

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



## From the Dean's desk...

Rochester's most famous Bishop was surely Bishop Gundulf (1077-1108). Gundulf's building and architectural legacy remain with us today in the castles at Rochester, Colchester and the Tower of London and, of course, the Cathedral he rebuilt at Rochester. Although constantly confused with Gandalf from Tolkien's Ring saga, Gundulf remains an inspiring figure today, not only for his skills as an architect, but also as a man of prayer and vision. As holy patron of the Royal Engineers, Gundulf's legacy lives on through them as they design, build and support our Armed Services. As a Cathedral we value the long and warm relationship that exists between us.

This summer we launched, The Gundulf Society which brings together all our major donors and supporters under his name. We hope that this association will, not only bring due recognition to one of the great builder bishops but encourage others to become members and support the Cathedral in its work and mission. The Cathedral remains an inspiration that lifts the soul and raises our aspirations. Through its many outreach programmes and initiatives, it enables us to reach out into the wider community and build lasting relationships and friendships. A suitable legacy for the 'builder bishop'.

If you would like to know more about how you can encourage someone to become part of The Gundulf Society please do be in touch.

The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh  
Dean of Rochester

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip".



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](mailto: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 2018 to date

£89,796.11

## Projects funded by Rochester Cathedral Trust

### Asbestos Removal

Work continued with the removal of asbestos from what was the old Tea Rooms. Rochester Cathedral Trust financed this work to the tune of £17,520.

### WIFI in the Cathedral

We are now happy to advise that WIFI has been properly established inside the Cathedral with new cabling fitted and is free to all visitors. The Trust made a contribution of £10,288 to enable this project.



### Radar Survey

Works were completed in the Garth during January to March 2018 on commissioning, managing the fieldwork and interpreting the results of the ground penetrating radar survey by Sumo Stratascan. There was a shortfall in funding for this project and the Rochester Cathedral Trust was very happy to contribute £450.

### Children's Choir

The Children's Choir is fully funded by The Freemasons of East and West Kent, sponsors obtained via The Rochester Cathedral Trust. We receive annual grants from both of these provinces, and have pledges from them for five years, and are so far in receipt of £15,000.



## Outdoor Theatre at Rochester Cathedral

Bring a picnic and a rug and join us here at The Rochester Cathedral gardens for two evenings of outdoor theatre this summer.

On Thursday 16th August Changeling Theatre will be performing William Shakespeare's Measure for Measure. Tickets are available from the link below and are £20 for adults. There may be some tickets available on the door that evening. <http://tickets.medway.gov.uk/application/event.aspx?eventid=146373>

On Wednesday 22nd August Chapterhouse Theatre Company will be performing Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility. Tickets are available from the link below and are £16 for adults. Again, there may be some tickets available on the door that evening. <https://www.seetickets.com/event/sense-and-sensibility/rochester-cathedral/1202460>

Further information available from Rebecca Peachey, Visitor Experience and Enterprise Manager, 01634 810076 or email [rebecca.peachey@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:rebecca.peachey@rochestercathedral.org)

## 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 via **JustGiving™**

## Cooling Castle

The Rochester Cathedral Trust's Music Patron, Jools Holland, very kindly opened his home for a small reception and tour of his gardens at Cooling Castle. We were treated to our Choral Scholars serenading us from the middle of the moat (conducted by James Norrey) as Jools told us of some of the history of the castle.

David Starkey, also a Vice Patron of the Trust, delivered a very moving address and the evening finished with Jools playing for us.

Our grateful thanks go to Jools and Chrisabel, as well as David Starkey, The Choral Scholars, James Norrey and Colin Tolhurst and his group of parking stewards.



## Festival Fever

Rochester Cathedral was abuzz with activity during the recent Sweeps and Dickens Festivals with around 7000 festival goers passing through our doors across the two events.

With themed tours, collection show and tells, craft and spiritual activities on offer there was plenty for visitors to engage with. Visitors also enjoyed our crypt exhibitions and revived themselves with a cuppa and a slice of cake in the Café in the Crypt. A warm welcome was given to all.

The Sweeps Festival saw extra sparkle with morris dancing in the nave under the direction of our Canon for Mission and Growth, and musical entertainment in the crypt with our very own Head Verger headlining. Festival goers also engaged in reflective activities on St Mary's Meadow, right in the heart of the High Street.

These events make for exhausting but massively rewarding days of work. Thank you to all staff and volunteers who helped showcase our amazing Cathedral to the thousands of tourists who descended on the town.

## Oberammergau Passion Play - August 2020

The Friends of Rochester Cathedral invite you to join them as they visit the Passion play at Oberammergau. This wonderful event only happens at the end of each decade so it will be 2030 before you have another opportunity! An opportunity to also visit an opera in Verona. Because of the popularity of this event we need to book now.

If you are online full details of the tour can be found at [www.tailored-travel.co.uk](http://www.tailored-travel.co.uk) and quote rcp201.

For further details contact Christine Bostock  
Email: [annachaplain84@gmail.com](mailto:annachaplain84@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 07563059756

or get a booking form from Christine Tucker in the Friends' Office, Garth House.

# Diary of 2018 Events

The following are events that are firm in the Diary for the next few months, more to be added so please watch this space!

Wednesday 27th June	Speakers & Supper “Innovations in Medicine” at Canterbury Christ Church University Medway Campus. This event proved so popular last year that the university have kindly offered to run another in partnership with the Business Guild. All are welcome. Tickets are £30 and are available from <a href="mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org">development@rochestercathedral.org</a>
Thursday 5th July 6.30pm	Business Guild Summer Reception at Hadlow College in Tonbridge. Reception and talk by Mark Lumsdon-Taylor (Deputy Group Principal and Deputy CEO). All are welcome and tickets are £15 and are available from <a href="mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org">development@rochestercathedral.org</a>
Saturday 21st July 12noon	Tunbridge Wells Male Orpheus Choir lunchtime concert. Tickets available at £5 each from <a href="mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org">development@rochestercathedral.org</a> , the Cathedral Shop and on the door. This concert forms part of the Choir’s 80th anniversary celebrations. A typical concert includes selections from folk songs, blues, classical, spiritual, pop favourites, hymns and show music. More info at <a href="http://www.rtworpheusmvc.org">www.rtworpheusmvc.org</a>
Sunday 29th July 6pm – 9pm	Jazz Club in the Crypt with James Taylor. Come and enjoy a laid back session of jazz funk with James’s record collection. Dance or just listen with a glass of wine or beer. £5 entry to this first event that will become a regular feature.
Wednesday 17th October 6.30pm	Dinner in the Nave of the Cathedral. A very special evening with very special VIP guests, including James Taylor who will be launching his new work with the Choir. More information to follow – reserve your table early!
Friday 19th October 7.30pm	A concert in partnership with Abigails Footsteps to celebrate and pay tribute to the music of Queen.

**All of these events are open to all and for further information and tickets for any of these events, please contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074 or email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)**

## A Very Special Nave Dinner

The date for the next Nave dinner has rolled around again and has been set for Wednesday 17th October. As always, it will be filled with not only good food and wine but an entertaining speaker and VIP guests.

We will start off with a sparkling reception at 6.30 and will sit down to dinner at 7.30pm. James Taylor has written a new piece of music for our Choir and they will perform a little of it for us.

Tickets for this Black Tie event will be £125 (or £950 for a table of 8) and are available from Lynne Bax in the Development Office at Garth House, email [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org) or telephone 01634 810074. Do reserve your places early – this event always sells out very quickly!



Development Office, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester ME1 1SX

T: 01634 810074 Email: [development@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org) [www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)

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