</u>	<u>16,158</u>

3. Investments

The investments of the charity are managed by Cazenove Capital Management Limited of 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA. The investments in the year comprised:

	Total	Total
	31.12.15	31.12.14
	£	£
UK Bonds	93,977	96,360
Portfolio Funds	85,239	84,264
UK Equities	607,192	625,766
Property	51,217	47,058
Hedge Funds	83,367	75,550
Cash on Deposit	162,685	23,489
Portfolio Valuation	<u>1,083,677</u>	<u>952,487</u>

SOME FORTHCOMING FRIENDS' EVENTS

A visit to **Chichester and the Flower Festival** has been arranged for **Saturday 4 June 2016**. The charge of £36 includes coach, brunch, flower festival afternoon entry and a visit to Bosham Church. Please contact The Friends Office on 01634 832142 for further details.

Self-drive visit to **Allington Castle Tuesday 19 July 2016 for a Garden and House Tour**. Transport on this occasion is not provided and we are restricted to 50 persons only. The cost of £19.50 includes refreshments. Please contact The Friends Office on 01634 832142 for further details and ticket arrangements.

Music for a Summer's Evening: A concert of Light and Classical Music at Rochester Cathedral on **Saturday 23 July 2016**. Doors open 7pm for concert at 7.30pm. A drink during the interval is included in the Ticket Price. Tickets at £10 are available from the Cathedral shop. Friends members may obtain tickets at £8 from the Friends' office. Please contact The Friends Office on 01634 832142 for further details.

Advent Lunch will be held at **West Malling Golf Club on Wednesday 30 November 2016**. Details will be available later in the year.

We are proposing a **four day visit to Yorkshire from 16 May 2017**. This is at the early planning stage and details will be available later in the year.

CATHEDRAL EVENTS

At the time of going to print many dates of events in the Cathedral remain to be confirmed due to the ongoing HLF works.

Please contact the Cathedral office for information about specific upcoming services and events, details of which may always be found on the Cathedral website:
www.rochester-cathedral.org

