

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



## From the Dean's desk...

In Honour of Gundulf.

Gundulf was the great Norman 'bishop builder', responsible for Rochester Cathedral, Rochester Castle, Colchester Castle, the White Tower in London and Malling Abbey. Not surprisingly he was adopted by the Royal Engineers as their patron and Rochester Cathedral remains their spiritual home.

Gundulf, a monk from Bec, was consecrated a bishop in 1077 and served as Bishop of Rochester and Prior of St Andrew's until his death in 1108. It was Gundulf who established an order of Benedictine monks at Rochester, planted a vineyard and started growing grapes. It is now thought that Rochester Priory was the first Norman monastery in England to start producing wine on a large scale.

In Gundulf's honour the monks established a wine festival on the anniversary of his death. The medieval text, *Custumale Roffense* states that in the year 1288, a 'Year of Goodwill', the Prior, Richard de Derent, established that 'each year in memory of the Blessed Bishop Gundulf wine should be given'. It is recorded that this was, 'with the consent of the whole monastery'!

This seems to have set a precedent whereby 'the best wine' was given to the monastery every month by the heads of various estates and the tenant farms. It amounted to half a sextarius (six pints), but on two months the amount doubled to a whole sextarius. The extra wine seems to have been laid down and saved for the annual Gundulf festival and shared amongst the community and servants, including millers, cooks, gatekeeper, steward, granger, launderers, etc. The servants would not normally have had wine as beer/ale was the drink stipulated for all of them as part of their 'benefits' of working in house.

The annual celebration and offering of wine was seen as a sign of benevolence to bring the community together in remembrance of their founder and benefactor and it seems to me that this tradition is long overdue for reinstatement. For this reason I welcome the opportunity to bring together the wine growers of Kent at the Cathedral for an English Wine Festival this November. Please look out for the details. A celebration in remembrance of Gundulf is long overdue and may all be blessed and prosper who gather within these hallowed cathedral walls to drink his health. Cheers!

The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh  
Dean of Rochester

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 end August 2018

£162,590.49

## Patronal Festival 2018

September 9th saw a very special Patronal Festival in the Cathedral. Not only did we welcome more people onto the Cathedral Foundation, both staff and new Choristers, but we were able to present 5 medals to some excellent Choristers.

The first was The Rausing medal – sponsored by Julia and Hans Rausing and was presented to Sarah Ayere. The second was The Oldfield medal – sponsored by Richard Oldfield and his family and was presented to Mungo Marsh. Richard is a trustee of Rochester Cathedral Trust and a hard working member of the Development Committee working towards fund raising targets

The third was the J & J medal – sponsored by Jean Callebaut, a past Trustee and was presented to Nathanel Rayko. We continue to be very grateful to Jean for her generous support of the Rochester Cathedral Trust.

The Saddlers' Medal – this medal is sponsored by the Saddlers' Company and we have had a long standing relationship with them which grows from strength to

strength. This medal was presented to Luke Wheeler-Wadison.

The fifth medal was The Ouseley Medal – which is sponsored from a legacy left to the Music Endowment many years ago and was presented to Reuben Drewell.

Congratulations to all the recipients! We look forward to the day when all our very talented Choristers can wear sponsorship medals like the one pictured below.



## A Tribute to the music of Queen

- Concert on Friday, October 19, 2018
- 19:30 22:30 (Doors open 7pm)
- Rochester Cathedral

A Night at the Cathedral - Abigail's Footsteps in partnership with Rochester Cathedral invite you to a tribute to the music of Queen. Original arrangements performed by soloists and choirs. With Special guests Jonathan Ansell from G4 & The 1066 Rockitmen. Buy Your Tickets for £10 on the Abigail's Footsteps website.



## 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** **JustGiving™** and you can make a difference via

## Juliette Bausor Flute Trio Concert

- Concert on Wednesday, October 3, 2018
- 19:30 21:30
- Rochester Cathedral

Juliette Bausor is one of Britain's leading flute players and currently plays Principal Flute with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. The Times newspaper have described her as a 'rising star in the arts firmament.'

To find out more about this truly exceptional musician please visit her website. <http://www.juliettebausor.co.uk/> She will be performing with a trio of musicians at the concert at Rochester Cathedral.

The programme for the night will be:

Dring - Trio  
Poulenc - Oboe Sonata  
Arnold - Suite Bourgeoise  
Delius - Intermezzo from Fennimore and Gerda  
Poulenc - Flute Sonata  
Farrington - Heatwave



Don't miss out on this opportunity to see her perform at Rochester Cathedral. It will be a real privilege to hear her play in our stunning Nave. £10 tickets for Adults £5 tickets for Concessions (18 Year Olds and Under, Students and Over 65's) Early release tickets are available from the Rochester Cathedral shop. Alternatively, email [info@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:info@rochestercathedral.org) to be informed when tickets are available online.

## Dinner in the Nave

The Dean of Rochester and the Chairman and Trustees of Rochester Cathedral Trust, are pleased to host a very special fund raising Dinner in the Nave of Rochester Cathedral on the evening of Wednesday 17th October 2018, starting with a reception at 6.30pm.

This event will be in the presence of Rochester Cathedral Trust's Royal Patron, HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO.

James Taylor has written a special piece of music for our Choir and an extract will be premiered, plus we are delighted that our Music Patron, Jools Holland OBE DL, will entertain us.

Tables are available and seat 8 at a cost of £950 or individual reservations can be taken at £125 per person. Please contact [lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org) telephone 01634 810074 to save your space.



## The Wine Garden of England Festival at Rochester Cathedral 2018

Love great wine? Curious about the Wine Garden of England? Want to sample the delights from some of England's finest vineyards...?

Then you are invited to sip, share and discover the stories behind some of England's finest wines at the brand new and exclusive Wine Garden of England Festival at Rochester Cathedral, taking place on Saturday 17th November.

Sponsored by Southeastern and set in the hallowed halls of the stunning Rochester Cathedral, this exclusive English wine festival will honour both Kent's top wine producers, and one of the county's very first producers – a monk who championed viticulture at the cathedral more than 1,000 years ago. For the first time in a millennium, the cathedral will host an English wine festival for the public, where guests can take in the stunning architecture and experience the rich history and heritage of Kent's wine.

During times sessions throughout the day, ticket holders will meet the expert winemakers, sample up to 30 premium English wines and learn more about Kent's very own pioneers. There will also be the opportunity to purchase and take home a range of top still and sparkling wines from the Wine Garden of England partner vineyards. From the large-scale producers to boutique wineries, the full scale of English wine production will be represented at this exciting new festival.

Hosted by the Dean and Chapter of Rochester and the Wine Garden of England partnership, this ticketed event will be the first public outing for the Kentish wine partnership.



## Engaging August

Throughout the summer holidays visitors of all ages found plenty to engage with at Rochester Cathedral.

The crypt was a-buzz with brass rubbing and craft drop-ins. The Family Learning team got creative with wonderful windmills, fantastic flags and might mitres. Visitors were enthralled by the Open Studios exhibition showcasing the artwork of groups from the Kent Association for the Blind. Co-ordinating artist, Wendy Daws, delivered an exhibition-linked embossing workshop entitled "Tactile Detectives" giving people the opportunity to create their own Cathedral inspired tactile artwork.



Short and long guided tours were on offer six days a week, with our team of expert guides educating, entertaining and bringing the cathedral to life for just under 300 people.

Our Live Interpreters donned their monastic habits and transported nearly 100 visitors of all ages back in time to the medieval monastery, talking to them about daily life, scriptorium duties and the finer points of parchment making (just what was that foul looking liquid in Brother Hubert's bucket?).

A huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers who help make Rochester Cathedral such a friendly and inspiring place to visit. Plans are afoot for an action packed October half-term!

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