

A photograph of Rochester Cathedral at night, illuminated by warm lights. The central spire is the most prominent feature, with a dark, textured roof. The building's stone walls and Gothic-style windows are visible. A bare tree is in the foreground, and a street lamp is on the right. The sky is a deep blue.

**Friends of
Rochester Cathedral**
Report 2012/2013

*Incorporating
"Embroidery in Rochester Cathedral"*

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Cover pictures by Bob Ratcliffe

Other contributions from Geoff Matthews and the authors

EDITORIAL...Malcolm Moulton

On behalf of the Council of Friends of Rochester Cathedral, I welcome you to this year's Annual Report and thank all contributors of text and pictures. The format is as last year's, the colour section being on Embroidery in the Cathedral. I hope it will appeal to those skilled in the art and also inspire newcomers. Of the extra copies, made as a booklet, some are being donated to the Embroiderers; to raise funds directly for their work and others will be sold to visitors, to defray part of this report's cost. Articles include a précis of Richard Lea's address to last year's AGM, a stroll around the Cathedral with Alan McLean, Mary Woodfield's illustrated summary of the Friends' social events and my brief account of Rochester Choral Society's 140th anniversary. I wish you happy reading.

The Editor can be contacted via mmoulton01@aol.com

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT... Bob Ratcliffe

Great was the rejoicing in the Crypt on 4 February, when the Dean announced that all the hard work in making a Heritage Lottery Fund bid had paid off and that the Cathedral had been granted £3.55 million* towards a major programme of works involving disabled access to the Crypt with a major overhaul therein and a renovation of the Library. Grants from other bodies, including the Friends' £300,000 referred to in last year's Annual Report, bring the whole package up to the half-million pound mark. We now await, with some trepidation, the start of works in July. Inevitably these will cause some disruption, and some areas of our cathedral will be 'out of bounds' for the next year or so, but the final result should be a marvellous transformation of a part of the building that has hitherto been limited in access and in use.

The transfer of our £300,000 will inevitably reduce our bank balance, and any donations to 'top this up' will be welcome! We are however optimistic that we shall be able to maintain expenditure on works as in the past minor. In the past year we have financed remedial work to Cottingham's pulpit in the Nave and to the Tudor gateway near the South Gate, as seen below. Some of the carved work on the pulpit was missing and had to be replaced, so we now have some of the newest 'Green Men' in the country!

While funding works in the Cathedral is our main *raison d'être* and control of the purse strings has been under the able guidance of the Financial Committee and our Treasurer John Dalley, our Social Committee has continued to entertain members under the chairmanship of Mary Woodfield. The five-day trip to Durham was most successful, as well as day trips to St Albans, Canterbury and Hampton Court and an Advent Lunch in November. Our third committee has dealt with publications and publicity under Malcolm Moulton whose production you are now reading. This year the centre insert, which is available separately, deals with embroidery. To all these Committees and indeed to all Members of the Council also, I record my thanks for their support over the past year.



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN ... The Very Revd Dr Mark Beach

The Cathedral Chapter has agreed a new Forward Plan for our life together over the next five years. This feels like a quite a momentous step in my first year as Dean of Rochester.

It is the result of an extensive consultation process with members of staff and the congregation, with external partners from across Medway and Kent and with young people connected with the life of the Cathedral.

Much of what will be found in the plan, when it is published in its final form, will be familiar but there are new priorities too. The first of these is that we have established a set of values for the Cathedral.

- Be missional ~as a sign of God's Good News
- Be reliable ~as people of faith and truth
- Be supportive ~as people of love and mercy
- Be accessible ~as people of hope and reconciliation
- Be hospitable ~as people of joy and peace
- Be spiritual ~as a community of humility and prayer

These values will underpin all our work and be a kind of litmus test against which decisions can be made. In all of this, the Cathedral is our principal asset and it is essential that it is maintained in good order and developed such that it can "better mediate the Gospel". And so I want to thank the Friends for your contribution to the maintenance and enhancement of the building. Even since I arrived there is quite a list of items: the Verger's Yard Gate, the Tudor Gateway and repairs to the Pulpit.

Your contribution to the Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions project has been most generous and will ensure that the project can go ahead providing disabled access throughout the building, a place to exhibit our treasure, the Textus Roffensis, and much needed repairs to the Library.

So may I thank you very much for your contribution and hope that in 2013 you will reach that illusive target of 1,000 members. You will be pleased to hear that application forms are available to our guests at the Deanery!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT... *Betty Trollope*

Our total membership is now 951 composed as follows:

375	Life members	17	Schools and colleges
413	Ordinary members	2	Companies
6	Families	27	Associations
111	PCC's		

During the financial year (1 March 2012 – 31 December 2012) we have welcomed 37 new members, 24 ordinary and 13 life members. Two members have transferred to life membership.

It is with sadness we record the death of 14 members. Thirty-three members have either resigned or, despite our best efforts to trace them, have not renewed their membership.

It would be a great help if subscriptions could be paid by Banker's Order. This saves the need for a reminder letter and the resulting postage. A Gift Aid Declaration by those eligible to pay tax provides additional funds for the Friends of the Cathedral.

New Members

Mr D A L Ansell
Mr R Ashton
The Very Rev Dr M Beach
Mrs A Beach
Mr J Bogg
Mrs J Bogg
Mr R E Bridgland
Mrs R E Bridgland
Mrs W Bristow
Ms M Burslem
Mr T J Cadman
Mrs F K Cadman
Rev C J Carson
Mr C Clifton
Mrs J Clifton
Ms G Dib
Mr R Gibbs
Mrs D Gibbs
Mr R Harrop

Mr P O Lawrence
Mr J Lloyd
Mrs E Lloyd
Mr S Malin
Mrs I Malin
Mr P McDonnell
Mr I McLeod
Mrs R McLeod
Mr P Moore
Mrs R Moore
Mr P Smith
Mrs J Smith
Mr D Snoswell
Mr M Spence
Mrs P J Warner
Mr S D Warren
Mrs S Warren
Mrs O Zwicky

Obituary

Miss D M Driver
Mr E Griffin
Mrs B E Hetherington
Mrs P Johnson
Mr R V Kettle
Mr P P B Minet
Mrs R Neal
Mr F Pickard
Dr J Pretty
Mrs M C Proctor
Mr M P G Sinden
Mr D F Smith
Mr P Todd
The Rt Rev A W M Weekes CB

This list is correct to from 1 March to 31 December 2012 when the Financial Year ends.
Note: - Our membership list follows the pattern of the Financial Year.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT ... Ian Stewart, Surveyor of the Fabric

The main thrust of our work over the past year has been the project development of the 'Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions' bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). A wide range of consultants' reports and public consultation has led to refinements to the Stage 1 bid. Dr Edwina Bell, Director of Operations, was finally able to deliver the Stage 2 submission to the HLF in mid-October. The same documents, scrutinised by our own Fabric Advisory Committee, were also put to the Cathedrals' Fabric Commission for England, the body which, irrespective of the funding application to HLF, has to give permission before the work may proceed.

The project now comprises five major elements. First is the re-modelling of the Library, increasing the space available by re-siting the Strong Room, so that the collections can be organised, conserved and made more available. Roof and floor strengthening, new heating and lighting are all part of the package.

Second, below the Library, the Vestry areas are also due for a complete re-organisation to allow for fuller, more flexible use, especially by the Education Team, with full access for those with disabilities.

Third, the Crypt is to be adapted to provide a permanent exhibition area in the 11th century western bays, the oldest part of the Cathedral, with more flexible space in the main 13th century part for temporary exhibitions, drama, dinners, educational events and so on. St Ithamar's Chapel to the east will remain set apart for private devotion. All this requires new flooring, servicing, lighting, exhibition cabinets and equipment, while preserving the ambience of this very special space. Conservation of the surviving mediaeval paintings on the vaults is also required. An improved servery to provide for catering in the Crypt is to expand into the area below the new Strong Room in what is at present a light well, populated only by pigeons. This will contain all the "wet" functions to mitigate the environmental risks to the mediaeval paintings.

Fourth, to facilitate access to these new facilities for all, will be the lift in the South Quire Aisle to replace the existing stair-climber lift. The new vertical lift will have greater capacity and also serve three levels, the Crypt, Nave level and the Quire Transept. The extra space gained by removing the present stair climber will enable one hidden treasure, the magnificent Northbourne Pall embroidery, to come back down to the South Quire Aisle for display after its exile upstairs in the Lapidarium.

Fifth, will be re-landscaping the Cloisters to provide step-free access out from the Cathedral's south door, round the Garth, through the old roofless Chapter House to the Tea Rooms and beyond. This will involve replacing the existing south porch, re-surfacing the walks around the Garth and improving external access to the Vestries and the Library above.

This is a big package of works which will need to be preceded by smaller enabling

works. A well-serviced contractors' compound area off the car park north of the Cathedral needs to be set up and storage, which the main projects will displace, must be relocated in the re-organised former Chair Store and in a new double-deck storage "pod" behind the High Altar.

It is gratifying to report the long-awaited realisation of some other projects, mostly supported by the Friends. These include the re-instatement of the Tudor gateway in the Precinct, the installation of a smart new gate to the Vergers' yard beside Gundulf's Tower, redecoration of the clock faces, repairs to the Nave choir benches and refurbishment of the pulpit.



Icon and candleholder on the altar pedestal in St Ithamar's Chapel

Down in the Crypt the pedestal of the altar in St Ithamar's Chapel is now adorned by an icon (illustrated) with a simple iron candleholder below. These small details are all as important, in their way, as the major projects to the presentation and image of the Cathedral as the living centre and focus of the Diocese which it serves.

SOCIAL EVENTS... Mary Woodfield, Social Secretary

On Tuesday 20 March the Friends went to Canterbury Cathedral to visit its renowned Stained Glass Studio and were met by members of Canterbury Cathedral Friends.

After refreshments we entered the lecture theatre, where Leonie Seliger told us that her Studio, one of the earliest, cared for 500 square metres of very early stained glass in an overall total of 1,500 square metres. We were then taken over the workshop to see restoration work by her team actually taking place before having lunch and visiting the Cathedral.



Restored window



Beckett's shrine

In April a party of 49 Friends made an early start to Kingston-on-Thames for a boat trip to Hampton Court Pier. We explored the Georgian private apartments and those of William III and Mary II and the magnificent Royal Chapel. Thanks to the free audio guide we could take in the many sights at our leisure. These included Henry VIII's enormous Tudor kitchens in which a great many meals had to be produced every day and the Pewter Room, stacked with hundreds of dishes, bowls and drinking vessels. It wasn't difficult to imagine the noise, hustle and bustle and the heat endured by people working there.

Our residential week-end, to Durham, began on Friday, 25 May, and continued in beautiful weather. An accident ahead of us cut short our lunch-time visit but it was still possible to visit Hardwick Hall and its gardens before continuing to our comfortable riverside hotel.

On Saturday morning, en route to the Bede's World Museum, we stopped to see Anthony Gormley's 66 ft-tall Angel of the North steel statue, which has a 177 ft wingspan.



The Museum is an impressive celebration of the life and achievements of the Venerable Bede, the most remarkable scholar of his age.

Finds from excavations at the site, together with accounts of the formation and conversion of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria, and many models gave a strong impression of life in those early times.



A building in the reconstruction of a Saxon farm, which was stocked with interesting animals



Window inspired by the Venerable Bede

We drove on to Souter Lighthouse, where guided tours were available. The lighthouse, opened in 1871 and decommissioned in 1988, was the first in the world to be designed for electric power.

In lovely weather, we returned to Durham along the attractive coastline road, passing many people on the sands at Sunderland.

Next morning we were welcomed at the Eucharistic service by the Dean of Durham. The Durham Friends' Chairman, Secretary and other Friends joined us for lunch in their beautifully-restored Priors Hall, after which we had a guided tour of the Cathedral.

On returning to our hotel we walked the short distance to Crook Hall, with examples of Mediaeval, Jacobean and Georgian styles from 1300 to 1750, and superb gardens.

With the temperature in the 80s our destination on Monday was the Beamish Open-Air Living Museum of the North. The inspiration of Frank Atkinson, it depicts life in the 1800s and 1900s. Travelling on vintage trams, replica buses, by horse and cart or just walking, we saw artefacts from different towns and rebuilt on the 300-acre site.

The many sights included a typical north-eastern street with houses, shops, a bank, a garage and the railway station, the 1870s Home Farm, still working, and Pockerley Old Hall. This contained items that some of us remembered from our grandparents' time and Pockerley Waggonway Great Shed had examples of early wagons and locomotives. In the Colliery Village we donned miners' gear for a guided walk in a drift mine, entered one of the miner's homes and the Pit Hill Methodist Chapel and looked inside the Beamish Board School that once stood in nearby East Stanley.



Not sheep, but an early breed of woolly pigs!



Our visit in September was, first, to the outdoor Verulamium Roman theatre and then to the new museum, with its beautifully-displayed artefacts.

We went from there to St Albans Abbey for lunch in the Abbots Kitchen. Welcomed by their Friends' Secretary and three guides, we were given a tour of the beautiful and historic Abbey. Afterwards the Friends gave us tea and cakes and their Chairman came along to bid us farewell.

Our final event in 2012 was a special lunch to celebrate Advent in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year. Afterwards the Rt Hon Lord Patrick Mayhew gave us an interesting and very amusing talk, a fitting culmination to a year's enjoyable social calendar.



The tomb of St Alban



Period omnibus and trams operating at Beamish



Scene depicting life in Verulamium



It was a festive Advent Lunch. Lord Mayhew, our Chairman and Lady Mayhew

*A PRECIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held in the Visitors' Centre, High Street, Rochester on Saturday 16 June 2012*

Fifty one members were present.

The President, The Very Revd Dr Mark Beach, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

1. The President read the names of members who sadly had died during the year:

Ms Maris Aug	Paul Minet
Peter Birch	Mrs Rosemary Neal
Mrs M Bleasdale	George Partington
Brian Buckwell	F Pickard
Mrs Evelyn Dartnell	Kelvin Pollock
David Gambrell	Gerald Ripley
The Revd Canon Ian Hardaker	D G Robbins
Mrs I Hardaker	Mrs Norah Rossiter
William Hardie	Donald Smith
Mrs Dawn Harpley	The Revd William Smith
Miss Lysbeth Johnson	The Rt Revd Ambrose Weekes CB

2. Apologies for absence had been received from 58 members.
3. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 June 2011, having previously been circulated, were signed by the President as a correct record. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
4. The President said that reflecting on his first four weeks as Dean he had focused on two things. He was surprised by the diversity of what went on in Rochester, with events like the Sweeps and Dickens Festivals and even having to dress up as a Monk, and the importance of prayer life in the Cathedral. He had attended many meetings but each day began and ended in prayerful activity.

This stunning building with its extraordinary view down the Nave he felt was being missed by people coming in from the High Street through the North Door. The Friends' contribution to this beautiful building had been enormously significant. The money pledged for the Crypt project together with the HLF grant would enable many people to visit and see the Cathedral Treasures. There were many small projects also still under consideration.

The President thanked the Friends for their generosity and support of the Cathedral and said that they might like to explore the idea of supporting an Artist

or a Musician-in-Residence for a year. There were many ideas to talk about. He thanked everyone for their welcome and looked forward to many years in partnership.

5. The Chairman said that he was pleased to report on another successful year for the Friends.

The main *raison d'être* was to support the maintenance of the ancient fabric and in this context the friends had pledged support for the Dean and Chapter's bid for a HLF grant to undertake major works to the Crypt, including suitable access for the disabled, to the tune of £300,000.

An annual contribution in respect of minor works had continued, with £7,500 towards upkeep of the Garth (increased from £6,000 last year) and the cost of the reinstatement of the clock chimes. The Friends were also covering the cost of work to the Tudor gateway and provision of a secure gate to the Vergers' entry.

On the social side, the year saw a day-trip to Westenhanger Castle, a cruise up the Thames on the Princess Pocahontas, an evening visit to the Tower of London with a subsequent talk and a four-day trip to Falmouth and Truro.

Promotion of the Friends was in the hands of the Publicity Committee. A new edition of the brochure was in hand and this Committee had also overseen the production of the Annual Report. Promotion of the Friends should not be left solely to that Committee; it was incumbent on all members to tell friends and relations of the Friends' part in the care and maintenance of their Cathedral.

The Finance Committee had spent many hours updating the Constitution, as seen below.

In conclusion, the Chairman recorded his thanks to his fellow Council members and chairs of sub-committees.

6. The Treasurer reported that the Accounts for the year to 29 February 2012 presented in the Annual Report, approved by the Trustees, had been inspected by their Independent Reporting Accountant, who had made no amendments. Full copies of the Accounts were available from the Friends' Office.

With a steady increase of 3% throughout the year, investments had risen to £1,150,000. All expenditure was well in hand and the Treasurer was happy with the investment portfolio held with Cazenove.

The acceptance of the Accounts, examined by Mr Richard Abel and set out in the Report for the year to 29 February 2012, was put to the meeting for approval. Mr Malcolm Moulton proposed and Mrs Ursula Melhuish seconded their acceptance and they were approved unanimously.

There were no questions from the floor.

7. Elections - The President announced that Mrs Jean Callebaut, Mrs Eileen Coleman, Mr Colin Hoad and Mr Robert Ratcliffe had all offered themselves for re-election to the Council. They were re-elected en-bloc for three years, there being no further nominations.

With only one nomination received, Miss Betty Trollope was elected as Hon Secretary for one year.

With only one nomination received, John Dalley was elected as Hon Treasurer for one year.

Mr Richard Abel, having notified that he was prepared to act, was appointed Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the year.

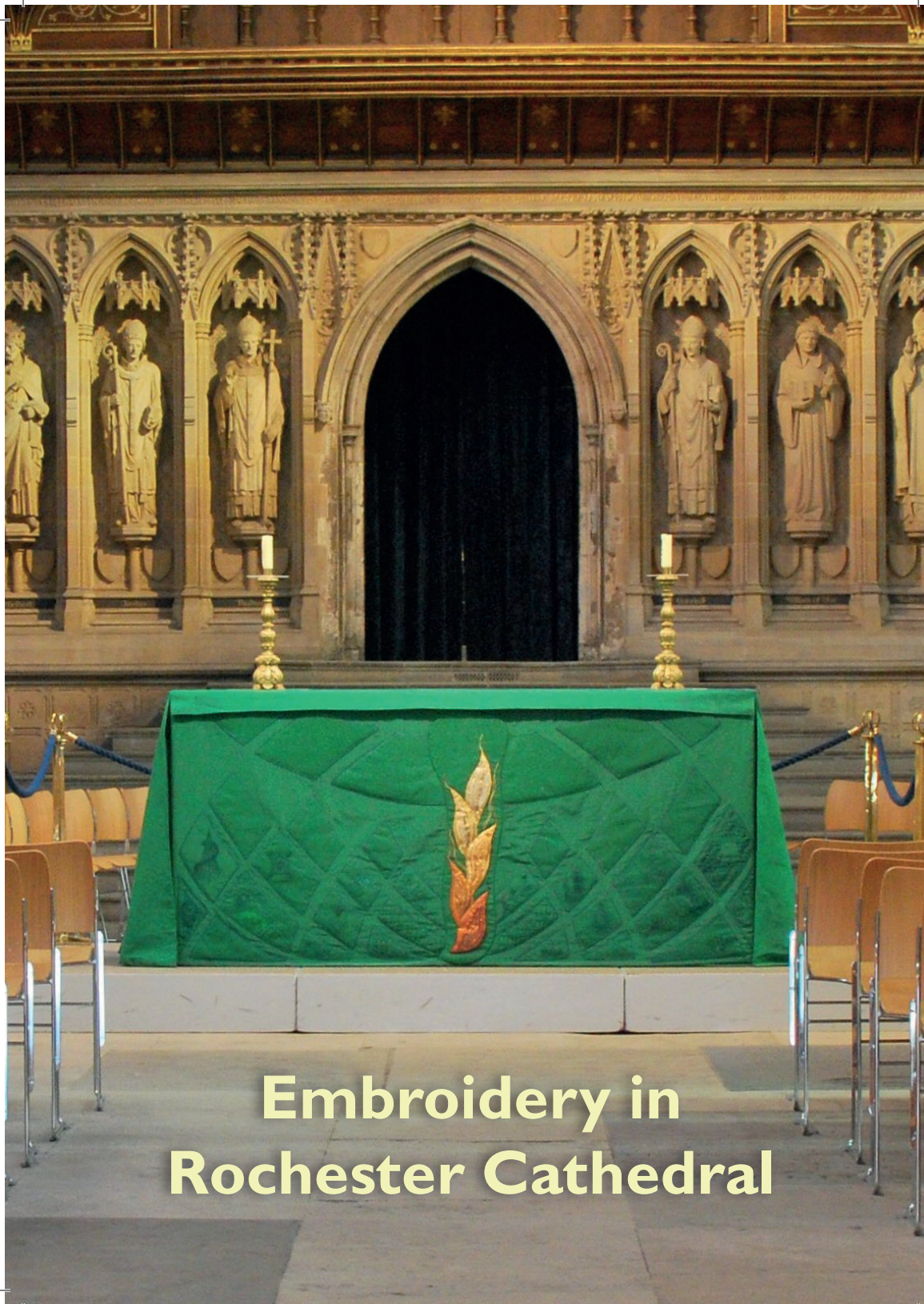
8. Speaking on the Amendments to the Constitution, Mr Michael Bailey said that he had been asked by the Friends' Council to review the Constitution in order to bring administrative matters up to date. A summary of the draft amendments had been distributed to all Members with the Agenda for the meeting. Consultation had taken place with the Dean and Chapter and the amendments had been submitted to the Charity Commission for approval. After discussion, the President offered the approval of the changes to the Constitution from the Council for acceptance. They were accepted with one Member against.

Mr Bailey said that, following ratification, formal registration of the amendments would be registered with the Charity Commission.

The President thanked Mr Bailey for his considerable work in bringing the amendments to the Constitution to a conclusion.

9. The next Annual General Meeting of the Friends would be held at 2pm on Saturday, 15 June 2013.

The full Minutes are available for inspection in the Friends' Office.



Embroidery in Rochester Cathedral

Embroidery in the Cathedral

A compilation by the Cathedral Embroiderers with pictures by the members and Geoff Matthews

Just as windows are a glorious cathedral adornment, rich in symbolism, so too is embroidery, while also featuring in a church's daily life in many ways, such as in vestments and altar cloths. Embroidery demands high levels of skill and dedication for its design, creation and preservation.

The authors hope that this booklet will shed light on their work and provoke a wider interest in this fascinating subject.

The Cathedral Embroiderers are all volunteers, bringing a wide variety of skills from their professional backgrounds. The group was started in 1999, instigated by Canon John Armson, who convened a meeting of interested people on 23 February 1999. The group was officially formed on 22 July 1999 with the aim of preserving the ecclesiastical textiles of the Cathedral as well as making new ones for future generations. The group aims to produce a very high standard of design and embroidery.

Here are some examples of the work, including some which is still being carried out.

Festal Altar Frontal and Super Frontal



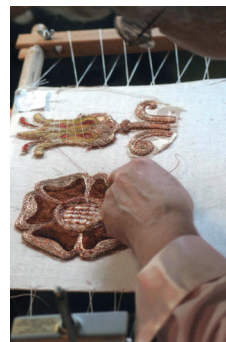
The original frontal with the centre panel removed ready for complete restoration work to begin

It is believed that Reverend Ernest Geldart (1848-1929), a former pupil of Alfred Waterhouse who gave up architecture for a life in the church, designed the Festal frontal.

It had been in use in the Cathedral but everyday wear and tear meant that, in order to be used continually, it needed restoring. This was the first project undertaken by the then newly-formed Cathedral Embroiderers.

Each section was carefully removed from the rotting background silk and restored before being re-stitched onto new silk.

The techniques used on the Festal frontal are the same as those used in the very first English embroideries made, called Opus Anglicanum work; a 12th century technique incorporating real gold and silk threads. The materials used however are more modern, original gold threads being replaced with modern gilt alternatives.



Far left: One of the original roses just removed from the frontal

Left: We wanted to keep the original material of the rose petals but it was disintegrating at such an alarming rate that we had to replace the silk satin completely



One of the roses with its restoration finished and mounted onto the new silk ground

Some recent projects illustrated



We received a commission to design and make a cope (an open-fronted cloak) and mitre for The Very Reverend Adrian Newman on his appointment as The Right Reverend Bishop of Stepney

The detail (right) of the reverse of the cope shows the hood, the design of which was inspired by the Cathedral's spire



The present Dean of Rochester, the Very Revd Dr Mark Beach, pictured wearing the Dean's Cope

Details of the back of the Cope are shown on page v

It was first worn by Dean Storr (1913–1928)

The cope was made in about 1914 from silk sent from Arabia by his son, Sir Ronald, the Governor-General of Jerusalem. The silk has a warp of gold thread and a weft of cream silk



Red Laudian Frontal used on the Nave Altar. In regular use at the Cathedral it was noted that some threads were loose and the frontal was in need of some gentle restoration



We received a commission to design and make a cope (an open-fronted cloak) and mitre for The Very Reverend Adrian Newman on his appointment as The Right Reverend Bishop of Stepney.



Cathedral Embroiderers with puppets made for the then Precentor, Canon Ralph Godsall, on his retirement from the Cathedral



Restoration of cope and mitre with Flame Lily embroidery design, made for Bishop Michael Gear of Rhodesia

Colours of vestments are symbolic and are chosen with care. The Anglican Church year is divided into particular colours; for example, red for Saint's Days and gold or white for Easter and Christmas

Restoration of Dean Storr's Cope

The orphrey, the highly-embroidered band around the cope, is thought to have come from an earlier cope of terracotta velvet and is arranged in panels of foliage encircling pilgrims' shells. The IHS monogram on the hood is worked with extensive use of gold thread.

The cope was on display in the Guildhall and it was decided that it should be restored for the Dean of the Cathedral. The gold was stabilised and replaced where necessary and stabilised with netting to conserve the original silk.

The team spent over 1,500 hours taking three-and-a-quarter years to complete the restoration. It was first worn in 2007.



This picture shows the back of the Dean's Cope, which is depicted on page iii

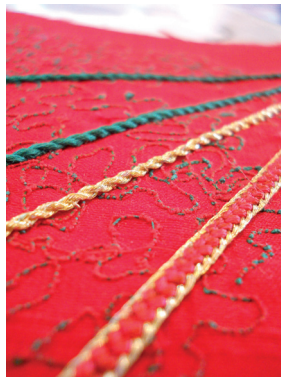
Red Vestments

The set of Red Vestments depicted opposite consists of two chasubles, eight stoles and a burse and veil. The design sources used were the Cathedral and a cross from the old retreat house at Westgate-on Sea.

The latter can be seen on the front of the chasuble laid on top of the green circle which represents the world. The silk has been placed in different directions to show the play of light on the back panels of both chasubles.



Embroiderers with the set of finished red vestments (Kent Messenger picture)



(Clockwise, from bottom left) Two stoles and a burse (a flat hinged cover to hold the cloth used in communion service); a chasuble (sleeveless outer garment worn by the celebrant at Eucharist service); two details of the hand-made cords, worked from matching silk, to ensure a perfect match before they are sewn onto the vestments



The central panel of the Green Altar Frontal being worked on depicting flames symbolising the Holy Spirit

New Nave Altar Green Frontal and Vestments

The Cathedral embroiderers are currently working on a new green frontal and vestment set, with the design referring to an original design by Mrs Jennie Miskin. The new design incorporates linking arches under which are important buildings, charitable foundations and other connections with the Cathedral. Details include the wheel of fortune from the wall painting in the Quire, Rochester Bridge and Crest, Restoration House and even Charles Dickens' signature!

The Green frontal was finished in 2012 but the project is still on-going with 8 stoles, 2 chasubles, burse and veil.

Rochester Cathedral Embroiders meet every Thursday in term time between 10.30 am and 3 pm. Please make enquiries to The Chapter Office, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester, Kent ME1 1SX
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HERITAGE AND FAITH

Rev Richard Lea has kindly allowed this précis to be published of his address, which so delighted Friends at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

I am honoured and delighted to have been asked to speak to you today.

My association with the Cathedral goes back to my ordination by Bishop Say in 1965, when the Book of Common Prayer reigned supreme. There were more than twice as many clergy in the diocese and almost twice as many livings. There was a theological college in the old Deanery and the interior of the Cathedral, especially the Quire, was dingy in the extreme. I served in four parishes, before coming to the Cathedral in 1988 as Precentor. It didn't take Joan Sharp very long to recruit me into the Friends.

I soon found myself Vice-President and editor of the Annual Report.

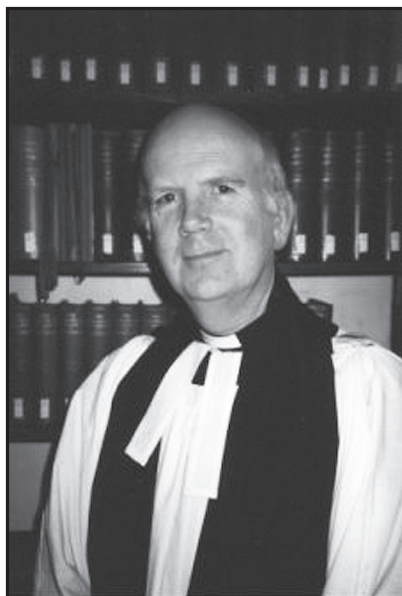
A Friend has a certain kind of relationship with a church. He may not be a worshipper, but he regards the church as part of his heritage. Over the ages, church buildings have acquired all kinds of resonances in our society. Many people, besides regular Sunday worshippers, have a stake in them. And it's particularly the Church of England, with its ancient buildings, that attracts associations of Friends.

The Church, however, does have a problem with its heritage.

The main aim of the Church, in every generation, is to bear witness to Christ, but an important secondary aim is to overcome, or at least contain, its own internal divisions. The problems we have in seeing eye to eye with our contemporaries are well known. But we have also moved a long way from those who went before us. Donald Alchin's book, 'The Dynamic of Tradition', is about Ecumenism in Time. He argues that we need to cultivate a sense of continuity with those from whom we have inherited our faith, despite the many significant changes that have arisen over the ages.

It's a bit like having a sense of continuity with one's own youth and childhood. Those who wrote the New Testament, let alone the Old, saw the world very differently.

While the Church has a problem with its theological heritage, our ancient cathedrals exemplify problems we also have with our *cultural* and *architectural* heritage.



These amazing Romanesque cathedrals were not the fruit of a democratic age. They were built, not by committees, but by kings, princes and powerful bishops. The people served the king, who owned all the land, and the labour of the people was his to command, even their lives in his wars.

Echoes of these different worlds continue to resound in the Church's great buildings, as well as in its language, institutions and practices.

Our ancient cathedrals were actually designed as abbeys for monastic communities. This is particularly evident in Rochester, where the Quire is massively enclosed within the building, so that the monks could recite their offices in some privacy. This notoriously makes our cathedral rather inconvenient nowadays for large diocesan events.

The Occupy movement has thrown up another example of the tension between our ancient heritage and our contemporary faith. The Dean & Chapter of any cathedral so Occupied, is bound to feel besieged, but the argument that Jesus might well have identified with the protesters, highlights the dilemma. Many have found this a fascinating example of how our heritage and our faith seem to pull us in almost opposite directions. It's a contemporary form of the problem of the wealth of the Church.

For an Association of Friends, the wealth of the Church is not a problem. The Friends would not exist were the Church not wealthy and its buildings magnificent. The whole point about our cathedrals is that they are magnificent and must have been even more so when first built. The contrast between a great Romanesque cathedral and the hovels of the people, who built them and worshipped in them, is unparalleled today. We no longer pour so much of our common wealth into such projects.

Perhaps the nearest examples would be an Olympic stadium or a hospital or a school, or perhaps an airport or a railway station. But we don't say they should be magnificent in the way that a cathedral is; or that they should somehow represent the highest human aspirations or last for a thousand years. Cathedrals really matter, as magnificent and astonishing expressions of the faith of the Church, unrivalled in modern times.

They also remind us of a time when Church and nation were one. They expressed not just the faith of a minority group called the Church of England, but of the whole community. What the king believed, you believed!

This is somehow written into the memory of the community, however obscurely. Even those who enter a cathedral for the first time have a stake in the building and recognize it as a part of their heritage.

For the central core of Christian people, however, who come to worship a God, whose Son blessed the poor and, himself, had nowhere to lay his head, there will always be a dilemma.

Living as I do in Malling Abbey, I am conscious of the massive sums required from its very foundation in the 1090s to maintain a small number of godly women in holy poverty. In Gundulf's cathedral, it was a rather larger number of godly monks. Their poverty was underwritten by endowments from all over the country, which accumulated in time, first from the King, then from bishops and other wealthy patrons, including those whose sons and daughters joined the communities. Towns, like West Malling and Rochester, grew up partly to service the monastic communities and their properties.

But in the end, their wealth became their downfall, when King Henry VIII decided that he needed their money for his wars, ending centuries of monastic life.

Fortunately the cathedrals were spared, including some of the abbeys, like Gloucester or St Albans, which became cathedrals. For as long as we can keep them standing, they will remain a magnificent and astonishing testimony, both to the glory of God and to the faith of our ancestors. They are to be numbered among the wonders of the world.

But the dilemma they pose is something we shall always carry with us. For they are, above all, a testimony to one who promised to destroy the temple of God, and rebuild it in three days as a living body.

A STROLL AROUND THE CATHEDRAL ...

with Alan McLean with Illustrations by Geoff Matthews

The most impressive way to enter Rochester Cathedral is by the Great West Door but, before entering, look at the road to your left. You will see two rows of cobbles across the brick surface. About four feet below ground level are the foundations of the Saxon church built in 604 when Justus was consecrated as the first Bishop, making Rochester the second oldest Diocese in England.

Now enter the Cathedral and descend to the floor of the Nave. Look at the pillars. You can see that each successive pair is different. They date from the 1140s, though built on the foundations of the Norman Cathedral of 1080. Note also that the first five arches are round Norman-Romanesque, whilst the last two and the Crossing are early English Gothic.

At the east end of the Nave is a decorated screen with the organ sitting on top of it. Through the archway can be seen the High Altar, which seems to glow no matter how dull the day is. Through the gap between the banks of pipes there is a view of the whole ceiling and the east windows.

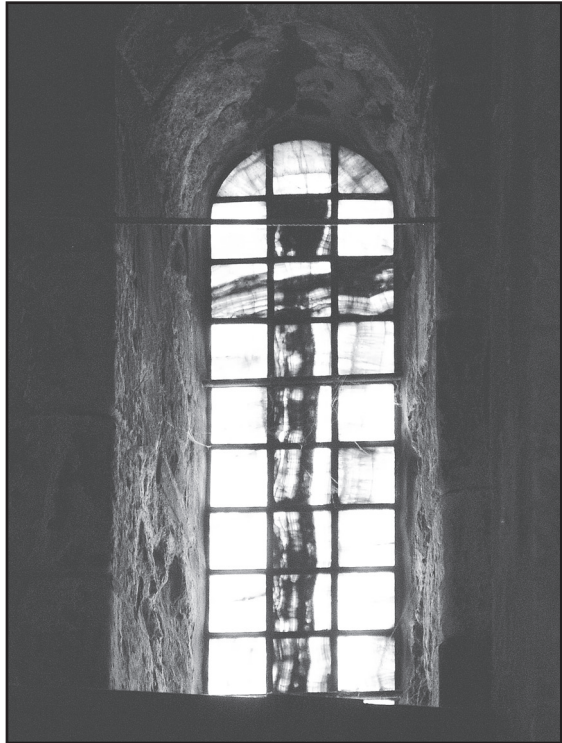
Now walk a few paces up the Nave, turn round and look back at the west wall. Below the window there is a wide ledge with access via an opening at either side. That on the left (south) is much wider than that on the right. The wall at both ends has a broken arcade (photo 1) and above this is full arcading.

One of the Cathedral Archaeologists suggested that before the great west window was put in, in the 15th century, there had been a walk way with blank arcading on the inside and open arcades on the outside with statues in the openings. Above this could have been a rose window. Access to the ledge is by a wide stairway in the South Tower.



Above the ledge level the tower stair is narrow and gives access to the roof of the South Aisle. A similar stairway in the North Tower, gives access to the roof of the North Aisle. Below the window level is a memorial to Royal Engineers who took part in various campaigns of the 19th century, including John By who, when building water defences against incursion into Canada by the United States, built a village for his labour force. This was taken over by settlers. It grew into a city and was renamed Ottawa.

Walk back to the steps, turn left and go into the South Aisle, past the new Royal Engineers' Memorial. Stop beside the 19th century font and look back once more at the west wall. There is the access door (locked) to the tower stairway and a little higher and to the right is a translucent window which most visitors think is very old (photo 2). In fact there is a plate on the sill which reads:



IN 1927 BY LEAVE OF THE DEAN AND CHAPTER, THIS WINDOW WAS FILLED WITH ONICE DE SIENA AS DESIGNED BY CANON G. M. LIVATT F. S. A., THE DONOR, TO COMMEMORATE HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE ARCHITECT, JOHN L. PEARSON, DANIEL FITZJOHN, FORMAN MASON TO JOHN THOMPSON AND SONS, PETERBOROUGH, IN 1888 WHEN THE WEST FRONT WAS UNDERPINNED AND RESTORED AND REMAINS OF THE NORMAN FRONT AND THE SAXON CHURCH OF 604 WERE DISCOVERED.

Above this is a window dedicated to Col A W Durnsford, Royal Engineers, killed in the Zulu wars at Isandhlwana.

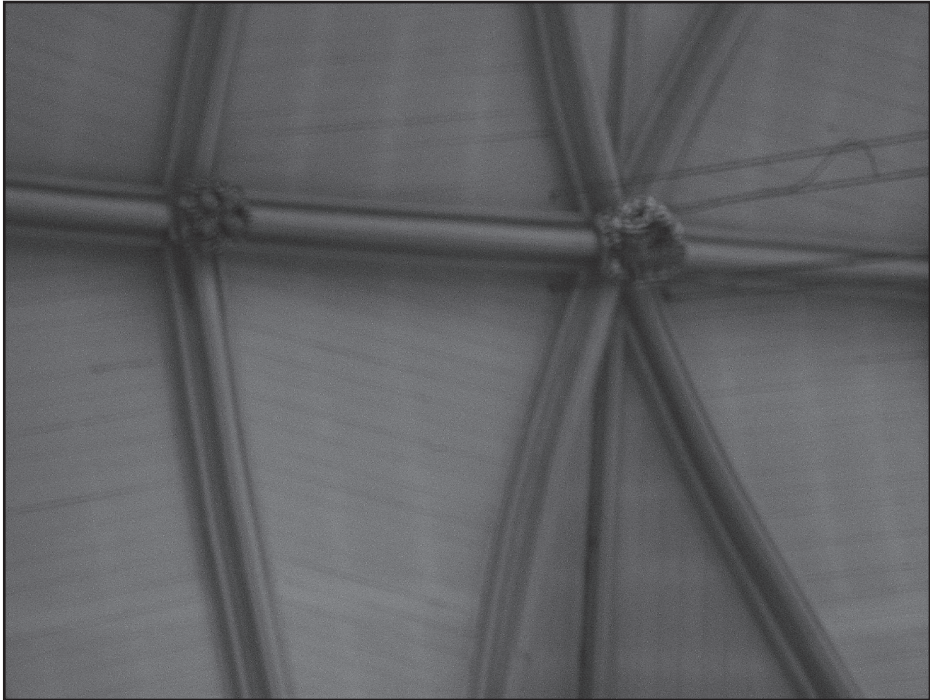
Continuing up the South Aisle, stop at the fourth column and look at the surface above the nave chairs and approximately seven feet from the floor you will see the outline of three heads and above them is the outline of an eagle. These may have been the basis of an early wall painting. Look around you and try to imagine all the walls covered in paintings depicting the lives of the saints and stories from the Bible.



Moving up the aisle, past the ornate memorials on the right with Coade stone figures, you come to the last Romanesque arch. Look across the Nave to the north side, where there is a distinct mismatch and the zigzag pattern gets gradually longer in an attempt to fit it in (photo 3). It is thought that the arch was dismantled during the 13th century rebuilding but, possibly because of lack of funds, this project of matching the nave with the Gothic Quire was abandoned and the arch had to be rebuilt as close to the original as depleted funds and inferior craftsmen would allow. Look up at the top of the two Gothic columns (South Aisle side) where you can see springers jutting out to take a never-built vaulted roof for the South Aisle. At this point you can see clearly Romanesque, Early English (Gothic) arches and behind you is the Lady Chapel, which was built at the time of the crossing of the Atlantic by Columbus in the late 15th century, in the Perpendicular style.

Walk on to the South Transept and look up at the ceiling. You can see that it is constructed entirely of wood. The walls and the foundations are not strong enough to take the weight and thrust of stone vaulting found in the North Transept (picture 4). There are also few carved corbels, again unlike the earlier North Transept where there are many more. Look up at the east wall above and around the arch where you can see some very faded wall paintings. Proceed through the South Vestibule and up the steps.

Pause in the doorway to the Quire South Transept where you can see “the leaning wall of Rochester” with two openings in it. The nearest had steps descending, supposedly, to the Penance Chamber in the Crypt, where at one time the Head Verger had his



office! The second arch had a stairway which ascended to a walkway giving access to a room in the roof space, supposedly the Indulgence Chamber. Both stairways and the walkway were blocked in the 1820s as part of an attempt to stabilise the south wall of the transept.

Turn about and look back at the west wall of the vestibule. A faded painted figure can be seen. It has been suggested that it might have been a depiction of Saint Andrew or of the Virgin Mary but no one knows for sure.

Now walk into the Quire Crossing. To the right is the High Altar and to the left is the organ and the stalls, which are mainly Victorian (1870s) but include elements of the original stalls of about 1220. The walls are decorated with the emblems of England and France, about 400 of each. It is said that no two Lions (or Leopards) are the same. See if you can spot the cross-eyed one.

Now take a seat in the Transept and absorb the friendly and peaceful atmosphere of the whole Cathedral.

These are just a few of the oddities in the building that have intrigued me over my years as a Cathedral Guide.

ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY

by Malcolm Moulton, RCS Friends' Secretary

Dear reader, while strolling around the Cathedral with Alan McLean, you are likely to have heard delightful music being rehearsed. English Cathedral music is respected and greatly admired by amateurs and professionals all over the world and to be associated with a Cathedral through music is a great privilege.

An organisation that greatly values that privilege is Rochester Choral Society better-known as the RCS. Although not part of the Cathedral, the RCS regularly performs here under the baton of the Organist, Roger Sayer. By tradition, we are privileged to have The Dean as President, and even Bishop James has taken part as a singer, when his diocesan duties have allowed.

The second-oldest choral society in the land, it was founded on 29 July 1873 by the Cathedral Precentor, the Rev Canon W H Nutter, beginning an association that has endured ever since. So you will appreciate that this Annual Report will appear just five weeks before the Society's 140th anniversary.

Many Friends know about the RCS and some have been, or still are, either singing members, Friends of the Society or audience members. But not everyone will know that the Christmas concert, this December, 140 years, almost to the day, after the inaugural concert, may perhaps be held in the very same place: Rochester Corn Exchange.

Founded as Rochester, Strood, Chatham and Gillingham Choral Society, it performed in Chatham Town Hall, Rochester Corn Exchange or Gillingham Parish Hall and rehearsed in the Guildhall. Today, the RCS performs mainly in the Cathedral but collaborates with the local Council in its aim to encourage greater participation in choral music in Medway. This means that some concerts take place, as in olden times, in the Corn Exchange, or in the St George's Centre where there will be a performance this year of the Verdi Requiem, on Saturday, 6 July.

While RCS concerts are not services, a great deal of sacred music is performed, including many of the well-loved "old masters" of choral music. But, along with the baroque, classical and romantic favourites, the Society also performs much very fine music of the present era. Not everyone appreciates that the Society has always done so. Performing music in the composer's lifetime has become a tradition. Just as the contemporary composers in 1873 included Brahms, Gounod and Verdi, so, in the 21st century, audiences have acclaimed works by John Rutter, Eric Whitacre, Patrick Hawes, Jonathan Dove and Rodney Wilhelm. So, if the programme should include, along with a well-known work, a contemporary one, please don't be deterred; all music started out as contemporary and your support will be helping to keep all music alive!

Collaboration with the Cathedral is close and the help of the vergers is invaluable in putting on concerts. In 2005 the RCS, with sponsors' support, purchased concert staging and in return for looking after it the Cathedral may hire it out for other use, thus extending the facilities that can be offered to all.

There are many more things that could be said about the RCS and its current programmes are listed on the web site www.rochesterchoral.co.uk where you can also order tickets for performances. Otherwise, you are welcome to write to RCS Friends' Secretary, 10 London Road Newington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7NR, or telephone 01795 843 172.

Thank you for listening!

*THE ASSOCIATION OF
THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL* Charity reg 273973

Report of the Officers and Members of Council

We submit our report and financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2012.

Objectives and Policy of the Charity

The charity was formed in 1935 to apply its income towards the furtherance of the upkeep and welfare of Rochester Cathedral by support from members paying subscriptions and income from legacies and fund-raising events.

Organisation

The Council meets at suitable intervals during the year to consider the Association's performance and to decide on appropriate grants. The charity has one part-time employee and, apart from the office costs and the annual report issued to members, has minimal administration costs.

Review of the Year

The income during the 10 month period was £41,939. The overall capital value of the fund has decreased. It must be recognised, however, that £50,000 has been drawn down from the Investment Portfolio to enable the £100,000 grant to be made towards the Crypt Project. The grants paid to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral during the year were:-

	Paid in year £
Crypt Project - Stage 1	100,000
Upkeep of Garth Gardens	7,500
Vergers' Yard Gate	4,910
Flower Guild	204
	<u>112,614</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT... John A Dalley, Hon Treasurer

These Accounts represent a ten-month period to 31 December 2012 to align our financial reporting with that of the Dean and Chapter.

I am pleased to report that our Investment Portfolio has continued to hold its value during a very volatile market and that we have enjoyed an investment return in excess of 3%. This has enabled us to grant to the Dean and Chapter, £100,000 towards the Crypt Project. I consider our Investments to be of a long term nature and in place to generate income.

The main source of our income has been from dividends receipts and our subscriptions received have been on budget. We continue to monitor closely all expenditure and I am pleased to report that we are on budget in all areas. I would again like to express my grateful thanks to Mrs Christine Tucker for her hard work and for her tireless enthusiasm for the Friends.

The Charity Commissioners' recommended format for the Accounts of a Charity has resulted in a document of considerable size which would be uneconomical to produce in full in this report.

These figures are an extract from the Accounts to 31 December 2012. Independently-examined copies of the full Accounts will be available to any member upon request.

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2012

	31.12.12 £	29.2.12 £
Fixed Assets		
Investments	<u>1,090,745</u>	<u>1,118,313</u>
Current Assets		
Stocks	1,627	1,719
Prepayments	0	0
Cash at bank	<u>4,145</u>	<u>37,950</u>
	5,772	40,571
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	6,500	8,170
Net Current Assets	<u>-728</u>	<u>32,400</u>
Net Assets	<u>1,090,017</u>	<u>1,150,713</u>
Funds		
Restricted	1,090,745	1,118,313
General	-728	32,400
	<u>1,090,017</u>	<u>1,150,713</u>

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 December 2012

INCOMING RESOURCES	General Fund £	Designated Fund £	Restricted Fund £	Total 29.02.12 £	Total 28.02.11 £
Subscriptions	7,680			7,680	9,152
Donations	1,442			1,442	159
Profit on social events	736			736	1,033
Dividends	25,988			25,988	35,184
Bank interest	0			0	0
Profit on publications	523			523	918
Book of memory surplus	70			70	20
Legacy	5,500			5,500	1,000
	41,939	-	-	41,939	47,466
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct charitable expenditure					
Grants		112,614		112,614	19,168
Other expenditure					
Management and administration	12,453			12,453	14,307
	12,453	112,614	-	125,067	33,475
Net Incoming resources before transfers	29,486	-112,614		-83,128	13,991
Transfer to designated fund	-62,614	112,614	-50,000		
Unrealised gain on investment held			22,432	22,432	-24,683
Net movement in funds	-33,128	0	-27,568	-60,696	-10,692
Fund balances brought forward	32,400	0	1,118,314	1,150,714	1,161,405
Fund balances carried forward	-728	0	1,090,746	1,090,018	1,150,713

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral

Notes to the Accounts – for the period ended 31 December 2012

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the inclusion of investments at market value and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005 and applicable UK Accounting Standards and with the Charities Act 2006.

2. Management and Administration Expenditure

	Total 31.12.12 £	Total 29.02.12 £
Salary	5,758	6,738
Office Expenses	3,888	4,285
Postage, printing and stationery	1,097	846
Annual Report and AGM	1,230	1,195
Accountancy	480	480
Computer Equipment	0	763
	12,453	14,307

3. The investments of the charity are managed by Cazenove Capital Management Limited of 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA.

The investments in the year comprised:

	Total 31.12.12 £	Total 29.02.12 £
UK Bonds	126,413	146,610
Portfolio Funds	81,276	61,530
UK Equities	716,193	734,246
Property	36,621	40,731
Hedge Funds	77,739	120,272
Cash on Deposit	52,503	14,924
Portfolio Valuation	1,090,745	1,118,313

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL – 2013

June

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2
Saturday 8
Sunday 9
Saturday 15

Dickens Festival
French Hospital Evensong
Mayor's Dedication Service
FRIENDS AGM AND EVENSONG

September

Sunday 8
Saturday 14
Sunday 15

Patronal Festival
Ordination
Royal Engineers' Memorial Day

October

Sunday 6

Harvest Thanksgiving

November

Saturday 9
Sunday 10

Royal Marine Association Service
Royal British Legion Remembrance Service

December

Sunday 1
Friday 6
Saturday 7 – Sunday 8
Saturday 14
Monday 16
Thursday 19
Friday 20
Saturday 21
Saturday 21
Tuesday 24
Tuesday 24

Advent Carol Service
Wisdom Hospice Lights for Love
Dickens Christmas Festival
Volunteers' Evensong
BBC Radio Kent Carol Service
Cathedral Carol Service (1)
Cathedral Carol Service (2)
Lunchtime Carols
Christingle Service
Blessing of the Crib
Midnight Mass

At the time of going to print some dates are not confirmed.
Please contact the Cathedral Office nearer the date.

Organ Recitals

May 27
June 9, 23
July 14, 28
August 11*, 18*, 25*
September 22
October 20
November 17
December 15

Concerts

May 31
June 29
August 29
October 15
October 26

The Sixteen
London and Welsh Male Choir
National Youth Choirs of Great Britain
English Touring Opera with Cathedral Choir
Wisdom Hospice Voices for Hospices

*Summer series



The People's Monarch: BBC South East Jubilee Arts Project 2012

This giant artwork made from 5,000 photographs was displayed in the Cathedral last August. Cards describing the artwork are on sale to support the Cathedral's work.