

BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral

APRIL 2021

From the Dean's desk...



For my article in this edition I would like to share with you news of an important fabric project that the Rochester Cathedral Trust are currently fund raising for.

The Bishop's Gate at Rochester Cathedral

Rochester Cathedral is the second oldest cathedral in Britain and is one of the nation's and Kent's greatest treasures. It is open to all and is Kent's most popular free attraction. Less well known than its big sister at Canterbury, and certainly much less well endowed, it serves a large part of the County of Kent, Medway and parts of south-east London as the 'mother church' of the Diocese of Rochester, founded by St. Justus in A.D.604.

Built on land given by King Ethelbert, the Cathedral has witnessed the considerable vicissitudes of the passing centuries and continues to be at the centre of a living and thriving community of worshippers and visitors. The Cathedral survives financially on the generosity of those committed to keeping this inspiring building open free to all. With little regular income, the Rochester Cathedral Trust exists to maintain the fabric of the Cathedral and keep its musical heritage alive. In this endeavour we are privileged to have as our Royal Patron, HRH The Countess of Wessex and musical patron, Mr. Jools Holland OBE DL.

There are numerous challenges in maintaining a historic building that is exposed to the elements and ravages of time. The Cathedral Trust is attempting to raise £50k to restore and save Bishop's Gate, a medieval structure on the south side of the Cathedral and which countless people walk past every day without giving it a second

thought. This Grade I gateway stood opposite what once was the Bishop of Rochester Palace and the stonework dates from the 12th and 15th Centuries.

Some years ago part of this Gate had to be taken down and now more of the tower is in danger. It would be a great tragedy to lose this familiar structure and the wonderful vista it affords of the Garth/Gardens from the footpath.

A special on-line art auction in May is being organised by the Trust in aid of this important project. If you felt able to support us by donating a piece of artwork we would be most grateful. In doing so you are helping to save this Gate for future generations.



Contact details: development@rochestercathedral.org

The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh DL
Dean of Rochester

Rochester
CATHEDRAL
Growing in Christ since AD604

Please note: You are receiving this newsletter because we think you have an interest in Rochester Cathedral and its events. If we have got this wrong please let us know by emailing development@rochestercathedral.org or telephone 01634 810074.

In order to process your kind donations, keep you updated with news and events, and carry out our work effectively, we will need to store and use the information you have provided to us. We are committed to treating your information with respect and in a transparent way. To find out more, please read our fundraising promise at <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/cathedral-trust/>

Pledges and gifts from 1st January to end February 2021 total **£125,526**

Business Guild News

Webinar series

The Rochester Cathedral Business Guild have a series of free Webinars open to all.

On 31st March at 12.30pm we have a session on ebusiness coaching called "Business Made Simple – Invite People into Your Story".

Story telling has been around for centuries, however it is only relatively recently that brands have been creating their own stories, using them not only in their marketing but to set the mission and guiding principles for their businesses.

This talk by Paul McCartney will help people to understand how, by telling their story in the form of a blockbuster movie, they will not only generate more leads and sales, but will have a motivated team, each motivated to achieve the mission the business is on. Creating a story based on the needs of their customers, people will begin to recognise how this will form the foundation of their business.

You will also come away with an understanding of how this feeds into the way they lead their organisations, their messaging, marketing, and even writing proposals. Also, you'll come away knowing the fundamentals of uniting a team, telling customers about their products, winning more deals for your business, and creating a healthy culture.



On 22nd April at 6pm we have a presentation called "Rory Sutherland speaks".

Rory is one of the most influential advertising professionals in the world today and a really nice bloke to boot. He is also a Patron of Rochester Cathedral Trust and we are delighted with his support of the Business Guild.

Rory works with a consulting practice of psychology graduates who look for 'unseen opportunities' in consumer behaviour – these are the often small contextual changes which can have enormous effects on the decisions people make – for instance tripling the sales rate of a call centre by adding just a few sentences to the script. Put another way, lots of agencies will talk about "bought, owned and earned" media: we also look for "invented media" and "discovered media": seeking out those unexpected (and inexpensive) contextual tweaks that transform the way that people think and act.

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If you are interested in registering for either of the above Webinars, please contact lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org or david.ward@rochestercathedral.org

We are planning more social events and we look forward to telling you more about these in the next edition of Beacon.

Rochester Cathedral Trust Music Endowment

The Music Endowment Fund, raised by the Rochester Cathedral Trust to support the Choral Foundation of Rochester Cathedral, has reached £1.5 million.



This is a significant milestone, says the Canon Precentor, the Reverend Canon Matthew Rushton:

“Rochester Cathedral has one of the oldest (perhaps the oldest) choral foundation in England. We have seen historic developments to this ongoing tradition, including the recent introduction of a single, mixed

treble line where boys and girls are treated equally and sing together on a daily basis. It is vital that we have a secure financial basis on which to continue and build on this cherished musical tradition and reaching this figure for the Endowment Fund is a cause for celebration. In terms of the cathedral’s contribution to the costs of the choristerships, we have now been able to endow half of the choristerships in perpetuity, so huge progress is being made in securing the future of music at Rochester Cathedral.

The work continues as we look to secure funding for the long term for the community music programme, including the introduction of 6th form choral and organ scholarships, and the costs of our choristers, lay clerks and organists.



Francesca Massey, the Director of Music, says:

“We are delighted that the Music Endowment fund is able to significantly support the musical life of the Cathedral. The expense of a well-resourced Cathedral Music Department is vast and covers everything from the musical education of the choristers to the

provision for the adult staff of Organists and Lay Clerks, maintenance of the Cathedral’s wonderful organ, robes and upkeep and development of the choir’s music library.

We are extremely grateful that this fund will help secure our musical tradition into the future, especially at a time when finances have been under strain through loss of visitor and event income to the Cathedral as a result of the pandemic.”



VIRTUAL CATHEDRAL project

Comprising over five hundred 3D models, the **Virtual Tour** is an incredible record of the architecture, history and collections of Rochester Cathedral.

Available online at
rochestercathedral.org/virtual-tour

...and coming soon

A 3D printing service for tactile exhibitions, prayer foci, gifts and souvenirs inspired by the finest sculpture and items from the Cathedral collections.

Do you have experience in 3D printing, wood routing, casting, or jewellery design? Get in touch and share your thoughts and ideas as we develop this innovative new service:

jacob.scott@rochestercathedral.org


Grimacing monk
corbel c.1240 CE
North Nave Transept
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