

# Friends of Rochester Cathedral



Report for 1984

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## *Calendar of Events*

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### **Dates for 1984/5**

June 9	King's School Commemoration French Hospital Service
June 16	Friends Festival Installation of Honorary Canon
July 1	Ordination
July 3, 4, 5	Diocesan Festival
July 13 & 14	King's School Speech Days
September 2	Royal Engineers' Memorial Service
September 30	Ordination
November 3	Admission, Licensing and Commissioning of Readers
November 11	Remembrance Day Service
December 2	Advent Carol Service
December 8	Festival of Carols performed on Handbells
December 16	British Red Cross Society Carol Service
December 20	Christmas Carol Service
January 5	Christingle Service
June 11	Pram and Buggy Service

This is not a complete list but serves to indicate some of the special services that take place in the Cathedral.

## *Times of Services*

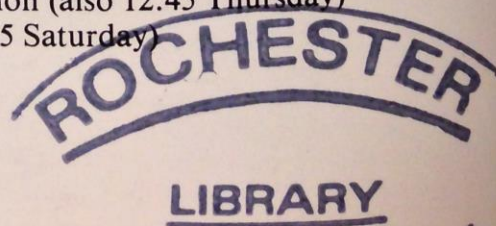
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### **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

08.00	Holy Communion (1662)
09.45	Mattins
10.30	Sung Eucharist (Rite A)
15.15	Evensong
18.30	Evening Worship in the Quire

### **WEEKDAY WORSHIP**

07.30	Mattins
08.00	Holy Communion (also 12.45 Thursday)
17.30	Evensong (15.15 Saturday)





*PATRON: H. R. H. The Duchess of Kent, G.C.V.O.*

## *The Officers*

*Visitor:*

The Lord Bishop of Rochester

*President:*

The Dean of Rochester

*Vice President:*

Canon E. R. Turner, M.A.

*Chairman:*

Mr. D. J. Bradley, F.I.C.S.

*Vice Chairman:*

Major L. J. Melhuish

*Treasurer:*

Mr. A. J. G. Barker

*Secretary:*

Miss E. C. Rowe

*Council:*

Mr. A. A. J. Anderson, O.B.E.

Mr. E. F. Bates

Dagmar Lady Batterbee

Mr. A. F. S. Champion de Crespigny

Mr. W. B. L. Locke

Mr. I. J. Phillips, J.P.

Mrs. P. M. Saxby

Canon H. E. C. Stapleton, M.A., F.S.A.

Miss B. J. Trollope, B.A.

*Office:*

Garth House, Minor Canon Row, The Precinct,  
Rochester, Kent ME1 1ST

## *Turbine Trouble or Ralph the Frivolous and William of Turmoil – a twelfth century mystery*

The list of bishops, painted with their coats of arms on the dado of the Quire according to the plan of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, begins with the name of Gundulf's successor – Ralph de Turbine (1108-1114). This is a curious mistake. The true name of the bishop in question was Ralph d'Escures, a man of great piety, literary ability and good humour, who had been Abbot of Séez in Normandy for 16 years before becoming Bishop of Rochester and who went on to become Archbishop of Canterbury in succession to St. Anselm.

De Turbine was the nickname of his successor at Canterbury, William de Corbeil "of whose merit nothing can be said, for he had none", as a contemporary chronicler wrote. This cannot be strictly true, except perhaps in a narrowly ecclesiastical sense, for he was the builder of the Keep of Rochester Castle. However, he was not popular among churchmen and his name became a standing jest. He was dubbed William de Turbine, translated by Archdeacon Churton (*Early English Church* p. 311) as "not William of Corboil, but William of Turmoil".

Ralph d'Escures had a nickname of his own – "nugax" – which means frivolous. Dean Hook, in his "Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury" indicates the positive qualities of character which inspired this unflattering sobriquet. "He was one of those happy men who, while censured by sanctimonious folly, was the delight of all who knew him; whose wit was always on the side of virtue, whose humour was considerate of the feelings of others, whose love of society never interfered with the calls of duty, and whose practical wisdom was such, that he could instruct as well as amuse." (*op. cit.* Vol. II, p. 278)

It is not known how Giles Gilbert Scott came to misplace the episcopal nickname.

JOHN AND ANNELIESE ARNOLD

### — My Gift —

I GIVE to the Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ free of all taxes and duties to be expended with the income thereof for such purposes in Rochester Cathedral as the said Association shall in their absolute discretion think fit and I declare that the receipt of the said Association shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees for the sum hereby given and that my Trustees shall not be bound to see to or enquire into the application thereof.

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## *Friends' Report for 1984*

### *From the President:*

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In the autumn, Archdeacon Derek Palmer left to become Home Secretary of the Board for Mission and Unity of the General Synod. It is no secret that when he came to us in 1977, after many years of outstanding service as a parish priest, he was looking forward with pleasure to the work of an Archdeacon, and with some scepticism to the Cathedral canonry. In the event, as we know, he came to love the Cathedral with the enthusiasm of a convert and to put some of his immense energies at our disposal. I should like in particular to mention his work, which he greatly enjoyed himself, in the post of Canon Warden which we created for him and which made possible the development of our work with tourists and visitors. One only has to think back ten years, to see what enormous advances have been made here as in other Cathedrals in this ministry. We owe a great deal to his vision, his enthusiasm and his big heart. The St. Andrew's Centre, the refurbished Gift Stall and the splendid new South Porch, are visible monuments to his time among us. We will miss him sorely, but rejoice that his many gifts and graces are now at the disposal of the churches at national level.

In his place we welcome Archdeacon Michael Turnbull and his family. The new Archdeacon, "collated, commissioned and installed" on 31st March, brings to us experience as a parish priest, as a University Chaplain and as Chief Secretary of the Church Army, where for many years he worked closely with Dean Stanley Betts. We look forward greatly to the enrichment he will bring to our life and work.

Fortunately, the new Archdeacon is of similar size to the old, so he will slip easily into his new cope, one of the set of magnificent festal copes made so lovingly for us by Mrs. Miskin with the proceeds of the Flower Festival and first worn at the Michaelmas Ordination.

This has been a vintage year for the Cathedral Choir, with the boys in particular developing a very pleasing and firm line. They have produced another record, and enhanced their reputation with two fine broadcasts of Choral Evensong on 7th December 1983 and 9th March 1984. It was undoubtedly the experience of touring East Germany in 1983 with the Choir of Canterbury Cathedral as part of the Luther celebrations, which brought the choir to a high level not only of musical competence but also of dedication; and the gratifying thing is that, far from backsliding, they have stayed at that consistently high level since. The choir has been more confident and more disciplined than ever and the reason, I believe, is that in East Germany we learnt from our Lutheran friends something about discipleship and the cost

of discipleship. It is no bad thing when a Cathedral Choir, which necessarily concentrates on the "beauty of holiness", discovers that there are other values also at the heart of the Gospel - commitment, decision, judgement, sacrifice, dying and rising again.

Luther year has been celebrated in song all round the world and it has brought two or three American choirs to our Cathedral. It is always easier to put on a show of high quality in the Medway Towns than to provide an audience; but Canon Stapleton has experimented successfully with informal promenade concerts by visiting choirs after Evensong on Saturday afternoons in the summer, when visitors enjoy staying on to be entertained. The series will be continued and extended this year.

We had a special Festal Evensong on 10th November - the actual 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther - at which the Introit was our Organist Barry Ferguson's setting of "Ein' feste Burg" - its world première having been given at St. Thomas' Church, Leipzig, where Bach was cantor; and Pastor Jacobsen of the Lutheran Church of Denmark Seaman's Mission was our Preacher the following Sunday.

We also played host in the autumn to 1,000 Methodists from the South East district as they gathered to meet their President - The Revd. Amos Cresswell; and I had the honour of being invited to the institution of Father Michael Daniel at the local Roman Catholic parish church of St. John Fisher. Father Daniel and his colleague are Franciscan Friars of the Atonement - an American order dedicated to the quest for christian unity. The order had asked the Archbishop of Southwark if they could work in an English parish and Archbishop Bowen selected this parish, not least because it is a Cathedral city. So there is a challenge and an opportunity for us.

We are developing closer relationships too with the Synagogue, partly as a result of the Ecumenical Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May. It was very gratifying to us that a party from the Synagogue attended the Pilgrimage Service and rejoiced with us at the grace which God had shewed us in the land which means so much to many faiths. Later in the year we had the privilege of playing host to a large congregation for a memorial service to a prominent local citizen of the Jewish faith.

Thus the range of our relationships is being extended. Our work with tourists and visitors continues to expand, with over 12,000 school children coming to the Cathedral in booked parties alone. The congregation too is growing steadily, not only in numbers but also in understanding and commitment, helped by a Stewardship campaign under strong lay leadership in February 1984.

All these developments are anchored in the continuing life of the Cathedral foundation, which finds expression in the daily round of worship and which we celebrated at St. Andrewside on the occasion of the ninth centenary of the first chapter

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meeting of the Benedictine Priory at Rochester. There is necessarily some tension in the anchor-cables, for "the Cathedral" is a large fellowship made up of several smaller fellowships, many of them with comparatively little in common except for the attraction which Cathedral worship holds for them. In his recent book "Church and Nation in a Secular Age" the Archbishop of York comments "Cathedrals invite a ... sort of privacy, publicly accessible because anybody can be there, but interior and shut away because 'being there' is all the worshipper has to do. This is perhaps why Cathedrals appeal especially to those who lead demanding public lives and who look for private sources of renewal stamped with the kind of public validation Cathedral can supply".

"The public validation of private sources of renewal" is not the whole of the mission of the church to our age - but is one aspect which has been especially entrusted to us. I and my colleagues are, as always, immensely grateful for the support of the Friends as together we all seek to be faithful to that trust.

JOHN ARNOLD, Dean

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#### MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new Friends enrolled since the 1983 Report.

H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent	Mr. G. James
Lady Alison Davis	Mrs. S. James
Mr. R. L. L. Davis	Mr. F. W. Monckton
Mrs. M. K. Goldsbrough	Mr. P. C. Meade
Capt. J. F. Halbert	Rev. C. S. Nye
Mr. J. F. Haughey	Mr. K. A. F. Phillips
Mr. T. H. Hewson	Mr. R. J. Stacpoole-Ryding
Mrs. D. Hewson	Mr. S. A. F. Wood
Mrs. D. M. E. Hills	

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#### FELLOW FRIENDS

We are grateful for the year books sent to us by Friends and we are delighted when parties come from other Cathedrals. In recent years we have welcomed Guildford and this year the Gloucester Friends are coming on 20th September and will be shown round the Cathedral and attend Evensong. We also rejoice in the support we have from the Friends of Cathedral Music. They will be attending Evensong again this year on Michaelmas Day, 29th September 1984.

## Chairman's letter

Some time ago, when I was trying to learn some law, I remember that certain situations carried with them a "duty of care" – how appropriate those three words are to the work we have put our hands to.

The work of the Friends is a great duty of care, caring for the Cathedral and everything that pertains to it and looking back over the years we can be proud of the work we have accomplished. Having said that, we cannot be complacent, there is and always will be many things to do.

As you will read in the Treasurer's report, we have decided to pay for the replacement of the heating system in the Cathedral and this will cost approximately £40,000 over four years. This will take all our available resources and will involve us in some over spending. In order to help the finances, we have arranged for a function to be known as "Music at Midsummer" to be held at Tonbridge School on Saturday, 30th June, commencing at 5.30 p.m.

The programme will consist of a Recital of Sacred and Secular Music by the Cathedral Choir, together with Supper supplied by the Royal Engineers Chatham, and we are greatly indebted to Brigadier Barr, R.S.M.E., and to Mr. Barry Ferguson for their enthusiasm and co-operation. Additions to the programme will also be arranged.

While we are organising this evening to help our funds, it is also intended to be a social occasion so that members of the Friends can meet and enjoy each other's company from all over the Diocese.

It is important that the work and aims of the Friends are made known in the Diocese and not just in the Rochester area. You will remember that last year I stressed that we needed more members and this is still the case. We hope that more applications for membership will flow from this function.

All members of the Council are well aware of what has to be done, and we will use all our endeavours to carry out our trust, but we do sometimes feel a sense of isolation and I would therefore hope to meet more of our members at Tonbridge. If any member wishes to comment or make any suggestions, please write in to our Secretary so that the point can be discussed at our meetings.

During the year the Friends' office moved from the lower floor of Garth House to an upstairs room which is both light and comfortable.

Recently a past member of the Council, Sir John Best-Shaw, Bt., passed away. He was a very active member during the time of Dean Betts and will be sadly missed.

In conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking our devoted staff for all the voluntary work they do for us. I very much appreciate their quiet dedication.

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## *Some glimpses into Rochester Cathedral in the 19th century*

The student of the architectural history of a Cathedral is confronted with an almost embarrassing amount of material. There is the building itself; Chapter and other records. There are also a number of volumes which, while reflecting overmuch in some cases the philosophy of the author, often record in descriptions and engravings features no longer visible today.

Three such books are – James Storer's *History and Antiquities of the Cathedral Churches of Great Britain, 1819*; H. and B. Winkles' *Architectural and Picturesque Illustrations of the Cathedral Churches of England and Wells, 1836*; and Mackenzie E.C. Walcott's *Memorials of Rochester, 1866*. Storer was a Protestant of the old school and his language is reminiscent of an atheistic radical. He dislikes Gundulph – "a prelate of little learning" and upbraids him for "the bigotry of a monk" in disinheriting the married clergy to make room for Benedictine monks. While recognising the bishop's architectural genius, Storer relishes the quotation of "the happy remark of Lambard that this prelate never rests from building and begging, tricking and garnishing, until he had erected his idol building to the wealth, beauty and estimation of a popish priory". Naively he suggests that the fire of 1177 was the result of the "Romish" partiality to burn lamps, torches and candles in churches". He is equally unsympathetic towards John Fisher, 'a lettered bigot' and all this in contrast to the paean of praise for the 18th century bishops "But all the black crimes of a Gryffyth, or demerits of an Attenbury are lost in the never ending splendour of a Sprat, a Pearce, a Dampier and a Horsley".

Yet from his account of the Cathedral we learn for example that the sedilia is known as "the Confessional". Historians today pay more attention to oral sources – might there not be some reminiscence that in this position perhaps lie the relics of the Rochester saints? One of his engravings reveals the simple panelled doorway to the Chapter Room, the top filled in with stone and with the two additional steps which still bedevil the doorway's proportions. The view from the Slype entrance displays the curved face of the Canon's house obtruding into the Garth and a well treed garden, fork and spade propped up against a wheelbarrow as the gardener has his tea break. But of special note is the view of the North Quire Transept. Five ranks of box pews rise from the central gangway and over the Bishop's throne is the classical pediment, perhaps all part of the restoration of 1743 when the "quire received new wainscot, stalls, pews, etc., and was handsomely paved with Bremen and Portland stone".

The more sophisticated Mr. Winkles relates that this throne was made at the expense of Bishop Wilcocks, who was also Dean



of Westminster "and in his time the western front of the Abbey Church of Westminster was restored and the towers completed from designs by Christopher Wren": Could the throne have been Wren's also? Among Winkles' illustrations is one that shows a screen continuing across the south aisle from the organ screen. He applauds Cottingham's repairs; Walcott, on the other hand, no doubt an ardent admirer of the Cambridge Movement, denigrated the architect's work "His mutilations, excrescences, the miserable windows". He records that in the North Transept are the windows by Clayton and Bell "for Archdeacon King", the father of the famous Bishop Edward King of Lincoln. These windows are probably the best Victorian glass in the Cathedral. Daily services we learn take place at "10½ and 3¼". And like the other authors he perpetuates the nomenclature of what is now the "shop area" as St. Edmund chapel.

Perhaps the uncovering of the western wall may reveal painting portraying the history of the Cathedral: a figure of St. Andrew is quite clearly visible. Little is known of the Crypt wall paintings. Tantalisingly, Winkles writes this brief description "Within a circle is a representation of a vessel sailing and a large fish in the water below. On one side is a monk, with uplifted hands as if in prayer: under the whole is a shield of gold charged with an eagle displayed, sable". The organ screen was designed by "Revd. - Ollive". To celebrate the centenary of this instrument on the 28th November 1891, a recently discovered music list records a special programme of music. In Winkles drawing there is a coat of arms over the entrance to the Quire.

These are some of the minor details from the printed word. Of considerable interest now, and of even greater interest in the future, will be the Cathedral's liturgical records. Not only among the Precentorial files are the orders for the Ordination in 1889 (34 priests and 24 deacons); but from more recent years the actual ceremonial for this service according to the Book of Common Prayer rite. From the 1899 notes is evidence of the ancient Rochester tradition of "seniores priores"; at an Ordination it is the Bishop and at the Eucharist it is the President who leads out first after the service is over. And as regards fabric there is the tomb of Walter de Merton, re-erected and restored in 1662. The latin inscription in the passageway by the Choir vestry records its destruction during the Civil War "Fanaticorum rabie". It was restored again in 1911 when the windows were inserted. Although Sir Ninian Comper's strawberry leaf colophon is not to be seen - yet the style and figure of John the Baptist is almost identical to his signed design in the author's former church of Hoveton St. John, Norfolk, and dated 1914.

These glimpses come from but a small selection of printed material and other examples. There is a great deal more besides, neither ought one to overlook the literary descriptions - either in Charles Dickens' *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, nor of more recent years, Russell Thorndyke's, *The Slype*.

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## Medieval Cathedra

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## *Medieval Paintings in Rochester Cathedral*

The splendid Wheel of Fortune in the choir is the only painting in Rochester Cathedral which is at all well known. An enormous amount of other painted decoration survives in the cathedral, however, on walls, vaults, woodwork and tombs. Some of this painting has never been published or even photographed in the past, but all has recently been recorded by the National Survey of Medieval Wall Paintings, which is being carried out by the Courtauld Institute of Art and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. Much of the painting is not only of high quality, but also now in urgent need of conservation treatment. The Dean and Chapter have already contributed to the estimated sum of £20,000 needed for the first phase of the conservation programme and are appealing to trusts and others for the means to enable this work to begin.

The Wheel of Fortune was discovered in 1840 on the removal of the old pulpit. In the centre, Fortune is shown turning the wheel, while on the left two figures clamber upwards, and another is shown enthroned at the top. In the lost part to the right one or more figures would have been represented falling from the wheel. The painting dates from about the second quarter of the thirteenth century, and is one of the earliest surviving representations of this subject, though we know that other examples were ordered in the same period by Henry III for his hall in Winchester Castle and his chamber in Clarendon Palace. The surviving part of the painting is generally in excellent condition, and its superb quality and rich colourings are very striking. Unfortunately, however, it has been coated at some time with a so-called "preservative" which has darkened, and needs to be removed.

Most parts of the cathedral retain some medieval painting, though it is impossible to mention all the survivals here. Much of the east wall of the main south transept is covered with fourteenth-century painting which, although the details are now mostly very hard to distinguish, was again clearly of high quality. It includes the Annunciation, St. Margaret of Antioch standing on the dragon, and various other saints and angels, with most of the figures set beneath elaborate architectural canopies. In the nave, on a pier at the west end of the south arcade, is an early representation of St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, shown as usual near the entrance of the church. The pier itself suffers so badly from rising damp that salt crystals are visible on the stonework beneath the painting, which is very faint and would certainly benefit from cleaning. On another pier of the same arcade a small crowned figure, again very faint, was noticed a few years ago by the wife of the present Dean. It probably dates from the thirteenth century.

Especially fine decorative painting of fourteenth-century date survives in and around a tomb recess in the north-east transept.



This part of the cathedral housed the shrine of St. William of Perth, the baker – pilgrim murdered near Rochester in 1201, who became the subject of a major cult. The back wall of the tomb is decorated with foliate scrollwork in green on a red ground, and with birds facing in opposite directions and forming an overall diaper pattern. The painting, which is on a limewash ground applied directly to the wall surface, is now in dreadful condition, flaking off in many areas. It has been very crudely uncovered, and much of the limewash with which it had been coated at some date in the past still adheres to the paint surface. It is vital that this painting should receive conservation treatment before it deteriorates further.

In the most shocking condition of all are paintings in the crypt, and their treatment will be the first priority in the planned conservation programme. The very large and impressive crypt dates mainly from c. 1195-1227, but its painted decoration is probably of the early fourteenth century. The most significant remains, on the vault of one of the north-west bays and on an adjacent arch, are shown in Tristram's water-colour, from which their exceptional quality is evident. Like the Wheel of Fortune, they have been treated in the past with a "preservative" which has darkened badly. By forming an impervious skin over the paintings it has also prevented moisture in their plaster ground from escaping, and the plaster has now rotted to such an extent that both it and the painting are bulging away from the vault in places, and are in imminent danger of collapse. A major part of the conservation work will involve detaching the paintings from the vault, by sophisticated techniques used successfully on many other English wall paintings in recent decades. New plaster will then be laid on the vaults, and the paintings replaced and carefully cleaned.

The vault scenes are enclosed by roundels, but those on the arch are contained within elaborate cusped frames, similar to those of the celebrated De Lisle Psalter, of the early fourteenth century, now in the British Library. One or more strange, stylised trees form a striking feature of most of the scenes on the arch. The subject-matter of the paintings has yet to be satisfactorily elucidated. Some sixty years ago they were interpreted by Tristram as scenes in the life of St. Paulinus, the seventh-century saint who was the first bishop of York, and subsequently bishop of Rochester. However, it is difficult to see how the scenes fit the story of this saint, and the identification was not repeated in Tristram's book on fourteenth-century paintings published in 1955. He here described one scene as showing a man on a ship near a shore "where lies a draped figure, apparently female, but much defaced, accompanied by a small child, or perhaps a small nude figure". This description tallies with an episode in the legend of St. Mary Magdalene, who restored to life the dead wife of the ruler of Provence, who had been forced to abandon her on the seashore with their new-born child. An altar to the Magdalene is known to have existed in the crypt in the Middle Ages. However, in the present state of the paintings, it is unclear whether Tristram's description was entirely accurate, and by no means all the other scenes appear to show the story of the Magdalene. It can only be hoped that, as so often happens, the nature of the subject-matter will become

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This part of the cathedral housed the shrine of St. William of Perth, the baker – pilgrim murdered near Rochester in 1201, who became the subject of a major cult. The back wall of the tomb is decorated with foliate scrollwork in green on a red ground, and with birds facing in opposite directions and forming an overall diaper pattern. The painting, which is on a limewash ground applied directly to the wall surface, is now in dreadful condition, flaking off in many areas. It has been very crudely uncovered, and much of the limewash with which it had been coated at some date in the past still adheres to the paint surface. It is vital that this painting should receive conservation treatment before it deteriorates further.

In the most shocking condition of all are paintings in the crypt, and their treatment will be the first priority in the planned conservation programme. The very large and impressive crypt dates mainly from c. 1195-1227, but its painted decoration is probably of the early fourteenth century. The most significant remains, on the vault of one of the north-west bays and on an adjacent arch, are shown in Tristram's water-colour, from which their exceptional quality is evident. Like the Wheel of Fortune, they have been treated in the past with a "preservative" which has darkened badly. By forming an impervious skin over the paintings it has also prevented moisture in their plaster ground from escaping, and the plaster has now rotted to such an extent that both it and the painting are bulging away from the vault in places, and are in imminent danger of collapse. A major part of the conservation work will involve detaching the paintings from the vault, by sophisticated techniques used successfully on many other English wall paintings in recent decades. New plaster will then be laid on the vaults, and the paintings replaced and carefully cleaned.

The vault scenes are enclosed by roundels, but those on the arch are contained within elaborate cusped frames, similar to those of the celebrated De Lisle Psalter, of the early fourteenth century, now in the British Library. One or more strange, stylised trees form a striking feature of most of the scenes on the arch. The subject-matter of the paintings has yet to be satisfactorily elucidated. Some sixty years ago they were interpreted by Tristram as scenes in the life of St. Paulinus, the seventh-century saint who was the first bishop of York, and subsequently bishop of Rochester. However, it is difficult to see how the scenes fit the story of this saint, and the identification was not repeated in Tristram's book on fourteenth-century paintings published in 1955. He here described one scene as showing a man on a ship near a shore "where lies a draped figure, apparently female, but much defaced, accompanied by a small child, or perhaps a small nude figure". This description tallies with an episode in the legend of St. Mary Magdalene, who restored to life the dead wife of the ruler of Provence, who had been forced to abandon her on the seashore with their new-born child. An altar to the Magdalene is known to have existed in the crypt in the Middle Ages. However, in the present state of the paintings, it is unclear whether Tristram's description was entirely accurate, and by no means all the other scenes appear to show the story of the Magdalene. It can only be hoped that, as so often happens, the nature of the subject-matter will become

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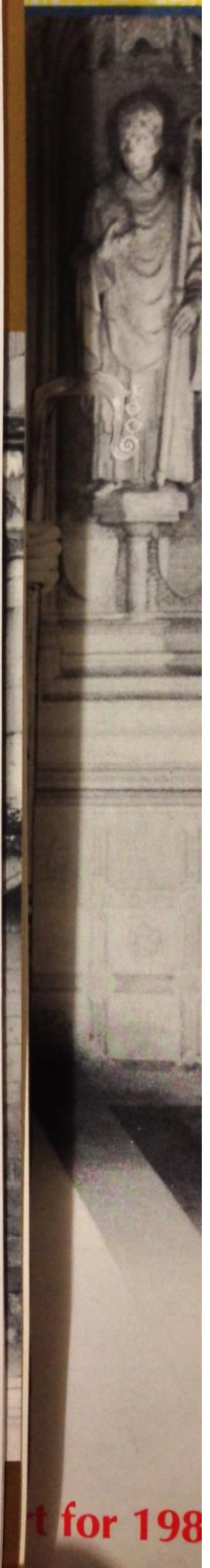
clear when the paintings are cleaned. It is already evident that, whatever the final interpretation, the iconography here is very unusual.

Much other painting survives in the crypt, and was recorded in detail for the first time by the Wall Paintings Survey. The soffits of an arch on the south side, corresponding in position to the northern arch already described, bears the remains of red masonry pattern, of the same type of cusped frames, and also of several figures hitherto not individually recorded. Masonry pattern, which simulates the joints between squared blocks of stone, is the most common form of medieval painted decoration. It also occurs on the northern arch, and on the vault with the roundels adjoining it, as well as in several other bays of the crypt. Although this masonry pattern has previously been considered earlier in date than the scenes on the north side, it is more likely that all the painting is of one period. On the southern arch, the preliminary drawing in red for the figures is on the same plaster surface as the masonry pattern. The final painting was then executed over this lower layer. The combination of masonry pattern with figure-subjects, though odd to modern eyes, was not unusual in the Middle Ages. Elsewhere in the cathedral, an example close in date to the crypt paintings can be seen in the fine Crucifixion on a buttress in the south choir aisle.

Three types of vault decoration are seen in two bays in the north-west corner of the crypt. Plain masonry pattern appears here, together with the same pattern enriched with five-petalled flowers, one flower occupying the centre of each block of simulated masonry. In one place, the masonry pattern is covered by foliate scrollwork, in the same way that it is overlain by figures elsewhere in the crypt. The leaves of the scrollwork resemble oak leaves, and such naturalism is typical of early fourteenth-century painting. Several other vaults in the crypt show different kinds of decorative painting, including, at the east end, a thicker type of scrollwork, and masonry pattern enriched with star-like motifs.

Of particular significance is the painting surviving on the vault of the south-eastern bay. Further roundels can be seen here, though they are now so darkened, and in such poor condition, that details are difficult to decipher. A water-colour copy of one of them was made by Tristram, who thought it was earlier than those in the western part of the crypt. However, once again, it is more probable that this painting belongs to the same period, and formed part of an overall scheme of decoration carried out in the crypt in the early fourteenth century. Like the other roundels, those in the south-east bay are combined with masonry pattern, and one of them contains fragments of at least one figure, not previously recorded. The head of this male figure appears to be in a style consistent with an early fourteenth-century dating. There is every likelihood that if these paintings receive the cleaning and conservation treatment which they so badly need, this question of dating could be resolved.

DAVID PARK.



## OBITUARY

Commander Sir John Shaw-Best, Bart., R.N., who died on February 26th, in his 89th year, was one of the great characters of Kent who was much loved and will be greatly missed. He served in the Royal Navy through both the World Wars, and he was subsequently a prominent figure in the County, of which he was High Sherriff in 1961. He lived at Boxley Abbey and was a regular worshipper at his parish church in Canterbury diocese. But it was Rochester diocese that he represented in the Church Assembly for many years by reason of his long association with St. Mary's, Swanley. He was a lay guardian of the Sanctuary of Our Lady at Walsingham for nearly half a century and President of the Church Union, 1969-71.

Sir John was a member of the Council of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral and provided the Cathedral with its Christmas tree each year from his estate. He was an Anglo-Catholic of the old school and proud of it. But before all else he was a man of God, whose devotion, piety and loyalty will always be a very precious memory.

D.R.

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We record also with deep regret the death during the year of the following Friends.

Mr. R. C. A. Bolt	Mrs. E. M. McAvoy
Mr. F. Bunyan	Col. Sir Thomas Roberts
Mrs. M. E. Burke	Mrs. H. M. Vyvyan
Mr. M. L. M. Chavasse	Mrs. J. B. Wardill
Mr. L. E. D. Darley	Mrs. E. White
Mr. G. N. Downes	Miss A. R. Williams
Mrs. W. Edmunds	Mr. J. E. Williams

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### THE BOOK OF MEMORY

The Cathedral Book of Memory in which around 200 names have already been inscribed is at the foot of the Nave Altar steps (South side). The book alongside gives the names in Calendaric order as distinct from the alphabetical order in the Book of Memory.

Anyone wishing to have inscribed the name of someone connected with the Cathedral or Diocese should apply to the Secretary of the Friends who will be happy to furnish all particulars.

A remembrance is made at the 8 a.m. Holy Communion Service in the Cathedral on the anniversary of the death of those whose names are entered in the Book of Memory.

Secretary

## *Friends of Rochester Cathedral*

### *Treasurer's Report*

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In line with the Stock Market generally the value of our investment portfolio increased by 20% for the eleven months under review. Income exceeded expenditure by a small margin, but this was, regrettably, due not to an increase in subscription income, but to a substantial reduction in expenditure. No fabric expenditure of any significance was funded by the Friends and this enabled the total income from the Wootton Bequest Fund to be added to the balance sheet. No income was derived from Rochester Cathedral Gift Stall Limited because of our reversion to our previous year end of February; such income falling in the accounting year 1984/85.

Now that we have the benefit – if such be the right word – of the surveyor's Quinquennial Report on the Cathedral fabric it is clear that we are faced with very heavy capital expenditure over the next several years and it is both the duty and the privilege of the Friends to assist the Dean and Chapter in facing the challenge involved. We have agreed, therefore, to finance the replacement of the Cathedral heating system at a projected cost of £40,000 over 4 years, together with some smaller commitments and I am realistically budgeting for an over-spending on current account of £5,245 in the year 1984/85. Should the subscription income again fail to increase then our short-fall will be correspondingly greater.

As my view is that it is wrong to fund current expenditure from capital sources this means that investment income will need jacking up as far as is commensurate with retaining longer term growth objectives. I am, therefore, pursuing with our stockbrokers a wholesale re-assessment of our investment policy considering, for instance, altering the present balance between equities and gilts to maximise income potential and at the same time looking at the advisability of taking profits following the recent Stock Exchange surges where the present market value exceeds the redemption value of certain fixed-interest stocks.

As ever, one very valuable source of income would be bequests and I incorporate on p.2 a suggested wording for inclusion in any will or codicil.

In closing I wish to pay tribute to the meticulous audit undertaken so willingly by our good friends, Messrs. Hoby, Pollock and Bell. I also wish to thank Bob Locke, not only for his own meticulous paper work, but for providing a splendid counter-balance to my occasional ill-concealed Monday morning exasperation.

A.J.G. BARKER  
Hon. Treasurer



FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
BALANCE SHEET  
Period from 1st April 1983 to 29th February 1984

31.3.83		£	£	
£	GENERAL FUND			
	<i>Income and Expenditure Account</i>			
	Balance, 1st April, 1983	14,505		
14,505	<u>Add</u> Surplus for the period	<u>1,405</u>		
			15,910	
	<i>Note: Grants amounting to about £400 have been authorised and payment should be made during the year ending 28th February, 1985.</i>			
<u>1,760</u>	Sundry Creditors		<u>603</u>	
16,265			16,513	

MISS WOOTTON BEQUEST FUND

	<i>Income Account</i>			
	Balance, 1st April, 1983	6,239		
6,239	<u>Add: Surplus for the period</u>	<u>6,736</u>		
			12,975	
	<i>Capital Account – Narrower Range</i>			
	Balance, 1st April, 1983	29,010		
	<u>Less: Deficit on conversion of Loan Stock</u>	<u>115</u>		
			28,895	
	<i>Capital Account – Wider Range</i>			
	Balance, 1st April, 1983	32,312		
	<u>Add: Surplus on transfer of</u>			
	Investment to Narrower Range	321		
	Profit on Sales of Investments	<u>3,608</u>		
61,322			<u>36,241</u>	
			65,136	

83,826

94,624

31.3.83  
£

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FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
BALANCE SHEET  
Period from 1st April 1983 to 29th February 1984

	31.3.83		£		£	£
£				<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
				<i>Stocks on Hand</i>		
		66		Badges at Cost		29
				<i>Investments at Cost or Market Value at date of Gift</i>		
				Rochester Cathedral Gift Stall Ltd.		
				1 ordinary £1 Share	1	
15,910		1		Ailsa Investment Trust PLC		
				3,000 Ordinary 25p Shares	700	
		700		Shell Transport and Trading Co. PLC		
				114 ordinary 25p Shares	520	
		520		£686.71 11% Exchequer Stock 1991	566	
		<u>566</u>		(Market Value £3,540 - 1983 £3,047)		<u>566</u>
<u>603</u>						
		1,787				1,787
16,513				<i>Rochester Cathedral Gift Stall Ltd.</i>		
				Interest-free Founders Loan repayable after 5 years at the option of the Company		3,902
		3,902				
				<i>Cash Balances</i>		
				Church of England Central Board of Finance	9,832	
		8,919		Lloyds Bank PLC		
				Current Account	264	
		824		Deposit Account	693	
		766		Cash in Hand	6	
2,975		<u>1</u>				<u>6</u>
		10,510				10,795
		16,265				16,513

MISS WOOTTON BEQUEST FUND

*Income Account*

*Cash Balances*

				Church of England Central Board of Finance	4,296	
		2,770		Lloyds Bank PLC		
				Current Account	813	
		264		Deposit Account	7,866	
5,136		<u>3,205</u>				<u>12,975</u>
		6,239				

*Capital Account*

*Narrower  
Range*

*Wider  
Range*

				Investments per Schedule	28,552	36,241
59,455						
				<i>Cash Balances</i>		
				Church of England Central Board of Finance	272	
		1,797		Lloyds Bank PLC		
				Current Account	71	
		<u>70</u>				
		61,322			<u>28,895</u>	<u>36,241</u>
						<u>65,136</u>

£94,624

£83,826

t for 198

FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
 Period from 1st April 1983 to 29th February 1984

31.3.83				
£	£		£	£
	253	Printing and Stationery		76
	107	Postage		44
	345	Legal Costs re Constitution		—
	303	Office Expenses		219
	—	Office Furniture and Furnishings		272
256		Annual Report: Printing	621	
71		Postage	105	
	327			726
	—	Action Committee Expenses		409
	—	Donation - Flower Guild		25
	<u>1,335</u>			<u>1,771</u>
1,000		Grants Paid: Upkeep of Garth	1,500	
8,207		North Wall and Nave	169	
293		Gundulph Tower Repairs	—	
1,320		Entrance for Disabled	—	
		Floor Tiles - Chapel		
		of St. John	276	
		Cathedral Signs	<u>605</u>	
	10,820			2,550
	—	Surplus transferred to General Fund		1,405
	<u>£12,155</u>			<u>£5,726</u>

MISS WOOTTON BEQUEST FUND

141	Sundry Expenses	—
3,849	Grants Paid: North Wall and Nave	—
<u>2,718</u>	Surplus transferred to Income Account	<u>6,736</u>

£6,708

£6,736

FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
 Period from 1st April 1983 to 29th February 1984

31.3.83	£	
£		
3,118		
—		
<u>16</u>		<u>3,134</u>
442		
<u>442</u>		—
		78
		240
		—
		1,044
		43
		357
1,063		
55		
53		
<u>215</u>		<u>1,386</u>
		<u>5,873</u>
		<u>£12,155</u>

£6,708

FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
Period from 1st April 1983 to 29th February 1984

£  
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£5,726

31.3.83				
£	£		£	£
3,118		Subscriptions: Annual	2,882	
—		Life	150	
16		Junior	—	
<u>3,134</u>			<u>3,032</u>	
442		Subscriptions to the Fabric Fund	423	
<u>442</u>		Less: Payable to Dean and Chapter	<u>423</u>	
—			—	
	78	Annual Festival – Excess of Income over Expenditure		88
	240	Donations		457
	—	Legacy – R.C.A. Bold		500
	1,044	Share of Profits from Cathedral Gift Stall Limited		—
	43	Inscriptions in Book of Memory, less cost thereof		37
	357	Income Tax recovered on Subscription and Interest		535
		Net Interest:		
1,063		Central Board of Finance	913	
55		Ailsa Investment Trust PLC	49	
53		11% Exchequer Stock 1991	53	
<u>215</u>		Bank Deposit Interest	<u>62</u>	
	1,386			1,077
	<u>5,873</u>	Deficit transferred to General Fund		—
	<u>£12,155</u>			<u>£5,726</u>

MISS WOOTTON BEQUEST FUND

531	Deposit Interest			354
4,395	Dividend and Interest			4,553
1,782	Income Tax Recovered 1982/83			1,829

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6,736  
  
£6,736

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FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
MISS WOOTTON BEQUEST FUND  
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

	Book Value	Market Value 29th February 1984
	£	£
<b>NARROWER RANGE FUND</b>		
<i>Narrower Range Investments</i>		
£5,817.75 11% Exchequer Stock 1991	5,301.50	6,079
£5,308.24 12¼% Exchequer Stock 1992	5,000.00	5,640
£2,607.50 12¼% Treasury Stock 1992	2,500.00	2,868
£5,993.10 13¼% Treasury Stock 1993	6,000.00	7,117
£2,946.69 12¼% Treasury Stock 1995	2,612.50	3,396
£4,904.05 14% Treasury Stock 1996	4,632.28	5,873
£3,000.00 B.L.M.C. 7¼% Conv. Unsec. Loan Stock 1982/87	<u>2,505.90</u>	<u>2,460</u>
	<u>£28,552.18</u>	<u>£33,433</u>
<b>WIDER RANGE FUND</b>		
<i>Wider Range Investments</i>		
675 BTR PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	1,997.55	2,902
2,304 Cadbury Schweppes PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	1,222.50	2,949
4,495 Coats, Patons PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	3,664.82	4,630
900 Costain Group PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	2,020.49	2,520
910 Dalgety PLC Ordinary £1 Shares	2,487.45	4,077
370 De La Rue PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	2,649.98	2,313
1,000 Marks & Spencer PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	657.18	2,250
600 Midland Bank PLC Ordinary £1 Shares	1,761.22	2,322
1,600 National Commercial Banking Corporation of Australia Limited Ordinary A\$1 Shares	2,228.16	3,552
920 Shell Transport & Trading Company PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	2,455.35	5,824
3,380 Scottish Eastern Investment Trust PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	2,497.68	4,225
2,000 Scottish Mortgage & Trust Company PLC Ordinary 25p Stock Units	2,679.85	5,860
625 Tate & Lyle PLC Ordinary £1 Stock Units	1,625.15	2,406
2,208 Hall Engineering (Holdings) PLC Ordinary 50p Shares	3,532.80	2,959
1,538 Imperial Group PLC Ordinary 25p Shares	<u>1,768.70</u>	<u>2,153</u>
	33,248.88	50,942
<i>Narrower Range Investments</i>		
£1,071.47 11% Exchequer Stock 1991	876.91	1,120
£2,140 Rio Tinto Zinc Corp. PLC 9½% Conv. Unsec. Loan Stock 1995/2000	<u>2,115.30</u>	<u>3,082</u>
	<u>£36,241.09</u>	<u>£55,144</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>£64,793.27</u>	<u>£88,577</u>
		<u>£74,285</u>

Note: Market Value at 31st March, 1983

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FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
PERIOD ENDED 29th FEBRUARY, 1984

1) *Accounting Policies*

- a) The accounts are prepared under the Historical Cost Convention, subject to the revaluation of Investments on Inter-Range Transfers.
- b) The Income and Expenditure Account takes credit only for legacies and subscriptions received and income tax recovered when received.
- c) All items of Furniture and Equipment have been charged to the Income and Expenditure Account on acquisition.
- d) It is not considered appropriate to include a Statement of Source and Application of Funds as it would not add to the understanding of the accounts which do not therefore comply with the Statement of Standard Accounting Practices No. 10 of the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies.

2) *Investments*

The investments include one share in the Rochester Cathedral Gift Stall Limited and a Founder's Loan of £3,902 which are not Trustee Investments but were made at the request of the Dean and Chapter to further the interest of the Cathedral.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have audited the accounts on pages 14 to 18 in accordance with the Approved Auditing Standards having regard to matters referred to in the following paragraph.

This Charity in common with many others of similar size and organisation derives a proportion of its income from voluntary donations and subscriptions which cannot be fully controlled until they are entered in the accounting records and are not therefore susceptible to independent auditor's verification.

Subject to the foregoing, in my opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs at the 29th February, 1984 and of its income and expenditure for the period then ended.

Dated this 17th day of April, 1984.

52 St. Margaret's Street, Rochester  
and at Sittingbourne.

H. J. HOBY  
Chartered Accountant  
HONORARY AUDITOR

page nineteen

Value  
February  
1984

£

6,079

5,640

2,868

7,117

3,396

5,873

2,460

3,433

2,902

2,949

4,630

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4,077

2,313

2,250

2,322

1,552

824

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860

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## Secretary's Report

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It is gratifying to report that since the 1983 Annual General Meeting many Friends have increased their annual subscription to the agreed minimum of £5 and some have exceeded that amount. The present membership stands at 846. Some endeavour must be made to increase this figure. A donation of £500 has been received from the estate of a late friend, Mr R.C.A. Bolt, of Okehampton.

The Friends have also received a generous offer of £2,000 from a member living in Australia. This money is to go towards the cost of renovation of the West Door of the Cathedral and estimates are being sought for this work.

The Architect's recent Report on his quinquennial examination of the Cathedral includes reference to the unsatisfactory heating system. As this is possibly the most important item in the Report, the Friends have agreed to pay £40,000 over a period of 3-4 years for an improved, and possibly cheaper, system. £1,000 is also being set aside for upkeep of the Garth.

As the innovation of a luncheon on the Friends' Festival Day 1983 was such a success it is being repeated this year and we look forward to many more Friends attending. We are, again, most grateful to Mrs. Mary Ashfield and her lady helpers for all their work in arranging the luncheon.

It is with regret that we have to record the death earlier this year of the late Mrs. Doris Fry wife of the Revd. L. Fry who was Secretary/Treasurer of the Friends from 1975-1982. We extend our condolence to Mr. Fry and his family.

Once again we have many people to thank for their voluntary help - Mr. Locke who gives us so much time in the office, Mr. Hoby for his valuable service in preparing the accounts, Mr. Austin who deals with the annual Income Tax repayment claim, and the Cathedral office staff who are frequently asked to do duplicating and photocopying. We must also thank Miss Monica White who delivers many of the Reports.

E.C.R.

## St. Andrew

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The Centre has s  
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## *St. Andrew's Centre for Friends*

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The Centre has shown a steady increase in turnover during the past year.

In spite of economic restraint, some 11,547 children have used the refectory and the AV presentations for the period 1st April 1983 to 31st March 1984. A concerted effort was made during this period on the educational side of the Centre's work, and a sequel to "Look Round with Steve" namely "Cathedral People" was produced in two ability ranges together with a project sheet to go with the presentations.

The project sheet has been a great success, appealing both to teachers to use for follow-up work and with the children themselves. Preparations are in hand to produce a further AV presentation on the history of the Cathedral for the 12 yr. olds and it is hoped that this will be available by September. The improvement to the Centre garden has meant that greater use is now made of this select spot by school parties and visitors alike, and in spite of the continuing difficulty in obtaining volunteers to man the Centre it is anticipated that, provided the educational side of the Centre's work is maintained, the Centre should move from strength to strength.

LEANNE HORNBY

## *Sewing Guild*

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Once again we have had a happy and busy year working together to keep the choristers' robes looking fresh and in good condition.

The new surplices and red cassocks the choir had in 1982 and 1983 have made letting hems up and down a much easier task for us. Our main problem is trying to repair the blue cassocks. We are now working towards a further set of surplices to enable washing and ironing to be more consistent and not just at holiday times.

We had a Coffee Morning at 2 King's Orchard in the autumn and raised £132 towards Funds.

I am most grateful for the continuing and loyal support I receive from all the members, both with sewing and ironing.

MARY STAPLETON

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