



THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS
OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Annual Report 2019

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Contents

A Message from the Dean <i>Dr Philip Hesketh</i>	4
Chairman's Report <i>Michael Bailey</i>	4
A Message from the President <i>Dean Dr Philip Hesketh</i>	7
Membership <i>Christine Tucker</i>	8
Social Events <i>Heather Sinclair and Markham Chesterfield</i>	9
Surveyor of the Fabric <i>John Bailey</i>	12
Research Guild <i>Jacob Scott</i>	14
Cathedral Archaeologist <i>Graham Keevill</i>	16
To be a Pilgrim <i>Canon Matthew Rushton</i>	20
The Wills of Two Sixteenth-Century Lay Clerks <i>Andrew Ashbee</i>	22
The Cathedral Responds to the Challenge of the Great War <i>Geoff Ettridge</i>	24
The Cathedral Priors of Rochester <i>David Carder</i>	28
Legacies	30
The Friends' Prayer <i>Canon Matthew Rushton</i>	31
Trustees' Report <i>Peter Smith</i>	31
Financial Statements <i>Peter Smith</i>	32
Friends' Future Events	34
Some Projects Financed by the Friends	35

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A Message from the Dean

Dr Philip Hesketh

We live in times of uncertainty and anxiety as COVID-19 spreads across the Globe. We fear for our loved ones and ourselves. There have been other periods in history when the peoples of the Earth have faced great adversity. Such crises challenged human resilience and resources. Frequently, suffering produced the best qualities in human nature: compassion, solidarity and self-sacrifice.

One spiritual response was to pray and there are ancient prayers and processions in time of emergency. In the season of Lent we still use the petition: 'From plague, famine and war, Good Lord, deliver us'. These words, perhaps, have greater resonance at the moment. Of course, the Church is not just praying but taking precautions. Trusting God does not mean we ignore the scientific advice which God has made available to us.

In the medieval world the prayers and the veneration of holy men and women provided a focus in time of danger. Many of the saints who were venerated had connections with sickness and the plague. The two saints universally associated with plague were St Sebastian and St Roch, who is thought to have had healing powers. St Roch, whose name spoke to me for obvious reasons, is sometimes depicted with a dog, which was said to have fed him whilst in self-isolation. Not wanting to contaminate others, St Roch took shelter in a nearby forest.

Perhaps our prayers should be especially focused at this time on those who are self-isolating and on those men and women putting themselves at risk on behalf of others. We pray for those who are alone and cut off, those serving in our Health Services, those working to keep our streets clean and safe and those working for a medical cure. Those of us forced to slow down through self-isolation may want to reflect on those things which really matter.

The Psalms have repeatedly provided a source of comfort and hope in times of crisis; I commend them to you. For God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble - Psalm 46

Chairman's Report

Michael Bailey



2019 was another busy and successful year for the Association of the Friends.

The AGM in June was well supported by Members, preceded by luncheon and concluding with Choral Evensong in the Quire. Dean Philip, our President, warmly thanked all the Friends for their continued support and signposted two events due to take place in the Cathedral during the summer. These were the

Adventure Golf and the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole. Many Friends, in their roles as guides, stewards and welcomers, subsequently helped throughout August to ensure the smooth running of the Golf, receiving over 28,000 visitors, and the exhibition about the life of Dean Hole at the end of that month. At the AGM, Markham Chesterfield, Janette Butler and Angela Watson stood down as Council members after many years of unstinting and enthusiastic support to Council and the Association. They were warmly thanked. Jenny Wallace subsequently resigned from Council and during her tenure of office was a stalwart in our fund-raising activities. Again, our thanks and appreciation are extended to her and the many helpers who assisted her. We welcomed Margaret Holtby, Margaret Ratcliffe and David Carder as new Council Members along with the newly appointed Rochester Archdeaconry Representative Markham Chesterfield.



The AGM also marked the passing of a number of long-standing Friends and we remembered them in prayers. Since June we have lost our Dean Emeritus, Edward Shotter, who died on 3 July aged 86, the former Archdeacon, Norman Warren, who died on 19 June aged 84, and Jean Callebaut (pictured) who died on 20 September aged 86. Jean was an active, long-serving and dedicated member of Council who for very many years successfully undertook the organisation of the annual holiday excursions and other Friends' activities. As well as her outstanding contribution to the life and well-being of the Friends, Jean was also a past Trustee of the Cathedral Trust and a great supporter of the musical life of the Cathedral.

We are greatly encouraged by the number of new Members who have joined the Association over the past year. In October 2019 it was a pleasure to welcome them formally at Choral Evensong, which was followed by a short reception in the Crypt and then a highly informative and enjoyable tour and talk about the Saints associated with Rochester given by our Vice-President.

We are also looking forward to increasing our membership further as we shall be welcoming as Friends many members of the Cathedral Business Guild. I feel that it behoves us all to use our best endeavours to reach the magical 1,000 members, particularly in view of the substantial £500,000 grant to the Cathedral which has been agreed.

The autumn period also saw Friends and their families and others participating in a Quiz Night organised by Jenny Wallace and her son Ally and their team. Those who attended enjoyed lively competition and a delicious fish supper while raising a very significant sum for the Association.

At the end of November we held the Annual Advent Luncheon at the Friars, Aylesford Priory. We formally launched our £500k Appeal for the complete renovations of the Lighting and Sound Systems within the Cathedral and were entertained by a very detailed and stimulating talk, focusing on these two objectives, given by John Bailey the Cathedral Architect. Following on from this, the first stage of the grant was undertaken by the formal Lighting Up of the Cathedral Spire and Tower.

After his period of sabbatical, we welcomed back our President, Dean Philip, at the beginning of Epiphany in time for a very special event. On Thursday 13 February 2020, after Choral Evensong, we gathered in the Garth for the formal launch of the Spire Lighting by well-known musician and Music Patron of the Rochester Cathedral Trust, Jools Holland OBE DL. As we enjoyed the momentous event, the Cathedral Choir sang the unaccompanied Anthem 'O Gladsome Light' by Harold Darke (1888-1976). The evening concluded with a reception held at the Deanery. The lighting effect is an imaginative concept as it can be multi-coloured and lit to suit various national or local events. Our cover photograph illustrates this concept.

In February 2020 the Cathedral hosted the international Museum of The Moon exhibition. This outstanding installation by the UK artist Luke Jerram is seven metres in diameter and features NASA imagery of the lunar surface. Its popularity has exceeded all expectations: it was seen by over 120,000 visitors who not only were overawed by the installation but also enjoyed their visit to what was, for some, their first time in the Cathedral.

Sadly many events planned by the Friends and the Cathedral are having to be postponed or cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, including:

A Festal Choral Evensong, supported by the Friends and to be led by the Cathedral Choir, at St Mark's Church, Bromley by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev Canon Victoria Pask. This is with a view to the Association having a greater profile in the north-west of the Diocese and sharing the occasion with the church's congregation and congregations from other nearby churches.

The Installation of the newly appointed Canon Chancellor, the Rev Canon Dr Gordon Giles, which was due to take place on 13th June. Gordon is a former Canon and Precentor of St Paul's Cathedral and more recently Vicar of St Mary Magdalene's church, Enfield. He will be responsible for Pastoral Ministry and Education and we welcome him and his family to Rochester. (Note: Gordon was formally installed on 13th September).

With much regret we have also had to cancel the May Holiday Excursion to Suffolk and Norfolk Historic Houses including the visit to St Edmundsbury Cathedral hosted by their Friends.

We record our grateful thanks and appreciation to Heather Sinclair, Chair of the Social and Events Committee, and Alan Vousden for their outstanding work and commitment in organising the Friends' events for 2019 described in this Report. In my view the various events epitomise what our Membership is all about.

On your behalf, I particularly wish to record our warm and sincere thanks to our new Editor, David Carder, for the production of this Report and to everyone who has contributed to it. I also extend to all my fellow Council Members my appreciation for their loyalty and support and for their respective, considerable contributions to our work throughout the year. It has been a great pleasure working with such a dedicated team of Friends! Finally, our collective huge thanks and appreciation to Christine Tucker, our Administrator, for her unstinting time, enthusiasm and loyalty in all that she undertakes on our behalf. This undoubtedly enhances

the smooth running of the Association. Thank you so much Christine!

We all face health and other challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic but it is comforting to know that we are daily in the thoughts and prayers of Dean Philip and the Chapter Clergy. With God's Blessing we can look forward, during the coming year, to continue working with Chapter towards the fulfilment of our projected endeavours.

A Message from the President

Dean Dr Philip Hesketh

2019 was a very exciting year in the life of Rochester Cathedral. The adventure golf in the Nave and the Knife Angel in the Garth saw a record number of visitors. People who would never have crossed the threshold of a church explored the Cathedral in a dignified and appropriate manner, standing quietly for the Lord's Prayer with some joining in. During that period, record numbers of prayer requests were left and candles lit.

There was a serious educational and spiritual dimension to these inter-generational projects. Rochester Bridge Trust, which generously sponsored the mini-golf, sought to engage young people in the joys of engineering. With an estimated shortfall of 20,000 engineering graduates a year, there is a real need to promote engineering as a career. It was a perfect fit for the Cathedral to have alongside activities exploring the importance of 'bridge-building', in relationships, in our communities and among nations and ultimately with God. Of course, God in Jesus becomes the definitive bridge.

The deeply moving Knife Angel was designed to raise awareness of the horror of knife crime in Britain today. Created from surrendered knives, thousands of school children were involved in educational sessions and a 24/7 prayer station was set up to listen and pray for those who have been caught up in the increasing knife-crime culture (1).

Note

1. The 'National Monument Against Violence and Aggression', more commonly known as the 'Knife Angel', is 27 ft tall and made of over 100,000 surrendered knives. It was created by Alfie Bradley at the National Ironworks Centre near Oswestry, Shropshire.

The Cathedral had over 45,000 visitors, including 2,500 school-children, while it hosted the Knife Angel in September 2019 compared with 7,900 in September 2018.

Membership

Mrs Christine Tucker

Our total membership as at 31 December 2019 was 908 composed as follows:

395 Life Members	14 Schools and Colleges
367 Ordinary Members	2 Companies
2 Families	15 Associations
102 PCCs	11 Associate Members

During the financial year (1 January - 31 December 2019) we have welcomed 37 new members, 6 Life and 31 Ordinary, and one member transferred to Life membership. 43 members have either resigned or, despite our best efforts to trace them, not renewed their membership.

New Members

Ms JJ Armitt	Mrs M Elvery	
Ms I Ramsay	Mr D Blease	Mrs K Forster-Pearce
Mrs P Riley	Mrs J Blease	Mrs J Gould
Mr RYV Setchim	Lady Tess Bruce-Lockhart	Mr J Hacker
Rev Canon JF Southward	Mr J Clemence CBE	Mr VB Hewett
Mr D Taylor	Mrs J Copping	Mrs VB Hewett
Mrs J Underwood	Dr IM Corall	Ms K Johnson
Mr J Warde	Mr R Dean	Mrs S Jones
Mr C Webber	Mrs V Dean	Mr M Li
Mr RW Weller	Mrs E Deering	Miss J Loryman
Mrs P Weller	Mr C Donaldson	Mr R McCane
The Ven AD Wooding-Jones	Mrs V Donaldson	Mrs M McCane
Mr S Elvery	Rev S Padfield	

Subscriptions

Many of our members now pay their annual subscription by bank standing order and find that this system works well as they do not have to post a cheque each year; moreover there is no postage cost to The Friends for sending reminder letters. If you would like to change to this method of payment please contact our office and we will be pleased to send you the relevant form.

In addition, it would be appreciated if those members paying annually by standing order would check their bank statement to confirm that their subscription matches the appropriate annual payment rate opposite.

Individual **£20**

Joint **£30**

Family **£40**

Corporate **£50**

Schools and PCCs **£20**

Obituaries

It is with sadness that we have been informed during the year of the death of 11 members.

Mrs AM Boswell

Mr D Bromley

Mrs JK Callebaut

Mrs AL Coulson

Mrs M Hicks

Mrs P Jones

Mr B Nolan

Mrs B Nolan

The Very Rev EF Shotter

The Ven NL Warren

Mrs J Wilkinson

Social Events

Heather Sinclair and Markham Chesterfield

New Year Festive Concert, 31 January

After a reception, the Sidcup Symphony Orchestra, conducted by its Music Director James Ross, gave a rousing performance in Rochester Cathedral. The programme included the moving Peterloo Overture by Sir Malcolm Arnold, which commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester, works by Tchaikovsky, Debussy and Charles Ives, and finally Johann Strauss I's hand-clapping, foot-tapping Radetzky March.

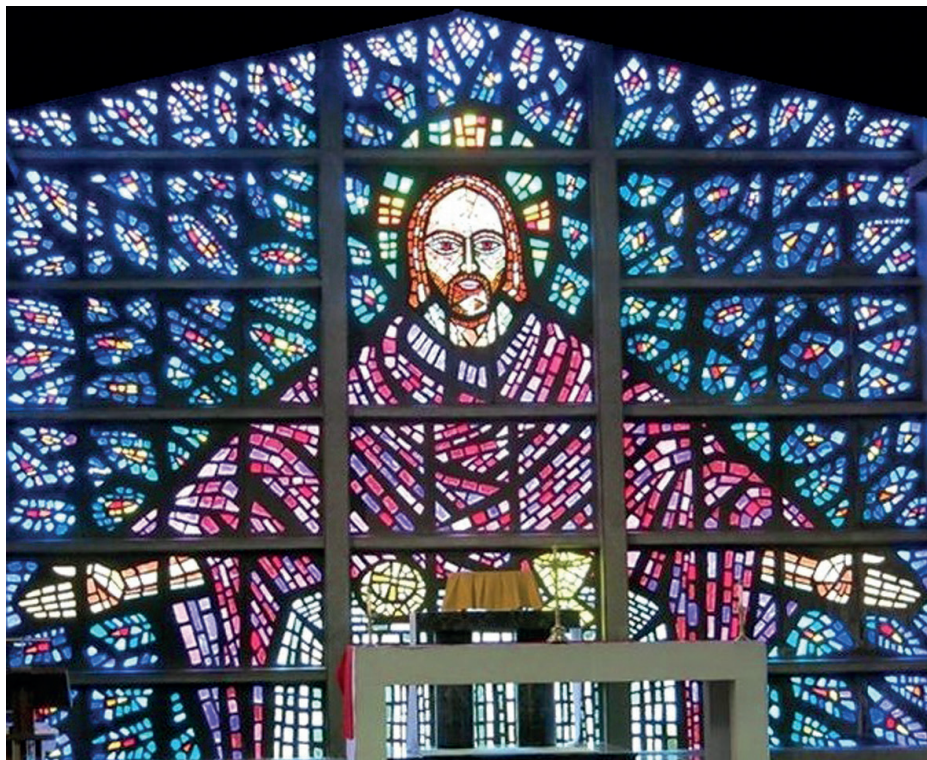
The audience gave a standing ovation at the conclusion of the concert, which was organised by Jenny Wallace and raised nearly £1,700 for the Friends.

Annual Holiday in Devon, 14-17 May

Forty-six Friends left Rochester by coach to begin their four-day holiday in Devon.

The first stop en-route was Guildford Cathedral where we were most warmly greeted by one of their Friends and, after coffee, we guided ourselves around the building. Special note was made of the beautiful Nave which had been newly refurbished following the discovery of asbestos in the ceiling. The building is stunning in its simplicity. The organist, Martina, gave a magnificent 10-minute recital which much enhanced our visit. After a delicious lunch in the restaurant we left for Buckfast Abbey which was to be our base for three nights.

Buckfast Abbey is an active Benedictine monastery near Buckfastleigh in Devon. The medieval abbey was founded in 1018 but the church and monastic buildings were demolished after the Dissolution in 1539. In 1882 the site was purchased by a group of French Benedictine monks, who re-founded the Abbey in 1902. Work on the new church, which was constructed mostly on the footprint of the medieval church, started in 1907. It was consecrated in 1932 but only completed in 1938.



Buckfast Abbey: the east window of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 1968.

Our superb accommodation in Northgate House, Buckfast Abbey's guest-house, and the peace and beauty of the Abbey and its surroundings made this a perfect place to stay.

After dinner and a good night's rest we set off to visit Buckland Abbey, a National Trust property set in the rolling countryside of the Tavy Valley. The Cistercian Abbey church was converted into a house after the Reformation and in 1580 became the home of Sir Francis Drake. Following tours and lunch we enjoyed a beautiful drive in bright sunshine across Dartmoor with its spectacular scenery. Once back at Buckfast we enjoyed scones and Devon cream - not to be missed!

Day three took us to Exeter Cathedral where we were greeted, enjoyed tours and had a light lunch in the beautiful and very unusual Chapter Room - a special venue which we were privileged to use.

Returning to Buckfast we were delighted to be joined at dinner by Father Francis Straw, Cathedral Prior of Rochester - this title dates back to 1629 and Father Francis is the 27th post-medieval Prior, appointed in 2017. He addressed us all explaining his role as Prior of Rochester and his duties at Buckfast. After dinner he tried his very best to meet all of us. We

handed him a letter from Dean Philip and we hope that one day he may be able to visit us in Rochester.

The final day arrived and we travelled home via Winchester Cathedral where we were looked after by The Friends of Winchester Cathedral. We enjoyed excellent tours followed by a substantial lunch in their entertainment suite.

Throughout the holiday we were blessed with fine weather, no traffic jams, a great driver in Bernie and we arrived back in Rochester safe and sound after a most enjoyable time.

Annual General Meeting, 15 June

A ploughman's lunch was served in the Crypt by the King's School catering staff, followed by the AGM in the St Ithamar Chapel and Choral Evensong.

Summer Cruise on the Medway, 29 July

Fifty Friends and their companions enjoyed a three-hour evening cruise on the River Medway from Maidstone to Teston on the Kentish Lady, with drinks and a light supper. As one Friend said: 'It was a joy. The weather was perfect, as was the company. The crew of the Kentish Lady are to be congratulated: we were made to feel rather special'.



Aboard the Kentish Lady.

Quiz Evening, 19 September

This enjoyable evening, held in the Crypt with tables of eight, attracted 94 quizzers who also enjoyed a fish-and-chip supper.

New Members' Meeting, 3 October

This is now a regular annual event. Evensong was well-attended by current and last year's new members and a reception followed in the Crypt. Canon Matthew Rushton, the Friends' Vice-President, then conducted a short tour entitled 'Rochester Cathedral in Five Saints', as portrayed in the Cathedral's stained glass and sculpture, which was much appreciated.

Advent Lunch, Aylesford Priory, 29 November

This event, organised by Markham Chesterfield, marked the official launch of the Lighting and Sound System Installation project which the Friends are supporting.

Eighty-eight Friends and companions enjoyed drinks on arrival followed by a three-course meal. Afterwards John Bailey, Surveyor to the Fabric, gave a talk describing the project.

Surveyor of the Fabric

John Bailey

The Conservation and Repair of the Presbytery Masonry

The recent quinquennial inspection of the Cathedral highlighted a serious structural issue with the central pinnacle on the south elevation of the Presbytery, high above the Library. Due to access issues it was not possible to undertake immediate repairs in 2018 but, thanks to a number of generous donations and support from the Friends, I am glad to say that the most significant repair issue facing the Cathedral has now been tackled.

Following the fire in 1179, which destroyed much of the city and significant elements of the Cathedral, rebuilding commenced in the new Gothic style giving us the Quire, Eastern Transepts and Presbytery which we see today. The architect Lewis Nockalls Cottingham (1787-1847) undertook major repairs and stabilisation work to the eastern half of the Cathedral in the 1820s and Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-78) completed a major restoration programme in the 1870s. It was Scott who replaced or reinstated much of the 13th century style of detailing to the exterior of the eastern arm in a mixture of Chilmark limestone, from the Chicks Grove quarry in Wiltshire, and Bath stone. The pinnacle was completely rebuilt by Scott following a pattern which probably originally existed, but 150 years of salty air and erosion had left us with a structure which was unstable, badly eroded and missing all its original details. In addition, daylight could be seen through much of the upper stonework.

After careful consideration, it was decided to replace the pinnacle with new Chilmark stone using another of Scott's pinnacles as a template (Fig.1). Conserving and repairing the pinnacle was deemed too expensive and would not gain significant time before further repairs would be needed. We also wished to avoid ending up with a featureless, and now amorphous, lump of stone 100 ft in the air.



Simon Lace with the new pinnacle.



Presbytery scaffolding.

Due to the difficulties with access and the cost of scaffolding, it was agreed we would scaffold the whole south elevation of the Presbytery and take the opportunity to undertake all conservation works to the elevation, thus removing the need to return at a later date, say within the next 25-30 years (Fig.2). The opportunity was therefore taken to reinstate lost decorative details to the window masonry which were individually carved on site, protect vulnerable masonry elements with lead coverings and undertake selective

masonry replacement, conservation and repointing (Fig.3). This project also gave us the opportunity to see how much, if any, of the late 12th century dressed masonry survived Scott's restoration. I am delighted to say that significant sections of the Caen stone ashlar work do survive: on the central buttress, at a low level protected by the Library roof and on the north-eastern turret. In addition, windows hidden from view by the Library roof retain significant elements of original 12th century masonry with clear evidence that a much grander level of detailing was originally planned but probably never executed. Careful conservation has ensured that this valuable historic fabric has been retained.



Restored decorative details.

This project would not have been possible without the Friends' generous support. The works were successfully completed over the summer of 2019 and it is unlikely that this part of the Cathedral will need to be revisited for several generations to come.

A New Lighting Vision for the Cathedral

The Cathedral's present lighting and power installation has developed over time. Major elements, such as the Nave pendant lights, date from the 1960s and 1970s when Emil Godfrey was Cathedral Architect, while other elements were updated more recently.

It has been apparent for some time that the lighting and power installations at the Cathedral either do not work or are inadequate. The floodlighting of the Cathedral has also not worked properly for years and the levels of light internally in the winter months are particularly poor. With the generous support of the Friends, we have embarked on an ambitious project to replace and upgrade the entire lighting and power system within the Cathedral and, at the same time, to update the sound system which also needs modernisation. The aim is to provide an installation which enhances the building, allows imaginative liturgical and secular use and builds the mission of the Cathedral within Rochester and the wider Diocese.

The Friends have supported financially a detailed feasibility study to take forward the ambitious vision for the Cathedral which has been developed by those who use the building and which will deliver an overall design and concept for the new lighting and electrical installation. Running parallel with this the Cathedral will also work with external consultants on a new sound-and-vision system concept. A key element of the project is to ensure that the new systems are flexible, imaginative and environmentally friendly with a key objective of reducing the Cathedral's carbon footprint.

The Friends have already seen progress with the first element of the external floodlighting installation, the re-illumination of the spire, now completed, and the work to re-wire and re-lamp the hanging pendants in the Nave. The new spire floodlighting allows colour to be used, so liturgical seasons and national events can be commemorated. Over the next few years the whole new lighting and electrical installation and sound system will be installed and the Friends will soon see the immense benefits for the Cathedral.

Rochester Cathedral Research Guild

Jacob Scott

The Research Guild continues in its aims of better understanding, recording and the interpretation of the Cathedral as an archaeological, historical, cultural and spiritual site. Another busy year of activity has seen progress on a number of fronts, only some of which can be briefly highlighted here.

Following some chance discoveries of the surviving medieval decorative scheme during the survey of high-level masons marks which were discussed in last year's Annual Report, efforts have continued to reconstruct other disappeared or fragmentary painted decoration around the Cathedral. These reconstructions are evidence-based conjecture to attempt to recapture some essence of the myriad environments and artefacts of the Cathedral in the medieval era (Figs 1 and 2). Testing and fine-tuning of the projection of these reconstructions in-situ has been taking place in the evenings. The aim is to produce a series of light-shows with supporting academic publication and public interpretation.

The 2020 volume of *Archaeologia Cantiana*, the journal of the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS), will feature a report on the 2018 survey of masons' marks. This summer should see the completion and publication of the monograph *Rochester Cathedral Graffiti*, also published by the KAS, the final report of the four-year photographic survey recording some 7,000 graffiti. One often unsung aspect of the graffiti projects has been the many opportunities for inter-cathedral and community co-operation and engagement. Tours, presentations and discussions are ongoing with the graffiti survey volunteers at Canterbury, Ely, Salisbury and elsewhere, as well as several conference presentations including the Medieval and Early Modern Studies festival at the University of Kent.

The 2019 *Fragments of History* exhibition in the Undercroft featured the Cathedral's stone fragment collection, raising the profile of this informative and relatively untapped resource.

Many of the finest examples have been retained in the new exhibition, Rochester Cathedral's Big History, which opened in February 2020. This explores the deep history and archaeology behind the evolution of the Cathedral and the medieval priory and considers the big picture on

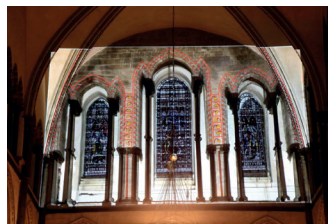


Figure 1: Projection of reconstructed decorative scheme for the Presbytery east end.



Figure 2: Reconstructed decorative scheme for the Chapter Room doorway.

the events, processes and people who have influenced life and worship at the site over the last 1,400 years. The exhibition also includes virtual 3D models. Those of Bishop Justus' seventh-century Cathedral (Fig.3) and Bishop Gundulf's eleventh-century Cathedral were constructed using Trimble Sketchup 2015, funded by the Friends (1). The model of the present Cathedral used the measured survey drawings produced in 2009, also funded by the Friends. The first two models are available on-line (2) and a virtual-reality interpretation system is in production.

On a personal note, the author is now a year into a distance-learning Archaeology and Heritage MA with the University of Leicester, still with the stone-fragment collection in mind for his impending dissertation. As newly appointed Exhibition Assistant, the Friends can expect to see much work over the next year on expanding and enhancing the public interpretation of the Cathedral.

If you have some expertise or just some spare time and would like to aid or expand the Research Guild in its activities in any area, please do get in touch at: jacob.scott@rochestercathedral.org.

Notes and References

1. I am grateful to Graham Keevill and Alan Ward for advice on these models.
2. www.sketchfab.com/rcrg/collections/rochester-cathedral-reconstructions

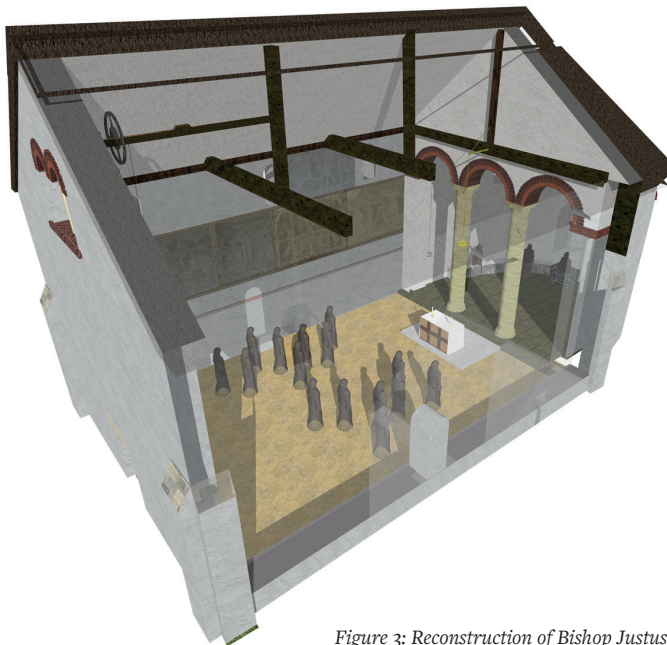


Figure 3: Reconstruction of Bishop Justus' seventh-century Cathedral.

Cathedral Archaeologist

Graham Keevill

Recent Excavations in the Chapter House and East Cloister Range

My contribution to this year's Annual Report has a pleasing sense of symmetry to it. The Friends came into existence in 1935 and one of their first aims was to effect major, positive changes to the Cloister and the Chapter House off its north-east corner. The latter had been a small private garden to the rear of the (Old) Deanery for several centuries, its great Romanesque doorway into the Cloister blocked with brick. The Friends removed the blocking in 1936 and built steps up to the higher level of the new Palm Court garden inside the Chapter House, thus re-establishing its direct link with the Cloister.

There is no doubt that the Friends' work in the 1930s transformed the Cloister, making it into a valuable and much-used public green space. It still had its challenges, though, with several changes of level around its four sides as well as into the central garth. Similar issues were to be found in the Chapter House, not least those steps inserted in the 1930s. The Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions (HTFE) project removed many of the step changes around the Cloister - it is all but impossible to remove all of them - and improvements in the Chapter House had also been planned. Unfortunately those had to be omitted, but the commitment to improving access here remains as strong as ever - so much so that a new project for this area and the former dormitory (the Dorter) to its south is beginning to emerge. This has provided the impetus to carry out small-scale trial excavations in both areas and these are the focus of my report this year. I shall also mention some work done in the Dorter area in 2016 which is very relevant here. See Figure 1 for the locations of the Chapter House and Dorter.

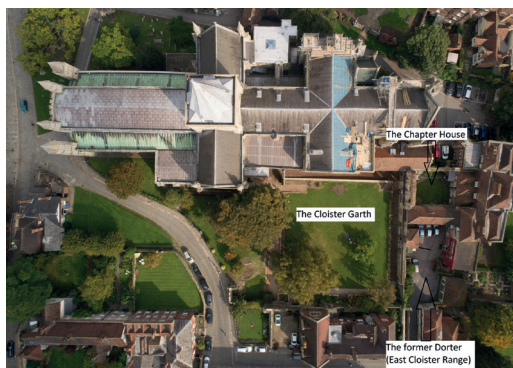


Figure 1: The location of the Chapter House and former Dorter at Rochester Cathedral. Aerial photograph by kind permission of Adam Stanford.

The Chapter House

The Friends' second annual report, published in February 1937, contains a useful summary of the work carried out in the Cloister and Chapter House during the previous year. It reproduces a short article which had appeared in *The Times* of 2 April 1936. One paragraph was particularly relevant to our work, noting that 'it has always been believed that the Priors of the Monastery of St Andrew had a right of burial within the Chapter House. At a depth

of 2ft 6in below the paving a skeleton has been discovered and there is reason to believe that another lies not far off. No vessels were found: the bones were not removed and were covered up again within half an hour of their being disclosed. There was no sign of a coffin; probably the body was buried in a shroud'. The 'Monastery of St Andrew' is of course the Cathedral, while the '2ft 6in' depth appears to refer to the new paved area which the Friends had created just inside Chapter House door. Fragments of a medieval encaustic tiled floor had also been found in 1936, apparently just below the level of the current paving. We wanted to know whether that paving survived, to check the reported find of a skeleton and whether anything of interest survived in the raised area to the east which the Friends had not dug. We also wanted to find the top of the medieval foundations here, as this would show the level at which the floor had lain in the Chapter House. Two small test pits were therefore dug in July 2019 to see if we could answer these important questions.

The first pit was just inside the Chapter House entrance and was one metre deep from the current paving. Unfortunately we didn't find the encaustic tiled floor: it had escaped us in a pit dug in 2018 as well, although a small fragment of what might be the same floor was exposed very briefly in the north-west corner of the Chapter House in 2014. Turning to the question of burials, a clean layer of clay was found at the bottom of the pit with the abdominal area of an evidently intact skeleton lying directly on it (Fig.2). The clay could not be excavated, so its thickness and character are unknown, but it is most unlikely that it was a natural deposit at this depth. Its presence immediately under the skeleton might be coincidental, but the clay may have been laid deliberately as a floor at the base of the grave. Excavation of a 2m-deep pit at the north-east corner of the Cloister in 2012 for the HTFE project did not encounter a clean clay layer of this type, nor did a few deeper excavations in the Cloister for the main HTFE project in 2015-16. The skeleton was obviously that of an adult and appeared to be male, as one would expect in this location. The pelvis, both femora, the lower vertebrae and the finger bones, probably of both hands, were found in the restricted area which could be dug at the bottom of the pit. The bones were generally in good condition, but were partly obscured by a skull and a few other bones which were clearly from a second body.

We can't be certain that we had re-discovered the same skeleton found in 1936, but this seems likely. The presence of bones from a second body reminds us of the comment in The Times about there being 'reason to believe that another [skeleton] lies not far off'. The depth is



Figure 2: General and detailed views of the test pit containing the skeleton. Note the placement of the skull directly over the abdomen area.

also about the same as reported in the 1930s. Was this a Prior? We have no way of knowing: no badges of office were found, although of course we were only looking at a small part of the body. Burial in the Chapter House would have been reserved for the elite of the monastic community, however, so the skeleton is likely to have been that of a senior member.

The second pit was placed against the south wall of the Chapter House, close to the post-medieval building which had been erected within its east end as part of the Old Deanery (Fig.3). A 0.3m-wide offset masonry foundation was found 0.84m below ground level (Fig.4). It was notably even along its length, except for a slight thickening at its west end, directly under one of the eroded angel corbels which survive at high level in the wall above. While the thickening might have been related to the corbel in some way (the base for a wall-shaft?) it could simply have been part of a floor bedding. A compact mortar spread was evident in places and may have been a remnant of such a bedding. A few pieces of medieval floor tile were found in rubble layers above the foundations: these probably derived from demolition and stripping of the Chapter House in the aftermath of the Dissolution of the Monasteries and Henry VIII's short-lived use of the Cloister as a royal palace. The south wall of the Chapter House rose vertically off the foundation. Perhaps not surprisingly, given that it had been buried for hundreds of years, the masonry was in good condition. Traces of a possible lime render were found in places: the stonework was certainly not of a high-quality finish, ashlar or similar, in its own right.

Finding the offset foundation confirmed that the medieval floor inside the Chapter House had been at about the same level as the threshold from the east Cloister walk into the building. Thus the Friends had set the correct height when re-laying the floor in the east Cloister walk and the west end of the Chapter House in 1936-7!

The Dorter Range

The monks' Dorter (dormitory) had occupied the whole of the east Cloister range south of the Chapter House. It lay at first-floor level, raised over an undercroft. The modern surfaces in the area have been built up over the centuries since the Dissolution when, like the Chapter House, the Dorter was dismantled after a brief use by Henry VIII. Even so they still lie within the original height of the undercroft and virtually



Figure 3: The interior of the Chapter House in 2019 looking south-east, with the test pit against the south wall under excavation (to the right of the spoil heap).



Figure 4: The pit against the south wall of the Chapter House looking south-west, with the offset foundation plainly visible - note the slight upstand at its west (right) end.

nothing of the dormitory level itself survives. But what remains below ground? The eminent historian of the Cathedral, William St John Hope (1854-1919), dug a trench along the inner face of the range's west wall at some point in the late 19th century. He found two of the responds (half-round pillars built into the wall face) which had supported the vaulted ceiling of the undercroft. These remain on display in a pair of mesh-covered pits on the west side of the Old Deanery courtyard east of the Cloister. Hope does not tell us much more about what he found - perhaps there was little of interest. We have followed in his footsteps a few times in recent years, with excavations for a new water main in 2016, an archaeological test pit in 2018 (Fig.5) and a second water trench in 2019. Our results largely back up Hope's.

Our most important discovery came in the 2016 water trench where it connected into the Old Deanery. Purely by chance, the trench came across another of the half-round responds, but this time on the east side of the Dorter (Fig.6). This is important because it helps us to understand the spacing and construction of the vaulting in the entirety of the undercroft. As with Hope's discoveries, the medieval masonry was in good condition but much more has been lost than survives. The test pit dug in 2018, for example, lay on the centre-line of the vaulting directly in line with the respond found in 2016. There should have been a central pillar here to support the middle of the vaults, but all we found was demolition rubble. This in itself was useful, partly because pieces of medieval floor tile and building stone were found but, more to the point, it suggests that little of importance is left below ground except around the edges of the building. It is still possible that isolated pockets of medieval masonry will be preserved - we have only excavated small areas so far, - but the indications are that the interior of the undercroft was comprehensively demolished in the later 16th century. Henry VIII did not want to leave even a small chance that the monks of Rochester might return to re-occupy their dormitory!



Figure 5: The test pit inside the Dorter area under excavation in 2018, with the east end of the Cathedral in the background.



Figure 6: The respond pier exposed on the east side of the Dorter in 2016 can be seen here to the left of the lower (white) section of the 1m scale.

Conclusion

The recent archaeological work in the Chapter House and Dorter has all been on a small scale. The results have been of considerable interest nevertheless, albeit seeming to confirm that the Cloister buildings were extensively demolished in the later 16th century. Extraordinarily, the west Cloister range, which had been occupied by the Cellarer (responsible for the monks' food and drink), was left largely untouched. Indeed, it survived intact until c.1800 and a few illustrations of it survive. Two of these are noteworthy for their detail and apparent accuracy: one shows the east elevation, ie facing into the Cloister, and is quite well known; the other, I suspect, is virtually unknown, even though it is by the great artist JMW Turner (1775-1851). He filled at least one small sketchbook with drawings of Rochester and the Medway in the 1790s, obviously done from life (ie on site), while a few larger drawings include one of the outer (west) elevation of the Cellarer's Range. This is an extraordinarily important piece of work which I hope to write about at greater length in a future Annual Report.

What happened to the Cellarer's Range? Sadly it was demolished at the beginning of the 19th century and was replaced by a prebendal (clergy) house built in the south-west corner of the Cloister. Turner's visit to draw the building had been well-timed, though one imagines that this was accidental. The prebendal house was not a loved building: its brick walls did not fit well with the stonework of the Cathedral or the Cloister and it was laid out diagonally to the orientation of the medieval buildings. The Friends knew what to do with it: they demolished it in the 1930s.

To be a Pilgrim

The Reverend Canon Matthew Rushton, Canon Precentor

At a recent event for new Friends I led a short tour of the Cathedral entitled 'Rochester Cathedral in Five Saints' and shared some of my enthusiasm for what I call 'peregrinology' (the study of pilgrimage). Pilgrimage has seen a welcome resurgence in the English church in recent years and 2020 has been designated the 'Year of Pilgrimage' for cathedrals.

Rochester is a fascinating spiritual and historical case study of the rise and fall of pilgrimage. Rochester was on the pilgrimage route from London to Canterbury - it was where all travellers, pilgrims included, had to cross the Medway on their way from London to Canterbury and/or Dover. The major shrines of two key figures in early English Christianity in Rochester, Paulinus and Ithamar, were on each side of the High Altar at the east end of the Cathedral (1). Paulinus became the first Bishop of York in 625 (2) but in 633 he was translated to be the third Bishop of Rochester, where he died in 644. His shrine was reputedly covered in silver. Ithamar, Paulinus's successor, was the first native bishop in England, all the previous bishops having been appointed from the Roman missionaries sent by Gregory the Great or missionaries in the Celtic tradition. He died in c.655.

Following the martyrdom of Thomas Becket in 1170, when pilgrimage to Canterbury increased

exponentially, Rochester's prominence also increased as it was on the principal route. But the story was about to get more exciting for Rochester. In 1201, a pilgrim (a baker) from Perth in Scotland was on pilgrimage to Canterbury and then on to the Holy Land. He stayed at the Priory of St Andrew (ie the Cathedral) and as he journeyed on the next day he was robbed and killed by his servant - some versions of the story say he was his adopted son. A local woman was apparently cured of her mental illness by festooning the body with honeysuckle and pressing the flowers to her head. It would appear that the monks of St Andrew's knew a good thing when they saw it so they recovered the body and brought it back to the Cathedral. This was during the time when St Thomas of Canterbury's shrine was becoming increasingly popular and the shrine of St William of Perth, who was canonised in 1256, effectively paid for the rebuilding of the magnificent vaulted Quire and Presbytery. Legend has it that it was the second most visited shrine in England, after that of St Thomas of Canterbury. Edward I visited the shrine and made donations in 1300.

At the Reformation the shrines were destroyed and pilgrimage suppressed: Rochester had a number of zealous reformers as bishops. Paulinus is still celebrated in York, of course, but in Rochester, the significance of Paulinus, Ithamar and William of Perth for pilgrims and in the story of the Cathedral dwindled into obscurity. To make matters worse, the Victorian restoration of the Cathedral removed any remaining traces of the sites of the shrines and changed the building's shape and layout, diminishing its importance as a place of pilgrimage for devotion and worship. And although Canterbury retained its status as a pilgrimage destination, from the 1960s the motorway bridge over the Medway meant that visitors no longer needed to cross Rochester's bridge or stop at the Cathedral on their way to Canterbury.

However, the increased interest in pilgrimage in recent years has given a renewed recognition of these key figures in Rochester's Christian story and of the Cathedral as a place for pilgrims and a centre of pilgrimage. To celebrate the Year of Pilgrimage, four new one-day pilgrimage routes have been developed, in collaboration with the British Pilgrimage Trust, each named after significant figures in the Cathedral's history (3):

Justus, the first Bishop of Rochester, 604-624, then translated to be the fourth Archbishop of Canterbury. **Ithamar**, the fourth Bishop of Rochester, c.644-c.655. **William of Hoo**, Sacrist at Rochester in the late 13th century, a significant figure in the rebuilding of the Cathedral as its importance as a place of pilgrimage increased. **Gundulf**, the first Norman Bishop of Rochester, c.1077-1108 (his death).

I plan to walk all four of these new routes this Lent and I hope that many generations of new pilgrims will rediscover Rochester's rightful identity as a place of spiritual journeying.

Notes and References

1. See the plan in Flight, C: The Bishops and Monks of Rochester 1076-1214, Kent Archaeological Society, 1997, p.196 Fig.24.
2. York did not become an archbishopric until 735.
3. <http://britishpilgrimage.org/portfolio/rochester-cathedral-pilgrimage-in-a-day/>

The Wills of Two Sixteenth-Century Lay Clerks

Andrew Ashbee

In June 1541 Rochester was one of eight former monastic cathedrals re-founded with secular chapters by Henry VIII, the former prior becoming the head of the new administration as the new dean. The Cathedral Choir as we know it today was created then but it is not until 1672 that the records provide full details of the singers, so the first members remain largely unknown to us. We are fortunate that wills survive of two of the first ‘syngngmen’, Richard Butcher (1) and Peter Bold(e) (2; Fig.1), which shed some light on the first years of the new regime. This too was the time of the Reformation, when the move towards Protestantism had begun; there are hints in the documents of the way the wind was blowing.

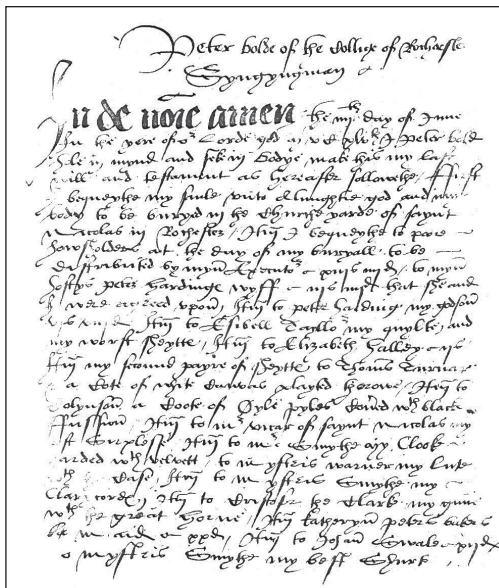


Figure 1: Part of the Will of Peter Bold. Kent Archive and Local History Service.

Neither man mentions a wife so it is quite possible that both were formerly monks who had adapted to their new conditions. Butcher, ‘nowbeyng in the Kyngs Collige of Rochester’, retains more of the Catholic mindset in his wording and requests.

Fyrst I bequeythe my soule to Almyghtye god and to the blessed virgin mary and to all the hollie Companye of hevyn and my body to be buried in xpen [Christian] buryall where yt shall please god yt I shall dye.

Itm. I will that evry preste dwelling within the said Collige excepte the maysters of the house have for dirige [dirge] and masse songe within the guild for my soule my father soule my mother soules and all xpen soules viii d.

Itm I will that all the Clarks within the forsaid Collige shall have for dirige and masse songe within the queyre vj d a pece and evry one of the Chyldren of the queyre to have for theyre labour iiii d, desyryng the hole Companye here within named to take the payne to fletche my body to the Churche, if yt please them or els not.

Itm. I will the vicar off saynt nicholas and his Clark have for theyre labours the vicar viij d for dirige and masse and the Clark six pence for dirige and masse.

Itm. I will that all my ffellowes being lay Clarks wthin the forsaid Colledge shall offer at high masse for my soule one halpanye. And evry one of them to take uppe agayne for theyre paynes taken viii d a pece more.

Itm. I gyve unto the two sextanes for theyre labours and paynes two shillings.

The whole ceremony was to be repeated at his 'monthes day' and both occasions included gifts to the poor. Butcher owned a house in Henley Street, Luddesdown, and most of his bequests - small amounts of money and items of clothing - were naturally to family members in that area. Named witnesses to the will are William Haryson, vicar (3), John Watts and Laurence Not. Watts became a singing man in December 1547 and was also an alderman of the city, but 'kepeth the Quier very evil' among other misdemeanours reported at the Metropolitan visitation in 1560.

Bold's will has none of the detailed instructions provided by Butcher, but he simply commends his soul to God and a burial in St Nicholas' churchyard, giving the vicar his 'best Sirplesse'. His executor James Plumley was to arrange the burial:

willing hym to gyve unto Thoms Tyler - xijd to Ryng my knytle with one bell onlie.

I will yt he shall gyve unto any of my ffellowes for singing or [our] ffaith in Englesshe in the Remembrance of or salvation at the fyrst entering into the Churche & also at the pyt when my body shal be buryed - xijd a peece and godes blessing.

So Latin had given way to English as Henry VIII's Injunctions took hold in the later years of his reign. Hitherto James Plumley was known only from the 1560 visitation (4), but this reference shows almost certainly that he was the first organist of the New Foundation. Among Bold's numerous bequests to the local community were:

To mystris Warner my lute wth the case.

Itm to mystris Smythe my Clavychords.

Clearly Bold's love of music extended well beyond the sacred music of the Cathedral. A different side to his life is shown by another bequest:

to Christofer the Clark my gune wth the great horne.

Mistress Smith also received his best shirt as well as the keyboard instrument, while:

my bed & my boulster [are] equallie to be divided betwix mr plumleis ij maids.

Plumley would have had charge of boarding, lodging and clothing the eight choristers, so no doubt the two maids were kept busy by them.

Notes and References

1. Kent History and Library Centre [KHLC], DRbPWr19, f.87: *Rychard Butcher of Rochester syngyngman*, 24 November 1544. Probate 24 March 1544/5.
 2. KHLC. DRbPWr10, f.131: *Peter Bolde of the College of Rochester Syngyngman*, 4 June 1545. Probate 25 October 1545.
 3. Presumably of St Nicholas' church, Rochester where William Harrison was vicar from 1537-51. See CH Fielding, *The Records of Rochester*, Dartford, 1910, p.230.
 4. Watkins Shaw, *The Succession of Organists of the Chapel Royal and the Cathedrals of England and Wales from c.1538*, Oxford, 1991, p.232.
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The Cathedral Responds to the Challenge of the Great War

Geoff Ettridge

During the Great War the Cathedral and its staff had a pivotal role in maintaining morale and providing for the spiritual needs of the inhabitants of Rochester and also the thousands who moved into the area. By August 1915 the population of the Medway Towns had quadrupled.

The following account of events associated with the Cathedral during the Great War has been compiled from articles in the national and local press of the time.

War is Declared

Those attending the service held in the Cathedral on the Sunday after war had been declared could not deny that the day was different from previous Sabbaths. The sound of marching boots and the singing of marching ditties could be heard over Dean John Storrs as he gave less of a sermon and more of an address to the congregation. In recognising the crisis which the country faced and that war was always horrible, hideous and ghastly, he felt that peace with dishonour would be far worse. He maintained this view through to the end of the war. When it was clear that the country was weary of war and it looked as if a peace treaty would be sought, he spoke out saying that only a decisive victory would prevent another war breaking out in 20 years' time.

A Place of Worship and Remembrance

The Medway Towns were a major muster point for soldiers heading for the Front. A green-tinted village appeared, ranging from Gillingham, along the Lines and over the horizon at Strood. The Medway Towns were also amongst the first to receive the wounded from France. There was, therefore, evidence all around that this was not going to be an adventure which would be over by Christmas. Going to war was something not to look forward to but something to fear!

Many soldiers - many away from home for the first time - wished to attend services at the Cathedral; so many in fact that arrangements needed to be made for particular battalions to attend alternative churches. The Cathedral, though, made every effort to accommodate everyone who wished to attend a service there at Christmas and Easter. Extra services were arranged and at Christmas 1915 Communion was given in the Nave for the first time since the Reformation.



A march along Rochester High Street in 1919.

Although both the Bishop and the Dean recognised the legitimacy of a war which had been 'forced upon us by stern necessity', they steadfastly prayed for peace. At the end of the war we learnt that the Dean and a small company had gathered daily in the Lady Chapel to pray for the sailors and soldiers, the cause for which they were fighting and for a final victory.

With the death-toll ever increasing, in March 1916 the Dean and Chapter decided that they could not allow any more memorial brasses to be placed in the Cathedral, but by the end of the year they had opened a shrine in the Jesus Chapel (NW Transept) for the remembrance of the fallen.

Normal Service Disrupted

The Cathedral could not avoid many of its traditions being disrupted by the war, the first impact being the loss to the war effort of laymen associated with running the Cathedral.

Music at the Cathedral was disrupted by the call-up of the lay clerks and later, in 1917, of the organist Charles Hylton-Stewart (1). Pending the arrival of Miss Hilda Milvain (1) FRCO, who had temporarily been appointed as the Cathedral's organist, Evensong was sung by the choristers with one of their number at the organ. Miss Milvain was not the only woman with responsibilities at the Cathedral: there was Deaconess Grace Partridge, who had long been involved with providing pastoral care for the many women who moved into the area to undertake war work, and soon there would also be a female bell-ringer and verger, an occurrence worthy of being mentioned in the national press but sadly no names.

Evening services were also curtailed. The black-out meant there was no street lighting which made it dangerous for people to attend services after dark. Heating was also cut back due to restrictions placed on the use of fuel - this particularly annoyed the Bishop as places of entertainment did not face a similar restrictions.

Cathedral Crypt used as an Air-raid Shelter

Rochester was in a 'danger-zone' as far as air-raids were concerned, particularly at the time

around a full moon when pilots could follow the river to the many targets around Rochester. In 1917 the Dean and Chapter arranged for the Crypt to be opened in the event of an air-raid, but it seems that this was misused because many people visited Rochester near the time of a full moon to take shelter in the Crypt. The Mayor of Rochester was particularly appalled by the number of young men who took advantage of the Crypt - he felt that they should be at home defending their families or serving on the Front Line. Restrictions were therefore introduced: the Crypt would only be opened when an order of 'take-cover' had been given and was only to be used by people in the vicinity of the Cathedral at the time of the warning.

The Conveyer of Good News

The Cathedral's bells, along with others across the country, were silent during most of the war - the first time they were rung following the declaration of war was in November 1917 to announce a victory at Flanders. This was perhaps a measure of the despondency being felt within Rochester and the need to try to raise morale. Sadly it was premature, as by the end of the month the Germans had launched a successful counter-attack.

As 1918 progressed and the Allies steadily moved towards certain victory, more use was made of the bells. In August 1918 a 'Great Remembrance Service' was held in the Cathedral and another on the Esplanade at which 'all shades of religious bodies could join'. An extraordinary number of people attended the Cathedral service and Verger Levitt was 'taxed to the utmost to find seating for as many as possible'. During the day peals were rung on the bells of the Cathedral and St Margaret's church.

As people became ever more optimistic that victory would soon be delivered, the Cathedral's bell-ringers petitioned the Dean and Chapter to sanction the addition of two new bells to the existing peal to commemorate the declaration of peace when it arrived (2).

At the Cathedral service on 10 November 1918, the Dean announced from the pulpit that should news come through that the Armistice had been signed, the Cathedral's bells would ring out and 30 minutes later a service of thanksgiving would be held. At 11.30am on 11 November the bells began their celebratory peal but they were not the first to announce the news - that had been done by the hooters and horns of the dockyard, where the workers had heard at 9.30am that the Armistice was due to be signed.

At 12 noon, as the Dean had announced, a service of thanksgiving was held in the Quire, attended by an estimated 2,000. Sadly that morning the Dean had learned that his son, Francis Storrs RNVF, had died of the flu aged 35, but he still took part in the service and addressed the congregation. 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', sung to the never dying St. Anne's tune, went up from hearts which were overflowing with joy and thankfulness.

A Great Service Marked Armistice Day

Every place of worship was packed to sing the praises of peace on Sunday 17 November 1918. Throughout the day the bells of the Cathedral and St Margaret's church rang out merrily.

The public had become accustomed to the Cathedral's 6.30pm Evensong being packed, so people thronged the doors from around 5.30pm. By 6.30pm there wasn't a vacant seat in the building.

Special seats were reserved for Australian officers from Cobham Hall for the service, which was attended by admirals, generals, officers and men, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC), Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS), soldiers, sailors, nurses, wounded, munitions and civilian workers, all of whom had come together to give thanks for peace; and 'how they sang: people singing as they've never done before!' In memory of the fallen the hymns 'Forever with the Lord' and 'For All the Saints' were included in the service.

The service was supported by a 60-strong Royal Engineers band dressed in their scarlet tunics. The roll of drums, the sound of martial music, the great organ and the praises of overflowing hearts had a mighty impact.

Looking to the Future

In an address to the Rochester Diocesan Conference in July 1918, the Bishop of Rochester, John Harmer, warned that the church had to engage with weighty issues if it wished to influence the reconstruction of the country. He also believed that the church had to engage more with the laity as his experience was that the opinions amongst the wage-earning classes were very sound, far more so than in the so-called societal classes.

Some weighty issues though were out of bounds - a meeting of the Kent Central District of the English Church Union, held at Rochester in 1916, resolved that it was contrary to Holy Scripture and the tradition of the Church that women should receive Holy Orders.

Christmas 1918

Christmas Day was heralded with a peal of the Cathedral's bells which started at 6.15am and continued until the service started at 7.00am, the earliest for some years that the Cathedral belfry had been so occupied. Mr Osbourne and Mr Haig and their comrades of the belfry 'made the welkin ring right and merrily'.

Notes and References

1. Biographies can be found in the *Friends' Annual Report 2018/2019*, p.11-13.
2. In 1921 the existing ring of eight was recast into ten by Gillett and Johnston of Croydon. Some of the bells have inscriptions commemorating servicemen and civilians lost during the Great War including Francis Storrs. Full details of the bells can be found in the *Friends' Report for 1998/8*, p.11-15, and *Love's Guide to the Church Bells of Kent*, at <http://kent.lovesguide.com/tower.php?id=155>.

The Cathedral Priors of Rochester

David Carder

From c.1080 until 1540 Rochester Cathedral had a dual personality as both a cathedral and a monastery (1). It was one of ten 'cathedral-priories', a uniquely English arrangement, the others being Bath, Canterbury, Coventry, Durham, Ely, Norwich, Winchester and Worcester (all Benedictine) and Carlisle (Augustinian) (2). Although the bishop was the titular abbot, the monastery was run by the prior - hence 'cathedral-priory' - and the senior monks.

At the Reformation the monasteries and other religious houses were dissolved and the inmates - priors, monks, abbots and others - were dispossessed and dispersed. Eight of the ten cathedral-priories, which were dissolved in 1539-40, were re-founded in 1539-42 as cathedrals run by chapters of deans and canons, the exceptions being Bath, which was a co-cathedral with Wells, and Coventry, which was a co-cathedral with Lichfield. Wells and Lichfield Cathedrals, of course, survived, but Bath was subsequently downgraded to a parish church, now known as Bath Abbey, while Coventry was demolished (3).

The last prior of a cathedral-priory often became the first dean of the re-founded cathedral (4) and former monks sometimes became chapter canons. At Rochester, dissolved in 1540 and re-founded in 1541, the last prior, Walter Boxley, became the first dean under his family name of Philips.

At the same time, in 1540-42, six former abbeys were re-founded as new cathedrals run by chapters: Chester, Gloucester, Peterborough and Westminster (all Benedictine) and Bristol and Osney (both Augustinian). Westminster Abbey was only a cathedral from 1540-56, and in 1546 the cathedral at Osney was transferred to Christ Church, Oxford.

I was therefore surprised to learn that when the Friends stayed at Buckfast Abbey in Devon in 2019 they met the *Cathedral Prior of Rochester* (5). How could this be since Rochester's last prior, Walter Boxley, was removed in 1540?

So I did some research and found that all the existing cathedrals which were former Benedictine monasteries do indeed have Cathedral Priors, namely Bath, Canterbury, Chester, Coventry, Durham, Ely, Gloucester, Norwich, Peterborough, Rochester, Winchester and Worcester.

Briefly the background to this is as follows.

In the early seventeenth century Englishmen and Welshmen who had become monks in Italian and Spanish monasteries started coming to England as missionaries. In 1619 a papal brief of Pope Paul V, known as '*Ex incumbenti*' (6), re-established the English Benedictine Congregation (EBC) which was established in 1216 but had been in abeyance since the Reformation. At the EBC General Chapter of 1629 Cathedral Priors were elected, with communities of monks, for the nine former Benedictine cathedral-priories; these appointments were confirmed in 1633 by a papal bull of Pope Urban VIII known as the '*Plantata*' (6). The Plantata also appointed

Cathedral Priors, with communities of monks, to three of the former Benedictine abbeys which had been re-founded as cathedrals after the Reformation: Peterborough, Chester and Gloucester - by then Westminster was no longer a cathedral.

During the nineteenth century the EBC also revived the title of Abbot for seven of the former Benedictine abbeys: St Albans, Westminster, Bury St Edmunds, Glastonbury, St Mary's in York, Evesham and Reading.

And so since 1629 Rochester has had a Cathedral Prior, albeit not residing at Rochester. The current Cathedral Prior of Rochester is the 27th, as shown in the provisional list below (7).

No.	Name (8)	Appointment	Birth & Death
1	Arthur (Anselm) Crowther	1629-57	1588-1666
2	Francis (Francis of St Benedict) Crathorne	1657-67	1595-1667
3	Hugh (Serenus) Cressy	1669-74	1605-74
4	Joseph Sherburne	1677-97	1628-97
5	(Joseph) Aprice	1697-1703	1650-1703
6	Francis Rookwood	1705-50	1660-1750
7	Francis (Anselm) Lynch	1753-77	1693-1777
8	James (Dunstan) Knight	1777-87	1714-87
9	(Oswald) Eaves	1789-93	1739-93
10	John (Bede) Brewer	1794-1802	1742-1822
11	Richard Marsh	1802-1810	1762-1843
12	Archibald (Benedict) MacDonald	1810-14	1739-1814
13	Andrew (Bernard) Ryding	1818-41	1752-1841
14	James (Benedict) Deday	1842-45	1773-1845
15	Thomas (Anselm) Cockshoot	1846-72	1805-72
16	Francis (Stanislaus) Giles	1874-83	1814-94
17	Percy (Maurus) Anderson	1883-1900	1828-1900
18	William (Romuald) Woods	1901-07	1833-1907
19	John (Placid) Whittle	1908-20	1838-1920
20	Edward (Hilary) Willson	1922-48	1858-1948
21	Edward Stanislaus (Anselm) Parker	1949-61	1880-1962
22	Alfred (Basil) Bolton	1967-76	1887-1976
23	Owen John (Anselm) Strittmatter	1976-78	1894-1978
24	(Thomas) McLaughlin	1978-79	1914-79
25	(Denis) Mercer	1985-95	1910-95
26	John Vincent (Luke) Waring	1995-2016	1927-2016
27	Gavin (Francis) Straw	2017-	1959-

Notes and References

1. In c.1080 Bishop Gundulph replaced five secular canons with 22 Benedictine monks.
2. There were also nine medieval 'secular' cathedrals, run by deans with chapters of secular canons, which continued after the Reformation. They were Chichester, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield, Lincoln, London (St Paul's), Salisbury, Wells and York.

3. This was the Cathedral-Priory of St Mary. Coventry Diocese was re-established in 1918 with the former parish church of St Michael as its cathedral, but this was bombed in WW2.
 4. This happened at Carlisle, Durham, Ely, Rochester, Winchester and Worcester.
 5. See page 10.
 6. These are available in English at www.plantata.org.uk/documents.php.
 7. The main source for the list is: TB Snow, *Obit Book of the English Benedictines from 1600 to 1912*, Edinburgh, 1913, which can be viewed at: catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005790192. I am grateful to the present Cathedral Prior, Father Francis Straw, and to Abbot Geoffrey Scott for their help with compiling the list. There are some periods of several years when no appointment was made.
 8. Names in brackets are monastic religious names, although some may also be baptismal names.
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Have You Thought of Leaving a Legacy to the Friends ?

A Legacy Provides Enduring Support

In 1935 a group of people founded The Friends of Rochester Cathedral to help finance the maintenance of its fabric and grounds. We are a registered charity, governed by a written constitution and administered by an elected Council.

Legacies are a particularly valuable way of donating, as a gift to the Friends is exempt from Inheritance Tax which helps to reduce such liability on a deceased person's estate.

Past legacies fund a considerable amount of the Friends' resources and new ones will enable us to finance projects well into the future.

To Make a Legacy

The simplest way would be to incorporate the following wording in your will:

I GIVE and BEQUEATH the sum of pounds to THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL (Registered Charity Number 273973) of The Friends Office, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester ME1 1SX for its sole use and benefit absolutely and the receipt of the Treasurer and Chairman for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

You may also leave a legacy for a specific purpose, so long as it is within the Friends' objects, or a proportion of your estate rather than a fixed amount.

Another way you can help, during your lifetime, is to transfer shares to the Friends. For taxpayers this can provide both Income Tax relief and the avoidance of Capital Gains Tax.

For further information about the Friends, our work and the benefits of making a legacy or transferring shares, please contact us - contact details are on the inside front cover.

The Friends' Prayer

Everlasting God, whose Son Jesus Christ calls us friends
When we follow his command to love one another;
Bless the Friends of Rochester Cathedral,
That generosity and fellowship may bear fruit that will last;
As we are drawn into the communion of your love,
May we be drawn closer to one another
In the community of the Cathedral we cherish;
And, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and Andrew the Apostle,
With Justus, Paulinus, Ithamar, Gundulf, William
And all the Saints of Rochester,
Proclaim our unceasing prayers and praise;
For the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our Friend
Amen.

The Reverend Canon Matthew Rushton, Precentor of Rochester

The Council of the Association of The Friends of Rochester Cathedral Registered Charity No. 273973 Report of the Officers and Members of Council

The Council submits its report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2019.

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. Income also accrues from legacies, donations, investments and organised events.

Organisation

The Council meets at suitable intervals during the year to consider the Association's performance and decide on appropriate grants. The charity has one part-time employee and, apart from office costs and the Annual Report issued to members, has minimal administration costs.

Review of the Year

The net income for the year after Cathedral grants but before investment revaluation was £24,517. Grants paid to Rochester Cathedral totalled £15,799. The overall capital value of the investment fund has increased by £110,312 reflecting stock exchange valuations.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st December 2019

	Unrestricted Income Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2019	Total Funds 2018
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Charitable Activities				
Membership Subscriptions	11,261	0	11,261	9,872
Social Events	32,089	0	32,089	21,329
Publications	37	0	37	125
Book of Memory	90	0	90	50
Donations and Legacies	6,913	0	6,913	6,785
Investment Income	37,839	0	37,839	36,544
	<u>88,229</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>88,229</u>	<u>74,705</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable Activities				
Grants paid to the Dean and Chapter for the upkeep of Rochester Cathedral (note 2)	15,799	0	15,799	78,221
Social Events	25,239	0	25,239	19,435
Publications	37	0	37	125
Book of Memory	100	0	100	0
Support Costs (note 3)	17,113	0	17,113	16,277
	<u>58,288</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>58,288</u>	<u>114,058</u>
Cost of Raising Funds				
Investment Management Fees	730	4,694	5,424	4,832
Total Resources Expended	<u>59,018</u>	<u>4,694</u>	<u>63,712</u>	<u>118,890</u>
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/ (LOSSES)				
	29,211	(4,694)	24,517	(44,185)
Net Gains/(Losses) on Investments	14,853	95,459	110,312	(100,699)
NET INCOME AND MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>44,064</u>	<u>90,765</u>	<u>134,829</u>	<u>(144,884)</u>
Total Funds Brought Forward	185,517	932,088	1,117,605	1,262,489
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>229,581</u>	<u>1,022,853</u>	<u>1,252,434</u>	<u>1,117,605</u>

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2019

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Investments (note 4)		1,182,004		1,077,116
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	1,463		1,281	
Prepayments	195		407	
Investments	5,388		5,388	
Cash at bank and in hand	64,143		38,437	
	<u>71,189</u>		<u>45,513</u>	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year				
Other Creditors and Accruals	(759)		(5,024)	
		70,430		40,489
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,252,434</u>		<u>1,117,605</u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY				
Endowment Funds		1,022,853		932,088
Unrestricted Funds		229,581		185,517
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		<u>1,252,434</u>		<u>1,117,605</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2019

1. Accounting Basis and Standards

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 (FRS 102), adopted 1 January 2016, applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011. All figures are in Sterling (£).

2. Grants paid to the Dean and Chapter	2019	2018
	£	£
Upkeep of the Garth Gardens	7,500	7,500
Crypt Served	0	6,874
Gundulph Shaft	5,759	57,152
Northbourne Pall	2,159	0
Quinquennial Report	0	6,000
Processional Cross Repairs	0	380
Educational Supplies	381	315
	<u>15,799</u>	<u>78,221</u>

3. Support Costs	2019	2018
	£	£
Salaries (of one part-time employee)	8,348	8,061
Office Expenses	5,127	4,797
Printing, postage and stationery	2,013	1,858
Annual Report	1,055	1,009
Independent Examiner	570	552
	<u>17,113</u>	<u>16,277</u>

4. Investments

The Charity's investments are managed by Cazenove Capital Management Limited, 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA. The investments at the end of the year comprised:

	2019	2018
	£	£
UK and Global Equities	743,380	658,112
Bonds	133,255	141,874
Multi-Asset Alternatives	173,431	196,940
Property	65,341	65,456
Cash	66,597	14,734
	<u>1,182,004</u>	<u>1,077,116</u>

Future Friends' Events

At the time of publication (October 2020) the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is upon us so all planned events have been cancelled or postponed. Details of future events will be circulated to Members when available and published on the Friends' website.

The Friends' Office is currently closed but the Administrator, Mrs Christine Tucker, can be contacted by email. The website and email addresses are on the inside front cover.

Some Projects Financed by the Friends

		£
Gundulph Shaft	2018	57,152
Crypt Served	2018	6,874
Crypt Served	2017	43,314
Gundulph Shaft	2017	27,421
Garth drainage	2017	4,012
Crypt Vestry fit out	2017	3,634
Crypt Vestry fit out	2016	30,877
Organ repairs	2016	15,500
Repairs to the Precinct walls	2016	15,461
Vergers' Board	2016	1,390
Repairs to the Precinct walls	2015	5,508
Collection boxes	2015	3,215
Disabled access to the Crypt	2013	300,000
Restoration work on the Tudor Gate	2012	15,000
Repairs to the tower clock	2011	13,000
New chairs	2009	70,000
Digital survey of the Cathedral	2009	35,000
Restoration work to the Sestry Gate	2009	13,680
Purchase of a cherry picker	2009	12,901
Repair of clerestory masonry and replacement of rainwater goods	2006	45,000
Restoration of the Pulpitium Screen	2006	6,500
Restoration of medieval tiles in Quire N Transept	2006	4,500
Creation of the Crypt Served	2003-4	28,000
Restoration of Henniker Memorial figures	2003	7,000
Cleaning of the North Quire Aisle	2002	32,252
Fire alarm system	2001	39,294
Garth House Meeting Room	2000	17,299
Electrical work	1999	18,908
Audio system	1998	64,300
Lighting of the Ithamar Chapel	1996	8,026
Modernisation of the Nave lighting	1994	64,500
Improvements to the Quire lighting	1993-94	85,000
Provision of Quire chairs	1992-93	19,500
Installation of internal lavatories	1990	40,000
Amplification system	1988-90	25,000
New gas central heating	1986-91	126,000
Renovation of the West Door	1985	3,000
Repair to the North Wall and Nave	1983	12,000
Cleaning of the exterior	1977-78	11,000
Decoration of the Nave Transepts	1972-74	15,000
Restoration of the North Front	1967-69	5,700
Nave cleaning and redecoration	1964	3,000
Restoration of the Cloisters	1937-62	4,000

