

604 AD ...



Rochester Cathedral

Fundraising Campaign

Historic Building, Modern Mission

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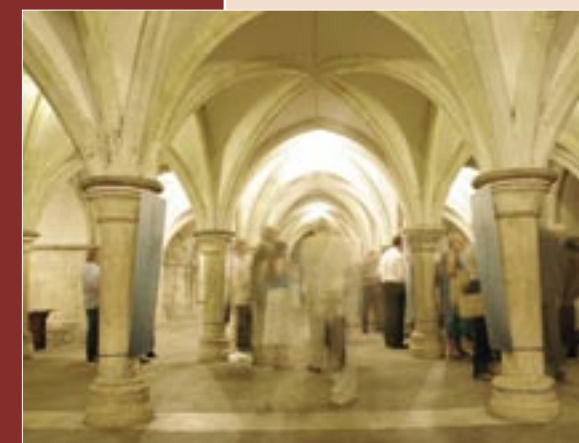
The fundraising campaign for Rochester Cathedral

The Rochester Cathedral Trust, Registered Charity Number: 291616

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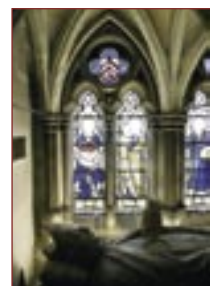
Rochester's Challenge

As the poorest cathedral in the South-East of England, Rochester faces some of the most critical financial pressures of any cathedral in the country – low annual incomes, unavoidable rising costs, a decaying property portfolio and inadequate facilities for pilgrimage, tourism and education.

However, the regeneration of Medway and North Kent presents Rochester Cathedral with some of the greatest opportunities to re-emerge as the spiritual and cultural heart of the region.

This vital campaign is unique because it grasps the nettle of these long-standing problems at the same time as it embraces the opportunities for the future. We are determined that our Cathedral should make a real and lasting contribution to human flourishing in our local and regional community.

Outward-looking, forward-thinking, Rochester Cathedral is an ancient building with a very modern mission.



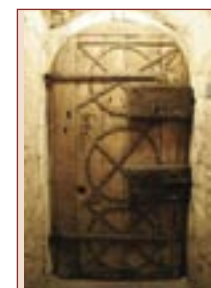
Music Forever

For centuries music has underpinned the daily worship offered by the Cathedral, but these days it also makes a significant contribution to the wider community, supporting many events and special occasions commissioned by community organisations across North Kent. It inspires and entertains thousands of people in different ways, virtually every day of the year. Where else can the general public experience such sublime music from professional choirs free of charge?

However the cost of maintaining our musical tradition is unsustainable and we will be forced to compromise if nothing changes. The Campaign gives us the chance to create an Endowment which will ensure music at Rochester Cathedral forever, as well as providing musical opportunities for young people across the region.

Safeguarding Rochester's past for future generations

Iconic for Rochester and the Medway, our Cathedral is vital for the economic and cultural health of our region. Within its environs, one can trace the history of England from Roman times through to the present day. It is our responsibility to maintain, protect and preserve this regional treasure for future generations to enjoy as a place of spirituality, heritage and culture. The latest Architect's Report highlights the extent of the work necessary – over £2 million just to keep the Cathedral building in good repair. And that is just the start. Maintaining the collection of historic buildings around the Cathedral's precinct is an equally challenging duty which simply cannot be ignored.



True or False?

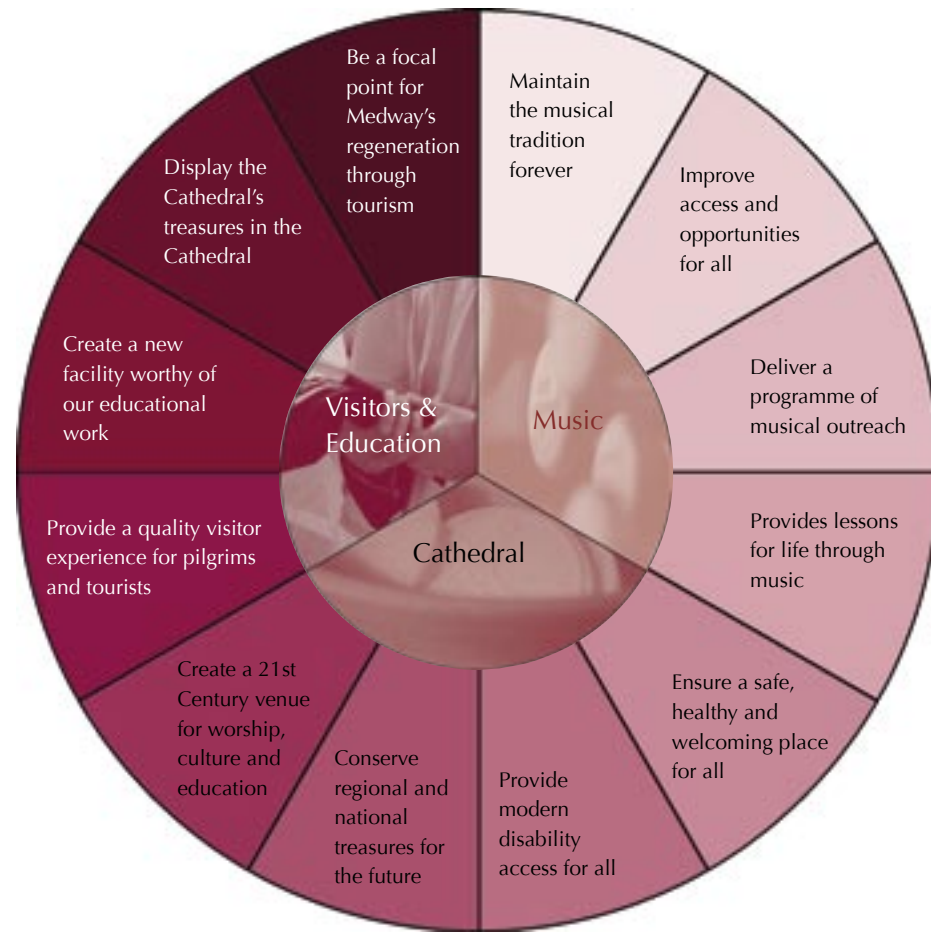
1. Rochester is the second oldest Cathedral Foundation in the United Kingdom dating back to 604.
2. Rochester Cathedral has the lowest annual income of any cathedral in the South-East of England.
3. Rochester Cathedral is visited by around 18,000 school children each year. That's 5% of all schoolchildren who visit an English cathedral each year. Less than 50% of these schoolchildren come from schools within Medway. Local youngsters are not getting the opportunity to experience their own heritage.
4. Canterbury Cathedral is visited by more than 1,000,000 tourists a year. Rochester is visited by less than 10% of that number.
5. Rochester Cathedral houses the oldest surviving Norman door in the United Kingdom. Known as Gundulf's Door, it is hidden away behind another door and cannot regularly be seen by the general public.
6. Rochester Cathedral owns the Textus Roffensis, Kent's own Domesday book dating back to 1123, but it has to be stored in Strood Archives because the Cathedral has nowhere to display it safely.
7. Rochester Cathedral contains many other artefacts of national and regional significance, such as the Williamson Plate and the Northbourne Pall, which cannot be displayed within the Cathedral.
8. The Cathedral's West Front is the most complete example of Romanesque (mid-12th Century) architecture in the United Kingdom.
9. Rochester's early 13th Century Cathedral stalls are the earliest existing timber choir stalls in Britain.
10. The Nave of Rochester Cathedral offers the largest available, indoor performance space in Medway.
11. Rochester Cathedral contains the first Fresco to be painted in an English cathedral since the 16th Century.
12. It costs over £10,000 a year to prevent pigeon infestation within the Cathedral!

A place of welcome for all

We must seize this moment to develop our Cathedral as a place for worship, education, the arts and tourism to attract visitors to Rochester and Medway. We need to improve the experience of the Cathedral as a place to visit; as a regional centre for performances, concerts, exhibitions and celebrations. We must provide educational facilities worthy of the quality of the experience that we provide for thousands of young people each year. This campaign is the chance to give the people of Rochester and North Kent a Cathedral which serves, excites and encourages them, whatever their faith and whatever their reason for visiting.

ITS ALL TRUE!

Rochester's 21st Century Wheel of Fortune



Our targets

Music	£5,000,000
Cathedral	£2,500,000
Visitors & Education	£2,500,000



"Three main elements form the basis for Rochester : a castle, a bridge and a cathedral. The castle has been a ruin for 600 years; the bridge is merely a way for reaching other places, but the cathedral has survived as Rochester's spiritual home for over 1400 years".

Bob Ratcliffe, President, The City of Rochester Society and Chairman of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral.

'Medway is proud of its rich heritage and Rochester Cathedral, one of the oldest cathedrals in England, is recognised internationally as one of our greatest landmarks.'

Rodney Chambers, Leader, Medway Council

"My time in the choir has been and still is amazing. Singing for Pope John Paul II was fantastic and the tours are always fun. I love the cathedral and singing in it with everyone. I've made great friends and the choir has encouraged me to do more with my music."

Louisa Hallett, Chorister 1998 - 2005

For all their heritage and history, cathedrals can often become isolated from the communities they serve. Splendid, but rather distant. My vision for Rochester Cathedral is to ensure we are turned inside out, applying our energy and resources to help build a flourishing community life in Medway and beyond. It's a huge challenge, but one which should