

Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Report 2005/2006

Officers and Council of the Friends

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To be appointed - Rochester

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Front Cover

This view of the south side of the Cathedral, seen from the Garth, will soon again be hidden by the leaves of the copper beech tree. (photo Bob Ratcliffe)

Back Cover

This engraving of the Nave about 1850 shows an earlier pulpitum screen and the centralised 18th century organ. Notice the curtains that could be lowered to keep the draft out of the choir! The organ case was rebuilt by George Gilbert Scott in his works to the choir in 1875, and Scott's fine drawing of his proposal is to be found in the Medway Archive and Local Studies Centre. Copies of a number of Scott's other drawings may be seen in the meeting room in Garth House.

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PHOTO: BARRY DUFFIELD

The Dean welcomes The Duke of Kent on the occasion of The Lord Lieutenant's Civic Service for the County of Kent on March 21st 2006.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

Not long before my family left Birmingham, we had enjoyed an evening meal together and were just in the process of clearing away the dishes when, CRASH, the ceiling collapsed! It was a sudden, spectacular and dramatic moment. We were only thankful that no-one was in the direct line of fire.

On investigation, the reason for the collapse was simple. An old lead pipe had developed a wafer thin crack at a junction below the floorboards on the landing just above the dining room. The tiniest amount of light spray had been accumulating slowly over days, softening the ceiling from above until, eventually, the spray became a drip, quickly pooled and then burst through with such dramatic effect onto us, eating innocently below.

This little domestic cameo illustrates how important it is to detect, and correct, small, high-level faults before they cause major lower-level damage. Over the second half of 2006 we will be tackling a number of vital high-level repairs on the Cathedral before they cause significant problems, along with improving access and safety for high-level inspection and maintenance.

This work will cost around £125,000. We have received £50,000 towards the cost of this from English Heritage and The Friends have made a generous donation of £33,000. The Campaign office is working to raise the balance. This work is not visible or "sexy" but it is absolutely vital. Behind the scenes maybe, out of sight certainly, but the last thing the Cathedral needs is for the ceiling to come crashing in.....

Very Rev'd Adrian Newman
Dean of Rochester

EDITORIAL

Once again this report has been assembled by Bob Ratcliffe and Colin Hoad, and we thank our various contributors, particularly the extra-mural ones, without whom it would have been the poorer. We are always open to offers, learned or otherwise, for future editions.

We are advised that a volume of very learned papers on our Cathedral has now been published following the British Archaeological Association seminar of 2002. Further details may be found on the enclosed leaflet.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year has been a fairly eventful one. In July our new Dean finally took up residence with his family in the new Deanery (ex 1 and 3 Prior's Gate), following which a campaign to raise £10 million for the cathedral and its musical future was initiated. To this campaign, your Council agreed to pledge the annual amount of £33,000 per annum for the next five years, starting in 2006-7, to be spent on works agreed by the Friends' Council. This action gave the campaign a useful boost to its fund-raising, while having no effect on our finances which usually have this amount to spend annually, anyway. We also hold a small amount for minor works, and this year we were able to progress the repairs to the Pulpitum screen and the mediaeval tiling in the Warner Chapel, as anticipated in my report of last year. Both elements were completed by Easter, and make a small but important contribution to the maintenance of the interior of the building. The Dean and Chapter has invited tenders for an overhaul of the rainwater disposal system, health and safety requirements in the roof, and repairs to the nave roof parapets, and the rest of our 2005-6 income has been offered to support this work which is due to start in May.

On the social front two 'evenings' were held during the winter months, one at the Civic Centre in November, again by courtesy of Richard Andrews, where 65 members and guests enjoyed a fish and chip supper and were entertained by The New Cade Quartet and the second in the cathedral itself, where participants were given twenty questions to answer before retreating to the crypt for a 'Monks' Supper' of various breads and cheeses, washed down with 'Monks Delight', a cider brewed by the Biddenden Vineyard. Day outings, reported in detail elsewhere, included Bawl Water and Biddenden Vineyard and the Churches of the Hoo Peninsula, and the four-day trip to Exeter in May is fully booked. Your Social Sub Committee is already planning events for the coming year, the first being a day trip to Bury St Edmund's on 19th July, for which bookings are now being taken. The evening's entertainment following our Annual General Meeting on 17th June is in aid of the Cathedral Campaign, and tickets may be obtained as a package deal - see the AGM insert for details.

As always the job of Chairman has been made lighter by the presence of so many willing supporters; vice-chairman Colin, secretary Betty, treasurer Michael, and members of the Council, Colin, again and Anne, chairmen of sub-committees, and in particular my P.A. (mornings only) Christine, whose voice can be heard on (01634) 832142.

Bob Ratcliffe

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our total membership is now 892 composed as follows:

323 Life members	17 Schools and colleges
399 Ordinary members	6 Companies
116 PCC's	31 Associations

During the financial year (1st March 2005 - 28th February 2006) we have welcomed 37 new members, 28 ordinary and 9 life members. Two members have transferred their membership from ordinary to life. It is with sadness we record that we have been informed of the death of 17 members and 4 have either resigned or lapsed, despite our best efforts.

It would be a great help if subscriptions could be paid by banker's order. This saves the need for a reminder letter and the resulting postage. A Gift Aid Declaration by those eligible to pay tax provides additional funds for the Friends of the Cathedral.

Betty Trollope

NEW MEMBERS

Mr R. Brogard	Mrs P. Newlyn
Mrs M. Brogard	The Very Rev'd. A. Newman
Miss B. Burden	Mrs G. Newman
Mrs B.A. Clare	Mr D.T. Penrose
Ms R. Cummins	Mrs D.M. Penrose
Mr I. Dear	Mr D. Poynter
Mrs S. Dear	Mrs C. Poynter
Ms E. Finn	Mrs M.E.A. Richardson
Miss C. Furminger	Mrs K. Richter
Miss D.R. George	Mr I. Robinson
Dr D.C. Hubbard	Mrs J. Robinson
Mrs C.J. Hubbard	Ms C. Staziker
Mr A. Jenner	Mr M. Stevens
Mrs R. Jenner	Mrs M. Stevens
Miss M.A. Jones-Evans	Mrs C.M. Styles
KCC Centre for Kentish Studies	Mr H. Tracey
Mrs M.P. Miller	Mr P. Todd
Mr D.W. Moutrie	Mrs J. Todd
Mrs M.E. Moutrie	

This list is correct to February 28th 2006 when the Financial Year ends.

OBITUARY

Dr R. G. Birch*
Mrs A. Camroux
Mrs M.R. Coulson*
Mrs M. Cracklen
Miss N.C. Day
Mrs D. Diessner
Mrs A.J.C. Farrow
Mrs E.W. Hanbury
Mr I.T. Harwood
Mr R.S. Kitching
Mrs H. McMillen
Mr F.F. Myers
Mrs D.M. Roberts
Mrs N. Royall
Mrs K.M. Smith
Mrs N.A. Wallace
Mrs E.M. Wildish

*notification received in 2005

SURVEYOR'S REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

As I predicted in my report last year, the pace has been hotting up, if that is not an inappropriate metaphor to use in relation to our marathon running Dean, now that Adrian Newman is firmly in the saddle. (Oh dear - another metaphor!) This is as true in relation to fabric matters as it is of all other aspects of Cathedral life. The huge fund raising campaign has been launched and is forging ahead with many initiatives in addition to the London Marathon. One of these has been the securing of English Heritage grants towards three specific projects. The Friends' Council has generously agreed to support these projects as well, since the English Heritage money will not meet more than 40% of the costs.

None of the projects is glamorous, but all are essential for the well-being and future care of the building. The first concerns gutters, rainwater pipes and safe disposal of rainwater generally. Most of the hopper heads and downpipes on the Cathedral are lead, dating from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Some are quite fine. All are in need of overhaul to some degree. The iron fixings of many of the pipes have corroded to the point of failure and some of the heavy pipes have already become detached. Many of the lower lengths of pipe were stolen several years ago and replaced "temporarily" in plastic. We propose to renew these in cast iron, painted to resemble lead, but less vulnerable to recurring theft. Cast iron was used by Gilbert Scott in his later 19th century restorations in the rectangular section popular at that time. The disadvantage of these pipes is that they need regular repainting for maintenance, but the paint brush can never reach the back of the pipe against the wall, without taking the pipes down. Consequently corrosion sets in and the pipes split, discharging water into the masonry. All the Victorian pipes have failed in this way and we will replace them in lead to match others on the building.

The second project is to deal with improving the safety of maintenance access around the upper parts of the building. The Cathedral has always been a difficult building in this regard, but the problem has been exacerbated by two factors, first the higher standards expected and required under health and safety at work regulations, and second the increase in lighting, fire detection and sound equipment at high level requiring maintenance. The present project continues the existing upgrading of handrails, walkways, fall arrest safety harness systems, and so on. The biggest item by far is the renewal of opening casements in clerestory windows through which one must climb in and out in one's progress round the building at high level. The present casements are not only worn out but also hopelessly small; the worst is less than two feet high! we are remaking them to more "user friendly" proportions. Three of the turret stairs around the east end of the building are unusable at present because of

wear to the treads; they resemble helter-skelters more than stairs. Our repairs should bring them back into safe use not only for inspection and maintenance access but also for the Fire Brigade in the horrifying event of an emergency.

The third project involves repairs to the Nave clerestories' masonry. This includes extraction of the iron window bars, the corrosion of which is causing severe spalling of the jambs and vulnerable mullions of the windows. These will be tipped with stainless steel before building back into the repaired stonework, so that they cannot cause the same problem in the future. The problems of the mullions are aggravated by the stone they are made from having been laid vertically, not horizontally on its natural bed as it was laid down in geological time. This makes it much more susceptible to failure through spalling.

As I write, we are analysing the tenders just received from contractors. As always these are higher than we had hoped, but we expect to have at least the bulk of the work under way in the early summer. On a more cheerful note I can also report on two, more visible, small projects that have just been completed and which the Friends have also generously paid for.



PHOTO BOB RATCLIFFE

Restoration work being undertaken on the pulpitum screen and the mediaeval tiles in the choir by Mark Jones (tiles) and Bob Lugg (stonework)

Nimbus Conservation, who have worked at the Cathedral before, have carried out very gentle repairs to an important area of 13th century decorative floor tiling in the North Quire Transept. The tiling is evidently undisturbed in its original location and is one of several amazing survivals in this part of the building, all within sight of each other. These are the "wheel of fortune" wall painting, the 13th century choirstalls and the reused Gundulf era door at the bottom of the Quire Transept's northeast turret stair. Many of the tiles had come out, allowing others around them to loosen, with risk of further losses. Most had been saved and were able to be rebbed. Others had broken up or were missing and precisely matched replicas were made in Dorset by Diana

Hall, who had been involved in a similar but larger project at Winchester Cathedral.

The same conservators concurrently repaired the 19th century sculptures on the Pulpitum screen. The figures of saints and bishops associated with Rochester were carved by Nathaniel Hitch in 1889/90 and stand in canopied niches in the screen, refaced to John Loughborough Pearson's design amid some controversy. Over the years projecting parts of both the sculptures and their niches had suffered damage and there were numerous losses, including all the little pinnacles to the niches. Many fragments had been saved and could be refixed, if intact, or serve as models for replacements if not. Some were completely missing however and nearly had us beaten. Once more our Chairman came to the rescue and, at the eleventh hour, turned up an early photograph of the screen in pristine condition, which enabled accurate reproductions to be carved in stone. One exception is the little pinnacles, only one of which survived in fragmentary form. This has been used as a model from which to take a mould and cast a stock of replacements of this repetitive element. This not only enabled the economical restoration of the canopies but also gave us a source of identical replacements in the case of future accidental damage. We hope that this ensures that there will be no such damage, since it seems to be one of life's rules that only irreplaceable objects (such as Chinese vases in Cambridge museums) get broken.

I H Stewart

Carden & Godfrey Architects

Dr. John Harris D.D., Encyclopædist

John Harris was presented by the Queen to the 5th Prebend in the cathedral on 28th January 1707/08. He was instituted by the bishop, Thomas Spratt, on 2nd February and installed four days later.¹ At this time the dean was Samuel Pratt, who was also Clerk of the Closet and a canon of Windsor. The archdeacon, Thomas Spratt, was the bishop's son and he also held the 6th Prebend. What palmy days they were for well placed clerics. Edmund Barrell was canon of the 1st Prebend, John Gilman the 2nd, John Grant the 3rd and Daniel Hill the 4th.² Of these people Samuel Pratt alone enjoys a notice in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

John Harris, born 1666, a son of Edmund Harris, a City merchant, matriculated at Trinity College, Oxford, aged seventeen, on 13th July 1683. Nothing is known of his previous education. Electing to take orders, one could hardly say it was a calling, Harris became vicar of Ichlesham, Sussex, in 1689. On the 7th September 1690, on the special instruction of the bishop of Chichester, Patrick Simon, one of the four founders of the Society for the Promotion of

Christian Knowledge, and later bishop of Ely, Harris was presented to the neighbouring benefice of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Winchelsea. It is worthy of note that the dedication of Winchelsea church was overlooked by the Commissioners in the sixteenth century.

Harris was fortunate to attract the patronage of the first Earl Cowper (d.1723), the distinguished lawyer, who became the first Lord Chancellor of Great Britain. It was through Lord Cowper's patronage that Harris was preferred to a prebend at Rochester. At the same time Lord Cowper presented Harris to the united livings of St. Mildred's Bread Street and St. Margaret Moses in the City of London. In case this was not sufficient to support him Harris was also perpetual curate of Strood. On 29th August 1711 he also became rector of East Barming, a living still in the gift of the Lord Chancellor.³

Harris was particularly interested in scientific matters and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on 29th April 1696.⁴ From 1706 he was a member of the Society's council and became secretary for one year in November 1709.⁵ For ever seeking and imparting knowledge Harris became a BD in the University of Cambridge in 1699 and a Lambeth DD on 10th July 1706.⁶ Before the turn of the century Dr. Harris was giving free public lectures on mathematics at the Marine Coffee House, Birchin Lane in the City.

But Dr. Harris's most worthwhile endeavour was the preparation in 1704 of *Lexicon Technicum*, or the *Dictionary of Arts and Sciences*. From this work all subsequent cyclopædias trace their origin. In 1712 Dr. Harris turned from science to history and began to collect material for a projected *History of Kent*. Amongst the manuscripts Harris consulted was the *Textus Roffensis*. As he was more frequently resident in London than at any of his numerous ecclesiastical residences, the precious volume was sent by wherry. All went well on the outward journey but not on the return. On this voyage the wherry encountered such rough weather that the *Textus* was submerged off Gravesend for some hours. There was little damage but stains remain to this day.⁷ The history has never been an admired work so it is perhaps fortunate that only one volume was completed. This appeared shortly after Dr. Harris's death. Although not consulted for its text, there are numerous references in other publications to the work's manifold errors, the plates, some of which were engraved by Dr. Harris himself, reward close inspection. One of the finest of these is the Kip's view of Leeds Abbey, seat of the Merediths, which shows the house, demolished in 1796, built on the site and incorporating parts of the Augustinian priory.

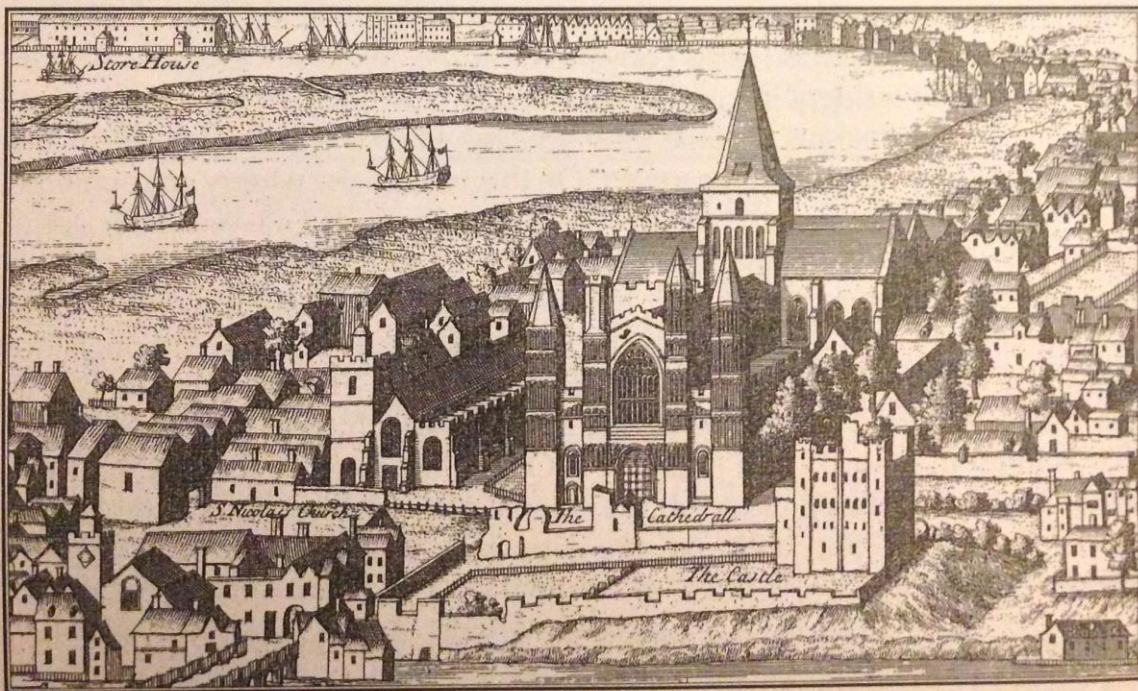
Dr. Harris never learnt to live within his income and when he died on 7th September 1719 he was an absolute pauper. He is buried in Norton church and his funeral was paid for by his friend and benefactor John Godfrey. Godfrey carefully kept all of Dr. Harris's papers but when he died they were dispersed.

On the death of Dr. Harris the "exclusive and perpetual reservation" by the Crown made on 14th January 1713/14 that at the next vacancy the 5th Prebend be reserved to the Provostship of Oriel College, Oxford, became operative. The first holder under this arrangement was Dr. George Carter. Seven provosts of Oriel held the stall until 40 & 41 Victoria (1876/77) when it was separated from the provostship and annexed to the Oriel Professorship of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture.⁸

David A.H. Cleggett

Notes

- 1 DRc/Arb 2 ff. 132-5, DRb/Am 1 f 90v.
- 2 *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1541-1857*, Neve, John Le, compiled by Joyce M. Horn, vol.III, Canterbury, Rochester, and Winchester Dioceses, University of London, Institute of Historical Research, 1974, pp.50-70.
- 3 *Dictionary of national Biography (DNB)*.
- 4 *History of the Royal Society*, Thomson, Appendix p.xxix.
- 5 DNB.
- 6 *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. CCXVI, p.636.
- 7 Rochester Cathedral Library, Revd. Canon Dr.W.H., sometime Canon Librarian of this cathedral, 1963, p.19.
- 8 *Fasti*, pp.68,69.



A portion of Thomas Badeslade's drawing of Rochester, which featured in Thorpe's 'History of Kent'. The castle appears rather out of scale.

The Cathedral in 1800

Early in the year English Heritage made its annual distribution of grants to the cathedrals. With others Rochester was allocated £50,000. Other cathedrals, for example Carlisle, Durham and Lincoln, received much larger grants. The grant was regular, not exceptional, and not related to the campaign presently being conducted. English Heritage grants are used for such essential work as may be due or even over-due. Would that such a large sum had been available in the opening years of the nineteenth century.

In last year's report the condition of the cathedral fabric in 1760 was considered. The situation revealed by the article was not much improved by 1800.

Daniel Alexander¹ carried out a thoroughly costed survey² of the fabric in 1799 and concluded that £600 (£48,600 in modern figures) a year over an eight year period [£4.800 (£388,800)] would be necessary. The report reveals that the nave floor "consists of shabby red tiles." In the nave Alexander also observed that the four main piers of the tower were painted to resemble marble, "real marble itself would perhaps not be the best coloured stone - the resemblance is even worse." Of course the dean and chapter did not have any funds for the general repair envisaged by Alexander and work proceeded in a piecemeal fashion.

Alexander was much concerned with the state of the roof of the nave and reported again on its condition in 1802.

The Dean & Chapter of Rochester

Report on the state of the Roof of the West Nave of Rochester Cathedral

I have inspected the Timbers at the places which have been uncovered in consequence of directions given some time since; as well as by means of additional parts uncovered in my presence and have thus examined & probed almost every Timber in the Roof.

The main Beams appear generally to be Chestnut, the smaller Oak, but when Old they are difficult to be distinguished. They are without exception rotten, independent of bad ends & hollow insides so as to be irreparable. As Timber, it may be said its Substance is gone.

Altho' one Timber has fallen, I think others may remain some time without accident, as iron ties in parts have been adopted. But I think the next year should have a New Roof begun & finished in one Season, even tho' the whole Expencc could not immediately be cleared.

I cannot now state my opinion as to the figure, materials or Expencc of this New Roof except that its Timbers must be all new; for the Old is too decayed

to use again, and the little that might be sound, would sell for more than it is worth to use in its present awkward sizes in a New work - great part will be fit only for fuel.

I have directed Mr Smith³ to take for me a correct set of levels, lengths, heights & perpendiculars in order to enable me to report farther [sic] to the Chapter thereupon.

I am gentlemen

With great respect

Your most obt Servant

Daniel Alexander⁴

Alexander was an extremely busy man and it was essential for him to have someone competent on the spot. John Smith, a surveyor of Maidstone, who was in the habit of walking the nine miles from Maidstone to Rochester when he waited upon the chapter, was such a man and was appointed Clerk of Works to supervise the work.

Mr. Smith addressed the dean as one having authority even if his letters were couched in a quaint style. Smith addresses his letter to My Lord. Thomas Dampier the dean was nominated to the see of Rochester on 2nd August 1802 and was consecrated at Lambeth Palace on the 21st of the month. Bishop Dampier was translated to Ely in 1808 and died in 1812. Until the installation of Samuel Goodenough on 27th August bishop Dampier continued to act as dean. Although the Congé d'élire and letters missive naming Dr. Dampier to the see were not gazetted until 2nd August the forthcoming appointment was known at Rochester some weeks before that date. Although a little premature, Mr. Smith addressed his first letter to the dean/bishop-elect using his new style.

Smith's first letter to Dr. Dampier reads⁵

Deanery Saturday July 10th 1802

4 o clock - afternoon

My Lord

I did myself the honor [sic] of waiting on your Lordship this morning agreeable to my promise to acquaint you with the Result of my Estimate of the Amount of the repairs of the Cathedral.

As the weather seems likely to detain you beyond the time you appointed for returning I shall beg leave to acquaint your Lordship that the Amot [sic] of my Estimate is 730£ (£60,650) and notwithstanding the apparent Excess, above the Sum limited (viz 600£) yet I do not perceive any thing that can with propriety be omitted. The Stained Windows certainly in my opinion are not worth omitting as their Expence will be so trifling (viz between 30 x 40£) all other works appear to be absolutely necessary.

With respect to the Old Lead I beg to acquaint your Lordship, that I do not find any Plummer who will give more than 1 Guinea per hundred weight for it & therefore I conceive Mr. Francis offer a fair price at 23/- I have tried this at Maidstone where I reside.

Your Lordship will of Course determine on what work shall, or shall not be done - As I find that Mr Alexander is not likely to be here for this 2 months, I shall Consider myself in the light of his Substitute and feel myself honoured in your Commands

I am my Lord

With profound respect

Your Lordships Most obed. Sa.

John Smith

PS

I take the liberty of adding my address, in case your Lordship should wish for my attendance at any future period.

Mr Smith

Surveyor

Maidstone⁶

The bishop/dean was probably not a little disturbed by Mr. Smith stating the cost of repairs would amount to an estimated figure £730 plus £up to £49 for the windows and wrote to Mr. Smith for an explanation. Mr. Smith replied.

Maidstone July 14th 1802

My Lord

I had the honour of receiving your Lordship's Letter this day & intended waiting on you on Saturday next unless I should find it impossible to get a Conveyance to Rochester during this busy Electioning time for having had an accident yesterday of hurting my Knee I am incapable of walking so far.

I don't in the least doubt of being able to wait on your Lordship notwithstanding.

I beg to State for your Information that the 730£ (the amount of my Estimate) I conceive would be quite outside, and that I hope the Works will be found to amount to much less, in case you determine on their being done according to the Specification.

I have the honor to be

Most respectfully

Your Lordships obed Serv

John Smith^r

Smith was busy throughout the summer inspecting the nave roof and made a report of his findings to the dean and chapter on 18th September. How the roof acted in relation to the nave walls should be noted.

Report on the State of the Roof

Of the Great Aisle of

Rochester Cathedral

Having Caused the Lead & boarding to be taken up in Sundry places for the purpose of particularly examining the State of the principal timbers - I have to make the following report vizt.

That the Roof is generally speaking much worse than I expected to find it; the whole of the Plates (or Timbers which support the ends of the Great Beams and Rafters) being entirely Rotten from end to end, on both sides the Roof.

These Plates while they remained Sound formed the Chief Support of the Walls, by preserving their perpendicularity & keeping them from Spreading. In their present decayed State the Walls are entirely left to themselves, and the Weight of the Roof becomes injurious instead of being beneficial.

If the Plates had been Sound, the other Defects of the Roof might have been repaired by splicing Sound pieces of Timber to the several Decayed parts. But I am of opinion that such a partial mode of repair would be of no real utility, as the plates are the only connecting Medium to the two Walls.-

As it will be utterly impracticable to insert new Plates Without taking up the Beams and principal Rafters (an expedient which would be equal to taking up

the whole of the Roof) I am of opinion that nothing Short of a New Roof will be of essential Benefit to the Building, that a Sub-standard repair is impracticable and if attempted would lead to a very heavy expence, and after all would most probably only postpone the necessity of a New Roof a little longer.

I intend sending a Copy of this Report to Mr. Alexander, accompanied with such other information as to enable him to State his opinion to the Dean and Chapter without delay.

John Smith

Rochester Sept 18th 1802.^o

One week before Smith submitted his report Daniel Alexander filed his. He and Mr. Smith had obviously worked closely even though Alexander himself had not been in Rochester. It is most interesting that both Smith and Alexander considered the arcades of the nave to be Saxon work.

To the Revd the Dean of Rochester &c &c

*Report on the state and Condition of the
North Wall of the West nave of the Cathedral
(reported to be dangerous) and of the Timber Roofing
over the same*

North side

The whole of this side of the Fabric has for a very many years leant out of the perpendicular towards the North - The North wall, of the North Isle adjoining it, having been, before the repairs of this year began, 11 inches at the West end and 3 inches at the East end out of the upright, and the Wall of the Nave following it, tho not in so great a degree - The said North wall is found to go down only 6 feet below the Surface, and is built on Chalk and other loose uncemented Rubble, on a Stratum of loose Ground - to prevent the further Settlement of said wall, at its 11 inch End, a Buttress has been thrown up at the commencement of this years work, whose foundation is carried down to

the solid Native Loam.

Altho' from various indexes about the interior of the Building, it may be averred, that these Walls of late years have not visibly moved yet judged this addition a prudent Step.

The North wall of the nave is constructed on Massive Saxon Columns, turned over with 2 tiers of Semicircular arches, and small double arches on little double insulated pillars under the middle of the upper ones; 'tis at this point, and above, that the Evil exists in this wall; for the work having been originally a mere casing of 2 parts of Stone, filled in the interior with unbounded Rubble, has yielded to the incumbent weight; and being already divided lengthwise by the little double pillars, and by the alley formed by the said arches, has naturally followed the principle of this mode of Structure, and as it is divided below, has split itself above.

This also, has been the case for many years; and as the workmen in boring thro' the same, to fix the Iron work of the new Roof (which ought to connect itself with, as well as tie together these Walls) have of necessity disturbed it, so that in 3 places, it has shewn faint Signs of additional Settlement.

Small collars of Iron round the little pillars have been very properly introduced by Mr Smith, the Clerk of the work, during my absence and they thence may be pronounced secure.

Roof

Of the Roof I have only to state, that the piece of Timber which has fallen down, is one piece of a row of Ornamental plates, from which if all were down, no injury to the Roof is strait, without Bumps or hollows, apparently as good as when the Lead thereof was laid in 1705^o and therefore it was in my Survey of 1798, after inspecting the boarding which is all good, reported as trustworthy. Since I have been here, I have had sundry large parts of the Lead & boarding unroofed, and find the end & interior of many of the principal Timbers, rotten and defective - so that in some places the same are supported by the little knees (which may be seen from the bottom of the Church, placed under every intersecting beam, and which is the peculiar fareseeing Characteristic of the Carpentry of that Age) when the ends which were the original support are rotten.

It is impossible now to state the extent of this evil, and consequently the remedy.

I have ordered an uncasing and inspection, by means of a lifting Cradle, of each Beam, One by one, upon which I can report more fully than is now

possible for me to do. If the Timbers are not rotten heartwise for a length inwards, which is frequently the case, when the Outside appears sound; their Ends may be spliced, and the whole rendered sound for a Century or more.

*Daniel Alexander*¹⁰

The two reports, like many, give every appearance of having been written by Mr. Smith when the full extent of the damage was known, and by Daniel Alexander when the work of inspection was actually being undertaken by Mr. Smith. The conclusion was reached that the roof of the nave would need to be renewed in its entirety. Part of the repairs and renewals was financed by loans. The total expenditure for renewing the roof came to £1,512-14s-10d (£125,554-10).¹¹ The figure is large and shows that the fabric of the ancient cathedrals have ever been and will continue to be a heavy charge on the dean and chapter.

The author is most grateful to the Dean and Chapter for their kind permission to reproduce documents in their archive.

David A.H. Cleggett

16th February 2006.

Notes

1 Alexander, Daniel (1768-1846), architect. Surveyor to the London Dock Company, Fishmongers Company and Trinity House. Alexander designed the barracks for the French prisoners-of-war at Princetown, Devon and also designed the old buildings at Maidstone Gaol. Mote House, Maidstone, is one of his domestic designs.

2 DRc/Emf 38.

3 Smith, John, described himself on the plan of the house and grounds at Boxley Abbey, which he made in April 1801, as a House & Land Surveyor. In all probability Smith was, like many other eighteenth and early-nineteenth century surveyors, an architect in his own right. Occasionally such gentlemen came into their own and designed notable buildings. One such was William Baskett (1782-1842), of Camberwell, described as a surveyor on his death certificate, but most certainly the designing and constructing architect of the 1822 house at Leeds Castle.

4 DRc/Emf 43.

5 Thomas Dampier, born 1748, was one of the more interesting occupants of the see of Rochester. He was the eldest son of Dr. Thomas Dampier, dean of Durham from 1774. Dr. Dampier the younger held a prebendal stall at Durham from 1778-1808. From an early age the bishop was a great book and print collector. Bibliomania remained his ruling passion to his life's

end and at his death the bishop's splendid collection was acquired by the Duke of Devonshire for £10,000 (£830,000).

6 DRc/Emf 44/1.

7 DRc/Emf 44/2.

8 DRc/Emf 45.

9 In 1705, when the entire nave roof was re-leaded with 25 tons of lead at 8 lbs to the square foot (total cost £378-4s-10d) the names of the bishop, dean and canons and verger were inscribed on the leads for posterity. DRc/Emf 12/1. In 1705 the bishop was Thomas Spratt, the dean Samuel Pratt. The names of the canons will be found in the article on Dr. John Harris.

10 DRc/Emf 47/1.

11 DRc/Ftv 16 1.

Thomas Spratt

Reference to the 2003-4 Report will find an article on Thomas Spratt by our contributor David Cleggett. We now offer, by courtesy of the Beaminster Society, a further angle on this 18th century cleric written by their member, Barney Milligan.



PHOTO BOB RATCLIFFE

Bishop Thomas Spratt, taken from a portrait in the Cathedral.

Thomas Spratt - a Beaminster Bishop

Authorities differ about the origins of Thomas Spratt - sometimes spelled Sprat - whether he was born in Beaminster (Dictionary of National Biography) or Tallaton in Devon (Dr Samuel Johnson). What is not in doubt, however, is that he was baptised in St Mary's Church, Beaminster, on 20 September 1635, whose parish register for that date reads "Thomas, son of Thomas Spratt, clerke".

Spratt himself declared that he received the first rudiments of his education at "a little school at the churchyard side" - almost certainly the Beaminster Free School that Frances Tucker endowed later.

There are few sons or daughters of Beaminster who have played such an active part in some of the most turbulent times of modern English history. Spratt lived his life as an academic, a poet and a senior cleric, first during the period of the Commonwealth or Protectorate under Oliver Cromwell; and then at the Restoration under the Stuarts; and on to what has come to be known as the Glorious Revolution, which brought William and Mary to the throne in 1688.

Spratt's "little school" in Beaminster must have served him well, for only sixteen years after his baptism, and presumably in his teens, he gained entrance to Wadham College, Oxford, and after three years as a commoner he gained his degree, followed by a fellowship in 1657. These were years when he became known chiefly as poet, versifier and wit. His subjects were mostly personal and sometimes satirical: in 1659 he contributed to a volume praising the gifts and character of Oliver Cromwell at the time of the latter's death. His contribution is described in Hine's History of Beaminster as "turgid", but Dr Johnson considered it was the subject rather than the style that made it so dull. John Dryden and Edmund Waller also contributed to this work which, surprisingly, was republished in 1682, when the monarchy had been restored, under the strange title "To the happy memory of the late Usurper"!

It was the Master of Wadham, Dr John Wilkins, who probably had more influence on Spratt than any of the poets. Wilkins had been appointed by Cromwell and he clearly came to have a high opinion of Spratt, who responded very positively and dedicated some of his verses to Wilkins with graceful, if sycophantic, tributes.

More importantly Wilkins, himself no mean scholar and indeed a pioneer of aerial navigation, had gathered around him a group of distinguished scholars - scientists, medical men, philosophers, astronomers, architects (such as Christopher Wren) and others - who met regularly at Wadham to share their ideas. It was this group, Spratt among them, which evolved at the collapse of the Protectorate in 1660 into the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge (now known as the Royal Society). Spratt had the

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distinction of becoming a Fellow of the Society. When a history of the fledgling society was proposed it was Spratt who was invited to write it, and his "History of the Royal Society" is the achievement by which he is probably best remembered.

By this time Charles II was on the throne. Wilkins, who had been appointed by Cromwell, and Spratt, who owed his place to the patronage of Wilkins, had to face a new scene and power structure. They seemed to have adapted well, for unlike some others in academia they did not fare too badly. Spratt had by this time taken holy orders and was appointed, through the good offices of his friend, the poet Abraham Cowley, to be chaplain to the Duke of Buckingham. This must have been an abrupt change of life for Spratt, the man who had praised Cromwell in published verse and must thus have been under grave suspicion by the authorities, because Buckingham was a member of a group known as the "cabal", which were keen supporters of the Stuarts.

In his famous poem "Absolom and Achitophel" Dryden had a lot of fun satirising just about everyone involved on either side at the time of the Monmouth Rebellion - an attempt to remove, as successor to Charles II, James, the King's brother, who was a Catholic, and replace him with Monmouth, Charles's illegitimate son, who was a Protestant. Buckingham, Spratt's new master, although he was on the Stuart side, which Dryden supported, did not escape the poet's biting tongue. In the poem he appears, alongside other biblical characters, as Zimri:

A man so various that he seem'd to be
Not one, but all mankind's epitome.
Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong;
Was everything by starts, and nothing long:
But, in the course of one revolving moon,
Was chemist, fiddler, statesman, and buffoon.

Buckingham would probably fit neatly into the soundbite about the Royalists in 1066 & All That - romantic but wrong.

Despite all this, Spratt seems to have entered the post-Restoration scene with some relish. And his talents shone. In 1663 he delivered a sermon at St Mary's Oxford (the diarist John Evelyn declared that Spratt's sermons were "full of matter, readily expressed" and admired the way "he never once made use of notes") and then, the very next day, he gave the special speech of welcome before the King and Queen when they paid an official visit to Wadham.

It is not surprising, therefore, that before long the new powers appointed him to other offices: a prebend at Westminster Abbey in 1669; a living in Lincolnshire in 1670 (though there is no evidence that he lived there); and a royal chaplaincy in 1676. The meteoric rise continued unabated. In 1679 he became curate at St Margaret's, Westminster; in 1681 he collected a canonry at Windsor; and two years later he was appointed dean of Westminster. The stipend at the deanery was felt by Spratt to be insufficient "to maintain any tolerable reputation or even to avoid contempt", but despite his protestations he had to give up one or two of his earlier offices and stipends.

When Spratt was appointed Bishop of Rochester in 1684, he was permitted by royal dispensation to retain his deanery at Westminster, as it was recognised that the diocese of Rochester was hard-pressed financially. Doubtless it was these machinations that caused the Archbishop of Canterbury's jibe that Spratt's chief concern was with his income. But it is worth recording, to be fair, that pluralities were common at that time, and Spratt was not the only Bishop of Rochester to combine the office with that of the deanery of Westminster. So it was that Spratt became a senior bishop with considerable influence in the land.

As the invasion of William of Orange drew nearer, Spratt found himself in the midst of a highly complex situation, not only because of his place in the hierarchy but also because Rochester was just across the channel from France. Pressure grew on the then King, James II, to abdicate and he eventually accepted his fate. He tried to flee to France in a skiff that had been moored at the end of a garden in Spratt's Rochester. It was only a few yards from the place where his brother Charles had been rapturously welcomed 28 years earlier. But that was before Spratt's time!

William of Orange had already landed at Torbay on 5 November 1688 and made rapid progress to London and before long he was crowned in Westminster Abbey. It was Dean Spratt - the lad from Beaminster - who brought the crowns for the new King and Queen and administered the chalice. It was also Spratt who, when William died in 1702, read the service for the Coronation of Queen Anne.

As we have seen, serving in public life in England at that time was a bumpy ride, but it appears that Spratt coped well. True, some of his views were contentious and disapproved of by the authorities, and he was accused of involvement in a plot and was actually under house arrest for a few days, but the poet who had lauded Cromwell and later became an ardent Royalist and defender of the Divine Right of Kings under the Restoration, before espousing Protestantism under William of Orange, managed to keep his neck intact. An Episcopal Vicar of Bray? Maybe. But he might rebut this by claiming a consistent, if malleable, theology of church/state relations and freedom from

domination by Rome.

The eventful life of Spratt certainly adds a great deal of colour to the history of our little town of Beaminster.

Postscript

Could Spratt have had a sense of humour? When he chose an heraldic crest on his appointment to Rochester, three fishes form its centrepiece. Was this because of the loaves and fishes in the gospel? Or was it because Rochester was beside the sea? Or could it have been something to do with sprats catching mackerels?

(The writer would like to acknowledge the help given by the Archivist of Wadham College, Oxford, the Cathedral office, Rochester, and John Arnold, former Dean of Rochester.)

Barney Milligan

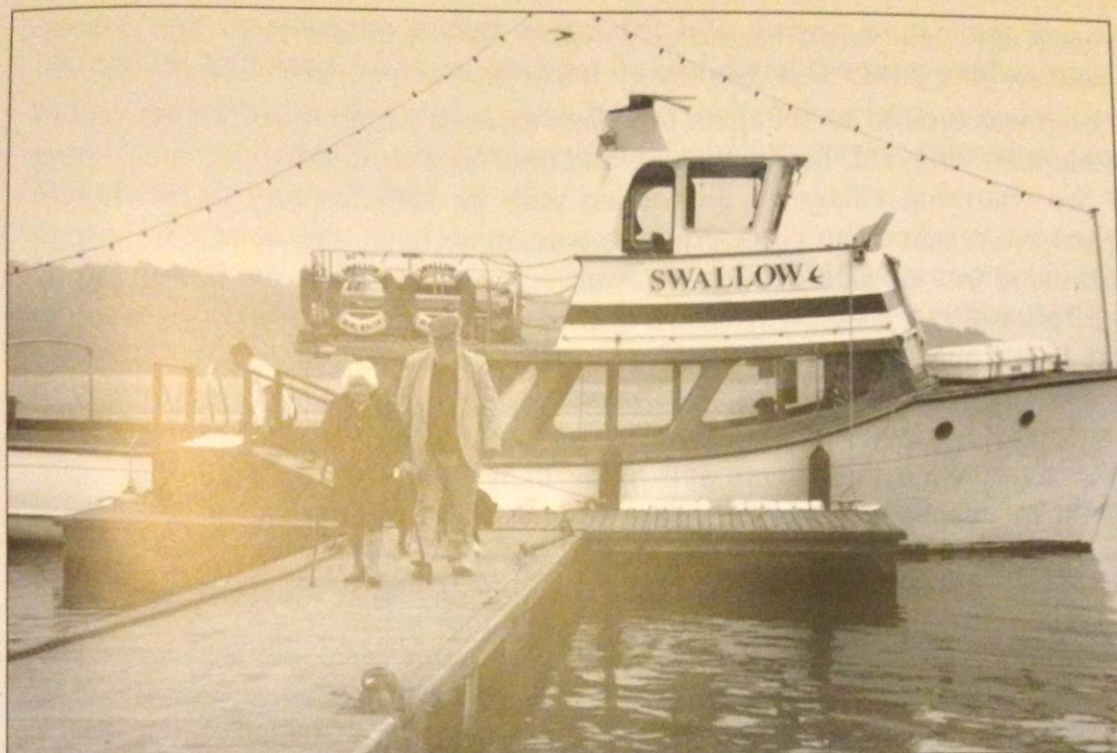
SOCIAL EVENTS:

VISIT TO GODALMING AND GUILDFORD

A party of 48 "Friends" enjoyed a day in Surrey on April 21st, 2005. The weather was fine for our arrival in Godalming. Having embarked on the 'Iona', operated by the Wey Packet Boat Company as a fascinating means of travelling waterways, we ate our buffet lunch as we sat facing each other along the sides of the cabin of the narrow boat. While we glided through green pastures in the warm sunlight, friendly horses galloped to greet the heavy horse which was towing us. Our tranquil, stately progress along one of England's oldest navigations transported us for a while into a peaceful world of unreality.

After travelling to the top of the hill where Guildford Cathedral dominates the sky-line, we were welcomed by the Vice-Dean before a tour given by members of their Friends. Both the tour and Evensong sung by the choir, which followed tea in the spacious refectory, high-lighted the contrasts between this elegant, modern Cathedral and the second oldest in the country which is so rich in the heritage of centuries.

Betty Trollope



The good ship SWALLOW returns from our voyage on Bewl Water.

BEWL WATER AND BIDDENDEN VINEYARD

On 6th October, 2005 a party of us left Rochester by coach heading towards Bewl Water for a trip on the reservoir aboard the Motor Cruiser, 'Swallow', followed by a visit to Biddenden Vineyard. Our route from Rochester took us through Tenterden and the way back was via Cranbrook. Our noble Chairman gave us an enlightening commentary on what could be seen from the coach each way.

Although it was a misty autumn morning our arrival at Bewl was enhanced by the beautiful colour of the trees surrounding the Visitors' Centre. Here we were met by another of our members, together with her mother and the dog, Lottie. They had driven down by car and were to accompany us on the boat trip. There was just time for a quick look round the gift shop and 'Waterwise' Exhibition before we set off for the jetty to pick up the 'Swallow' for our reserved 11 a.m. trip. It was quite murky, which made it a little difficult to see the shore beyond the overflow and draw off towers situated near the dam at the head of the reservoir. Bewl Water is the largest stretch of open water in the south east of England. It was completed in 1975 and now transfers 25 million litres of water a day to Hastings and Bexhill. When it was first filled it took 31,300 million litres of water, but due to severe drought in the last few years, the level is now much lower. We went out and back through the Bewl Straight,

passing the nature reserve and fish cages before returning to the Visitors' Centre, where a superb lunch was all ready for us at the Look Out Restaurant. Then it was time to set off again by coach towards Lamberhurst for our visit to Biddenden Vineyard. Before that we had time for a stroll down the main street of the charming village of Biddenden with its 13th Century stone church. When we reached the vineyard there was 'mine host', the owner, waiting to take us on our tour. Biddenden Vineyard was established by the Barnes family in 1969 and is the oldest vineyard in Kent. It has grown from one third of an acre to twenty-two acres. The walk round the growing vines took us across the gentle, south facing slope of a sheltered valley and we were able, not only to hear about the different varieties of grapes used in wine-making, but also to taste some since there were still many hanging temptingly from the vines. When we reached the bottling plant there in the sunshine outside in the yard were tables set for us to sample the wines we had heard described. (There was also apple juice for the less enterprising!) On our further tour of the plant we learned that varieties of cider are also made.

Finally we moved into the Shop where a delicious cream tea was spread out for us, following which we were able to make our own purchases. Personally I found the cider flavoured fudge delightful, but there was a decided 'clink-clink' on the journey home, which suggested a few bottles had also been purchased. Strangely enough, 'Monks' Delight', the Vineyard's recommended cider, turned up, warm, at the Treasure Hunt and Monks' Supper held by the Friends on February 17th, 2006 in the Cathedral.

Anne Sears

CHURCHES OF THE HUNDRED OF HOO

Saturday, 25th March found 44 members and Friends awaiting the Chalkwell coach in Corporation Street. This tour of the churches of the Hoo Peninsula was well supported, and it was a surprise to find so many who had never explored this rural area right on our own doorstep.

Our first call was to Cliffe, where we explored the finest of the churches we were to see. St Helen's is a fine example of 13th-14th century work, with inevitable alterations of the 19th century. A large amount of mediaeval wall painting survives, including chevrons on the columns reminiscent of the carved work at Durham. Externally the flint and flush work was much admired as was the well-maintained church yard and the charnel house.

Next stop was St James, Cooling, and the graves of the Comport family which are said to have inspired Dickens in his tale of Great Expectations. St James is today a 'Redundant Church', being administered by the Redundant Churches Trust, and is always open to visitors. It is a simple nave and chancel plan, with west tower, and contains some very ancient pews and a large sedilia among its treasures.

St Margaret's, High Halstow, with its brick-buttressed tower and Lych Gate, followed. Here we were welcomed by the incumbent, Rev. Gwilt, who showed us some of the church silver and a beautiful old (saxon) door latch, now kept in the safe. We also noted another group of Comport graves, offered as an alternative to those at Cooling!

After High Halstow we joined the A228 for a fast run to Grain. Here we divided into two groups, one to lunch at the Hogarth Inn and the other to visit St James' Church, where we were shown the damage done to the door by the invading Dutch in 1667 - and subsequently repaired by them!

The two groups then exchanged places, group one invading the Hogarth, much to the surprise of the bemused locals who do not often see coach parties in their Kentish backwater.

Bolstered by an excellent buffet, we set forth for SS Peter and Paul, Stoke and another example of mediaeval church architecture. The combined parish of Grain with Stoke is enjoying an interregnum, and we were welcomed by Ian Bett, Church Warden and general factotum, who showed us the south aisle which seems to be trying to separate itself from the nave. The maintenance of such historic buildings is a fearful burden on the small congregations in these rural parishes, yet these churches are the Heritage of England. With so much being spent these days in so many futile ways, there must be a better way to ensure their survival.

On arrival at Allhallows we were offered tea and biscuits, a lovely surprise as the afternoon sky had become overcast and there was the threat of rain. Allhallows All Saints is joined to High Halstow, forming an elongated parish along the north side of the peninsula. It is an area where the loss of population due to the mechanisation of farming has not been offset by new industry, though perhaps one day, when (if) the development of Thameside does ever happen, new congregations will fill the empty pews.

From Allhallows we headed for our last church, at Hoo St Werburgh, passing en-route the old church of St Mary's Hoo, now converted into a private house. It had started to rain by the time we reached Hoo, but the door was open and we gathered in the nave to enjoy our seventh church of the day. We were puzzled by the stone screen behind the altar which masked the lower part of the east window, but apparently it had once been in another place as a rood screen. Externally, the tall spire is unique on the peninsula.

It was a damp return to Rochester, reached on time at 5.30, and the party dispersed to read up their Pevsners or to try to remember what was where, for seven churches in one day can become confusing. Overall, it was a memory of the unsung gems on our doorstep, just one small part of a whole network of such architectural delights across the land. We must do some more sometime.

Robert Ratcliffe

2005 was a landmark year for The Friends of Rochester Cathedral as we went 'on the net'. You simply have to key in our website address above, or type "friends of rochester cathedral" into a search engine such as Google, and there you will find us. Alternatively you get a grandchild to do this. We are a page on Rochester Cathedral's excellent and easy-to-browse website. Here you are able to check dates or details you have forgotten or recall past outings from the photographs. If you know someone who wants to become a Friend, a membership pack can be printed off. In its first three months both Life and Annual Memberships came by our webpage.

It is also possible to ask questions, as The Friends of Rochester Cathedral also has an e-mail address: friendsofrochestercathedral@btinternet.com In line with modern technology it is now possible to contact us on the net, by e-mail, over the telephone or a personal call and neither, I assure you, are we proposing to give up Royal Mail just yet. If you still only have limited, or even no, knowledge of the Internet, when you have an hour to spare with a grandchild, get them to give you a tour of our webpage and I can assure you that you will not regret it and an increased knowledge of modern communications can only raise your 'street cred'.

In conjunction with the above the office computer has been upgraded, the new 'rig' appearing, below, with a happy Christine Tucker.

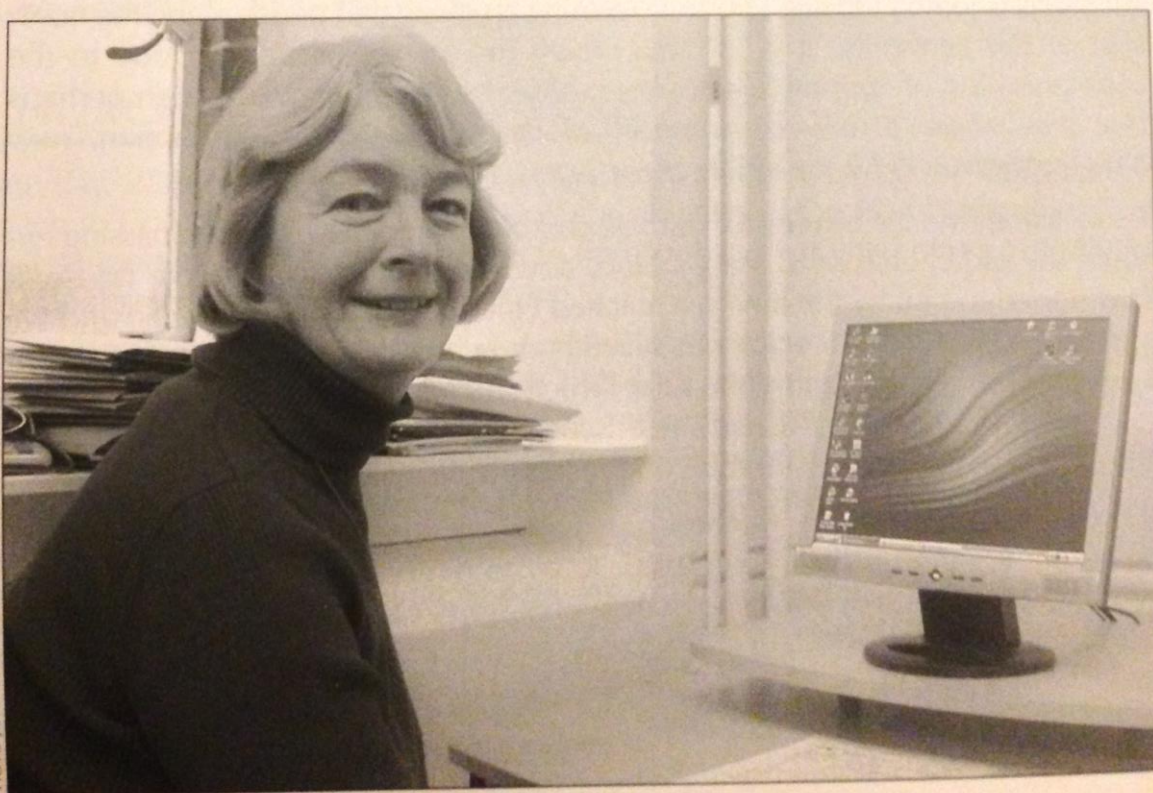


PHOTO JOHN SEARS

*THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF
ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL Charity reg. 273973*

Report of the Officers and Members of Council

We submit our report and financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2006.

Objectives and Policy of the Charity

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

Organisation

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

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

Review of the Year

The income during the year was £46094 an increase of £2958 over last year. The capital value of the fund increased by £157,769 due to general market trends.

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

	Reserved At 1.3.05 £	Approval Movement £	Paid in Year at £	Reserved 28.2.06 £
Cherry picker		10000		10000
Upkeep of Garth		6000	6000	
Garth Meeting Room	4000		3811	189
North Quire Aisle	3241			3241
Pulpitum Screen	5000	1000		6000
Medieval Floor Tiles	5000	5000	453	9547
Rainwater disposal, high level safety and stonework		*33000		33000
	<u>17241</u>	<u>55000</u>	<u>10264</u>	<u>61977</u>

*The approval is on the understanding that £50,000 would be contributed by English Heritage.

**The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 28th February 2006**

INCOMING RESOURCES	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 28.02.06 £	Total 29.02.05 £
Subscriptions	9097			9097	8618
Donations	390			390	791
Legacies					1242
Profit on social events	491			491	414
Dividends	33465			33465	31865
Bank interest	1245			1245	991
Profit on publications	1371			1371	447
Book of memory surplus	35			35	10
	<u>46094</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46094</u>	<u>44378</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct charitable expenditure					
Grants		10264		10264	25782
Other expenditure Management and administration	14819			14819	14251
	<u>14819</u>	<u>10264</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25083</u>	<u>40033</u>
Net Incoming resources before transfers	31275	(10264)		21011	4345
Transfer to designated fund	(55000)	55000			
Unrealised profit on investment held			157769	157769	82517
Net movement in funds	<u>(23725)</u>	<u>44736</u>	<u>157769</u>	<u>178780</u>	<u>86862</u>
Fund balances brought forward	<u>28961</u>	<u>17241</u>	<u>956264</u>	<u>1002466</u>	<u>915604</u>
Fund balances carried forward	<u>5236</u>	<u>61977</u>	<u>1114033</u>	<u>1181246</u>	<u>1002466</u>

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Notes to the Accounts - for the year ended 28th February 2006

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis;

(b) Statement of Recommended Practice No. 2

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the framework of accounting requirements for charities introduced by part VI of the Charities Act 1993, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995 and SORP 2;

2. Management and Administration Expenditure

	28.2.2006	28.2.2005
	£	£
Salary	5091	5460
Office Expenses	3735	3767
Postage, Printing and Stationery	1557	1709
Annual Report	2813	2744
Accountancy	470	470
Sundries	-	101
Renewal of computer and website	1153	-
	<u>14819</u>	<u>14251</u>

3. The investments of the charity are managed by Cazenove Capital Management Limited of 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA.
 The investments, on which there was no movement in the year to 28th February 2006, comprised:

	28.2.2006	28.2.2005
	£	£
UK Bonds		
277,253.53 Cazenove - The Income Trust for Charities	175044	170955
UK Equities		
782,679.705 Cazenove - The Growth Trust for Charities	938903	785223
Cash of Deposit	86	86
	<u>1114033</u>	<u>956264</u>

The book cost of these investments was £824870

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Balance sheet as at 28th February 2006

	28.2.06	28.2.05
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investments	<u>1114033</u>	<u>956264</u>
Current Assets		
Prepayments	24	-
Cash at bank	<u>76597</u>	<u>49880</u>
	76621	49880
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	9408	3678
Net Current Assets	<u>67213</u>	<u>46202</u>
Net Assets	<u>1181246</u>	<u>1002466</u>
Funds		
Restricted	1114033	956264
Designated	61977	17241
General	5236	28961
	<u>1181246</u>	<u>1002466</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Charity Commissioners' recommended format for the Accounts of a Charity has changed and it is our intention to comply with the suggested format. This has resulted in a considerable increase in length of presentation, which would be uneconomical to produce in full in this report.

Copies of the full signed Accounts to 28th February 2006 will be available to any member as requested.

PERSUADE A FRIEND TO BE A 'FRIEND'

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please detach this form and return to:

The Secretary, The Friends of Rochester Cathedral, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester, Kent ME1 1SX.
(Please use BLOCK CAPITALS as necessary)

I/We wish to become a Friend of Rochester Cathedral as:

	(please tick)	Minimum Subscription
Individual Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	£10.00 p.a.
Joint Husband and Wife	<input type="checkbox"/>	£15.00 p.a.
Individual Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	£100.00
Joint Husband and Wife Life Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	£150.00
Companies and other Corporate members	<input type="checkbox"/>	£25.00 p.a.
Schools and PCCs	<input type="checkbox"/>	£10.00 p.a.
I/We enclose Gift Aid Declaration (see overleaf)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name (Mr / Mrs / Ms / Title)

Address

Postcode

Telephone Number

Signed

I/We enclose cheque/postal order/cash/Banker's order (below please) for £
Cheques should be made payable to 'The Friends of Rochester Cathedral'.

BANKER'S ORDER

To _____ Bank plc

Branch Address

Please pay to the account of THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL at Lloyds TSB Bank
Rochester Branch, 69 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1LY, sorting code 30-97-12 A/C No 0368725,
the sum of £ _____ on _____ (date) and on that date each succeeding year until further
notice, and debit my account with each payment.

Signature

Date

Bank Sort Code

Account Number

THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL GIFT AID DECLARATION

I, _____ full names)

of _____

_____ (Post Code) _____

should like The Friends of Rochester Cathedral to treat all donations and/or subscriptions I have made since 6 April 2000, and all subscriptions and/or donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signed _____

Date _____

NOTES

Please notify the Friends Office at Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester, ME1 1SX of any change of name or address.

You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Friends Office, and this Declaration will then not apply to donations that you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.

You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the Friends of Rochester Cathedral reclaims on your donations.

If in the future your circumstances change, and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the Friends reclaim, then please inform the Friends Office.

If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL - 2006

JUNE

Friday 2 - Sunday 4

Friday 9

Saturday 10

Sunday 11

Friday 16

Saturday 17

Sunday 18

Saturday 24

Dickens Festival

Rick Wakeman Concert

French Hospital Evensong

Mayor's Dedication Services

Genoa Choir with Rainham Ladies Concert

FRIENDS FESTIVAL

Service - Kent Rotary

Great Organ Works

Concert - Rochester Choral Society

JULY

Saturday 1

Sunday 9

Wednesday 26 - Sunday 30

Ordination Service

Confirmation

Organ Festival

AUGUST

Saturday 5

Saturday 19

Organ Recital

Zvonecek Children's Choir, Prague

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3

Saturday 9

Sunday 10

Thursday 14

Sunday 17

Saturday 23

Saturday 30

Great Organ Works

Ordination Service

Patronal Festival

Cathedral Open Evening

Royal Engineers' Memorial Service

Gad's Hill Concert

Marriage Thanksgiving Service

OCTOBER

Saturday 7

Sunday 8

Friday 13

Saturday 14

Sunday 15

Saturday 21

Sunday 22

Saturday 28

Sunday 29

Readers' Service of Admission

Harvest Festival

Russian Resurrection Choir

Diocesan Health and Healing Service

Great Organ Works

Kent Chamber Choir Concert

Confirmation Service

Requiem Concert - Dr Keith Hearn

Churches Together in Medway

NOVEMBER

Saturday 11

Sunday 12

Saturday 18

Sunday 19

Saturday 25

Sunday 26

Remembrance Service Royal Marines

Volunteers Evensong

Royal British Legion Remembrance Service

Diocesan Music Committee Choirs Festival

Commissioning of Evangelists

Concert - Rochester Choral Society

Great Organ Works

DECEMBER

Saturday 2 - Sunday 3

Sunday 3

Thursday 7

Sunday 17

Thursday 21

Friday 22

Sunday 24

Dickens Christmas Festival

Advent Carol Service

Service - Royal National Rose Society

Great Organ Works

Cathedral Carol Service

Cathedral Carol Service

Blessing of the crib

Midnight Mass

