

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral



Annual Report 2017 / 2018



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT...*Chris Bostock*

Another year has sped past. I must thank my colleagues on the Council for their help and support throughout the year. At the last AGM we were delighted to welcome Peter Smith as our new Treasurer and I have said before that I am grateful to be able to leave our finances in a safe pair of hands.

It has been an interesting year getting to know, and work, with new staff in Garth House. The latest member is Rebecca Peachey who has been appointed as the Visitor Experience and Enterprise Manager (or VEEM for short). I am sure some of you know Sandy Struben who has joined Lisa Johnson in a job share as Volunteer Manager. We are grateful for the support they give, both behind the scenes and in attending events when possible.

Jill Armitage has taken over the Social Committee and we have had a number of excellent events throughout the year. We are grateful to Markham for his years as Chairman and all his hard work on our behalf, and for his continued support. I have

reported on some of our events in the autumn and Christmas newsletters. Last year I mentioned the Allington Castle 'self drive' trip which we have decided to repeat for our visit to Cobham Hall.

We are extremely grateful to Julian Shales who has done us proud in designing posters for our events. Publicity Committee have continued their work in ensuring the task of reviewing our printed material. We are expecting to have one of those advertising 'flags' to raise the awareness of the Friends.

The Friends paid for the servery in the crypt which is a real bonus. I am sure you know the Tea Rooms closed last year but we are delighted that the servery has made it possible to have catering or a bar in the crypt for events. It has also been possible open a tea station in the crypt for visitors. The crypt is a definite "Wow!" factor for our visitors..

We continue to work with Chapter on their 'wish list' to see what future financial help we can offer. Within the Church of England every church building must be inspected by an approved architect or chartered building surveyor every five years. The Cathedral Quinquennial Inspection is due soon so I am sure there will be unexpected items identified.

You will see in the Forthcoming Events that we have Oberammergau booked for 2020. It may seem early to be advertising this but we really do need to have bookings. This one in a decade event gets booked up really quickly so we need to keep the option. Please do consider joining us, if you have not already booked.

The other major item is the new Data Protection Law, which comes into effect in May. Everyone has to give permission for us to keep ANY personal information; completing an enrolment form is not enough because permission must be overt so please return the enclosed form to us. If you do not we will not be able to contact you with the Newsletters, or send an invitation to events, or even the AGM. You will find an explanation on page ????

Finally thank you all for your support in the past and I look forward to receiving your permission form so we can maintain contact.

With Best Wishes.

Chris

Please read the back cover for what you need to do to continue to support the Friends to support Rochester Cathedral. Please do return the enclosed consent form so that we can keep in touch.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dean Dr Philip Hesketh

It is my privilege, as President of The Friends of Rochester Cathedral, to contribute to this report and thank The Friends for all the support and hard work that has been given over this past year. Each time I go into the Crypt and see the servery I thank the Friends for making it all possible. The servery has made such an enormous difference to the way the Crypt is used. We are now able to book external events and so have created a new and much needed revenue stream, as well as providing a wonderful space for internal events. In this past financial year The Friends have contributed a total of £180,000 for items desperately needed by the Cathedral to enable mission and growth and urgent conservation and maintenance.

It is a joy that the Friends are able to raise funds and at the same time create an excellent base for fellowship and friendship. The feeling of warmth and friendliness was ideally demonstrated at the quiz night with a fish-and-chip supper last September. A really enjoyable evening, even if the 'Dean's Dynamos' didn't get on the leader board. A most exciting and imaginative development is giving ten-year membership to members of Ibasho (a Cathedral fellowship group for 15 to 20 yrs). Do read the full details later in this report. I know that the Council of The Association of The Friends has four vacancies and is actively looking for nominations. I hope that, perhaps, younger members may be attracted to be nominated and get involved with the valuable work of The Friends and its future.

I'm delighted that the Precentor, Matthew Rushton has accepted the role of Vice President of The Council, and that Simon Lace (Chapter Clerk and Executive Director) has agreed to attend council meetings and help provide a more coherent fund raising strategy across the Cathedral. Within the Cathedral's five-year Development Plan we are aiming for all areas of the Cathedral to work better together and to respond positively to the recent Cathedral Working Groups report on long term sustainability and better governance of English Cathedrals. We await the final report and its recommendations.

Finally, thank you for being a Friend of Rochester Cathedral and for your continuing support.

Philip

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT ... Mrs Christine Tucker

Our total membership as at 31 December 2017 is 947 composed as follows:

407	Life Members	16	Schools and Colleges
392	Ordinary Members	3	Companies
4	Families	107	PCCs
18	Associations		

During the financial year (1 January 2017 – 31 December 2017) we have welcomed 26 new members, 23 Ordinary, 1 Corporate, 2 Life Members as listed below. 49 members have either resigned or, despite our best efforts to trace them, have not renewed their membership.

New Members

Mrs P Abbott	Mrs Y J Lane
Mrs A Austin	Miss C E Mann
Mr D Bromley	Sir Robert Nelson
Mrs L Bromley	Lady Anne-Marie Nelson
Butterfly Funeral Services	Mrs E O'Donoghue
Mr I Colvin	Revd Canon R Phillips
Mr E Gilbert	Mr P R Sinclair-Osenton
Mrs H Gilbert	Brigadier N Thompson
Mr C Girling	Mrs M Thompson
Mrs J Girling	Mr S Tranter
Mr N Goodhand	Mrs S Tranter
Mr A Gray	Ms G Waugh
Mrs S Gray	Mrs D Wilman

We are grateful to those Friends who have adjusted their subscriptions to bring them into line with the new rates agreed in 2016. May I use this space to send a gentle reminder to those who have not yet made the change.

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 15 members.

Mrs C Aitken

Mrs U B Babbington

Mrs A Chambers

Miss D M Chaundy

Dr S J Cox

Mr G R Speed

Mrs B J Gerard-Pearse

Mr R Gibbs

Mr I Goodhew

Mrs P Holder

Mr M O'Donoghue

The Rt Hon The Lord Rochester

Mr M G Simmonds

Rear Admiral J R S Gerard-Pearse CB

Mr J M Taylor



A POTTED HISTORY OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN ENGLAND ... Dave Maxwell

Stained glass windows are sometimes said to be paintings in glass; not so! Paintings are conceived by applying coloured pigments to a solid surface upon which light is reflected; creating stained glass windows utilizes the transmission of light through coloured material.

Stained glass, as a material, is typically glass that has been coloured, usually, by adding to molten glass some powdered oxide, sulphide, or other compound of a metal. This coloured glass is called pot-metal. Hand painting both clear and coloured glass and yellow staining (called 'grisaille') is also used as a means of enhancing a design, for example, delineating heads and folds in material.

A stained glass window is made up of pieces of coloured glass arranged to form patterns or pictures, held together by grooved strips of lead (called 'comes') and supported by rigid frames.

There are various ways of achieving flat pieces of the clear or coloured glass. Two randomly chosen methods call for a lump of molten glass to be blown into either a long, cylindrical shape, or into a metal box: the former being opened up along its length whilst still malleable, producing one flat piece of glass and the latter achieving six pieces of flat glass.

Any person or organisation showing an interest in acquiring a stained glass window must choose a studio (sometimes called an atelier). The firm's artist will prepare watercolour sketches and then the chosen design is drawn out, full-size, on paper (called a cartoon), showing the size, shape and position of every single piece of glass. Then the studio cuts and organises both coloured and clear glass pieces on to the cartoon. The pieces are joined together using grooved lead comes into manageable panels which are eventually wired onto the metal fixing bars.

The early history of stained glass in England is scarce and often speculative. The earliest examples of stained glass date from the Anglo Saxon period. Archaeologists recovered pieces of white and coloured glass from sites in Wearmouth and Jarrow where new monastic buildings were being constructed, probably between AD 650 and 700. These pieces of glass must have been imported from the eastern Mediterranean (the main centre of glass manufacture at that time), or perhaps salvaged from abandoned Roman buildings. Any evidence of glass making in England during Anglo Saxon times is almost non-existent.

For the history of medieval glass in England we must move to the Norman Period, but there are very few examples remaining due to natural degradation caused by weather, ravages of time and natural disasters, plus depredation from war and religious iconoclasm. Four windows in Canterbury Cathedral (1100-60) are amongst the earliest

examples of complete medieval stained glass windows in England. They used the colouring techniques described above. The old, traditional methods of working with stained glass tended to be lost, only to be rediscovered in the Nineteenth Century. Rochester Cathedral has only two examples of medieval glass: two small windows constructed from broken pieces of glass, possibly French. Unfortunately, these windows are currently in storage.

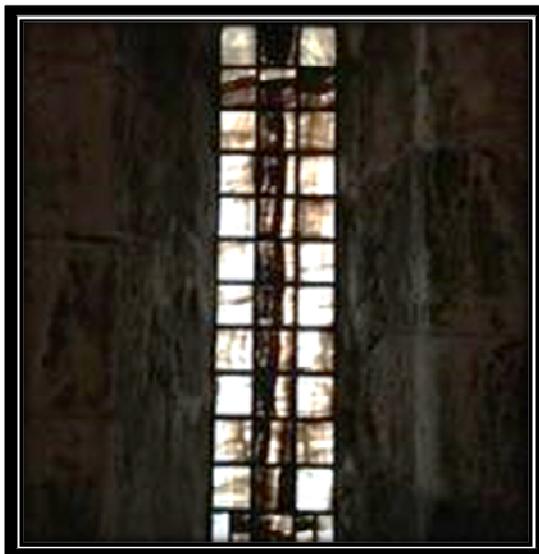


The history of stained glass in England between the Norman and the Tudor periods covers too much detail to describe in such a short article but, in brief, glaziers needed to adapt to new architectural styles, for example in window sizes and shapes. English glaziers followed trends in France, Germany and Spain and there was an influx of foreign glaziers. New processes were conceived such as complex grisaille ornamentation and painting glass with an enamel produced by adding a colouring agent to ground glass. The enamel is painted onto clear glass and then fired, fusing it with the surface of the glass. Silver-staining was another discovery: painting silver nitrate onto clear glass that, after firing, turns the glass into various shades from yellow, through orange to red. Gradually, painting windows became the norm. Interestingly, during the Fifteenth Century, English stained-glass artists tended to use versions of what was called the International Style, producing windows of partly or entirely delicately painted, and silver-stained white glass. After the Reformation in England, stained glass windows were regarded as profane and large numbers of windows throughout England were destroyed. The flow of commissions diminished and did not entirely resume until the nineteenth century. However, for a brief period in the late seventeenth century, art studios attempted to paint windows in an effort to make them look like oil paintings.

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the Gothic Revival engendered an increasing interest in late medieval architecture and other art forms, including stained glass windows. The processing of pot-metal was rediscovered by workshops eager to produce windows copying medieval designs for fitting into neo gothic churches. This was also a time of reappraisal in the Anglican Church: its ecclesiastical design and decoration as well as its liturgy. Consequentially, there was an impressive increase in the number of firms providing windows in new styles too including Clayton & Bell and Burlison & Grylls, often using bold designs and spectacular colours. As an example of this resurgence, having done some work for Clayton and Bell, Charles Eamer Kempe set up his own workshop. In 1899 he was employing around fifty staff and during the life of his workshop supplying over 4,000 windows, mostly in parish churches and Cathedrals.

Rochester Cathedral is the home of an exemplary display of so called 'Victorian glass', forty six windows were supplied by Clayton & Bell, six by Burlison & Grylls, four each by Kempe and Powell and one each by Comper, Forsyth & Grylls, A. Gibbs and Hardman. Finally, an anachronism. At the eastern end of the south nave aisle, high up in the wall, is a tiny window. It is fashioned from leaded pieces of Sienna Onyx with darker pieces in the shape of a cross and was gifted to the Cathedral by Canon Livett in 1929.

For further information and reading there is a former Friends booklet entitled '**Rochester Cathedral Windows**' and a Pitkin booklet on Stained Glass, both on sale in the Cathedral shop.



Dave Maxwell

Steward and Member of the Friends Council



Rochester Cathedral has just opened its brand new 'Café in the Crypt' in the recently restored Cathedral Crypt. The Served, which was paid for by the Friends, make it a really lovely place to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake. It's being run by our volunteers and all takings go straight back to Rochester Cathedral. It is open 11 - 3 on Monday to Saturday. As an extra incentive to encourage you all to come and visit we'd like to offer a free cup of tea or coffee upon production of this page to say thank you for being a Friend of Rochester Cathedral. This offer is valid until the 1st September and can only be redeemed once.

I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Rebecca Peachey and I've just started working at Rochester Cathedral. My role is the brand new position of 'Visitor Experience and Enterprise Manager.' I'll be looking after Marketing, Education, Bookings, Volunteers as well as leading on our Retail and Catering offers.

This is my first role working in a Cathedral. I've previously worked within the Heritage industry, most recently I worked for Historic Royal Palaces at Banqueting House.

Rochester Cathedral is such a beautiful and fascinating place with so much potential. I'm really looking forward to developing and building on what we already offer our visitors.

Rebecca Peachey
Cathedral Visitor Experience and Enterprise Manager

Please read the back cover for what you need to do to continue to support the Friends to support Rochester Cathedral. Please do return the enclosed consent form so that we can keep in touch.

In September 2017, after six years during which the Cathedral experienced many of the highs and all of the lows associated with a major capital project, the Hidden Treasures; Fresh Expressions project was finally signed off by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The many lessons to be learned can be summed up in one simple equation;

$$\text{Complexity} + \text{Cathedral} = \text{Complexity}^2!$$

The construction problems which delayed and extended the project meant that a number of key objectives couldn't be achieved within the original budget envelope. Despite additional support from the Heritage Lottery Fund several elements of the scheme had to be temporarily omitted in order to bring the main construction phase to a close.

Although the Crypt was opened with a fanfare in November 2016 we were painfully aware that much still remained to be done to complete the project. We are therefore very grateful to the Friends of Rochester Cathedral for once again demonstrating their superb support of our Mission by providing an extraordinarily generous donation of £180,000 which has allowed the Collyer Ferguson Room, the crypt servery and the Gundulf side-crypt to be completed and finished to such a high standard.

The servery is now in regular use both as a serving point for dinners and receptions and as the focal point of our new volunteer-led Cafe in the Crypt which continues a centuries old tradition of Benedictine hospitality and gives the wonderfully restored Crypt a new focus and purpose.

Completion of the work on the side crypt has finally allowed the original design concept for the Treasury exhibition area to be delivered. Visitors to the exhibition will enter by the new door and be introduced to Textus with a short film featuring historian Michael Wood. A hidden, but vital component of the work in the side-crypt, has been forming the link between the air-handling equipment and the main crypt.

For over 80 years the Friends has been a vitally important link between the Cathedral and its community, providing assistance, support and encouragement. The link has always been strong but now, in a time of renewed energy and imagination in the life of the Cathedral, we're looking forward to working ever more closely with our Friends to strengthen that bond.

Simon Lace

Chapter Clerk – Cathedral Executive Director

Radar survey of the cloister area at Rochester Cathedral

Introduction

Most people will be familiar with radar (**R**adio **D**etection and **R**anging, or **R**adio **D**irection and **R**anging) in the context of the detection and tracking of objects such as aeroplanes and ships. The method uses radio waves to determine and measure the range, angle and speed of a target, often across extraordinary distances. Fewer people will realise that radar is also a very useful survey tool for archaeologists because the radio waves can be directed downwards into the ground rather than up into the air – hence the term ground-penetrating radar, or GPR for short (talk to an archaeologist for any length of time and you will soon realise that we love acronyms ...). When the waves hit a buried target such as a wall, this can be detected as a distinct change in the reflected radar signal. If more of these reflections are found, the radar will start to build up a picture of the buried building (rather than the flight path of an aeroplane).

Radar has several great advantages for archaeologists. First, it is non-destructive, causing no damage to the ground. More importantly, hard surfaces like paving or concrete are usually no impediment – GPR sees right through them, unlike standard geophysical survey methods such as earth resistance and magnetometry, which do not work in such conditions. The method also works to much greater depths – usually around 2.5m-3m, whereas other methods struggle to penetrate beyond 1m. At the moment GPR is also unique in providing three-dimensional imaging, in other words a series of plans of what has been detected at different depths below surface. These are referred to as ‘time slices’. This is priceless for archaeologists because it equates well with the idea of stratigraphy – broadly speaking, that something buried deeply is usually older than something at shallow depth. GPR can therefore be an extremely useful tool for archaeologists. There can be drawbacks, of course: the sheer quantity of data being collected means that collating and interpreting it is time-consuming and thus expensive (as well as requiring considerable skill). There is also no guarantee that GPR will work – the results can be quite disappointing, especially so if you have committed a few thousand pounds to doing the work!

Fortunately I did not need to worry about cost, at least, when I was successful in winning a free GPR survey in SUMO's Great Summer Competition during 2017. I had put forward a very strong research proposal to examine the cloister area at Rochester Cathedral. Our discovery of early Norman foundations here in 2015 during the Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions work (see Annual Report for 2016) had been tantalising. How far did those foundations extend, and what might they represent? Winning the SUMO competition gave me the perfect chance to test this with GPR. Most of the cloister is protected in law as a Scheduled Monument, so permission was needed to carry out the survey. Historic England were as keen as us to learn more about the 2015 discoveries, so they readily

granted us the necessary licence. Thus on 25 and 26 September 2017, SUMO Stratascan surveyed four areas: the cloister garth and its surrounding walkways, the raised area on the west side of the cloister, the Chapter House, and the courtyard/car park on the south-west side of the Old Deanery (the site of the medieval monks' dormitory, or Dorter). Despite challenges such as survey areas at different heights and some small/narrow areas (especially the east and north cloister walks), it very soon became clear that the results were good.



Figure 1: Richard Fleming of SUMO Stratascan surveying the north cloister walk, with the Chapter House in the background. Mounting the survey antenna on a small cart meant that the ground could be covered quickly despite the often fiddly nature of the survey area.

Results

Stratascan provided me with the full set of timeslices for each area, both as individual images and in animated versions which provide the remarkable experience of seeing the entire 2.5m-3m depth of archaeology gradually being 'stripped' away. The link to these animations (and the full report) is at:

<https://rochestercathedralresearchguild.org/bibliography/2017-20/>

– simply click on ‘archive report’ or ‘radar animations’ at the heading ‘view/download PDF’.

GPR’s capability for seeing to considerable depths was crucial, because the remains found in the north cloister walk and the north-east corner of the cloister in 2015 were about 0.8m-1m below the lawn in the garth. We had only been able to record the tops of the foundations, because they had been exposed at the limit of the depth needed for the HTFE works. Preliminary results from the first day’s work showed that the walls of the old Prebendal House in the south-west corner of the garth were easily identifiable in the upper 0.6m of the survey data, while drains or pipes were evident in all the areas. Even tree roots showed up clearly in the garth. Even at 0.45m some clear linear features could be seen along the north and east sides of the garth. Were these only Victorian footpaths, or were they a hint of what lay beneath?

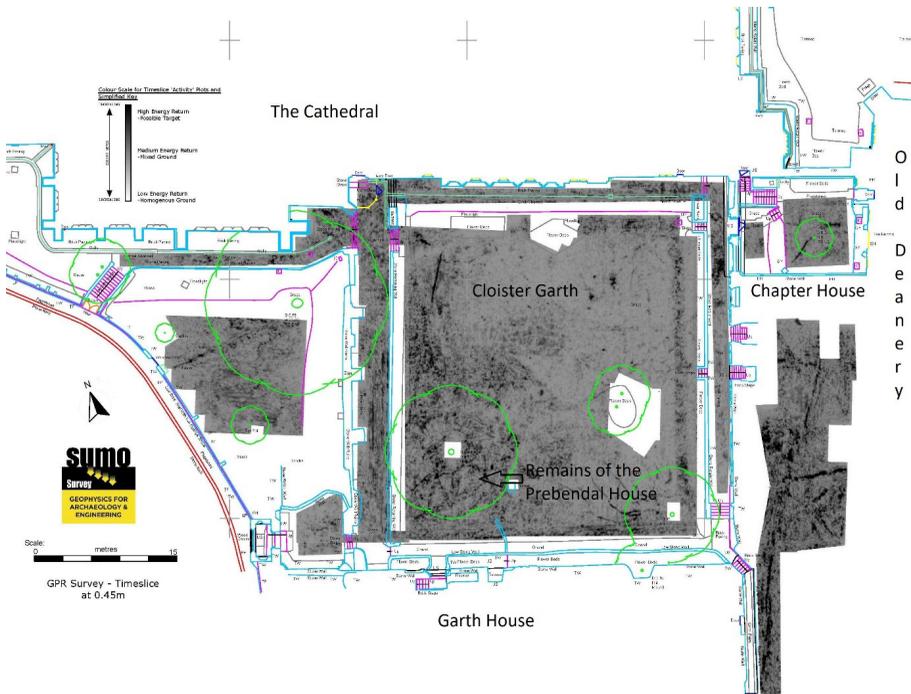


Figure 2: The locations of the four survey areas are shown on this time-slice plan at a depth of 0.45m below ground. Some modern services, tree roots and the walls of the early 19th-century Prebendal House all show up clearly, proving that the GPR was effective.

In the garth, the northern and eastern features ‘fade’ slightly as the depth approaches 1m – but by this stage it was hard to see them as simply paths: after all, they were already more than 0.5m thick. Things became steadily more interesting immediately below 1m – the same depth at which we saw the early Norman remains in 2015. For a

start, features running parallel and at right-angles to both of the higher ones become clearly apparent, as shown on Figures 3 and 4. These were extensive and substantial, with a north-south building on the east side of the garth being especially impressive. Remarkably, this had an extension eastward at its north end, seemingly with a polygonal apse (now under the east cloister walk). Further buildings or features are present on the north and west sides of the garth as well. The features along the east side continue to depths of c 2.3m, but most of the others seem to stop short of this – around 1.5m below ground.





Figures 3-4: These images present the GPR data at depths of 1.2m and 1.6m. The higher time-slice shows extensive features on the east and north sides of the garth, as well as on the raised area to its west and in the Chapter House. At 1.6m the eastern range and the buildings on the raised area are still very clear (note the polygonal features at the north end of the east cloister walk in both images), but the northern buildings have faded from sight.

Interpretation

One question needs to be addressed before considering the nature of the remains found by the GPR. Why aren't they Roman? The old city wall of that date forms the rear (south) side of the cloister, after all, and must still have been a standing feature in Saxon and Norman times. There are several answers to this. The most important one comes from the 2015 excavations. The foundations revealed there had been cut into a 'dark earth' layer, which in turn overlay a Roman topsoil. We saw the same sequence in a test pit dug at the north-east corner of the cloister walks in 2012. These dark earth layers are quite common features in Roman towns, forming once they had passed into disuse (or at best minor habitation) after the end of Roman rule. Dating evidence from them is rare, but everything about the Rochester example points to a post-Roman/Anglo-Saxon date. Just as important, the shelly mortar used for some of the foundations is typical of Norman work in Rochester. At a more circumstantial level, the location just inside the walled town seems odd for what would have been an extremely large building for Roman Rochester – though to be fair we are hampered here by the surprisingly limited evidence for the city in this period. There would also have been an earth rampart inside the wall from the late second century AD, which would have restricted any building work here from then until the medieval era.

Unfortunately, but as expected, no clear evidence for the Anglo-Saxon cathedral complex was found. The distinctive alignment of the building remains found under and east of the West Front, if continued elsewhere, would be very distinctive. Alas, no such remains were found.

So we return to the features found in the cloister garth. In my 2016 report pointed out that the foundations we had found in the north cloister walk and garth had to be earlier than the surviving remains of the east cloister range and Chapter House. Opinion is still divided about the exact date of these, but for current purposes we can suggest a date of around 1120-1150. We had discovered something earlier, and I suggested in 2016 that the remains we had found then might belong to Bishop Gundulf's work. There were some problems in how to interpret what we had found, but many of those have gone away with the GPR results. In particular, we can now see that the 'narrow' building we thought might have been his Chapter House was much wider than the excavations suggested (albeit on evidence from very narrow drain trenches). It also sits across the north end of a long building range stretching south along most of the garth. The GPR data isn't clear about how the south end of this range was finished off: there is no obvious trace of a south wall. Evidence for a southern cloister range in front of the Roman city wall is also limited, although a broad rectangular feature to the west of the east range at a depth of 1.2m (see Figure 3) might belong to such a range (perhaps of timber?). This would probably leave room for the Roman wall's internal rampart to have survived as well. These are questions which will have to wait for an answer. We can say with reasonable confidence, however, that an earlier Norman cloister has been found, inside and thus a little smaller than the current one. The west and south cloister ranges

may well have been common to both versions: if so, the early-mid 12th-century version only needed to be enlarged to the east. As for the features found on the north side of the garth, these may well have been associated with gardens and other facilities within this first Norman cloister. All in all these are remarkable results, and they certainly demonstrate why some sites like the cloister need to be protected as Scheduled Monuments.

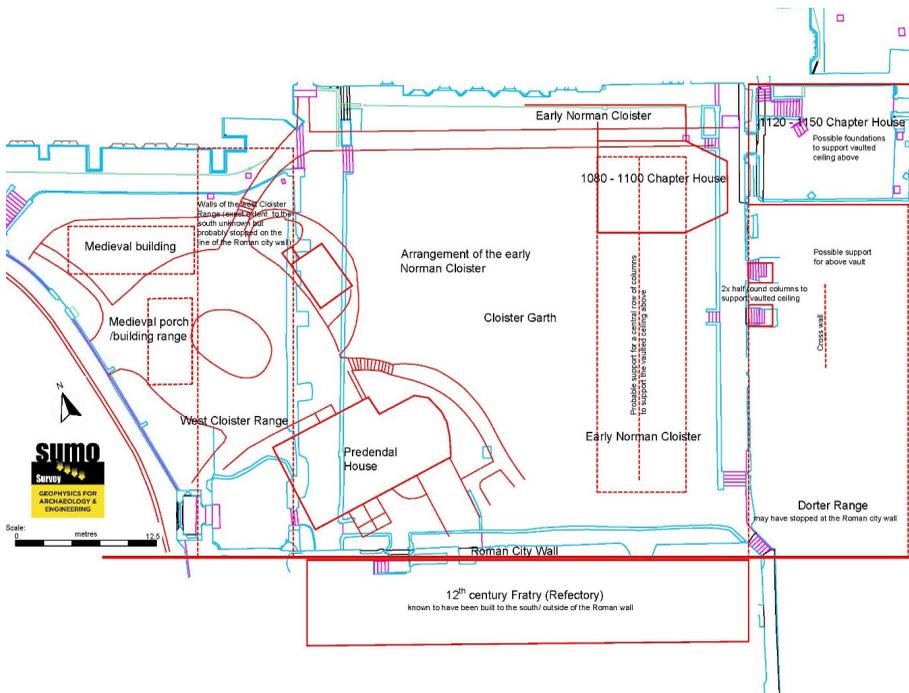


Figure 6: Interpretation of the GPR data showing the layout of the earlier Norman cloister as revealed by the survey, later medieval remains, and the early 19th-century Prebendal House. This has been simplified for clarity, and does not include all of the archaeological detail found in the 2015 excavation.

Figures 2-6 are adapted from those provided in the original Stratascan report. I am extremely grateful to David Elks, Richard Fleming and Magdalena Udyrsz of SUMO Stratascan for their excellent work on this project. More information about Stratascan's work can be found at <https://www.sumoservices.com/stratascan/>. I am also grateful to Alan Ward for commenting on an earlier draft of this article.

Graham Keevill, Cathedral Archaeologist

New researches and resources

The Research Guild has continued its support of the work of the Cathedral Archaeologist and the Surveyor of the Fabric in researching and recording the building's architectural and artistic features to aid their interpretation and conservation. In doing so it carries out recording and analytical work that the Cathedral Chapter could not realistically commission in any other way within its limited resources. Archive reports, photographs and key plans are made available freely on the Guild's website:

www.rochestercathedralresearchguild.org

The Guild's flagship project over the past year has been the continued recording of the cathedral's collection of medieval and post-medieval graffiti. In the last annual report I provided an overview of results from the photographic survey of a thirteenth-century decorative scheme adorning the piers in the nave and the walls of the quire and crypt, containing over 100 human and animal figures in scenes from the bible. Since that time of writing more figures from the same sequence have been identified and recorded, the most intriguing of these discovered on the west facade (fig. 1). These artist sketches strongly suggest that the west facade of Rochester Cathedral was decorated with elaborate murals, as perhaps were cathedrals elsewhere.

The only other form of graffiti at Rochester which had previously attracted any academic interest before recent surveys is a group of medieval votive ships on the fourth furthest west pier in the south nave arcade (Fig. 2). But the cathedral is rich in surviving examples of most categories of graffiti outlined in Matthew Champion's 2015 *Medieval Graffiti*, an overview of recent research in the field. Champion draws upon Violet Pritchard's *English Medieval Graffiti* (1967) and the recent work of the Norfolk Medieval Graffiti Survey. These identifications of common graffiti types have been used in cataloguing and interpreting the collection at Rochester.

Early estimates from these recent surveys suggest some three thousand graffiti survive at Rochester Cathedral in total, dating from the mid-twelfth to the twenty-first centuries. The corpus includes 180 arc, circle and multifoil graffiti, thirty-five cross and crucifix, 15 votive ships and a diverse array of other heraldic and pictorial designs, 127 possible examples of cult marks, 117 inscriptions featuring a decorative border and a plethora of other dates, names, symbols and text. Analysed en masse this corpus can provide insight into the art, rituals and beliefs of the worshippers at the site over the last 800 years.

About a third of all symbolic graffiti recorded to date within the building are those described throughout Europe as 'daisy wheels', 'compass-drawn designs' or 'hexafoil'. Concentric circles, sexfoil, hexafoil and more intricate designs are all represented in some number.



Fig. 1. Fragmentary remains of the thirteenth-century figurative decorative scheme on the west facade, thought to depict (A) the Virgin Mary, (B) the Baptism of Christ, (C) an unknown standing figure in crown/headdress, (D) the eagle emblem of St John and (E) Palm Sunday.



Fig. 2. Medieval ship graffiti on the fourth furthest west pier in the south nave arcade. The clustering of this graffiti has previously been suggested to indicate a nearby altar or shrine to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of those in peril on the sea (see Jones-Baker in Friends' annual report 1987).

designs in particular appear in enough numbers that clustering around spiritually significant areas within the building can be observed. Six such clusters have been identified to date. Some thirty examples have been recorded in proximity to the earlier site of the altar to St Nicholas in the nave between its original construction until c.1240. This latter date perhaps provides a terminus ante quem for this cluster. The ashlar piers on which this cluster resides were recased or rebuilt in the 1140s, offering a terminus post quem. St John Hope's conjectural plan of the Romanesque building suggests the rood screen was located across nave piers N5 and S5. Although relatively spaced out, this cluster sits primarily on the pier also featuring images of monks, a four-legged beast and a small hand. These were likewise created from a kneeling position.



Fig. 3. Cluster of votive geometric designs created from a kneeling position, possibly in proximity to the site of the medieval font for protection against evil spirits

There is a very significant cluster of arc, circle and multifoil graffiti on and near nave pier S1 (fig. 3). In contrast to most other clusters of this form identified within the building these were created from a standing height. The radiuses of these designs is also much larger than those in other clusters at Rochester. It seems likely the feature to which these designs were created near was of a different nature than those of other clusters and so were created with a different intention. Alternately, they could have been created with different tools.

Champion describes an observed relationship between apparently apotropaic arc, circle and multifoil designs and fonts (2015a, 39-42). Apotropaic symbols are those created with the intention of warding-off evil spirits and bad luck. Baptism in the middle ages

was seen as physical removal of sin and bad spirits, which would then need to escape the church. Some churches still leave the north door of the church open during baptism ceremonies for this purpose, the supposed preferred exit for such spirits. Arc, circle and multifoil designs would then serve as a means of protection from these spirits, presumably for the family members and assembled congregations. Given this relationship between these designs and baptism elsewhere, this cluster may have been created in proximity to the site of the medieval or early modern font.

All photographs, digital traces and key plans are available online. Aside from these reports on the Guild's recent researches, past technical reports and academic publications have been published online detailing archaeological excavations, medieval paint conservation and a series of transcriptions and translations of texts from the *Textus Roffensis* by Dr Chris Monk. The Research Guild has also been transcribing and translating an assortment of Latin texts within the Textus and Custumale under Chris' supervision. Almost one half of the Textus has now been fully translated. The Guild also works closely with the Friends of Rochester Cathedral in digitising and republishing the trove of information contained within their annual reports dating from 1936 to the present day.

As well as the creation of these resources, researches have to date have culminated in an article covering the pictorial and symbolic graffiti for the country's archaeological journal *Archaeologia Cantiana*, due for publication in June this year. A short article was written by Dan Graham and published in the winter edition of *Bygone Kent* magazine featuring an initial overview of results from the surveys of dates, names and text graffiti. A further article for *Archaeologia Cantiana* is in preparation for publication next year. Many other features of interest have been uncovered by work over the last year. Keep an eye open for future presentations and publications of the Research Guild's work.

Jacob Scott

Please read the back cover for what you need to do to continue to support the Friends to support Rochester Cathedral. Please do return the enclosed consent form so that we can keep in touch.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL'S SUNDAY CLUB AND THE IBASHO GROUP - SUPPER IN THE DEANERY KITCHEN



The Very Reverend Dr Philip Hesketh (centre), the Dean of Rochester Cathedral and President of the Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral, with some of the members of the Cathedral's Sunday Club Ibasho group (for 15-20plus-year-olds). Dr Sugina Hesketh (far right) is the Co-ordinator of the Sunday Club. Far left is Mrs Bridget Langstaff and far right is Alexander Wallace - both Sunday Club and Ibasho leaders. Mrs Pia Carnall, another of the leaders, is taking the photograph.

The event was to celebrate all members of Ibasho being made honorary Friends for ten years. Future years of Ibasho will also be made honorary Friends of Rochester Cathedral.

The name Ibasho means 'safe place' in Japanese, and was chosen by the inaugural members of the group. Ibasho usually meets on the first Sunday of every month, from 5 to 7 pm, for food, fellowship, and to work through the Youth Emmaus course.

Rochester Cathedral's Sunday Club is co-ordinated by Sugina Hesketh and meets in the Crypt during the Cathedral's 10:30 am Sunday Eucharist. It is divided into three age groups: Seekers (up to 6 years old); Discoverers (6 to 11 years) and Frogs (11 years and upwards). Many Ibasho members are Frog regulars as well.

Ibasho comprises: Claudia Carnall; Samuel Ryan; Daryl Briggs; Johannes Sadler; Ivan George; Isaac Matthews; Cameron Duncan; Finlay Duncan; Jack Mauritis; Harvey Chandler and Laura Hesketh.

A warm welcome to all members of Ibasho from The Friends of Rochester Cathedral.

Apology first. Unfortunately, my health has been below par recently and as a consequence I have not fulfilled my role adequately. Our chairman has had to step in to deal with the five- day holiday to Liverpool and some of the usual communications with members about events has not coincided fully with newsletters. This has meant a lot of work for our Administrator. She has been asked to complete tasks which I should have done, for which I apologise. Plans have however gone ahead and, at the time of writing, we have several events to look forward to:-

- 1) Friday 6th April at 2:30 pm Self- drive visit to Cobham Hall with afternoon tea £12.
- 2) Monday 21st-25th May Liverpool Holiday.
- 3) Thursday 5th July Hampton Court Flower Show and River trip.
- 4) Saturday 25th August a visit to Hatfield House.

Some views of our recent and wonderful Cobham Hall Visit arranged by Markham Chesterfield with photographs courtesy of Markham Chesterfield and Chris Bostock:



Jill Armitage

A PRECIS OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

The A.G.M. was held in The King's School Hall, The Precinct, Rochester On Saturday 17th June 2017. 56 Members Were Present.

The President, The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from 37 members.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 June 2016, having previously been circulated, were signed by the President as a correct record.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The President said today we celebrate the 'Great Get Together' in memory of the late Jo Cox MP. We exist to bring people together both socially and spiritually, old and young, man and woman in reflection of the kingdom. Meeting today encourages people to make new friends. All nations should come to life and draw people together.

The Abrams concert held on 29 May was well supported and encouraged by the Friends to reach a young and diverse group of people. The Cathedral was full and it was an opportunity to know about the Friends. With thanks to the Friends a profit has been possible.

The President said he was delighted to have a full team with a new Chapter Clerk, Simon Lace and two Canons Matthew Rushton and Rachel Phillips. Matthew has kindly agreed to be our Vice-President.

Looking forward to a fresh start with a closer working relationship with the Friends, the Chapter will be having a residential on the 3/4 July. The Chairman and Hon Treasurer will be attending on one of the days to discuss the future direction and a new 5 year plan.

It is an exciting time in the life of the Cathedral.

The President thanked everyone for their support.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked the President for his address.

This past year had been a privilege and some things had been a headache but the Chairman said she was grateful that Simon, Matthew and Rachel had joined the team and was looking forward to the future. She welcomed them to their first Friends' AGM and all other first timers.

The Chairman thanked Alan McLean and Alf Philpott, both retiring from the Friends' Council saying they had contributed a huge amount to the Council. She thanked the rest of the Council for their support and continuing relationship with them.

As reported in the Annual Report the Chairman had welcomed 120 Friends from Cologne Cathedral who toured the Cathedrals of Southern England at the beginning of May. They were celebrating their 175th Anniversary and enjoyed their tour of Rochester Cathedral. During their time in England the Chairman was invited to dinner with them in Ashford where she was presented with an unusual gift from the occasion of a limited edition (No. 72) hammer. It was disappointing to learn three other Cathedrals had been invited to the event but did not respond.

A group of 51 Friends had a successful holiday to York in May and the Chairman thanked Markham Chesterfield for planning the visit. A day cruise to Southend on the Jacob Marley was planned for the 27 June with 60 bookings so far.

Last year our Chairman, Terry Wood, tracked down a Dean Hole Rose cutting and Hadlow College were able to produce three plants which are now in the care of Scott our Gardener. We now need to track down a Reynold Hole Rose and a Rochester Cathedral Rose and Scott has been checking out the current roses in the Garth.

Following our holiday to Hereford in 2016 a small group of Friends met with Father Luke, Prior of Rochester, but we have since learned that he has died. The new Prior of Rochester is Father Francis Straw and is based at Buckfast Abbey.

The Chairman gave thanks to the chairmen of the sub-committees and to Terry Wood for taking over as Treasurer from the late John Dalley. He is now handing over to Treasurer elect Peter Smith. Markham Chesterfield is stepping down as Chairman of the Social Committee this year. The Chairman said she was extremely grateful for their help and work on these Committees.

A vote of thanks was expressed from the floor to the Administrator for her work and the recent sudden move to Garth House.

The President said the change of circumstances for the Friends' Office move were due to the closure of the Tearooms and the necessity to relocate the Administrator to Garth House for safety reasons as she could not remain on her own in the building. Thanks were given to Canon Paul Francis for giving up his desk for the Friends.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer, Peter Smith, Treasurer elect, said the Accounts were set out in the Annual Report for the year to 31 December 2016.

The acceptance of the Accounts were examined by Richard Abel and set out in the Report for the year to 31st December 2016. As there were no questions from the floor their acceptance were approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF THREE COUNCIL MEMBERS

There were four vacancies on the Council following the retirement of Alan McLean and Alf Philpott. Julian Shales and Heather Sinclair offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected for a further three years together with Nicholas Allan.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

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

ELECTION OF HON TREASURER

With only one nomination received, Peter Smith was elected as Hon Treasurer for one year.

ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Richard Abel, having notified that he was prepared to act, was appointed Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

The President took questions and notices from the floor.

As the bells had been playing beautifully throughout our meeting it was suggested that the Captain of the bells be thanked. A quarter peel had been traditionally rung for our Festival annually for many years and was very much appreciated by our members. A letter of thanks has followed on each occasion.

The President updated members on the completion of the Servedy which would be finished by the beginning of September and the difficulties with the disabled access due

to the drainage problems which incurred in the Garth. Hopefully this will be resolved in the near future.

The President was advised of the existence of a Dean Hole Rose found in Hitchin. He would investigate this further.

Members were reminded of a Friends' Quiz arranged for 21 September in the Crypt including a fish and chip supper.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held at 2pm on Saturday, 16 June 2018.

TREASURER'S REPORT ... Peter Smith, Hon Treasurer

The Statement of Financial Activities is for the year ended 31st December 2017.

The Investment Portfolio has increased by £41,190 due to Stock Market fluctuations and Global Market trends. An annual investment return of 2.8% was achieved.

In addition to dividends, the main sources of income have been from subscriptions, donations, legacies and organised events.

During the year £1,419 was received from HMRC as a tax refund in respect of Gift Aid.

Legacies received during the year totalled £50,877.

All expenditure continues to be closely monitored and financial results meet budget expectations in all areas.

Thanks go to Mrs Christine Tucker for her hard work and for her continued efforts in the management of the office and control of expenditure 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 31st December 2017. Independently Examined copies of the full accounts will be available to any member upon request.

Peter J Smith
Hon Treasurer

Report of the Officers and Members of Council

The Council submits its report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017.

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, donations 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 net outgoings for the year, after Cathedral grants but before investment revaluation, were £919.

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 overall capital value of the fund has increased by £40,271 over the year reflecting stock exchange valuations.

The grants paid to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral during the year were:-

	£
Upkeep of Garth Gardens	7,500
Crypt vestry fit out	3,634
Crypt servery	43,314
Gundulph shaft	27,421
Garth drainage	4,012
Education leaflets	160
	<hr/>
	86,041

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st December 2017

INCOMING RESOURCES	General Fund	Endowment Fund	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	10,185		10,185	8,672
Gift Aid Tax Relief	1,419		1,419	
Surplus on social events	4,431		4,431	2,681
Dividends	33,766		33,766	30,872
Surplus on publications				568
Book of memory surplus	60		60	50
Legacies and donations	51,811		51,811	42,843
	101,672		101,672	85,686
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Direct charitable expenditure				
Grants	86,041		86,041	71,589
Other expenditure				
Management and administration	16,550		16,550	15,878
	102,591		102,591	87,467
Net Incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	(919)		(919)	(1,781)
Unrealised gain on investment held	5,698	35,492	41,190	63,168
NET MOVEMENT OF FUNDS AND FUND BALANCES				
Net movement in funds	4,779	35,492	40,271	61,387
Fund balances brought forward	234,021	988,197	1,222,218	1,160,831
Fund balances carried forward	238,800	1,023,689	1,262,489	1,222,218

**The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Balance Sheet at 31 December 2017**

	2017		2016	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Investments		1,188,035		1,146,845
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stocks	1,406		1,527	
Prepayments	40		686	
Cash at bank and in hand	73,954		77,010	
		<u>75,400</u>		<u>79,223</u>
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year				
Other creditors and accruals	946		3,850	
		<u>74,454</u>		<u>75,373</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS		<u>1,262,489</u>		<u>1,222,218</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY				
Endowment funds		1,023,689		988,197
Unrestricted income funds		238,800		234,021
		<u>1,262,489</u>		<u>1,222,218</u>

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Notes to the Accounts – for the year ended 31st December 2017

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 (FRS 102) and applicable UK Accounting Standards and with the Charities Act 2011.

2. Management and Administration Expenditure

	Total 2017	Total 2016
	£	£
Salary	7,857	7,671
Office Expenses	4,994	4,157
Postage, Printing and Stationery	2,364	2,537
Annual Report	795	979
Accountancy	540	534
	16,550	15,878

3. Investments

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 2017	Total 2016
	£	£
UK and Global equities	745,509	653,296
Bonds	148,536	103,151
Multi-asset and Alternatives	206,183	150,479
Property	63,166	51,237
Cash	24,641	188,682
Portfolio Valuation	1,188,035	1,146,845

Council Friends of Rochester Cathedral

We are always looking for new blood to join the Council of Friends. We tend to meet 4/5 times a year in Garth House. Currently we meet on a Monday at 3:45 pm but if this is difficult for you, and you are elected, then we could look to adjust this.

You are prevented from acting as a trustee if you:

- have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception
- are currently declared bankrupt (or subject to bankruptcy restrictions or an interim order)
- have an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) to pay off debts with creditors
- are disqualified from being a company director
- are subject to an order made under section 429(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986
- have previously been removed as a trustee by us, the Scottish charity regulator or the High Court due to misconduct or mismanagement
- have been removed from management or control of any body under section 34(5)(e) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (or earlier legislation)
- are disqualified from being a trustee by an order of the Charity Commission under

If you are able to complete and sign the nomination paper (printed overleaf) then we would love to hear from you.

THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

NOMINATION PAPER

I wish to nominate:-

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ TEL: _____

As a Member of the Executive Council

Proposed by NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

Seconded by NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____

I agree to my nomination as a Member of the Executive Council.

SIGNED _____

I am not disqualified from becoming a Trustee of a charity.

SIGNED _____

DATED _____

Please return to: The Administrator at The Friends' Office, Garth House, The Precinct, Rochester, Kent ME1 1SX.

To arrive not later than 7th June 2018

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL – JULY TO DECEMBER 2020

Hampton Court Flower Show Thursday 5th July

The Friends Of Rochester Cathedral warmly invite you to join them for a visit to the Hampton Court 2018 Flower Show by coach. The Pick – Ups are: Behind Visitors' Centre Rochester (Opposite The New Station) and Polhill Garden Centre. Badgers Mount. Coach leaves Rochester at 1100 hours and should reach Polhill by 1200 hours for a short lunch break. There will be a Boat Trip to the show from Kingston. We arrive at 1500 hours to enter the Show on a Group Ticket and leave at 1730 hours. This is a very popular event and only a few places are left. Details/Booking From Friends, Office - Garth House, The Precinct (01634 832142) Mon- Thurs 1000-1200. Cost for the Coach, Boat Trip And Show Is £54 Per Person.

Hatfield House Coach Trip Saturday 25th August 2018

We leave Rochester at approx 08:30am. The price per ticket is £49 and that includes a Group Ticket to visit the House and significant parts of the grounds. 51 seats available.

Murder Mystery Evening in the Crypt THURSDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

From 7:30 pm with fish-and-chip supper. £15 per head. Paid bar available and raffle.

St. Andrews Lunch Friday 30th November 2018

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

New Year's Concert Saturday 19th January 2019 AT 7:30 pm

Featuring: The Sidcup Symphony Orchestra with Conductor James Ross. Put this date in your diary. It is a not-to-be-missed concert and is guaranteed to get rid of mid-January doldrums.

Friends Annual Holiday May 2019

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

Oberammergau Passion Play - August 2020

The Friends of Rochester Cathedral invite you to join them as they visit the Passion play at Oberammergau. This wonderful event only happens at the end of each decade so it will be 2030 before you have another opportunity! There is an option to also attend an opera in Verona. Because of the popularity of this event we need to book now. If you are online full details of the tour can found at www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quote **rcp201**.

For further details contact Christine Bostock, the Chairman of the Friends.

Email: annachaplain84@gmail.com Mobile: 07563059756 or get a booking form from Christine Tucker in the Friends' Office, Garth House.

Please read the back cover for what you need to do to continue to support the Friends to support Rochester Cathedral. Please do return the enclosed consent form so that we can keep in touch.



ROSE, REYNOLDS HOLE.

The General Data Protection Regulations

Rochester Diocese has kindly given me permission to reproduce their explanation of GDPR which you can find on their website.

<http://www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/gdpr/>

As has been well publicised, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will take effect in the UK from **25 May 2018**. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998) and gives individuals more rights and protection regarding how their personal data is used by all organisations including Friends of Rochester Cathedral. We must comply with its requirements, just like any other charity or organisation. In the end the regulations increase the rights of an individual in respect of how their data is kept and includes “the right to be forgotten”. This is about treating people with respect by ensuring due care with the information we hold about them.

While the GDPR contains all the same principles as the DPA, there are some additional requirements, in particular regarding the need to obtain proper consent to retain personal information about a living individual. No longer is it acceptable to assume consent or ask individuals to opt out of having their details recorded by an organisation.

From May 2018, members will need to give your consent before we send you communications.

Please do return the enclosed consent form so that we can keep in touch.

