

Rochester

CATHEDRAL BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



From the Dean's desk

I'm not very good at farewells. I prefer au revoir, which carries the hint and promise of meeting once more in the future. So as I sign off from the Dean's chair in this edition of the Beacon, I hope that our

paths will cross again somewhere down the road.

In many ways my 6½ years at Rochester Cathedral isn't long at all. But when I look back and think of the journey we've travelled, sometimes I wonder how we managed to pack everything in!

I'm enormously grateful to so many of you who have supported the Cathedral as we addressed the resource challenges that have faced us. Money and Buildings – not exactly the glamorous side of a Cathedral's ministry, but absolutely vital if we are to become the outward-facing, community-engaged place we all want the Cathedral to be. And I have a sense of quiet satisfaction about what has been achieved in placing things on a sound footing, giving us the platform from which to carry God's love to a needy world.

I will take with me such warm and enduring memories of my time here. Thank you for the welcome you have afforded me, the support you have shown me, and the friendship you have shared with me. I will always remember it.

Let me sign off with my favourite Celtic Blessing:-

May the road rise to meet you

May the wind be always at your back

May the sun shine warmly upon your face

And the rain fall softly on your fields

And, until we meet again

May the Lord hold you in the hollow of His hand

Adrian Newman

Dean's Farewells

There will be two Cathedral farewells on Sunday 3rd July. The morning service (10.30 am) will be for members of the cathedral congregation and staff, and a general farewell for the Diocese and wider community at Evensong at 3.15 pm.

Adrian will be consecrated as Bishop of Stepney at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 22nd July at 11 am (together with Rev Nick Holtam, Vicar of St Martin in the Fields, who will be the Bishop of Salisbury).

If you would like to join Adrian for either occasion please contact his PA, Pamela Epps, on 01634 810071, or by email to deanspa@rochestercathedral.org



EMAIL REQUEST

To those of you that are online Would you like us to email your copy of Beacon to you in future? Besides being greener, there is a cost saving too!

Please email to development@rochestercathedral.org and you will be added to the distribution list.

NEW PLEDGES AND GIFTS FROM 1ST APRIL 2011:

£62,816.48

PLEASE HELP US AND DONATE NOW By phoning 01634 810074 or go to: www.justgiving.com/rochestercathedral trust

Roman Wall Reception

The masonry conservation work has now been completed on The Roman Wall at the East end of the Cathedral and we were pleased to hold a Reception on Thursday 12th May to celebrate it. The Dean, The Very Revd Adrian Newman introduced the Cathedral Archaeologist, Graham Keevil, who gave some background information on how the work was done and the discoveries that came from it. Grateful thanks were expressed to Peter Kendall from English Heritage for their part funding of the work, and to Biffaward, in their absence, for their match funding.

We were very pleased to have the Cathedral Guides present who said they were very pleased to hear the history of the wall and are now able to pass that knowledge onto their tour groups.

The Worshipful Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Brake cut the ribbon and opened the area to the public. He said that he was looking forward to coming back and exploring the area at leisure. The Cathedral Gardeners under the leadership of Mr Ian Bonsals, had worked very hard preparing the ancient monastic gardens for summer. The afternoon event was completed by the delicious canapés served by Helen Bannister and her team from The Tea Rooms. Thank you to everyone for their support in making the event a success.



The Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Brake and his Mayoress, Mrs Carmita Brake



The Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Brake and The Very Revd Adrian Newman, Dean of Rochester

Adidas Women's 5km Challenge – Hyde Park

The Adidas Women's 5km Challenge takes place in Hyde Park every year when over 16,000 women take part in this fun run for charity. This year the event is on 11th Sept.



The Challenge is growing every year here at the Cathedral and we would love to stretch ourselves even further this year by having even more runners. All funds raised go towards the fund raising effort for Rochester Cathedral in supporting its Restoration projects and Choral tradition.

We usually arrange a coach for us all to travel in together and you will be supplied with a team T shirt and sponsor forms, plus the organisers give you a really useful "goody bag" at the finish line with your medal!

Your children can join you but you must accompany them during the race. We would love the men to come along too for much needed support—and to carry the picnic basket for afterwards! It's a brilliant family day out!

There is a £15 registration fee for competitors and £5 of that will come to the Cathedral (just remember to nominate Rochester Cathedral Trust as your charity on the registration form). Charity no: 291616.

For further information or an entry form please contact Lynne in the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email development@rochestercathedral.org or go to www.womenschallenge.co.uk

Last year we had 37 competitors ranging in ages from young children to a Great Grandmother and we raised £2,297.17 in sponsorship.

Please let us know if you would like to take part.

Cinema in the Nave

Whistle Down the Wind

On 23rd September we are pleased to present a viewing in the nave of Richard Attenborough's classic film "Whistle Down the Wind" made in 1961 and starring Hayley Mills, Bernard Lee and Alan Bates.

The plot follows the lives of three children who discover a fugitive hiding in their barn. The bearded man, referred to as "Blakey" by the Police, is mistaken for Jesus by the children. The fugitive makes no attempt to correct their mistake, especially when he discovers the eldest child, Kathy, is determined to protect him from discovery by the local Police.

This is a film showing how the children's innocent faith contrasts with the pragmatic and suspicious adults in the town. Lots of parallels are to be found, from the stable and the shepherds, to the disciples and "Peter's denial".

For tickets please contact the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email development@rochestercathedral.org

Ticket cost: £8 per adult (concession £7)

Doors open: 7pm – complimentary drink available

Film introduction: 7.30pm by local film critic Nick Walker

Film start: 7.40pm

Running time 99 minutes



Ancient Stones – Untold Stories

Rochester Cathedral Interpretation Project



Spring 2011 has been the season of training - dusting off the little grey cells ready for an action packed summer of welcoming visitors of all ages! The new guides have now completed their course and are eagerly awaiting the results, new education volunteers have begun training to work with visiting schools, and Pam Alexander has been leading members from the whole education team in sessions on exploring spirituality through dance. Over three sessions we interpreted a Psalm, a Bible narrative and Rublev's icon of the Trinity in dance. No floaty steps, pirouettes or high

kicks – instead we worked collaboratively to communicate our understanding through a series of static poses linked by gentle controlled movement. A fantastic team-building experience; a brilliant mind, body and spirit workout. The photographic evidence is being kept under lock and key!

This summer will also be a time of reflection and review as the “Ancient Stones – Untold Stories” project draws to a close. Thanks to HLF funding changes and new developments have widened our audience and improved the visitor experience. Our work now is to keep up the good work and continue to strive for excellence!

Helen Bradshaw
Education Officer

PLEASE NOTE THE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE IS 01634 810074

TO THEE I BEQUEST...

(The first in our series of Bequest anecdotes)

No one likes to think about their own mortality but alas death comes to all of us. But I don't want to depress you by reminding you that you really must have a Will no matter how meagre your estate. Instead, have a chuckle and muse at the queerness of folk by journeying through some weird and wonderful bequests over the centuries.

Henry Budd in 1862 left £200,000 in trust for his two sons on the condition that neither grew a moustache.

Anthony Scott's will read 'To my first wife Sue, whom I always promised to mention in my Will. Hello Sue'.

A condition in Edith Walsall's Will was that her vast estate was not to be spent on slow horses and fast women.

Sara Clarke's will read 'I leave £1.00 to my daughter for the kindness and love she has never shown me'.

Norman Digweed in 1897 left £26,000 'for Jesus Christ should he return. Many people made a claim but the money was nevertheless passed on to the Crown in 1977 as a result of the application of the perpetuity rule. In a similar thread, a woman in Cherokee County, North Carolina left her entire fortune to God. The court actually instructed the county sheriff to find God. A few days later the sheriff returned and submitted his report with the conclusion that 'after due and diligent search God cannot be found in this county.

In 1851 J M W Turner after giving his paintings to the nation, left the rest 'for the support of the poor and decayed artists born in England of English parents'. His relatives fought and won claiming the whole £140,000 a fortune in today's money. The artists received nothing.

An Australian Francis Lord left a shilling for his wife 'for tram fare so she can go somewhere and drown herself'. The inheritance was never claimed.

There was the legacy that was left so that a church could employ someone to shake a bird-scaring rattle in services to stop people dropping off during the sermon.

So as you can see, a Will can have many purposes. It is not just essential in order to ensure your hard earned cash goes to the right people and your loved ones are well cared for but it can be a tool to get things off your chest. Even by blatantly ignoring a mention, the Will can serve a useful purpose.

So don't wait for the tomorrow that never seems to come. TheTV show will still be there, the pint at the pub will also still be there but one thing's for sure, you will one day not be around. So go on make the move, take care of the ones you love and the causes you care about, you know it makes sense.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

Anne Frank, Diarist

Thank you ...

Musical Evening

Eileen and Robert Coleman held a Musical Evening at their home on 29 May, following the series started by Bryan & Gillian Faux and now carried on with John and Jane Smith. Their programme included a video excerpt of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Gondoliers* and rarely-heard music from the BBC sound-track of the 1953 Coronation, composed and conducted by Sir Ernest Bullock, the one time mentor of our own Dr Robert Ashfield.

Our grateful thanks go to the Coleman's for their effort and to all their guests that made donations to our fund raising.

Royal Wedding Cake Raffle.

Helen Bannister in the Cathedral Tea Rooms made yet another superb cake in celebration of the Royal Wedding. It was raffled for £94 which Helen has donated to our fund raising.



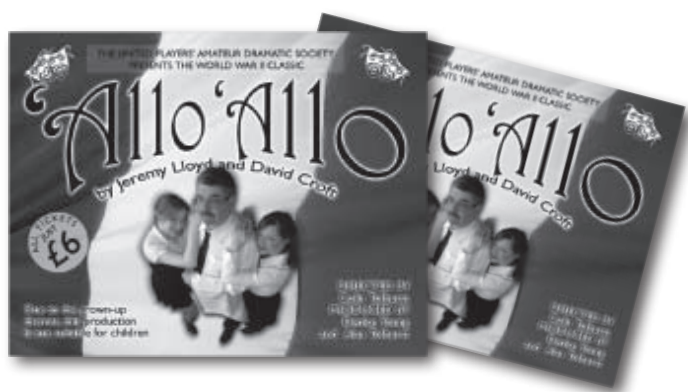
Thank you all.

“Allo Allo”

The United Players are presenting “Allo Allo” in the Kings School Hall in The Precinct, Rochester at 7.30pm on Saturday 2nd July. Tickets are £6 each and The United Players have very kindly agreed to donate all the ticket sales to Rochester Cathedral.

René Artois is a café owner in the Nazi-occupied French town of Nouvion, whose efforts to appease a range of opposing factions without being killed provide this unlikely scenario!

Reserve your ticket from the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email development@rochestercathedral.org



In Memorium

The Cathedral was very sad to hear of the passing of Brian Faux and our sincere condolences go to his family. He was an ardent supporter and fund raiser for the Cathedral and will be missed by many.

Text donations via Just Giving

Donating a small gift has been made even easier now. All you need to do is text the message

RCTR46 £10
to **70070**

and you can make a difference.



DIARY OF UPCOMING FUND RAISING EVENTS

Saturday 2 July 2011	The United Players present “Allo Allo” to be performed in the Kings School Hall. Tickets £6.	
Tuesday 19 July 2011	Annual Business Guild Dinner – our black tie event in the Crypt. Starting off with a Champagne reception in The Garth. Our guest speaker is General Sir Peter Wall, Head of the Defence Force. Tickets £75 each (tables of 8 available at £550).	
Friday 2 September 2011	Annual Golf Day at Hever Castle Golf Club – The Trustees of Rochester Cathedral and The Business Guild invite you to join us. If you have a team you would like to bring along, please let us know. Sponsorship opportunities are available. We offer lunch before T off, followed by drinks and a prizegiving.	
Sunday 11 September	Adidas Women’s 5km Challenge in Hyde Park. Race starts at 11am and we leave Rochester at 8.30am. We are usually back in time for the Community Tea!	
Friday 23 September 2011	Cinema in the Nave. This year we are delighted to advise that we shall be screening “Whistle Down the Wind” starring Hayley Mills, Bernard Lee and Alan Bates. Tickets £8 including drinks (concession £7)	
Friday 18 November 2011	Choir Concert at 7.30pm – conducted by Scott Farrell. Further details coming soon.	

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our fund raising events. Please contact Lynne in the Development Office (01634 810074) if you have some spare time and would like to be involved.

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