

Friends of Rochester Cathedral Report 2016/2017



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Officers and Council of Friends		IFC
Contents		1
Editorial	Julian Shales	1
Chairman's Report	Christine Bostock	2
A Message from the President	The Dean , The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh	3
Membership Report	Mrs Christine Tucker	4
Rochester Cathedral Research Guild	Jacob Scott	6
The Rochester Cathedral Organ	Scott Farrell	9
Archaeologist Report	Graham Keevill	11
The Library Of Rochester Cathedral	Suzy Micklewright	17
Our New Canon for Mission and Growth	Rachel Phillips	18
A Precis Of The Minutes Of The Annual General Meeting 2016		20
Social Events		26
Treasurer's Report		28
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2016		31
Forthcoming Events		IBC

Front Cover: The West Door

Back Cover: The new Library Interior

EDITORIAL... Julian Shales

This is the second Annual Report since the Friend's financial year changed from April - March to January - December.

This report includes the Message from our Vice-President, the Dean and President, and also includes an extensive Archaeologist Report from Graham Keevill; a report from Jacob Scott the Director of the Rochester Cathedral Research Guild using 3D modelling of the Cathedral's features; Scott Farrell's update report on the Organ and Suzy Micklewright's report on the Library's progress (Suzy is our Library's Team Leader). We also include an introduction from Rachel Phillips our new *Canon for Mission and Growth* that we hope, as Friends, to include in future our activities. This year Markham Chesterfield, Jenny Wallace, Jill Armitage, Heather Sinclair and I have provided the Social Committee report on the Friends activities and events. I thank all the contributors for their interest and hard work.

Julian

It has been a privilege to be Chairman over the past year and I thank members for their support and confidence. I must also thank my colleagues on the Council for their support.

I have said before that I accepted the nomination because I knew the finances were in the safe hands of John Dalley. Following the shock of his sudden death I am more than grateful to Terry Wood for stepping into the breach, and to Gillian for supporting him. During the year Peter Smith has been working along side Terry with a view to becoming our Treasurer and I hope members will support Peter's nomination. I am sure he will lead the Finance and Grants Committee with care.

Julian Shales and the Publicity Committee have the task of reviewing our printed material. This group produced a simple 'flyer' membership form to be distributed at internal events which has resulted in a number of new members. Julian has also designed posters for our events which have been well received and we are grateful to Mel for displaying these around the Cathedral. Publicity Committee have also updated the usual membership application. Julian has been my Vice Chair during the year and I am grateful for his advice, support and friendship.

Markham Chesterfield and the Social Committee have continued to organise successful events which are reported upon later. At the time of writing we are looking forward to our min-break in York which looks to be an interesting time. We must thank Markham for all his hard work in the past as he says he would like someone else to become Chair of the Social Committee this year.

You may recall that the Crypt was flooded last year just before Philip was due to be installed as Dean. The clear up took a long time to limit the damage to the paintings and the stone floors. I am pleased to say that the damage has now been repaired and the crypt looks stunning. We have money set aside to develop the servery once Chapter are ready.

The day after our last AGM we were pleased to see Phil Hesketh installed as our new Dean. He has worked hard over a number of years through some trying times so we hope that his time as Dean will be successful.

Since his appointment there have been a number of changes to Chapter. Jean Kerr retired in the summer and her role has been redefined. Rachel Phillips has been appointed to the role and we look forward to building on the positive start to working together.

Simon Lace is the new Chapter Clerk following the retirement of Gilly Wilford and I have had some very positive meetings with him.

Finally Matthew Rushton has moved from Canterbury to become our Precentor. I have worked with Matthew in Canterbury and look forward to renewing our working relationship.

We welcome them all and look forward to positive fruitful working together in the future.

It has been good to have Ralph Goodsall around to fill the void before Matthew came to join us. We are grateful to him for filling the gap following Neil's retirement.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to welcoming 120 Friends of Koln Cathedral who will visit at the beginning of May at the start of a few days touring the Cathedrals of South East England. I hope to be able to welcome them to the Cathedral and I have been invited to Dinner with them in Ashford a few days later. My German is not very good but it would appear that they have existed since 1842 – 175 years. The Cathedral itself dates from 1248.

Some of you may be aware that I have recently been appointed as an Anna Chaplain to the Cathedral to work with Rachel and the wider community. Our plan is to make the Cathedral Dementia Friendly so that those living with Dementia and older visitors will feel at home. Anna Chaplains are named after the faithful older woman who appears in Luke's Gospel with Simeon. Rochester is the first Diocese to adopt these Chaplains, we are also the first to focus the work on people with Dementia and I am the first to be appointed to a Cathedral.

Thank you all for your support and I look forward to working with you and the Council in the future.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Dean of Rochester, The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh

Dear Friends

In January 1908 the Dean and Chapter published in the Rochester Diocesan Chronicle 'The Muniments of The Dean and Chapter of Rochester Cathedral'. Muniments (a word not recognised by my spell check), were title deeds or records that belonged to the Cathedral, presumably in defence of its historic entitlements. They had lately been arranged and 'calendared' by the Rev J.H. Bloom. Mr. Bloom had been busy at other cathedrals in a similar vein and had just completed the inventory at Worcester.

The Rochester list consisted of books (427), Documents (3077), Rolls (116), and Papers (482). Whether Bloom's original list still exists in our archives I'm not sure, but one hopes the artefacts remain secure in the Cathedral's possession and with the completion of the new Library catalogue considerably quicker to find than in 1908. The public were informed that any person desirous of inspecting these documents could apply to the

Dean for permission and charged the princely sum of 2/6 for a simple search lasting 15 minutes! A further fee, the amount not specified, would be required if greater time was required in searching.

No doubt Mr. Bloom's labours had been designed to coincide with the opening of the newly re-ordered Library in 1907 by the then Dean, Ernald Lane, who had completely refurbished it in the Oxbridge style with impressive oak shelving. He also had a new window constructed at the east end of the Library with his own impressive coat of arms inscribed. This layout existed until the recent work completed under, *Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions*.

Dean Lane had his portrait painted in the Library and that portrait can now be seen over the Library fireplace; an appropriate link between past and present.

The Cathedral Library in its remodelled form will be open to visitors from Easter onwards and we look forward to an official opening sometime later in the year. The present Library catalogue is kindly hosted by the University of Kent and will not require the exchange of any coins in order to do a search, although we are always open to donations!

I hope this innovative and gracious space will be made available for academic research, seminars, community groups, small exhibitions and visitors. This is made possible by our Library volunteers who will be on hand to guide, help and conserve. Indeed, much of the maintenance and conservation work will be in the hands of volunteers who have already completed some initial training. The Library will certainly add yet another dimension to the experience of visiting the Cathedral, enabling wider community access and furthering the Cathedral's mission.

Philip

MEMBERSHIP REPORT...Mrs Christine Tucker

Our total membership as at 31 December 2016 is 985 composed as follows:

415 Life Members	17 Schools and Colleges
411 Ordinary Members	2 Companies
5 Families	27 Associations
108 PCCs	

During the financial year (1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016) we have welcomed 58 new members, 46 Ordinary, 1 Corporate, 1 Family and 10 Life Members as listed below. 27 members have either resigned or, despite our best efforts to trace them, have not renewed their membership.

New Members

Mr C Bartley	Mr T D Gurney	Mrs A Osborn
Ms L Bax	Mrs M Haydon and family	Mrs B Pearce
Mrs M L Bradley	Mr D Howells	Mrs A M Robinson
Mr B Brannagan	Mrs S Howells	Mr C P Robinson
Mr R Brazier	Mr J Huffman	Roffa's Camp Preceptory No 224
Mrs J Brazier	Mrs J Huffman	Miss E Saint
Mrs J Broad	Mrs B D Jacobs	Mrs P C Sait
Mr R Buchanan	Father C W Jones	Ms A J Simmonds
Mrs O Buchanan	Mrs R Jolliffe	Mr B Sluman
Mr D Clare	Mr B Kemp	Mrs F Sluman
Mrs B W Cook	Mrs J Kemp	Mr P Smith
Canon M L Cooper	Mr B Lionnett	Mrs B Smith
Mr A Coulson	Mrs J Lionnett	Mrs P Thomas
Mrs C Curtis	The Ven P Lock	Mrs S M Thornton
Mrs J C Davis	Mrs S Lock	Mr E Towne
Mrs R Dymond	Mr K McCarthy	Mrs J Towne
Mr C Emson	Mrs E McCarthy	Mr A P White
Mr M Flannery	Mrs M Narborough	Mrs H Worthy
Mrs D Flannery	Mrs J Nowers	
Mr R A Gordon-Smith	Mr W Osborn	

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 for donations by those eligible to pay tax provides additional funds for the Friends of the Cathedral.

Obituary

It is with sadness that we have been informed during the year of the death of 21 members.

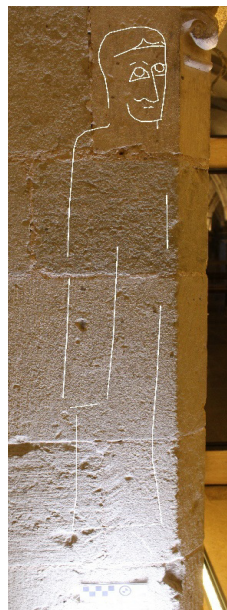
Mr G Allonby	Mrs S N Knott
Mr R Buchanan	Mr T Lewis
Mr R P J Cashman	Mr J Maestri
Mr J A Dalley	Miss K L P Manley
Mr R W Green	Mr D R B Monk
Mr P Hall	Mr J G Rutherford
Lady Head	Mrs S Smith
Mrs A Heavens	Miss U Thomas
Mr J Hicks	Mr C P Williamson
Mrs M Kerridge	Mr C H Yeomans
Mrs R Kitcatt	

A summary of the first year's work

Forming in September 2016 and comprising a small group of volunteers, the Research Guild embarked on collation of the cathedral's historical, archaeological and architectural documentation and researching the many buildings, artefacts and persons featuring in the long history of the site. To these aims it now seems appropriate to add the recording of the building's architectural and artistic features to aid their interpretation and conservation. The ultimate objective of these researches is the production of publications, mostly in the form of project reports, to an academic standard and available freely online. The guild has now published several such reports covering activities over the last year with many more planned for the next, which I'll do my best to briefly detail here.

One of our earliest endeavours, and our first published report, was to be a photographic survey of the thirteenth-century pictorial engravings located on vertical surfaces in the nave and crypt (we can now add the sanctuary and the west façade too). Many of you will recognise the eagle and accompanying figures on the south arcade pillars and those of the Supper at Emmaus at the entrance to the Ithamar chapel, some of which have been traced with pencil at some relatively recent time.

An article entitled 'Graffiti' by Dean Earnest Blackie was published in the *Friends of Rochester Cathedral Annual Report 1939* identifying several medieval figurative engravings in the nave and crypt depicting mostly biblical scenes. The 1979 issue of *The Archaeological Journal* then featured an article published by Professor M. J. Swanton providing an analysis of the engravings, including 28 tracings, describing 78 figures across 37 scenes. A slightly truncated version of this article was re-published in *The Friends of Rochester Cathedral Annual Report 1989-1990*.



One of eight recently identified figures in the crypt, illuminated by raking light and digitally traced.

Using raking light and tracing the engravings digitally, the guild has to date identified 18 more of these figurative scenes comprising 27 surviving figures. These photographs and traces will serve as a record in assessing the inevitable deterioration of this somewhat enigmatic thirteenth-century decorative scheme. The guild's next report featured a similar sequence of several figures of virtually identical style at St. Clement's church, Sandwich, perhaps even of the same hand. Fragments of similar sequences can also be seen at St. Albans and at Canterbury cathedrals, although at the latter they appear to be of at least several different hands.

Our next published report features a photographic survey of ledgerstones and brass matrix within the cathedral, in accordance with the Ledgerstone Survey of England and Wales. A detailed dataset was produced, including much invaluable information from many years of previous efforts in inventorying the cathedral's ledgers and monuments by various parties, not least among which has been performed by Dr Edwina Bell *et al.* and Mr Brian Micklewright. High-quality scale photographs were also painstakingly (and often back-breakingly) produced of each of the 130 examples described.

The last report of 2016 featured an update to the measured survey drawings produced by Carden and Godfrey in 2009 (from a laser survey conducted in 2007), including retraced scale drawings of the extent of the Romanesque cathedrals of Rochester; produced from William St. John Hope's excellent drawings in his *Architectural History of the Cathedral Church of St Andrew* in 1898. This updated set of plans and elevations are being used to illustrate the guild's other reports and are of particular use during the planning of works, maintenance and exhibitions within the cathedral. All the guild's plans and elevations are finished to a fine standard by our graphic designer Mr Alan Minnerthey.



A brass matrix easily overlooked, propped almost out of view in a niche in the North Nave Transept.

The first report of 2017 features a photogrammetric survey of medieval tombs from Rochester Cathedral. Many of you will by now be aware of the growing database of three-dimensional models produced over the last few years and featured in a presentation at King's Hall back in September 2015. The technique for producing these models is known as close-range photogrammetry, whereby many overlapping photos of an object are taken from different angles. A computer then identifies hundreds of matching features in each of these photographs and uses the distance between them created by the changes in perspective to produce a virtual 3D model.



This modelling survey of the tombs, and the many after it planned for publication this coming year, are an exercise in producing models of a high enough quality not just to aid in general interpretation but to serve as a record of condition of the artefacts and features for future use, often down to a stone-by-stone level and to within 1mm of accuracy. Although often still slightly below the quality of model produced by detailed laser scanning, photogrammetry offers the benefit of being cheap and versatile; off-the-shelf cameras are less

Detailed 3D models of the tombs, corbel heads and other architectural features can serve as an aid to interpretation and as a record of condition.

cumbersome than scanners (think cherry-pickers and ladders) to employ in the modelling of every object or feature worthy of record within the building (all of them!).



3D modelling allows us to view artefacts or features from angles and in ways it would not otherwise be possible to.

The guild has also recently completed photographic and raking light surveys of some 200 graves within the cemetery of St. Nicholas church, the cathedral's 250-odd examples of medieval graffiti (post-medieval graffiti is also in the works) and over 100 monuments and brass plaques. Another intriguing project has been the recording of the many holes, sockets and architectural scars around the building, some of which may betray the locations of screens and curtains which divided the interior spaces of the cathedral during the medieval period, due for publication shortly.

Reports planned for the next year include ultraviolet photography of the cathedral's faded (or almost disappeared) medieval paintings and paint schemes. Also, photogrammetric surveys of bosses and corbel heads, ceilings and vaulting, the west façade carvings and tympanums of the nave and cloisters and carved stone fragments; both those in storage in the lapidarium and those re-used in later fabric. Further photographic surveys of mason's marks, stained glass windows, tiles and other ceramic materials are also planned, to name just a few!

Jacob Scott
Director

www.rochestercathedralresearchguild.org

Over the summer months of 2016 the Cathedral Organ underwent a few works & modifications. When I arrived in 2008 as Director of Music, we discussed with Mander Organs, who had carried out the complete rebuild of the organ in 1989-90, the future of the instrument. The advice received was that we should be looking at a major clean & overhaul in about 8-10 years time and that we would be looking at a figure of c.£110k. The organ would then be nearly 30 years old & need what is effectively routine maintenance (normally this sort of work is carried out every 20 years or so). With the crypt project taking the organ off-line & with all the potential dust etc. I advised that this might be a good opportunity to do the clean and overhaul although it became clear that this would not be viable financially (and hindsight might suggest that it is just as well we didn't!). Instead we discussed the possibility of doing some work to the organ which could postpone the major work for a number of years at an affordable level.

Manders quoted us for various works that we felt necessary & the proposal was taken to Chapter for approval and for permission to ask for a grant from the Friends of Rochester Cathedral to help us with the cost of the works. The Friends generously agreed so a contract was signed with Manders to do the work as soon as the crypt work enabled the wind to be reconnected to the sleeping giant.

The organ was heard again on Palm Sunday to the joy of many & the excitement it generated was widespread amongst choir, congregation, welcomers & guides (who are not always the organ's best friend). In May, Manders came & took away 174 pipes (the three trumpet stops on the Swell, called Swell Reeds), which took quite some getting out as the 3808 pipes (ranging from smaller than a pencil to 32 feet in length) are rather tightly packed. They also took away the doors on the back of the choir organ case to carve slots so that the organist can actually hear the pipes in the beautiful case on the Quire side of the organ.

The Swell Reeds had always been deemed unsatisfactory since the rebuild as they spoke the language of the 1905/1957 organ rather than the 1989 one. We all waved them off happily & were thrilled when we were invited to Manders' factory in London to hear the new stops. The new pipes shone & this was matched by a much brighter tone more in keeping with the rest of the organ. The new pipes were delivered towards the end of June and were installed and received a final voicing ready to be used for the final services of the academic year which was a moment of real excitement for the three organists.

The sound is totally different and the instrument now all speaks the same language giving it a certain something that it has always missed. The other bits of the project which were always of a less than glamorous nature have been completed to the highest standards. The doors have been re-installed on the Choir organ case, the pedalboard has been totally overhauled (and looks brand new), the swell pedals recovered with

linoleum(!), the keyboards have been overhauled, wind conveyances repaired, collapsed pipes restored, wind leaks repaired and some revoicing of the Choir Dulciana undertaken.

The organ has remained in use through all of the works, except we took the decision that whilst the pedalboard was being refurbished we ought to bring the electronic organ back into use for the visiting choirs.

The quality of the workmanship is exemplary and Manders are also to be commended for the way in which they have worked around the Cathedral's incredibly busy diary enabling us to finish this project on time.

Alongside this we have also had an inspection of the blowers and the humidifying equipment by Discus Blowers. They are the market leaders in this kind of work, looking after Westminster Abbey and King's Cambridge amongst others. Following his inspection, James Richardson-Jones condemned the two non-functioning humidifiers and suggested their replacement with a single humidifier which could do the job equally well. This work has also been completed and should ensure that the wooden soundboards within the organ should not dry out etc because of our rather too efficient heating system. This has been funded from the organ sinking fund.

It is good to report that this project has been completed on time and under budget.

Figures:

Budget £40,500

Spend to date (all excl VAT, but all VAT recoverable)

Mander	£38,782.26
Scaffolding	£112.09
Total	£38, 894.35

Cost of humidifier works:

£4,499.00

The future:

Following a conversation with Michael Blighton the head voicer at Manders who oversaw the project it is clear that we need to plan ahead. He advised me that the interior of the organ is absolutely filthy following the crypt works, which is probably no surprise, and that we should aim to have the organ cleaned and overhauled in five years times. This can be done in one of two ways:

The preferred way is that scaffolding goes up for the duration of the work and then Manders can clean every single pipe on site on the scaffolding platform.

Alternatively every single pipe can be taken out and returned to Manders' workshop to be cleaned and returned. This doesn't necessitate scaffolding remaining in place, but being erected twice and the work taking longer.

We have been quoted a figure of £58k (not including scaffolding) at current prices to give us a guide to the likely cost and allow us to plan for the future.

I would like to thank both the Chapter and the Friends for their generous support of this project and to John Mander, Michael Blighton and all the team at Mander Organs.

Scott

ARCHAEOLOGIST'S REPORT ...Graham Keevill

My reports over the last couple of years have inevitably focused heavily on discoveries during the *Hidden Treasures – Fresh Expressions* project. This was inevitable: a project of its sheer scale and complexity was bound to dominate archaeological endeavour during the period, and so it proved. The completion of the building contract did not mean the end of archaeological work, of course, and at the time of writing Alan Ward and I are still hard at work on the painstaking analysis of what we found. Life has not stopped in the interim, however, and accordingly my annual report this year is a combination of two short pieces. The first is a reverse 'what happened next' describing what else we found before the discovery for the 'cheeky chappie' in the Chapter House during HTFE. The



second describes what I found during a watching brief in autumn 2016 on Chapter property at 82a and 84 High Street.

The interior of the Chapter House looking west before the start of the HTFE contract. The late 18th/early 19th-century staircase up to the Chapter Library door is to the right.

The Chapter House

We start with events leading up to the discovery of our cheeky chappie. This finely carved corbel had been inserted into the north-west internal corner of the Chapter House in the middle of the 14th century. It supported one corner of a vaulted passage which had been built across the west end of the Chapter House to provide convenient access between the monks' dormitory on the first floor of the east cloister range and the cathedral. Such access was more conventionally provided through a staircase down from

the dormitory to the cloister, and this indeed seems to have been the arrangement before the 14th century. The construction then of what is now known as the Chapter Library provided an easier route, with no need to go outside at all – an important point on a medieval winter’s night! The problem was that the obvious point of entry into the new building was via a purpose-built new door on its first floor –hence the raised passage, which became a night stair without steps! The passage itself was carefully designed and built: its width was chosen with precision, so that the width of the Chapter House could be spanned by the construction of five vaulted bays at ground-floor level. The central bay must have been left open to both sides (ie east and west) so that the monks could still enter the House from the cloister unimpeded. The flanking windows in its west wall were blocked by the vault arches, however, and removal of the old staircase revealed the blocking of the north window in full. Just as importantly, it revealed the blank early 12th-century wall underneath the window cill, rendered with mortar to give a smooth finish. The remnants of the vault arch in the north-west corner were also in very good condition, albeit only a relatively small amount survived. A similar, but much more eroded corbel and arch fragments survive in the corresponding south-west corner of the Chapter House.



The corbel and springing of the 14th-century vaulted passage, with the rendered west wall of the 12th-century Chapter House to the left. The gravel and rubble core above this is probably part of the 14th-century work

The vaulted passage to between the dormitory and the library probably enjoyed a brief extension to its life in the aftermath of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. It is well known that Henry VIII used the monks’ domestic accommodation around the cloister as a royal residence for about a decade. The passage might still have had some value during that period. Afterwards, however, the abandonment of the east range seems to have been followed by its partial ruination quite quickly. The key move would have been the removal of the Chapter House’s roof. It isn’t absolutely clear whether the vaulted passage was demolished at the same time, what this seems likely. Even if this was the case, some of the stone from the supporting vaults must have remained close by – perhaps it was simply left in a pile after demolition.

We know that some of the stone remained close by because we found it there. Specifically, several pieces of the supporting columns, vault ribs and one boss from the centre of a vault bay were found re-used in a wall that had been built against and inside the west end of the Chapter House after the passage had been removed. Pieces of

Romanesque moulding were also found in the lower part of the masonry: they too must have been available for re-use as core material (no interest was taken in the decoration). These earlier pieces had probably been removed from the door and windows of the Chapter House when the vaulted passage was built, and had been incorporated in it. Thus they were available for recycling again when the passage came down. One of the roll mouldings was identical to the surviving ones in the door arch, and must certainly have come from there.



This piece of Romanesque roll moulding came from the base of the earlier staircase. It is an exact match for one of the surviving decorated orders over the Chapter House door, and must have come from there.

The above piece of stone was also re-used in the earlier staircase. It would have rested on a corbel on one side of the 14th-century passage, with the vault ribs springing from its intricate mouldings.



The masonry with the 1m scales on and against it is the earlier staircase, built against the original 12th-century fabric of the Chapter House's west wall and the blocking of its north window effected when the vaulted passage was built in the 14th century. The springing of the vault itself can just be seen emerging behind the post-Dissolution staircase. The latter's two surviving treads are visible just above the horizontal scale.

The new masonry was just under a metre wide, and remains of two steps were found close to its centre. We had uncovered the remnant of a staircase up to the library door pre-dating the one we were demolishing, but encapsulated within it. Unlike those stairs, which turned at a right-angle, the earlier version seems to

have maintained a straight course down the west elevation of the Chapter House. Its bottom treads would have landed conveniently at the threshold of the Chapter House door.

When and why was this earlier staircase built? The second question is easy to answer. The room we now know as the Chapter Library was known historically as the Chapter Room from the later 16th century onwards. It became the equivalent of the Chapter House after the Dissolution: a place where the daily business of Chapter as the new body corporate running the cathedral would be transacted. Access could of course be gained from inside the cathedral, but an external route was still important. The high-level passage to the dormitory may have gone, but the door in the Chapter Room/Library's south-east corner was still there. It now made sense to build a new staircase from ground level so that the canons living in houses to the south of the cathedral had a ready means of getting to the Chapter Room without needing to take a long detour into and through the cathedral itself. The date at which the staircase was built is slightly more problematic – it could have been done at any time from the 1550s onwards. The building of the Old Deanery (as it is now known) in c 1640 may have provided an impetus, but this had been the site of the Deanery since 1541 (and indeed the late medieval Prior's Lodging before that). On balance a mid-16th-century date seems the most logical for the building of the new staircase, as this would have meant that the 14th-century and earlier architectural fragments were immediately available for use after demolition of the vaulted passage.

82a and 84 High Street

The first Deanery, or even the Prior's Lodging, is also a factor when we turn to a pair of Chapter properties where refurbishment has been carried out during the last year. Both 82a (Phelip's Lodge) and 84 High Street are listed buildings, at Grade II* and II respectively. The List descriptions suggest that 84 is of 18th-century date, probably incorporating 16th and 17th-century work, whereas 82a has an 18th-century front range with remnants of an early 16th-century house behind it. A survey carried out in 1997, however, found the remains of a 15th-century open hall building (with a smoke-blackened crown-post roof over it) immediately behind and running back from the frontage of 82 High Street. Beyond it was a 17th-century building (the part generally known as Phelip's Lodge) with a large two-storey porch and a very fine bay window on its west side. The medieval building may have formed part of the prior's lodging, thus becoming part of the Deanery after the establishment of the New Foundation in 1541. The interior needed a thorough overhaul before new tenants could be found, while its rear gable required rather more extensive work because of a rotten timber which threatened the stability of its upper part. An existing rear extension needed to be replaced at 84 so that an inside toilet could be provided (the old outdoor privy was no longer functional, leaving the property devoid of the necessary facilities!).

Relatively little of the work in 82a needed my attention, but the work to the gable end required the removal of existing wall coverings in the upstairs room at the rear of the property. This exposed a number of interesting features. The most important was the south-eastern end-post of the medieval property. This had not been visible when the 1997 survey was carried out, so confirming the position of the end bay of the medieval house was a useful result. Removal of the render from the rest of the east wall in the same room also exposed the south side of a former fireplace, with good-quality rubbed bricks providing a chamfered surround. Unfortunately the north side could not be seen – it is likely that the existing fireplace re-used this.

Taking down the existing extension and building a new one at the rear of 84 necessarily involved more work – particularly below ground. The initial intention to dig traditional strip foundations for the new build had to be abandoned because the ground itself was an unstable mix of soil and rubble. Plan B involved excavating a much larger area – in effect the whole of the new extension’s footprint – so that a reinforced concrete raft could be cast. This amounted to a small area excavation – music to the ears for an archaeologist! The reason why the ground was so poor quickly became apparent in the extended excavations, as evidence for at least two extensions pre-dating the demolished early 20th-century one was uncovered.

The largest of these was contemporary with 84 High Street itself: the east wall of the extension was bonded in with the ‘back’ (south) wall of the house. In fact this wasn’t an extension at all – it was a planned, integral part of 84 as built in the 18th century. Both the bricks and the mortar of the ‘lost’ part were consistent with this date, and as already mentioned it had obviously been built at the same time as the house. It was also clear that this rear room had been built with a cellar below it, and this was what we had found. Rather frustratingly, we could not continue the excavation down to the cellar floor for safety and cost reasons. Nor were we able to determine how it was entered – from the surviving part of the house, or from the rear room itself. It was the backfill of



the cellar, though, that had caused the problem for the new foundations: it was full of Victorian rubbish, with complete (but broken) pots, masses of oyster shell, and a wide variety of other finds mixed with rubble and loose soil.

Overhead view of the buildings revealed during the excavation behind 84 High Street. The larger building, with the 1m scales inside it, is integral and contemporary with 84. Note how the rear wall of the latter is deep

within the cellared area, but then much more shallow to the right of this, causing some subsidence. The smaller and earlier building can be seen to the right.

The north, south and east sides of an earlier extension were also found to the south and east of the rear room. These bricks in these walls, and the lime mortar used to bond them, were of earlier post-medieval character – perhaps 17th-century in date (though it is difficult to be certain of the dates for such materials). In fact, ‘extension’ might not be the correct word for this building either – at least in terms of 84. The latter’s rear room must have removed the fourth (west) wall of this earlier building, but there was no evidence to suggest that it had originally extended towards 84. Instead, its north-east and south-east corners were well made. If anything, they suggested that it might have run west towards 82a. This building could therefore have been a previously unknown eastward extension of Phelip’s Lodge – though equally it could have been a free-standing outhouse behind an earlier version of 84.

Removal of loose soil in the cellar behind 84 may not have gone far enough to reveal the floor beneath, but it did have one valuable outcome. The base of the east wall of Phelip’s Lodge was exposed – this had effectively become the party wall between the two properties (both of which have been in Chapter’s ownership for generations). The visible walls of the building are virtually all of brick, as one would expect for a 17th-century house in Rochester (albeit one encapsulating parts of a medieval building). The walling exposed in the excavation was of stone, however, as indeed were parts of the chimneystack immediately to the south (which serves the fireplace in the first-floor room described above). The interesting question here is whether either might have originated as part of the late medieval prior’s lodging and early Deanery. The answer is most likely no for the chimneystack, as most of it is built in brick, and the stone masonry is probably re-used. The base of the wall to Phelip’s House is a different matter: this area coincides with the medieval timber-framed structure above. There is a strong likelihood that the stone walling is therefore medieval as well, perhaps part of a cellared area (though it is some distance behind the High Street frontage). It could well have been part of the prior’s lodging/Deanery, though other interpretations are possible. Only further work would prove the point – and now that the new extension is built, it will doubtless be many years before a similar opportunity occurs again!



Ground-level view of the two buildings revealed during the excavation. Note that the exposed lower courses of Phelip’s Lodge here are of stone, not the brickwork seen in the rest of the building. Was this originally part of the prior’s lodging/Deanery complex?

Graham

Since 2009, I have been a volunteer in the Cathedral Library and have learned so much about rare and ancient books. There is a large team of dedicated volunteers who attend regularly to help with the library and do whatever is needed.

We have had training from a professional Book Conservator on exactly how to handle old books, how to clean them and what equipment to use. We now have a collection of specialist brushes, a museum grade vacuum cleaner and various book cushions on which to place the books for viewing. Throughout the year on special days we have 'show and tell' sessions in which we offer the public the opportunity to see these rare books and learn of their varied history.



In September 2013, the Library Volunteers embarked on the task of packing approx. 6000 books in crates ready for transportation to the Kent Archives in Maidstone.

Prior to that, we had been engaged in wrapping the pre 1901 books individually in acid-free tissue. Each crate was lovingly lined with bubble wrap – in fact, we used so much that we virtually cleared the county of bubble wrap. We called it 'Bubble Wars'. Incidentally, now the crates are once again empty we have bags and bags of the stuff to recycle. Is anyone interested?

All the books were stowed safely in the Archive Strong Room and we were allowed access. Having really up-to-date equipment, they cleaned and digitised much of our stock and made sure they were kept safe.

Having no books to deal with, we were given boxes of old sermons, written by Canon Harry Gripper from his days as a Curate in Wigan and later a Canon at the Cathedral and Master of Tonbridge School. These had been found in a cupboard in the Cathedral, I might add. They proved very interesting reading – once you could understand his handwriting. There are many sermons about the war and the hardships felt by people, especially in Wigan, which was a very poor place. These sermons and evaluations will eventually be available to browse in an Access file in the Library.

The long-awaited return of the books began at the end of 2016 but was not without its problems. The crates came back in random order (not what we had planned) and we fought to have them re-sorted in the same order of taking them off the shelves in the first place. Eventually, the Library folks were listened to and the pre 1901 books were shelved in the correct order. The 'Dewey' modern books were placed on the shelves by a professional mover but then had to be removed and placed in three rooms of the Hesketh family's former home at East Canonry. We were not sure at the time, how many we would have room for in the library.

Most of the books have now been returned to the library shelves and it is looking good, especially if you are a visitor and can look through the curved glass partition beyond the magnificent Hamo de Hythe door.

It will be many months before we are fully functional as a reference library as we still have to add the shelf location of each book on the Library Catalogue which is hosted by the University of Kent, Until this is done we cannot locate books individually so will be unable to retrieve them from the shelves for specific requests. The people with library backgrounds have been particularly frustrated by this as it is completely out of our hands.

We are in the Library generally on a Tuesday and Friday but this is subject to change due to staffing commitments. We would love to welcome anybody to come and view, what will be a great asset to the Cathedral; in the future, and a valuable resource to students and interested people alike. Do please visit us, we would love to show it off.

Suzy Micklewright (Library Team Leader)

OUR NEW CANON FOR MISSION AND GROWTH... Rachel Phillips

The question most people are too polite to ask is: what *is* a Canon for Mission and Growth?

It means I'm a residentiary canon of the cathedral and a member of the cathedral Chapter, with particular responsibility for education, mission and outreach; in short, how the cathedral and all its members engage with the world outside the cathedral. And if we get that right, the church will *grow* – in faith, in numbers and outwards. I think my job title is unique in the Church of England, if not the world (anyone who knows of another Canon for Mission and Growth, please let me know!)

I arrived in Rochester in January, having been a vicar in Hertfordshire for six years. My parish, Northaw & Cuffley (just north of 12 o'clock on the M25) had two churches, so an immediate bonus on arriving here was living within walking distance of a single 'workplace' and not having to de-ice the car in the mornings. Other obvious differences

are that the cathedral is much larger, with larger congregations and many more staff and volunteers (who, by the way, are wonderful). So as well as learning lots of new things, I am also having to get used to *not* doing many of the things that I used to do as the only priest in the parish, such as weddings and funerals and preaching two or three different sermons every Sunday; though I am also enjoying *not* being the resident (unskilled) photocopier engineer and car park superintendent.

I grew up in NW London – appropriately enough in *Canons* Park (second stop on the Jubilee Line), named after the Augustinian Canons who lived there many centuries ago. So I have always known the difference between a canon and a cannon, even if I didn't imagine I would ever be one (the former, not the latter I hope).

I was ordained in 2007 in St Paul's Cathedral and was a curate in Eastcote (NW London) for three years before moving to Hertfordshire. For many years before ordination I was a solicitor in the city of London, specialising in commercial property in the hospitality sector, which connects well with the Benedictine tradition of hospitality in Rochester Cathedral. I worked with many famous hotels and other landmark properties (e.g. Canary Wharf, the House of Commons and the Shard, before it became the Shard), though none in Rochester. I love historic buildings, especially cathedrals (I have visited all but five Church of England cathedrals); maybe it's in my genes, as my parents met while working for the Historic Buildings Council. So as well as getting to know our amazing cathedral, I'm looking forward to exploring further afield in historic Kent.

A defining event in my life was joining the church choir at the age of 10. The choir didn't have girls at the time, but nine of us asked if we could join, so a girls' choir began. I started learning the organ a year later, and from age 15 onwards was an organist and choir director at various churches for 25 years until I began training for ordination. So of course I love the superb music we are privileged to hear nearly every day in Rochester Cathedral. I also love being part of a community that has worshipped God in the same place pretty much continuously for over 1400 years. How many people can claim that in their job?

The only other thing you need to know about me is that I am very partial to proper coffee. So if I haven't met you yet, there's an idea! But with or without coffee, I'm thoroughly enjoying meeting all these new people and discovering all that there is to discover in Rochester.

Rachel

The Vice President, Rev. Canon Dr Philip Hesketh, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The Vice President read the names of 13 members who sadly had died during the year:

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were Received from The Rt Revd J and Mrs Langstaff, Miss T Crouch MP, Mrs K Tolhurst MP, and 25 members

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th June 2015, having previously been circulated, were signed by the Vice President as a correct record.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Vice President referred to a reading from the scripture of St Paul, Chapter 5, Romans where he talks about difficulties which go on to produce hope. It had been another eventful year with many challenges, including the recent flooding of the Crypt. But when under pressure it often brings out the best of people and an enormous amount of character.

The work of the Friends has been extremely important, especially their continuing support of the building project which is nearing its end.

The Vice President said he had a picture in mind of the Catalpa tree which stands in front of the Cathedral. It split in two and fell across the road. It then went on to produce the best flowers. When the tree was under stress it bore more fruit! This was a good image to think of when under stress here at the Cathedral because people were amazing!

Looking forward, the Crypt is magnificent and our thanks are to be given to the work and support of everybody involved, including the Friends. There is still a structural problem in the Gundulf Crypt to be resolved but the Crypt will soon be useable for exhibitions. One positive note is no water got into the Library following the roof repairs. The books will be returning in July and it will look stunning.

As a last thought the Vice President said to remember the Catalpa tree; fruits in the fullness of time!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the Vice President for his address, for presiding at the meeting and he congratulated him on behalf of the Friends as tomorrow he would become our President.

Firstly speaking about people the Chairman said that all members of Council had given him tremendous support and then he gave special mention to John Dalley, our Honorary Treasurer, who tragically died suddenly the week before the meeting. Condolences had been sent to his widow Emma and his family. He gave thanks to John for all he did for us. May he rest in peace.

He gave thanks to Christine Tucker, our Administrator for the running of the Office.

Secondly, speaking of our achievements he said over the past two years it had been more about promises than achievements. We still await the return of the wall on which we will see our List of Bishops of Rochester, although we do now have the List of Vergers in the passage towards the Gundulf Tower.

There is a new chair lift and access to the Crypt for the disabled has been established although not exactly as envisaged when funds were transferred from Friends to Chapter for the purpose.

We were able to pay for emergency repairs to walls in the Memorial garden in the south west corner of the Garth and along the slype.

We have committed considerable funds towards fitting out the Crypt vestry and servery, which we are able to do thanks to a very generous bequest received last year. We continue to assist with the costs of the Garth maintenance.

Now that we will again have a Dean with full authority and a Cathedral less of a building site, we hope that some sort of normality will return and we will be able to achieve our aims of supporting the Dean and Chapter in keeping this wonderful building in good order.

Thirdly, speaking about being Friends and friendship the Chairman said Markham Chesterfield and the Social Committee have put on a number of visits and events for members. Regrettably our planned visit to Ypres had to be abandoned for the second year running and it was not possible to arrange at short notice an alternative trip. There have been successful trips to Ely, Faversham and Chichester, and a planned visit Allington Castle.

We had a talk from Jacob Scott about modern interpretation of the Cathedral, and a candle lit Musical Pilgrimage in the Cathedral.

In July there will be a concert in the Cathedral by the Medway Singers, the Brooke Orchestra and Scott Farrell.

Advent lunch last year was at Upchurch Golf Club, this year it will be at West Malling Golf Club.

Lastly speaking about money the Chairman said our balance sheet is very healthy and income from our investments, donations and bequests are properly used to enable us to support the Cathedral and subscriptions should also go towards this after covering necessary membership costs.

The Council has considered the required level of subscriptions in order to achieve this aim. We cannot administer the association without an office and employing a part time Administrator and subscriptions alone do not cover these costs. We have reluctantly concluded that the minimum subscription levels set in 1995 are no longer at a viable level and that we need to recommend the new levels of subscription as laid out in your AGM notice. The proposed subscriptions are more in line with similar organisations and with inflation since 1995. If approved, the new minimum subscriptions will come into force immediately for new members and members upgrading to Life membership, and from 1st January 2017 for existing members renewing their annual membership.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their support.

The Chairman said that the next day would be a very special day in the life of the Cathedral when our Vice President will be installed as Dean.

He explained that Canon Dr Hesketh had written a short book on the life of Dean Samuel Reynolds Hole, who was Dean at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries and amongst many other interests, he was a rose enthusiast. The Reynolds Hole rose was named after him but there are none in Rochester that we are aware of, nor is there one in Caunton, Nottinghamshire, where he is buried and where there is a school named after him.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that he had managed to locate a Reynolds Hole rose in Germany and in the next month or so he will receive a cutting of the rose for grafting, so that hopefully, Reynolds Hole can be reinstated in Rochester and Caunton. He said it would give him great pleasure if Canon Dr Hesketh would be able to accept these when they arrive as a Chairman's parting gift.

The Vice President gave thanks to the Chairman saying this was fairly significant and he hoped to create much more of a rose attraction in the Garth.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chairman said following John Dalley's sudden death last week it fell to him to present the Treasurer's report. Members would have received the report in the Annual Report and also the statement of financial activities for the year ended 31st December 2015.

The highlights from the report and accounts were:-

Investment returns had continued above 3%. Legacies of £130,000 had been received. Subscriptions received were £7,457. Management and administration costs were £16,158 and grants to the Cathedral were £17,168. The accounts as circulated are in abbreviated form as the Charity Commissioners' recommended format of accounts is too large to reproduce economically in the Annual Report. Copies of the Independently Examined Accounts are available to any member upon request.

Apologies were given for a small number of errors and omissions in the accounts as circulated to members:

The Balance Sheet as at 31st December was omitted. This was handed out showing the assets that make up the fund balances as shown on page 27 of the Report.

The comparative 2014 figures have been incorrectly shown. 94,722 should read -32,981, 120,480 should read -7,223 and 1,117,982 should read 990,279. Only the 2014 comparative figures are affected, 2015 is correct. The totals of note 2 have become transposed.

None of this affects the accounts as examined and signed off by the Trustees and the Independent Examiner.

In his report, John Dalley made special mention to Christine Tucker and it is only right that thanks is given to her for her hard work in the Office, which includes most of the basic accounting work.

There were no questions from the floor.

The acceptance of the Accounts examined by Mr Richard Abel and set out in the Report for the year to 31st December 2015 was put to the meeting for approval. Mr Michael Bailey proposed their acceptance and they were approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF FOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

There was one vacancy on the Council following the retirement of Mr Terry Wood. Mrs Jan Butler, Mr Markham Chesterfield and Miss Angela Watson offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected for a further three years together with Mrs Jenny Wallace.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

With only one nomination received, Miss Christine Bostock was proposed as Chairman for one year.

The Vice President gave thanks to Mr Terry Wood for his support as Chairman of the Friends' Council during a difficult time.

One member questioned the point Miss Bostock was not an elected member of Council and therefore not due for re-election as an elected member would be each year. The Chairman referred to paragraph 8B of the Constitution stating that the Chairman would be elected from the existing Council for not more than 3 consecutive years. Miss Bostock is a full member of Council having been appointed by the Archdeacon.

Mr Bailey, a member of the Friends' Council, said the Chairman is to be elected on an annual basis on the recommendation of the Friends' Council.

Miss Bostock was duly elected as the Chairman of the Friends' Council for one year.

ELECTION OF HON TREASURER

Mr Terry Wood had kindly agreed to step into the post for one year and hoped a new Honorary Treasurer would be appointed at the next AGM.

Mr Wood was duly elected as Hon. Treasurer for one year.

Mr Wood said that his thoughts and prayers were with Emma, John's widow and the family. John's funeral would be on Wednesday, 29th June at 11am at Medway Crematorium.

ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Mr Richard Abel, having notified that he was prepared to act, was appointed Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2016.

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Miss Bostock reiterated the subscriptions, management and administration costs stating they were not sustainable. The recommendation was in line with other Cathedrals and asked members to take into consideration inflation. Therefore she asked for members support.

One member suggested that the increase was rather high and some members may not renew their membership.

Other comments from members were that the increases could have been reviewed at more regular intervals, a 50% increase was too much for pensioners, or to drop the idea entirely.

The Chairman said the subscription rates had been reviewed regularly and been voted down. Now the increase needs to be a big jump.

Mrs Armitage, a member of the Friends' Council, said the Friends were set up to support the Cathedral's fabric. If members felt they were unable to continue this support then we would thank them for their past contribution and hope they would be able to become members again in the future.

Mr Bailey confirmed that the proposal could not be changed at this meeting and needed to follow the proposal as laid down in the AGM notice in accordance with the Constitution.

Following the recommendation of the Friends' Council and the majority of members at the meeting, the subscription increases were approved.

The Chairman thanked contributors of the debate for their comments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Bailey asked members to consider supporting the Cathedral by means of a Legacy.

Mrs Wallace thanked the Chairman and the Friends' Council for putting everything together quickly following the sudden death of the Honorary Treasurer.

Mr Shales brought the attention of members the Friends' Concert on Saturday 23rd July.

The Vice President announced that no other business had been notified to the Office by the notification date.

SOCIAL EVENTS ...

Markham Chesterfield, Jenny Wallace, Jill Armitage, Julian Shales & Heather Sinclair

Faversham and Belmont on April 12th

Our day visit to Faversham and Belmont House took us firstly to the town to pick up our guide for the day, Rev. Peter Lock, our former Archdeacon and a current Faversham Town Guide. After visiting the historic parish church of St Mary and a short walk around the town, we took coffee in the Sun Inn, Market Square. We then proceeded to the Gun Powder Mill on the out skirts of the town. From here we had lunch at Brogdale Fruit Farm and after lunch we said goodbye to Peter and Sue Lock. Refreshed and ready for the next foray, we drove to Belmont House where we were greeted and guided around the house and magnificent clock collection. The day ended with a delicious cream tea.

Markham

Chichester Visit June 4th 2016

A very early start-8am for our journey to Chichester. Our first glimpse of the ancient church at Bosham lifted our spirits and its interior enthralled the historians amongst us. Next we were dropped off at the Cathedral doors to visit the Flower Festival. The queue snaked in and we followed a perfumed trail of outstanding floral creations around the Cathedral. Some Friends were able to explore the Roman excavations at the Visitors Centre or stroll along the City walls. It was a day full of history and colour, one to be remembered.

Jill Armitage

Allington Castle on July 19th

Our visit to the home of Sir Robert and Lady Worcester commenced at 2 pm. Members drove themselves to the castle. We were greeted and divided into two groups; one to visit the castle and the other took an informed tour around the gardens with the Head Gardener. The tours were then reversed. A delicious cream tea was served in the magnificent Great Hall. We were very privileged to make this visit to a private home. The weather was outstanding, in the mid-twenties, at least. The afternoon was an outstanding success and enjoyed by all.

Markham

Summer Concert 23rd July

The Friends' first summer concert was attended by an audience of 280 and was cleverly titled by our retired Chairman, Terry Wood, as *Music for a Summer's Evening*. The concert was a chance to showcase the many and broad talents of the Brook Orchestra, The Medway Singers, Chorisma, Matt Whitworth on piano, Scott Farrell our Director of Music on the Cathedral's Organ and the jazz group All Right On The Night in a series of

pieces of light classics, show and film numbers and other well known items. The concert also attracted 19 new Friends who joined on the night. The next Concert is 29th July 2017.

Julian

Advent Lunch at West Malling Golf Club, November 30th

Some 60 Friends sat down to a superb lunch at West Malling Golf Club. Our guest speaker was Revd. Peter Lock, former Archdeacon. His address was most entertaining. The venue proved to be a great success and we have already booked again for 2017. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible and especially, having moved the venue to the far end of the diocese, it would be wonderful to be able to welcome Friends from this part of Kent.

Markham

DAY TRIP TO BRIGHTON – 22nd April

I watched the weather forecast anxiously for a week prior to the Friends' day visit to Brighton. It would be nice, though not essential, to have a fair day. The forecast, day after day was "DRY. FINE BUT COOLER." The day dawned, we all forgathered at the Visitors; centre Car park and IT WAS RAINING !! Nothing daunted, we set off at 9.30 am, all 45 of us on time and aboard and, as we travelled, the rain ceased and finally out came the sun.

More importantly, we had an excellent run to the coast, in the capable hands of owner-driver, Mick of MM COACHLINES, a local firm, and cheerfully painted in blue so hard to miss. Parking for the coach was a problem for our driver, as the Marine Drive was closed but we decanted in the road behind and went our different ways, most of us looking for the necessary coffee shop. It seems as though the decision of the Social Committee to make this a day completely free for whatever those on board wanted to do was a good one. The variety of activities in Brighton meant that there was plenty of choice, from ascending in the new (and frequently-breaking-down) tower, the Pavilion, Sea Life, or, like me, enjoying a happy pottering, taking in the sea air, having coffee, lunch and people-watching. Some met friends or family.



Another good journey home by 6.00pm and the feedback so far has been positive and encouraging. Having the trip on a Saturday proved what we had hoped, that younger, working people or working partners could come too, and we had a fair smattering of those on this outing.

Heather

The Statement of Financial Activities covers the year ended 31 December 2016 and the Balance Sheet shows the financial position as at that date.

The investment portfolio, managed on our behalf by Cazenove Capital Management, has increased in value over the year by 5.8% and has produced a return of 2.8%. The Association is holding unusually large cash reserves in readiness for paying further anticipated grants to the Cathedral. Other than the deposits, the investments are intended to be held long term in order to continue to generate income for the future.

In addition to dividends, our main sources of income have been from subscriptions, donations, legacies and organised events. Following Council's recommendation, and approval at the AGM in June, subscriptions have been increased for the first time in twenty years. Our expenditure is closely monitored and has not deviated materially from budget or the previous year.

My thanks go to my predecessor, John Dalley, who sadly died shortly before the 2016 AGM. He had been Hon Treasurer for ten years and most ably looked after our finances. I also thank our Administrator, Mrs Christine Tucker, for her hard work managing our office and maintaining the accounting and Friends' membership records. These, together with assistance from Richard Abel, the Independent Examiner, meant I was able to assume the task of looking after the finances of the Association with little difficulty.

The Charity Commissioners' recommended format for Charity Accounts has resulted in a large document which would be uneconomical to produce in full in this report. The figures shown are an extract from the independently examined Accounts. A full copy of these is available to any member upon request to the Administrator.

The Council of the Association of The Friends of Rochester Cathedral Registered Charity no. 273973

Report of the Officers and Members of Council

The Council submits its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

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. Income also accrues from legacies, donations, investments and organised events.

Organisation

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

Review of the year

The net outgoings for the year after Cathedral grants but before investment revaluation were £1,781. Grants paid to Rochester Cathedral totalled £71,589. The overall capital value of the investment fund has increased by £63,168, reflecting stock exchange valuations.

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Unrestricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total Funds 2016 £	<i>Total Funds 2015 £</i>
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Charitable activities				
- membership subscriptions	8,672	-	8,672	7,457
- social events	11,410	-	11,410	24,155
- publications	713	-	713	701
- book of memory	150	-	150	90
Donations and legacies	42,843	-	42,843	131,966
Investment income	30,872	-	30,872	31,398
	94,660	-	94,660	195,767
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities				
- grants to Dean and Chapter for the upkeep of Rochester Cathedral	71,589	-	71,589	17,168
- social events	8,729	-	8,729	22,999
- publications	145	-	145	-
- book of memory	100	-	100	80
- support costs	15,878	-	15,878	16,158
	96,441	-	96,441	56,405

NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE INVESTMENT

GAINS (2015: INCOME)	-1,781	-	-1,781	139,362
Net gains on investment	8,,738	54,430	63,168	31,190
NET INCOME AND MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	6,957	54,430	61,387	170,552
Total Funds Brought Forward	227,064	933,767	1,160,831	990,279
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	234,021	988,197	1,222,218	1,160,831

**THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2016**

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Investments		1,146,845		1,083,677
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	1,527		1,670	
Prepayments	686		-	
Cash at bank and in hand	77,010		82,829	
	79,223		84,499	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year				
Other creditors and accruals	3,850		7,345	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		75,373		77,154
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,222,218		1,160,831
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY				
Endowment funds		988,197		933,767
Unrestricted income funds		234,021		227,064
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		1,222,218		1,160,831

**THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

Accounting basis and standards

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 (FRS 102), adopted 1 January 2016, and applicable UK Accounting Standards and with the Charities Act 2011. All figures are stated in Sterling (£).

Support costs

	2016	2015
	£	£
Salaries (of one part time employee)	7,671	7,404
Office expenses	4,157	4,381
Printing postage and stationery	2,537	1,533
Annual Report	979	1,680
Independent examiner	534	510
Annual conference	-	650
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15,878	16,158
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Grants paid to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral

	2016	2015
	£	£
Upkeep of the Garth Gardens	7,500	
Crypt Vestry fit out	30,877	
Organ repairs	15,500	
Repairs to Precinct Walls	15,461	
Vergers' board	1,390	
Contribution to Cathedral Music Trust	561	
Educational leaflets for visitors	300	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	71,589	17,168
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Investments

The investments of the charity are managed by Cazenove Capital Management Limited, 12 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA. The investments at the end of the year comprised:

	2016	2015
	£	£
- UK and global equities	653,296	607,192
- Bonds	103,151	93,977
- Multi-asset and alternatives	150,479	168,606
- Property	51,237	51,217
- Cash	188,682	162,685
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,146,845	1,083,677
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL – APRIL TO DECEMBER 2017

Tuesday 27th June 2017

Mini-cruise to Southend on the MV Jacob Marley
Leaving Rochester pier at 9 a.m. and returning by
6.30 p.m. The cost of the trip will be £30 (please book as soon as possible if you are
interested)

Saturday 29th July 2017

Concert 'Music for a Summer's Evening' in Rochester Cathedral with the Medway Singers
and Brooke Orchestra at 7.30 p.m. Doors open 7 p.m.
Tickets are £10 and available from the Cathedral shop

Thursday 21st September 2017

A Quiz in the Crypt – 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. start.
£15 per person, tables of eight, includes fish and chip supper and a bar available. Please
contact Mrs Jenny
Wallace on (01474) 822722 or email wallacejc2016@gmail.com for tickets

Thursday 30th November 2017

St Andrew's Lunch at West Malling Golf Club
(Further details with the Autumn Newsletter)

May 2018

4 day holiday to be arranged
(Further details with the Autumn Newsletter)



Rochester Cathedral Crypt 2017