



Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Report 2001 / 2002

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EDITORIAL

This year's report has a strong emphasis on individual people – with obituaries for three former members of Chapter and introductory pieces by two relative newcomers. Any church – including a Cathedral – is as much about people as it is about the building. The building outlasts us all, but for the time we are part of it, it is to some extent influenced by us.

The building is also 'home' to a variety of different groups of people, of which The Friends is one. Others include the Cathedral Foundation, the Cathedral Community, those whose working lives are based around the Cathedral: these are all groups for whom the Cathedral is obviously a 'home'. Other groups may treat us as a 'home' less frequently – groups within the diocese or the county.

This year sees what we hope will be the first of two new events for groups within the diocese. The first we have already had: we kept a 'Plough Sunday' service this January, using it as a chance for members of our beleaguered agricultural communities to pray together for the work of agriculture and the good health of our rural life.

The second is on Saturday September 14th at 3.15 pm. A Marriage Thanksgiving service intended for those with anniversaries they particularly wish to celebrate this year and for those who think it good to pray for and affirm the place of marriage in our society. We will follow it with tea and cake in the Crypt.

These services – and others like them – are very much part of what a Cathedral can and should be doing: being a focus for the development of a wider sense of community.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I feel the year 2001-2002 could be called a year of stabilisation in connection with Rochester Cathedral – after all the changes which happened in the previous year, we now have the Dean and Chapter up to strength, and the new rules for the maintenance of an English Cathedral are in place, which ensure the Cathedral runs like a well oiled machine.

The new member of the team Canon Ralph Godsall has kindly consented to address us at the A.G.M.

Similarly, the changes in the Association of Friends have gone from strength to strength, and Christine has coped extremely efficiently, with what must be difficult – guiding the new Chairman in his duties.

The Cathedral has again been extremely busy with special services, averaging at least two per month, one of which was a first for Rochester Cathedral, i.e. the

consecration and installation of the new Bishop of Tonbridge. A most moving service was also arranged following the death of the Queen Mother.

The only disappointment for this year is that the Fresco still appears to be a long way from completion – it seems to take two steps forward and one back, and consequently the Baptistery has become similar to the Sistine Chapel in that it is something which cannot be hurried. If the Fresco is to last for the next millennium I suppose a year or two will not matter. We can all look forward to its dedication in the near future – and hope it will not be too far away. We shall also then be able to hear the anthem, which the Friends have commissioned from John Tavener.

The Friends last project of cleaning and lighting the North Quire Aisle has been completed but is still awaiting the siting of the monuments taken from the North Transept. I trust you will all agree with me that the North Quire Aisle now looks a great deal better for its make over.

The kitchen facilities in the Crypt have come to the top of the list of new tasks to be undertaken by the Friends, and I know those who take Sunday Morning Coffee will say 'not before time'.

At a recent survey of the Cathedral carried out for English Heritage, work totalling £1,000,000 was recommended within the next five years to keep this wonderful old building in tip top shape. The Friends have been supplied with a long list of tasks which the Dean and Chapter would like us to fund over the coming years, and I believe it is the wish of us all to pass on this historic building in better shape than it was inherited, in order that future generations may care for, love and enjoy our magnificent Cathedral.

This brings us back to the age old problem – money. We have been very grateful for your subscriptions and the legacies both large and small which have enabled us to carry out our ongoing tasks. We have raised over £1,000 in two evenings – one near Christmas with a Cheese and Wine Party, with entertainment provided by the Special Choir – an evening much enjoyed by everyone who attended, and the second in the Spring with a Quiz Evening - about which I am still 'red faced' as the Question Master had the wrong date, and I therefore had a hall full of people with no questions, as I had not been allowed to see them beforehand. However, with a great deal of help and goodwill from those present we managed, and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed by, I believe, most people – at least everyone who spoke to me afterwards said it had been 'great fun'.

We have at last applied ourselves to getting the new Constitution sorted out, and this now comes before you for approval before going to the Charity Commissioners for their sanction, and we hope it will be placed before you again at the 2003 AGM for acceptance. May I ask you therefore to please read the document carefully, and contact the Office with your views if you are

unhappy with the contents, in order that we may research the matters before the AGM. I would offer my thanks to Michael Bailey for his help and expertise in this matter.

It was pleasant once again to explore the Diocese with a trip to Great Comp and St. Mary Platt. Our thanks go to Mrs Sankey for the organisation of this visit. It is my hope we shall be able to explore further in the coming year.

As reported earlier, this has been a year to stabilise ourselves after the previous changes, and the Hon. Sec. Mary Griffin and Secretary Christine Tucker have now familiarised themselves with the office routine, giving me great help and support, which has in turn made the year easier for me. My thanks also go to Betty Trollope, the previous Chairperson, for her help and advice. Thanks are also given to Jean Callbut for organising the weekend trip to Lincoln Cathedral.

In conclusion the year 2004 – the Cathedral's 1400 Anniversary – is now approaching rapidly when we hope we can organise a special commemoration for the years of prayer and dedication in Rochester Cathedral - any ideas regarding this matter will be welcomed.

Richard Andrews

FROM THE DEAN – THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

To suggest that Sydney Opera House might have a direct influence on the care of an English Cathedral is, on the face of it, a bizarre idea. It is nonetheless true.

At first sight, there would seem to be little connection between this flagship of twentieth century Australian architecture and nationhood and the 'ships of the spirit', as Pope Paul VI so famously described the English medieval cathedrals.

The connection is the growing practice of official bodies to require a Conservation Plan on which to base their judgement of proposals concerning significant buildings and locations.

The first Conservation Plan was produced for Sydney Opera House and has led to the publication of *Conservation Plans for Historic Places*. (Heritage Lottery Fund, 1998)

Because of the unique needs and characteristics of cathedral churches, this was followed, in November 2000, by a Consultation held in Rochester, chaired by the Dean and supported by English Heritage, Medway Council, the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England and the Association of English Cathedrals, which proposed publication of a Guidance Note on preparing cathedral conservation plans.

A conservation plan sets out to establish the significance of a site and, in the case of a cathedral, it seeks to establish the architectural, archaeological, artistic, environmental, cultural, educational, musical, social and spiritual significance of the church and its precinct.

In a very short space of time, it has been accepted by planning authorities that a conservation plan is a necessary pre-requisite to both the care of the existing fabric and any proposed modification or development to the cathedral itself or within the precinct.

Lincoln Cathedral pioneered the production of a such a plan for a cathedral city – a collaborative exercise sponsored jointly by the Dean and Chapter, the City Council and English Heritage. Exeter followed and others, including Rochester, are in production.

Because it would be impossible to produce a conservation plan for the Castle without reference on the one hand to the Bridge and on the other to the Cathedral, and vice-versa, it became clear that the exercise should best be undertaken jointly by the Dean and Chapter, Medway Council and the Bridge Wardens.

The two most significant buildings in Rochester are, without doubt, the Cathedral and the Castle. Although built for very different reasons, there are some significant connections, apart from location, and these refer to the personalities involved.

Gundulf, a monk of Bec, was appointed Bishop of Rochester in 1076 and began building a Romanesque church of which only the Norman Crypt remains. After the attempted coup of 1088, Bishop Gundulf was persuaded by the King to build the first stone castle, of which little remains.

This relationship between Church and State, between Cathedral and Castle, was again in evidence in the 14th Century when a comprehensive rebuilding of the castle, inspired by fear of a French invasion, was overseen by another cleric, John of Hartlip, who was Prior of the relatively small* community at Rochester from 1361-80.*

This collaboration between the sacred and the secular seems set to continue.

A conservation plan is not a new history of the Cathedral, the Castle or the Bridge but will draw on existing material (whether published or not, and summarised in the form of an appended Gazetteer), in order to identify what is already understood.

Establishing the significance of the elements that make up the site is of the essence of the exercise if the plan is to inform decisions where it is necessary to balance the benefits to one aspect of the place against any disbenefits to others.

Thus, the conservation plan will be influential in evaluating the flow of visitors and their needs and expectations; the education programme for children; and the use of the building for occasional concerts and exhibitions and will lead to the adoption of policies to guide future management.

It is because cathedrals, since the Care of Cathedrals Measure 1990, have benefited from the professional advice of their Fabric Advisory Committees, and their accountability to the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, that both the Association of English Cathedrals and the CFCE are concerned to provide specific guidance which reflects the unique characters of these great foundations.

*At the time of his death there were 23 monks at Rochester, only a third of those at Canterbury.

(The celebrated Fourteenth Century doorway to the Chapter Library notably contains a number of carved heads in its outer reveal). Since this was formerly the entrance to the Chapter House, it is tempting to see these as the members of the contemporary community.

ADDRESS

**preached at a Service of Thanksgiving for
HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
at Rochester Cathedral on Sunday April 7th at 3.15pm**

'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.' Philippians 3

So wrote Paul, in this afternoon's second lesson, to a small group of Christian followers he had helped to establish in a city in northern Greece called Philippi. It was a group of whom he was very fond and also quite proud. They seemed to have caught on well to Paul's message and teaching. And they seem to have been as fond of and concerned for him as he was of them.

He writes to thank them for that and to encourage them on to even greater heights of mutual concern, regard for each other and Christian service - 'let each of you look not to your own interests', he writes, 'but to the interests of others.'

The spirit of service - looking to the interests of others - is certainly one of the marks of the mind of Jesus. At a crucial hinge moment in Jesus' ministry as Mark (the first gospel writer) tells it, Jesus says of himself: 'For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.' In John's gospel that same teaching is presented as a story - when Jesus washes his disciples' feet and gives them a new commandment to love one another and to follow his example. It is that teaching that gives Maundy Thursday its name - Maundy being a corruption of *mandatum*, the Latin word for commandment. It is also the origin of the Royal Maundy money - the monarch expressing his or

her commitment to following that new commandment.

Like many of us, I guess, I never had the honour of meeting the Queen Mother. But I, like all those who had never met her, can hardly fail to be aware of what she was like. So many things have been said and written about her over this last week. All of them telling the same tale, all of them describing someone of real graciousness.

I have been looking through the pages that will make up our Condolence Book. There are many hundreds of signatures, many with comments and messages of gratitude and immense affection. There are signatures from 6 year olds and 80 year olds, and every decade between; from residents of this borough and county, from across Britain, from Kenyans, Australians, French and Germans, Americans and Canadians.

Scattered among them are adjectives like: wonderful, gracious, devoted, dedicated, lovely, caring, kind, humourous (sometimes, I'm told, outrageously so), lively and outgoing, smiling and cheerful, warm and sincere, elegant, royal, courageous and enthusiastic. Of them all it is wonderful that occurs most frequently.

There are, as you would expect, many references to her role as Queen Consort and Queen Mother; to the nation's symbolic Granny; to the genuineness of her interest in, and care for, first her father-in-law's, then her husband's and then her daughter's people; and above all to her role in the war.

Not surprisingly. It is of course the sharing of suffering that makes for the closest ties. The extent to which she and King George VI did precisely that must have made a huge difference to the rallying of hearts, the stiffening of the nation's resolve and the bearing of loss and pain. And it quite clearly caused the growth of a huge amount of affection in the hearts of the country.

At the heart of Christianity is the awareness that what is shown on the cross is the extent to which God shares the sufferings of his people and his world. If Jesus Christ is the human face of God, as Christianity proclaims, then that means it was God suffering the pains and agony of the crucifixion. And that means that it is God's nature constantly to share in the sufferings of the world – not just in Jesus' cross, but always.

Having the same mind that was in Christ Jesus is not just about serving others and looking to their interests, not just about the new commandment to love one another, but also about entering into the sufferings of others.

Like all of us, at some time, the Queen Mother had her own share of sufferings – watching and supporting her husband as he was obliged to take a crown he neither expected nor wanted; watching and supporting him through his illness and untimely death; bearing the grief of that loss; watching and supporting her daughters and their families through their difficult and sometimes horrible

moments; and more recently watching and supporting her younger daughter through her illness and death; and bearing the grief of that loss.

No, she was no stranger to suffering.

She was supported through them all by her deep faith, to which many bear witness – not least this afternoon's hymns which were amongst her favourites; by her strong sense of duty – she loved what she did, but she was also conscious that what she was doing was what she was called to do; and by her own strength of character and personality.

Interestingly, as many people expressed their condolences, they wrote also of their own losses and sufferings. For many the Queen Mother's death has brought back memories of other deaths and painful losses: part of the sharing of suffering.

And people of all ages spoke of how much they would miss her. The nation as a whole is sharing in the grief of her loss. There are many factors in that, but predominant must be that reassuring quality in her twinkling eye, and her seeming indestructibility. These are a real loss.

But we need as a nation to remember that for others the loss is a personal one: in particular her surviving daughter and grandchildren and their families. We share in their loss, but they bear the brunt of it. We offer them our prayers and support.

We need as a nation also to remember the things she stood for and witnessed to in the way she lived her life: the qualities of service and duty; of care for, and interest in, others; of cheerfulness and courage in adversity; of kindness; of the willingness to enter into the sufferings of others.

These are the qualities which are so much part of what St Paul meant with his phrase 'the same mind that was in Christ Jesus'.

In the same letter he urged his readers to rejoice; and we can rejoice too: rejoice that she has gone to share fully in the mind, in the presence, in the heavenly kingdom of Jesus Christ and his Father. As we do so, let us thank God that these qualities were reflected so vividly in the life of Elizabeth, Queen Consort and Queen Mother; and let us determine to keep them at the forefront of our national and personal lives.

Her death has been called the passing of an era. Perhaps it is, but let it not be the passing of those qualities. We will continue to need them as a nation, and as individual people.

Let that same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and to such a great extent in her, also be in us. Amen

Canon Jonathan Meyrick

THE CONSECRATION OF THE BISHOP OF TONBRIDGE

Thursday 24th January 2002

Two days before my installation as a Canon Residentiary I attended a meeting convened by Canon Paul Williams, the Bishop's Chaplain. Present at the meeting were the Bishop Designate, Dr Brian Castle, the Diocesan Secretary, the acting Canon Precentor, and the Cathedral Organist and Director of Music. I sat and listened as the conversation developed, wondering what I was about to let myself in for two days later!

The idea that the Bishop of Tonbridge would be consecrated in Rochester Cathedral was entirely the Archbishop's. The Archbishop wanted to move away from the established practice of only consecrating Kentish bishops in Canterbury and offered to come to us instead. It was a wonderful gesture, but without precedent. So there would obviously be much to do to ensure that all would go smoothly on the day.

First, the consecration of a bishop is an archiepiscopal and national event, for which on this occasion the Province of Canterbury would normally act as hosts. Bishops, Provincial and General Synod representatives, and the family and guests of the new bishop would all be invited to Rochester. And nobody was quite sure who would foot the bill! Whilst the bishops would be invited to attend personally by the Archbishop, everyone, including the Archbishop's guests, would be our guests on the day and would need to be received, briefed and made to feel welcome. Where there is established practice for services such as these in Canterbury, Southwark or St Paul's Cathedrals, then everyone knows what to expect, where to go, and who to contact. Here was our first challenge. This was new ground for Rochester, but we rose to the occasion and provided the 1100 guests who attended, including some 30 bishops and other dignitaries, with clear directions, good hospitality, and a hearty Rochester welcome!

Secondly, the installation of the Bishop of Tonbridge is a diocesan event. On this occasion, we had to combine in one service the making of a new bishop with his installation in the cathedral. This required a lot of stage management to ensure that those in the nave would witness the consecration and that those in the quire would witness the bishop's installation! And the Archbishop, whose service it was, had insisted that the service should not be too long! Again, we rose to the challenge and managed to seat all the diocesan dignitaries and clergy with others representing the readers, the parish evangelists and the pastoral assistants all in the quire and quire transepts! As he made his way to his stall in the Quire Bishop Brian was escorted by his brother bishops and welcomed by Bishop Michael, his fellow clergy and lay ministers. And an

Order of Service had been agreed with the Archbishop that combined a variety of music, with space for prayer and reflection, a moment or two of informality and laughter, and that would be over well within two hours!

Thirdly, Bishop Brian's consecration and installation was a Cathedral and Civic event. The Crown was represented by the acting Lord Lieutenant. The Mayor of Medway, together with Mayors from across the diocese and North Kent, were all in attendance. Every part of the Foundation and the Cathedral Community was represented in the Cathedral. The Chairman of the Council, Lord Mayhew, was present. The Dean and Chapter, the College of Canons, the Ecumenical Canons of Honour, and the Priest Vicars all walked together in procession. The King's Scholars represented the Cathedral School; the Boy Choristers and Lay Clerks, under the skilful direction of Roger Sayer and the masterful organ playing of James Eaton, the music foundation. The Vergers, Cleaners, Gardeners, and Refectory Staff had all worked hard in the days immediately before the service to ensure that everything would go along smoothly – and it did. The Flower Guild filled the Cathedral with stunning floral arrangements. The Stewards worked calmly and cheerfully to ensure that every member of the congregation received a welcome and were assisted throughout the service. Behind the scenes the Cathedral's administrative staff had worked together wonderfully well, with the help of the Diocesan Office, to ensure that every detail was covered and that every enquiry was handled cheerfully and efficiently.

A national event, a diocesan event, a Cathedral event to remember – a historic day for those of us who were privileged to be part of it – and a day when so much goodwill and happiness was shared by so many from many different parts of the diocese and beyond.

I had an inkling two days before my installation that this was going to be something of a challenge! The smile on my face as we sang the final hymn 'For all the saints' in procession might just have indicated to those who had worked most closely with me in the planning and the staging of the event how thrilled we all were with what had taken place in Rochester Cathedral on Thursday 24th January 2002.

Ralph Godsall

Canon Precentor

THE GREEN ENVELOPE - A NEW ARCHDEACON LOOKS BACK OVER THE LAST YEAR.

It's not where you might expect an archdeacon to start. But for me the green envelope in my early days became something I had to get used to. It – or perhaps I should say they, for often there are about three or more – arrived every

afternoon promptly at 4pm. I knew that one of the changes I would have to face from being a parish priest was the increase in administration. I thought it was heavy enough then but as the new Archdeacon of Rochester I not only had the Royal Mail (as it is thankfully going to be called again) in the morning but the internal correspondence and messages from three offices in the afternoon as well – the Diocese, the Cathedral and Bishopscourt all of which come in different green envelopes. No one quite prepared me for this. But at least it illustrates something of the duties which I undertake and enjoy in this fascinating and particular post.

And I say particular because it does have some peculiarities. I am one of only twelve remaining archdeacons in the land who are also residential canons of cathedrals. Whilst this does mean an extra green envelope I must say how much I value having a spiritual base from which to do my work. It enables me to have a discipline about saying my prayers as I meet with my colleagues (the Dean and the other Residential Canons) in the Cathedral every morning for Morning Prayer – a great oasis for reflection and quiet and to try and listen to God as the day opens up. It also means that when I'm not out and about in the Archdeaconry I have a regular opportunity to preach and preside at the Eucharist and feel part of a worshipping community on Sundays. Sue, my wife, values this enormously as well. (I can say this because I've checked with her!) I think other Archdeacons who, like me, have come straight from a parish find it a strange and detached role with no regular Sunday congregation to knock about with! But that hasn't been my experience. I also value the link between my work in the Diocese and the worship of the Cathedral as an important one which I would want to develop, so that more of what the Diocese is doing is brought into the life of the Cathedral and more of the meaning and place of the Cathedral is taken out into the parishes. As a practical expression of that relationship you'll find my office not in my house but in the Cathedral office where all the staff have made my secretary and me feel very welcome.

One of the major responsibilities which again is peculiar to my work as the Archdeacon of Rochester is the diocesan response to the huge development initiative called the Thames Gateway. Thousands of new homes and jobs will be created through this, and much of the gateway will happen in my Archdeaconry. Bluewater is but the beginning. The key word is partnership. To realise that those leaders concerned for driving this initiative are looking to the church amongst others as a potential partner is I believe making us look again at how we work as a church organisation, how we participate positively in development and also take into account the environmental issues which are crucial in our stewardship of God's world.

The exciting opportunity which all this brings enables the church to work with others in the shaping and creation of new communities. I therefore chair the

group of Diocesan Officers who are key to our response in both the pastoral ministry as well as education, training and mission. Some of our parishes are going to grow out of all recognition, and will be part of a new community. Some, perhaps all of us in this area, will have to learn how to accept new neighbours. It will not be easy for communities who have roots which go back in history over a thousand years to accept incomers. Some of our poorer parishes will have rich new developments within them. How all this is handled from planning through to reality will require some careful thinking so that we don't get into a situation where there is a great gulf between the old community and the new, like the gulf between Dives and Lazarus. New schools also come into the equation and some of these will be church sponsored. We need some hard cash to enable these to come into being. Already some churches are thinking radically about how they can respond, so radically that St Edmund's Temple Hill (Dartford) is being knocked down and rebuilt. It will resurrect with more community rooms available as well as a doctor's surgery integrated into the whole church complex.

My everyday role and task as Archdeacon is the traditional one of being the eyes of the Bishop. However, I see this I see this not so much as the policeman (although there is the practical responsibility of checking the church buildings as they are repaired, renovated or re-ordered) but rather as the pastor in that I have care for the clergy and their churchwardens. This, like so many of my other tasks is done with others who have a far greater expertise than me. I find myself saying what used to be said in the AA advert when someone was asked to answer a knotty problem – 'I don't know, but I know a man who does!' More and more I think that as a church we are learning in today's busy world that oversight, the responsibility of the bishop, is shared with and through many other people. I share in my Bishop's oversight as a member of his staff and have special responsibility for the appointment of new clergy in my Archdeaconry. My six Rural Deans in the archdeaconry share in my oversight of the buildings as they inspect them every three years and send in a report to say that all is well and nothing's missing (we hope!). Churchwardens, too, have an oversight they share with their parish priest as they care for their churches and their people. I meet the Churchwardens every year when they are sworn into the oldest democratic office in the land at what is called the Archdeacon's Visitation, as well as on other social occasions.

From all this you will gather that there is much to the work of an archdeacon. I find it a great privilege to be a member of the Bishop's Staff and also member of the Cathedral Staff. Although this can lead to a very full diary I wouldn't have it any other way! For the opportunities for ministry, mission and meeting people are enormous.

Peter Lock,

(Archdeacon of Rochester and Canon Residentiary)

SURVEYOR'S REPORT TO THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

It is with some trepidation that I take up my pen to respond to Canon Meyrick's invitation to write a piece for the Friends' Annual Report. When I was first appointed Surveyor of the Fabric of the Cathedral I was introduced to Betty Trollope and instantly equipped with about ten years' back numbers of the Annual Report. These have been an invaluable resource for me and represent an important repository of information about all aspects of the Cathedral's fabric and works carried out to it. Therein lies the cause of my trepidation. There is no way I can match the research, scholarship and erudition of all those earlier contributors. I can only hope that the bathos of my down to earth effort will not be too tedious for readers.

My first introduction to the Cathedral was now nearly thirty years ago. My late partner, Emil Godfrey, was Martin Caroe's predecessor as Surveyor and had been in post since 1950. He instilled in me a fascination for and love of historic buildings in general and ecclesiastical buildings in particular. He used to involve me in work at the Cathedral when projects required drawings to be done and, as he got older, was increasingly happy to send me up ladders to report back to him what I had seen! I recall, for example, the arm-aching experience of going up *inside* the spire with steeplejacks, trying to track down leaks, in the days before Martin Caroe's complete renewal of the leadwork. That was one of his early projects after he took up the Surveyorship.

I did not visit Rochester for eighteen years between Emil Godfrey's death in 1982 and my being interviewed for the Surveyorship following Martin Caroe's premature demise. As an aside, it is a sobering thought that the last three Surveyors of the Fabric have died in harness. That is a tradition I do not propose to perpetuate! It was good to see the familiar, quirky old features of the building again after such a passage of time, but I have to say that my overall impression was of a very different, livelier Cathedral than the one I had left. When I was first involved the overall impression was one of gloom and dirt. Cement works across the Medway used to spew their pollution over the city and the west front of the Cathedral used to look as if it had been cast in concrete, or at least rendered with Portland cement. Inside, whatever unguents Mr. Scott had lavished on the walls and masonry of the 13th century Eastern Arm in the nineteenth century had darkened and attracted a century's pollution, giving a similarly deadpan overall greyness. The Cathedral was an architectural curate's egg. It had many excellent parts, but one had to seek them out pretty determinedly.

The Cathedral I came back to is obviously still an architectural medley but, thanks to the cleaning, conservation and redecoration programmes carried out

during Martin Caroe's Surveyorship, the parts are now infinitely more apparent and can read together as a more coherent whole. One of the most vivid examples is the ceiling of the crossing under the central tower. During Emil Godfrey's time, such a 'black hole' was the centre of the building that we could not even be sure what material the ceiling was made of, and any appreciation of the modelling of the green men was a complete impossibility. The Quire is another revelation. It used not to be a place where one wished to linger. One word summed it up – dull. Now it is light and bright, its proportions can be appreciated and its wall paintings glow, especially the celebrated early Wheel of Fortune painting, liberated from its glass case. I applaud all these improvements.

To date my contributions have been somewhat more prosaic. When I was appointed, negotiations were already under way for the installation of an automatic fire detection and alarm system. That installation is now complete, although still experiencing some teething difficulties. One of the areas of fire risk to be covered was the greater South Transept, with its timber vaulting which offers no effective separation between the body of the Cathedral and the roof void. This roof space had long been a 'no go' area because an unguarded plank walkway spanning between roof trusses offered the danger of a rapid descent to floor level, through the thin boarding of the fault webs, if anyone should be unfortunate enough to lose their footing. Not only had smoke detector heads to be installed in this roof space, but they have to be tested and maintained at regular intervals. So robust is the bridge that we have constructed that I can confidently claim that the South Transept roof space is now one of the safest places to be in the Cathedral! Sadly access to clerestory walks and other upper works remains as hazardous as ever, and that is an area which we need to address.

Another enterprise that was underway when I was appointed and which continues to have more than its fair share of teething problems is the fresco painting in the proposed Baptistry at the north side of the greater North Transept. I am sure that will be the subject of other papers, however.

Just around the corner from there we have been able to continue Martin Caroe's good work in the eastern arm by cleaning, conserving stonework and relime-washing in the North Quire Aisle. This area had also become a sad, dirty, unappealing space and I like to think that it now forms a worthy episode in the long route from the little west door to the Oratory in the lesser North Transept's east Aisle where the lovely Salamanca crucifix donated by my predecessor terminates the vista. Like the Green Men in the crossing, lively carved vaulting bosses are now much more clearly legible from down below and were photographed while scaffolding access was in place.

I still feel very much a new boy, despite my youthful early involvement, not

with regard to the fabric of the building but in relation to the governance of it. The CFCE, the FAC, the Care of Cathedrals Measure, English Heritage grant aid for cathedrals and the bureaucracy that attends all of these have all been introduced since my earlier involvement with the Cathedral. It is hard not to look back with nostalgia to those heady days when the Dean and Chapter and their Surveyor just happily got on and did their own thing. Financial restraints were of course a fact of life but the regular builder was booked for a period each summer, a budget was agreed with the chapter clerk, a priority was picked off the list from the Quinquennial Survey and work got under way under a simple 'cost of time and materials' contract until the money was spent.

I have always believed that continuity is invaluable in looking after the fabric of historic buildings responsibly and I must pay tribute to two particular individuals who have been of invaluable support to me since I took up my appointment. Tim Tatton-Brown, our archaeological consultant, has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the building and the interventions to its fabric over the centuries. He is always available, cheerfully and enthusiastically to impart that knowledge. It is hoped that his breadth of knowledge of both the Cathedral and Castle will be harnessed more formally shortly in a joint Conservation Plan for the whole historic enclave.

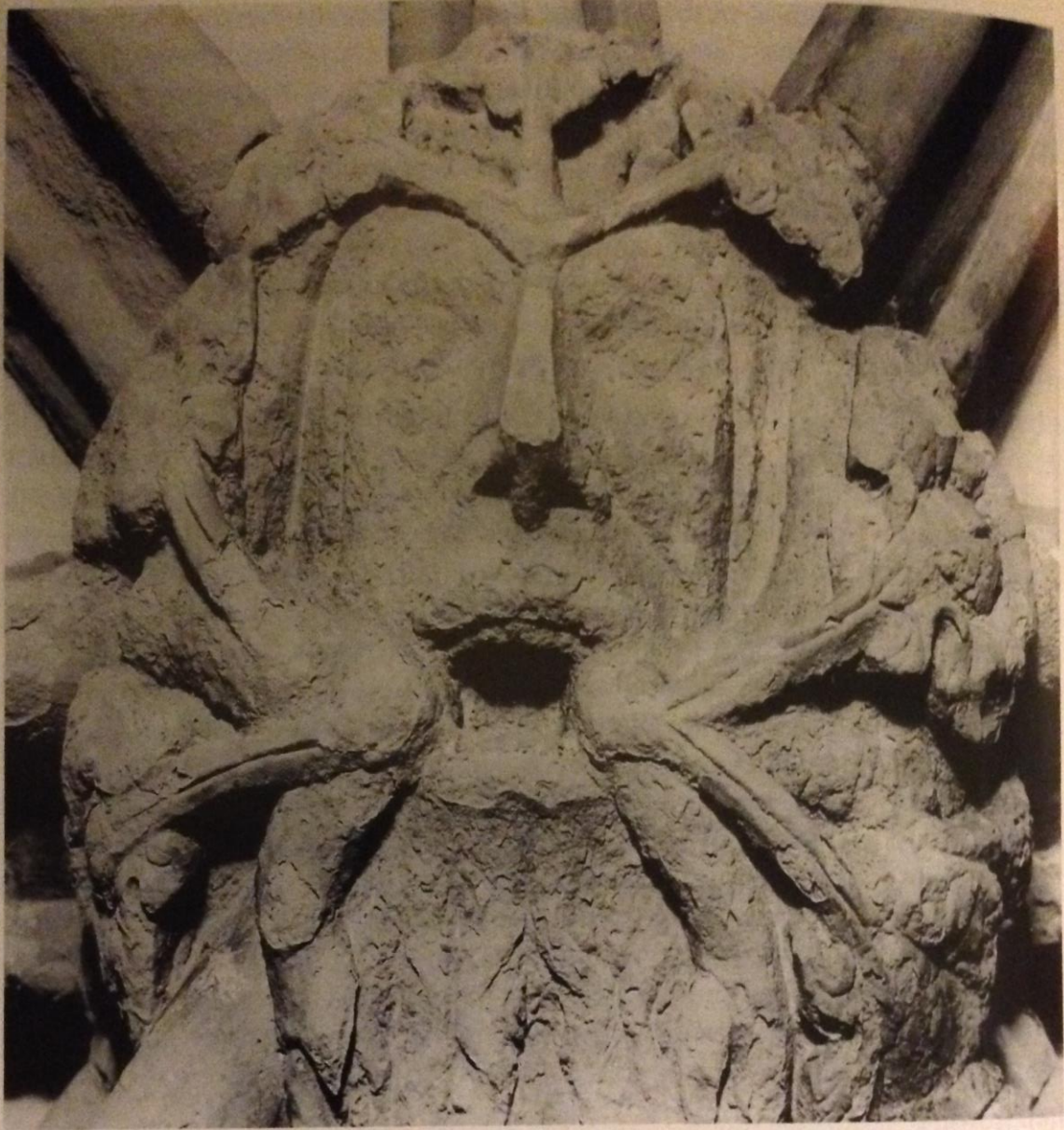
The other individual is of course Dave Baker, the builder who has carried out the vast majority of the work not only to the Cathedral but also to the properties in the Precinct and the High Street over the last fifteen years or so. Martin Caroe first met him in connection with work to a National Trust house in Kent and invited him to undertake some work for the Cathedral. Since then he has become almost an integral part of the fabric and is totally depended upon by the whole Cathedral community, not least myself. It has been a great pleasure to me that we 'hit it off' as soon as we first met and have become good friends as well as colleagues dedicated to the care of the fabric of this great building.

Ian Stewart

WORKS TO THE NORTH CHOIR AISLE

Visitors and residents alike during the period from July to October last year found the North Choir Aisle hidden from view in a forest of scaffolding and plastic tunnels. While access to Gundulph tower and the Chequer's Yard was maintained beneath, Dave Baker and his team were undertaking a major cleaning and overhaul of the vaults and structure above. As is always the case with high-level work, it was difficult to assess the extent of work involved until the scaffold was in place and the elements of the structure studied at close quarters,

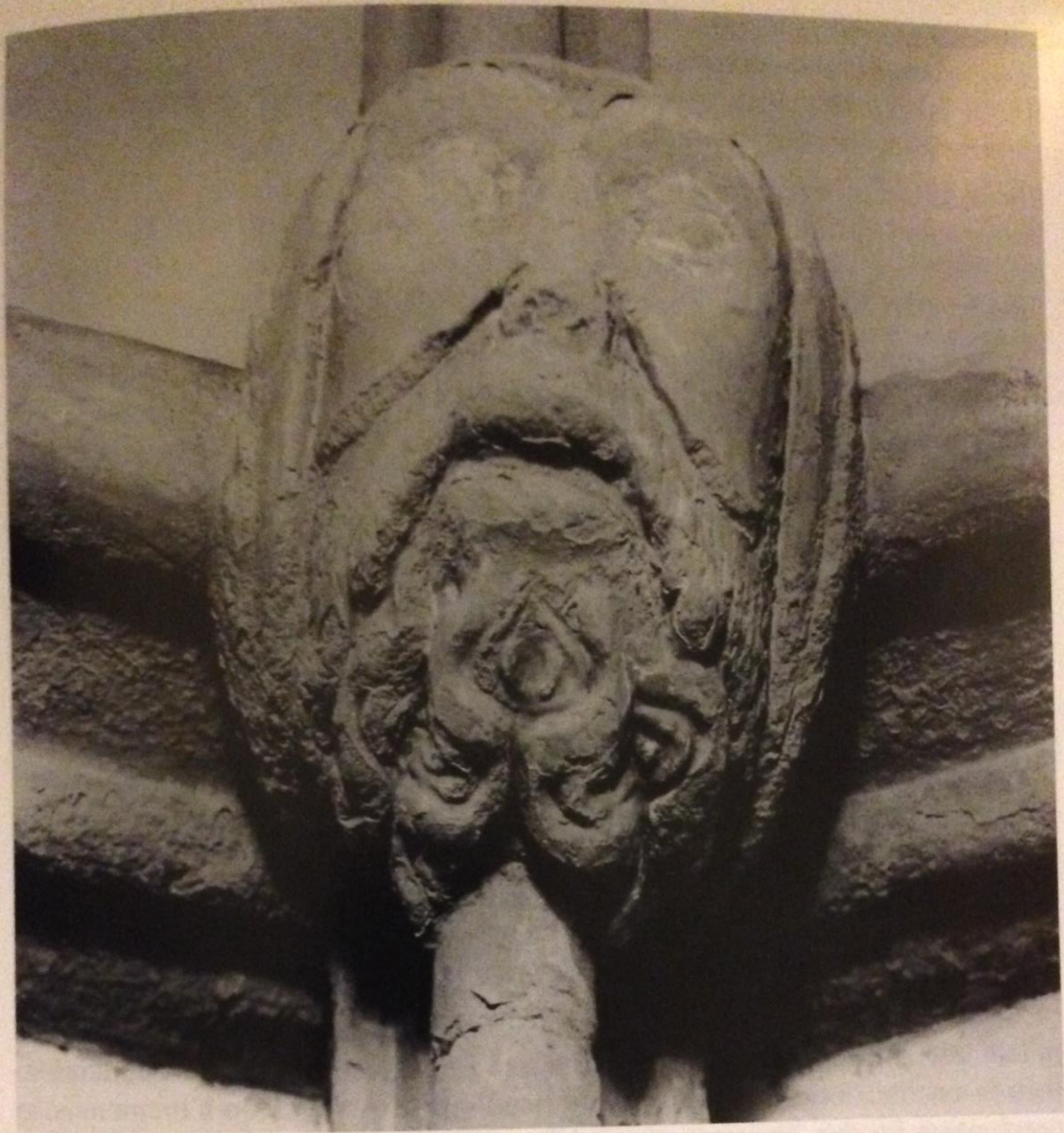
Dry cleaning and 'hoovering' of the vaults and walls was followed by washing down and lime-washing all surfaces except the stone facings. The window



heads and other areas of loose and defective rendering were cut back and re-rendered, and two loose sections of rib and five sections of shafting drilled and pinned back using stainless steel pins grouted in. The Purbeck Marble sections of the shafting were cleaned and polished using a micro crystalline solution and repairs undertaken to some of the capitals.

Close access to the bosses of the vault enabled them to be recorded indeed in their newly cleaned state they are now well worth study from ground level, and the oak doors were cleaned and polished with raw beeswax.

New lighting and new emergency lighting was installed, the latter being concealed under the treads of the stairs, and these treads were refixed on new bearers. The tomb of Hamo de Hythe, Bishop of Rochester in the 14th century, was covered with a poltice which lifted off the grime of ages to reveal the fine



detail of the stonework, complete with a number of medieval 'Green Men'.

The memorial to Dr. Carsar, on the south wall of the aisle, was cleaned and the marble polished. Due to its size this memorial had been left in situ, and it will be joined in due course by a number of other military memorials that have been removed from the old Jesus Chapel in preparation for the creation of the new Baptistry. Also to be replaced is the royal coat of arms, which is awaiting restoration at present.

Mr. Baker also undertook some preparatory work in the Jesus Chapel and the North Nave Transept before work started on the fresco. Excavation of the floor at the ledger slabs was necessary to ascertain the bearing capacity for the re-sited (or new) font, and the opportunity was taken to install ducting and service runs. With the floor reinstated, it was protected from works damage and

the works compound created. The east and return walls under the arch were stripped of the 19th century render to reveal a wall of chalk, flint, ragstone and 1950s brick! The later was removed and rebuilt in stone and the whole rendered flat – though not plumb!

The plaques were removed for resiting in the North Choir Aisle – as mentioned above – and the return walls and ceiling lime-washed. Stone repairs were made to the arches, ribs and capitals, and the Dean's head inserted. The area was then handed over for the fresco to be completed.

On its completion decisions will need to be made on the extent of work in tidying up the adjacent walls to make the whole area worthy of its new status.

Bob Ratcliffe

(following conversations with Dave Baker)

THE GUNDULF DOOR

Twelve years ago Dr. Jane Geddes came to Rochester at the suggestion of the Cathedral Archaeologist, Tim Tatton-Brown, to look at a remarkable early door he had discovered on the back of the door into the stair-turret in the north-east transept. She looked carefully at the door, and wrote a brief article on it, for the Annual Report of the friends for 1989/90 (pages 19-22). Her conclusion was that the door must have been made in the 11th or 12th century, based on her expert knowledge of carpentry and, in particular, of the decorative ironwork on it. (Dr. Geddes has recently published her definitive work, *Medieval Decorative Ironwork in England* (1999), and this sets the Rochester door in a wider context).

In late July 2002, Dr. Geddes is returning to Rochester (she lives in Scotland) to lecture on the door at the British Archaeological Association Conference. In preparation for this, it was suggested that it might be worth trying to date the door more precisely using dendrochronology. Consequently, with a grant for the cost of the work from the Society of Antiquaries of London, Daniel Miles of the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, came to Rochester on the 25th of April to examine the door and to take miniature core samples for dating. With the help of Dave Baker and his men, the whole door, which is very heavy indeed, was lifted off its hinge pintles and taken outside the Cathedral and laid on two trestles. By using special drilling equipment, a 5mm core was drilled through the thickness of the board, passing through into the next board, and so on across the door. In this way the four original boards were sampled through a single small hole which was then plugged with an oak plug and stained.

Dendrochronology is the study of tree-rings through which it is possible to ascribe calendar years to each ring if the timber is successfully cross-matched.



In order for this process to work, one must have a good selection of reference chronologies for the period and geographical area under study. Cross-matching is done by matching the annual climatic variations in the growth rings using a suite of specially-developed computer programmes. However, the tricky part is to determine when the trees were cut down, and more importantly, when the timber was used to construct the door. If the timber being sampled still retains bark, then the matter of interpretation is straightforward, in that the outermost ring beneath the bark gives the year the tree was cut down. However, in finer objects such as doors, the sapwood would normally be trimmed off in that it is much more

susceptible to beetle attack. This leaves us with a major problem in interpretation in that we do not know how many rings were lost in the conversion of the tree into boards. Fortunately, studies of sapwood have shown that in 95% of trees from southern England, sapwood would have been between 9 and 41 years. By applying this estimate, one can be fairly confident that a board with no sapwood at all would not have been felled any less than 9 years beyond the last growth ring, and if there is some incomplete sapwood, or the waney edge denoting the heartwood/sapwood transition, then a felling date range can be derived by using the above estimate. The boards would not have been seasoned for any significant length of time, as evidenced from the shrinkage of the boards after being made into the door.

In the case of the Gundulf Door, four boards were sampled. Three of these boards matched so well together that they were likely to have originated from the same tree. The fourth board originated from a different tree and source, and was much slower grown. Taking into account any unmeasured rings to the edge of the board, the three boards from the same tree all had a last measured ring

date of 1066, coincidentally the date of the Norman Invasion. This would suggest that a minimum number of outer-most rings were trimmed from the tree during conversion, and this was confirmed by the lucky presence of a heartwood/sapwood transition on one of these. By applying the 9-41 years sapwood estimate, a felling date range of 1075-1108 can be given for the group of three boards. The fourth board did not have any evidence of sapwood, but by taking account of any unmeasured rings, a terminus post quem or felled after date of after 1045 can be given for this. This particular board had an earliest measured ring date of 822, which means the tree would have been almost 300 years old when felled.

Thus, three of the boards from which the Gundulf door is constructed originated from a single tree which was felled sometime between 1075 and 1107. This is highly significant in that Gundulf (who also advised on the building of Rochester Castle as well as the White Tower at the Tower of London) was bishop of Rochester from 1077 to 1108. He founded a new Benedictine priory here in 1083, and shortly after which time the cathedral was completely rebuilt. Thus, the tree-ring evidence shows that this door is virtually without question the sole surviving piece of decorative iron and woodwork from Gundulf's cathedral, and probably dates to just before the turn of the eleventh century. More importantly, out of only a handful of possible pre-1100 doors surviving anywhere in Britain, the Rochester door has the honour of being the earliest example to be scientifically dated.

Tim Tatton-Brown and Daniel Miles

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Report of the Officers and Members of Council

We submit our report and financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2002.

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.

Organisation

The Council meets at suitable intervals during the year to consider the Association's performance and to decide on appropriate grants.

The charity has one part-time employee and, apart from the costs of the annual report issued to members, has minimal administration costs.

Review of the Year

The income from investments during the year decreased by £1860 due to the continued change in distribution policy of the companies within the fund holding. The capital value of the fund decreased by £17,955 due to general market trend including Enron collapse having received an extra £104,000 from the legacies received. It is greatly appreciated that the Association have received legacies from Miss B. Govier, Mr. J. Levett and Mrs. M. Porter. The grants paid to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral during the year were:-

	Reserved At 1.3.01 £	Paid in Year £	Reserved at 29.2.01 £
Garth House Meeting Room	688	-	688
Fire Alarm System	4,780	-	4,780
Upkeep of the Garth	-	6,000	-
Tavener Anthem	-	3,525	4,835
North Quire Aisle	-	28,645	14,219
	<hr/> 5,468	<hr/> 38,170	<hr/> 24,522

The estimate received by the Dean and Chapter in respect of the fire alarm system amounted to £106,000, of which the Friends' agreed contribution was £53,000, as was that of English Heritage. At a meeting of 19 March 2001 the Dean and Chapter reported a substantial saving and a refund will be available to both contributors, but to date nothing has been received.

Officers and Members of Council

The officers and members are listed on page 2 of this Report.

Statement of Members of Council and Officers' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the members of Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which accord with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.

The officers and members of Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with charity law. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

Richard Andrews
Chairman

Independent Examiners Report to the Officers and Council members of the Association of Friends of Rochester Cathedral

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 28th February 2002 which are set out on pages 4 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of S43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under S43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with S.41 of the Act;and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act.have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

G. W. P. Stibbs FCA
28 Warren Road
Chatham
Kent

Dated2002

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 28th February 2002

INCOMING RESOURCES	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 28.02.02	Total 28.02.01
	£	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	9,362			9,362	8,779
Donations	295			295	393
Legacies			109,538	109,538	-
Profit on social events	1,545			1,545	1,127
Dividends	27,582			27,582	29,442
Bank interest	229			229	3,573
Profit on publications	2,749			2,749	954
Sale of furniture				-	550
Book of memory surplus	140			140	-
	41,902	-	109,538	151,440	44,818
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct charitable expenditure					
Grants		38,170		38,170	71,519
Other expenditure					
Management and administration	13,875			13,875	9,686
	13,875	38,170	-	52,045	81,205
Net Incoming resources before transfers	28,027	(38,170)	109,538	99,395	(36,387)
Transfer to designated fund (57,224)		57,224		-	(66,206)
Unrealised profit on investment held			(178,955)	(178,955)	
Net movement in funds	(29,197)	19,054	(69,417)	(79,560)	(102,593)
Fund balances brought forward	34,764	5,468	973,189	1013,421	1116,014
Fund balances carried forward	5,567	24,522	903,772	933,861	1013,421

The Association of the Friends of Rochester Cathedral
Balance sheet as at 28th February 2002

	28.02.02	28.02.01
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investments	898,234	973,189
Current Assets		
Cash at bank	38,503	41,323
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	2,876	1,091
Net Current Assets	<u>35,627</u>	<u>40,232</u>
Net Assets	<u>933,861</u>	<u>1,013,421</u>
Funds		
Restricted	903,772	973,189
Designated	24,522	5,468
General	5,567	34,764
	<u>933,861</u>	<u>1,013,421</u>

Notes to the Accounts – for the year ended 28th February 2002

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared on an Income and Expenditure basis;

b) Statement of Recommended Practice No. 2

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the framework of accounting Requirements for charities introduced by part VI of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995 and SORP 2;

2 Management and Administration Expenditure

	28.2.2002	28.2.2001
	£	£
Salary	4,759	4,598
Office Expenses	4,061	866
Printing and Stationery	1,120	995
Postage	427	369
Annual Report	2,952	2,858
Furniture	556	-
	<u>13,875</u>	<u>9,686</u>

3. The investments of the charity are managed by Cazenove Fund Management Limited of 14 Moorgate, London EC2R 6DA. The investments, on which there was no movement in the year to 28th February 2002, comprised:

	28.2.2002	28.2.2001
	£	£
UK Bonds		
277253.53 Cazenove –		
The Income Trust for Charities	178,135	183,181
UK Equities		
739498.96 Cazenove –		
The Growth Trust for Charities	720,013	789,922
Cash of Deposit	86	86
	<u>898,234</u>	<u>973,189</u>

The book cost of these investments was £795,670.

Bequest funds	£
Miss Wootten	189,597
Father Smith	246,591
Miss L. Stickland	234,079
Miss E. M. Read	15,865
Mrs M. Porter	44,538
Mr J. Levett	65,000
	<u>795,670</u>

Mrs M. Porter generously gave £44,538 to the Association through her estate of which £39,000 was invested with Cazenove by 28th February 2002 and the balance since that date. During the year the Association received through the estate of Mr J. Levett £65,000 which has been invested with Cazenove. A further distribution has been indicated by the solicitors but the amount has not been defined.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Our total membership is now 892 composed as follows:

325	Life members	18	Schools and colleges
391	Ordinary members	8	Companies
118	PCC's	32	Associations

During the year we have welcomed 19 new members, 15 ordinary and 4 life members. It is with sadness we record that we have been informed of the death of 22 members.

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.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr S. Appleton	Revd. W. J. T. Smith	Mrs U. Lockyer
Mrs S. Appleton	Mr A. H. Spencer	Mr A. MacPherson
Mrs D. Barker	Mrs I. M. Spencer	Revd. Canon V. G. Nickless
Mr A. P. Bishop	Mrs S. F. Willars	Mrs G. K. Nickless
Mr T. J. Giarmo	Obituary	Mrs P. Peckham
Mr D. Hodges	Miss C. R. Bassadona	Mrs P. J. Poyser
Mrs C. Hodges	Mr J. D. Campbell	Mrs S. F. G. Ripley
Ms K. Jackson	Mr R. Goldsworthy	Mrs O. Shotter
Mr B. Manning	Miss B. Govier	Maj. R. L. Smallman
Mrs M. C. Proctor	Mrs D. Greenwood	Mr R. G. Standen
Mr M. Robin	Mr A. G. S. Hetherington	Revd. Canon D. C. Stewart-Smith
Mrs V. Robinson	Miss M. J. Ingle	Mr D. Thomas
Mr H. T. Smith	Mrs F. M. Inglis	Mr B. P. Tompsett
Mrs P. A. Smith	Mrs E. M. King	
Mr L. A. Smith		

FRIENDS' OUTINGS

We visited Canon John Armson at Hengrave Hall in Suffolk in September after giving him a period of time in which to "settle down", a visit very much enjoyed by everybody. He gave us a lovely tour of the Tudor property and also its beautiful church before we finished the tour with tea and some wonderful home-made cakes. We wished him well. Thank you John.

Our 4-day excursion took us to Leominster where we stayed at The Talbot Hotel. En route we stopped at Pershore for lunch giving the opportunity to see the Abbey there, and then on to Sir Edward Elgar's birthplace just outside Worcester. A very contented party arrived at the hotel later. A superb guided

tour of Worcester Cathedral was laid on for us next day complete with a guided tour of their Library where the books and manuscripts were handled with white gloves. A superb tea was taken in the magnificent Chapter House followed by us joining the congregation at Evensong. It was a most beautiful day. We had an optional trip to Stokesay Castle or a stay in Ludlow the following day. Many of us attended the early Eucharist at the Priory Church in Leominster the next morning (Ascension Day) before setting off for Hereford Cathedral for our guided tour, visit to the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library Exhibitions. Coffee followed on the lawn of College Hall. Hospitality abounded on this excursion to the shires.

Jean Callebaut

OBITUARIES OF THREE FORMER MEMBERS OF CHAPTER

CANON DAVID STEWART-SMITH

Archdeacon of Bromley and Rochester who devoted himself to ministry and his personal funds to training priests

Canon David Stewart-Smith, who has died aged 87, was Archdeacon of Bromley, then of Rochester, between 1968 and 1976, having previously spent three years as Dean of St George's Collegiate Church in Jerusalem.

He belonged to what is now regarded as a somewhat old-fashioned school of Anglo-Catholicism in which faithfulness to the sacraments, prayer and pastoral ministry have the highest priority. He was also blessed with private means, and deployed much of his wealth contributing to the training of men for the priesthood.

Among the large number of those whose wartime experience had led them towards Holy Orders were some whose education was insufficient for admission to a university or a theological college. It was decided, therefore, to establish two centres, one in the north of England, the other in the south, to raise the education of these men to the required standard.

Stewart-Smith, who owned Brasted Place, Westerham, in Kent, gave this large country house to the Church of England for use as a preliminary training college and in 1952 was himself appointed as its first Warden. Over the next 11 years some hundreds of men passed through his hands, being treated as guests rather than members of an institution, and the great majority were eventually ordained.

Brasted Place continued as a preliminary training college for several years after Stewart-Smith's departure for Jerusalem, but then fell victim to a change in the

Church's training policy. Although this was a great disappointment to him, he never displayed any resentment that the gift which he and his wife had made was no longer used for its original purpose.

David Cree Stewart-Smith was born in Staffordshire on May 22 1913. From Marlborough he went up to King's College, Cambridge, where he was much influenced by the Dean, Eric Milner-White. He prepared for Holy Orders at Cuddesdon Theological College, near Oxford.

From 1941, to 1943, he was a curate at St Matthew's, Northampton, where the vicar, Walter Hussey, who later became a distinguished Dean of Chichester, was already well known for commissioning for St Matthew's some of the best contemporary sculpture and music. Stewart-Smith shared his taste and his belief that only the best was good enough for a place of worship.

He then spent a year as a curate at Cheltenham, after which Milner-White, by then Dean of York, invited him to become a Vicar Choral and the Sacrist of York Minster. During the next five years he was closely involved in maintaining the Minster's worship and also served as chaplain of Queen Margaret's School at Castle Howard.

In 1949 Stewart-Smith sought more parochial experience as Vicar of Shadwell – a small parish in the suburbs of Leeds – and continued his educational involvement as a Fellow of the Northern Division of the Woodard Corporation, responsible for the overall management of several Church of England public schools. Later, during his time at Brasted Place, he was a Fellow of the Corporation's Southern Division.

His stay as Dean of St George's Collegiate Church in Jerusalem, from 1964 to 1967, was briefer than had been hoped and was attended by a good deal of frustration arising from the fact that only half of the Holy City was accessible. But Stewart-Smith and his wife were hospitable hosts to the many pilgrims who visited St George's from all parts of the world, and his administrative and educational experience was invaluable in the managing of the nearby St George's College.

On his return to England in 1968, Stewart-Smith was made Archdeacon of Bromley, in Rochester diocese, and the next year moved to the Archdeaconry of Rochester, in order to have a closer association with the cathedral as a Canon Residentiary.

Although his Anglo-Catholic beliefs were not shared by all in a predominantly evangelical diocese, he was a greatly admired archdeacon who devoted more time to the spreading of ideas about Christian ministry than to the traditional duties of inspecting church roofs and drains. Stewart-Smith was diocesan Director of Ordinands from 1968 to 1974.

He also took his cathedral responsibilities very seriously, and when Brasted Place College closed he claimed the altar from its chapel for installation in a chapel in the cathedral crypt, where he and his wife were daily communicants.

In the wider Church, he served for some years on the Church of England Pensions Board, was a Church Commissioner, and retained his link with the Middle East as one of the Archbishop in Jerusalem's commissaries in England.

This link was strengthened in 1976 when he left Rochester to spend the final two years of his full-time ministry as Home Secretary of the Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association. The association provides prayer and financial support for the Anglican Church in this volatile region and Stewart-Smith inspired by example as well as by skilled communication. He retained his connection with Rochester as an Honorary Canon of the cathedral.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen, who was for some years a member of the Church Assembly.

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CANON PAUL WELSBY

Chaplain to the Queen and distinguished historian of the Church who helped to ensure Synod business ran smoothly

Paul Welsby was an influential figure in the Church of England, especially in the 1970s when he was Prolocutor of the Convocation of Canterbury, chairman of the House of Clergy of the General Synod and a member of its standing committee. For eight years he was responsible for deciding, arranging and securing the smooth passage of the business of the Synod. In 1980, the year he retired from the General Synod, he was appointed Chaplain to the Queen. He was also a biographer and writer on the history of the Church of some note.

After reading modern history at University College, Durham, Paul Antony Welsby was accepted for ordination in 1942 by Archbishop William Temple. He trained for the ministry at Lincoln Theological College and was made deacon in Canterbury Cathedral in 1944 and ordained priest the following year. His first curacy was at Boxley, near Maidstone, and three years later he moved to Suffolk. For five years he was curate of St Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, before being instituted in 1952 as rector of the country parish of Copdock and Washbrook with Belstead, where he remained for 14 years.

It was while he was at Copdock that he worked for a doctorate at Sheffield University. His subject was the life of the 17th-century divine, Bishop Lancelot

Andrewes, and in 1958 he published his authoritative biography. Four years later this was followed by a biography of George Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1611 to 1633.

It was at this time that he became involved in the work of the Workers' Educational Association, travelling to many parts of Suffolk and Essex to lecture on theological, philosophical and historical subjects. In 1959 he was invited to contribute a weekly religious article to the local newspaper, and this he did for 11 years. In 1964, he was appointed rural dean of Samford, and in the same year he was elected to the Church Assembly.

In 1966 Welsby was appointed Canon Residentiary of Rochester Cathedral. For the first eight years he was Canon-Precentor at the cathedral. He later became property steward, an office which he retained after he became vice-dean in 1973. Meanwhile, as director of post-ordination training he produced a scheme of training which was undertaken by some 300 newly ordained men and women.

In the City of Rochester Welsby was at various times chaplain to four mayors, and as such took a positive interest in the work of the city council. He was much involved in the activities of the City of Rochester Society, of which he became chairman. He also conducted classes at the local Adult Education Centre.

Throughout this period, until 1980, Welsby remained a member of the Church Assembly and its successor, the General Synod. It was during these years that he became a national figure in church life. In the Rochester Diocesan Synod he was for six years chairman of the House of Clergy and a member of the Bishops' Council.

All the while, Welsby continued his historical and theological writing. He had an acute mind and a very good library. Altogether he published some eight works, the last two being *A History of the Church of England, 1945-1980* (1984) and *How the Church of England Works* (1985). He also contributed articles to learned journals and other publications.

In 1988 Welsby retired and moved to Pembury. He was appointed canon emeritus and in his years of retirement exercised a ministry at the parish of King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells, and also at Burrswood.

He found relaxation in walking long distances in the countryside until arthritis made this impossible. He always had a book in his pocket, and could be found reading in the odd five minutes he had between meetings and on buses and trains. He read on a wide range of subjects, fiction and non-fiction, and for recreation was an avid reader of detective novels. He was also skilled in genealogical research and had a great interest in the law.

He was a friend and mentor to many clergy, to whom he gave often very direct advice. His warmth and ready wit endeared him even to those with whom he disagreed. Throughout his ministry he had the love and superb support of his wife, Cynthia, who survives him, along with a daughter.

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CANON DEREK GEORGE PALMER 1928-2002

Archdeacon of Rochester 1977-1983

Derek Palmer arrived at Rochester in 1977 at a time of transition, and at the same time as a new Dean, John Arnold. Installed as the Archdeacon of Rochester, he also undertook the duties of Canon Warden with a remit to improve the welcome to and facilities for visitors to the cathedral. It was largely Derek's initiative and drive that led to the establishment of the St. Andrew's Centre for Visitors in the former Deanery, which had been used as a private home since the closure of the Rochester Theological College in 1970. A Visitors Advisory Committee was established under his Chairmanship, the membership of which included an Architect in Bob Ratcliffe, and a recently retired Primary School Headmaster, Eric Walker, and a King's School Master, Terry Robinson. From the outset, Derek was determined to provide an interesting programme for children as well as for adult visitors. The premises were refurbished, tape/slide programmes were written, and equipment purchased. A Visitors Officer was employed to accept bookings from both school and parish parties, and volunteers were trained as guides to receive them. A room was provided where visitors could eat their own refreshments, and light refreshments were sold. The visitors came in their thousands. The Dean and Chapter totally lacked any financial resources, but Derek did not allow this to hold the enterprise back and negotiated an interest free loan of £20,000 for a ten year period from the Kent County Council. Members of the Cathedral Community Council under the Chairmanship of Andy Anderson undertook to raise the money to repay the loan. The money was raised by the auction at Rochester Corn Exchange of items donated in an Attic Treasure Hunt. Just over £10,000 was raised in one day, which when invested by the Dean and Chapter's stockbroker grew to produce more than the required amount by the time that repayment was due.

With the support of the Friends, it was Derek's initiative that led to the formation of a trading company, Rochester Cathedral Gift Stall Ltd., to provide a proper shop for the sale of guidebooks and souvenirs within the Cathedral. A board of Directors was appointed under Derek's chairmanship, and a Manageress, Monica Wightman, employed. Volunteers were recruited and trained to man the shop at busy times, and particularly during week-ends and bank holidays. Derek rarely failed to ask the amount of the day's takings on his way to

evensong. It was another of Derek's initiatives that led to the formation of the Medway Towns Tourist Consortium.

Derek also chaired the Radio Medway (now Radio Kent), Advisory Committee, and it was in this capacity that he helped to establish the very first Radio Lent Course. This was a hugely successful venture that in due course went nationwide. Derek was so full of ideas and activities that he seemed to be everywhere and to do everything. Indeed it has to be said that on close examination, not all his ideas seemed to be sound. Part of Derek's charm though was that when any flaws were pointed out to him, he would accept gracefully and without rancour, moving swiftly on to a more recent idea that he had had.

The achievement of which I am sure Derek was most proud, was to have led an ecumenical pilgrimage from the Medway Towns to the Holy Land, and to have celebrated on the Mount of Olives on Ascension Day. At Rochester we of course knew of Derek's devotion to the ecumenical movement, and it was to the position of Home Secretary for the Board of Mission and Unity that he moved from Rochester. It was entirely in character for him to have died while attending at Leeds, a conference at which many denominations were represented.

Derek leaves his wife Cecilie, sons Martin and Nigel and daughters Sheila and Yan-shi and their families. We extend to them our sympathy at the loss of someone who lived the life of an active Christian to the full, and who will be long remembered at Rochester.

E.F.B.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL – 2002

June

Saturday	1st	Queen's Jubilee weekend – Jubilee Service 3.15pm
Sunday	2nd	Queen's Jubilee weekend
	6th 9th	Dickens Festival
Saturday	8th	Cathedral Coffee morning
Sunday	9th	Mayor's Dedication Service Dickens Memorial Service
Saturday	15th	Friends Festival
Saturday	22nd	French Hospital Service
Saturday	29th	Petertide Ordination

July

Saturday	6th	Maths School Founders Day KSR Senior Speech Day
Friday	12th	Rochester Girls Grammar School Founders Day
Saturday	20th	Rochester Choral Society Concert

September

Saturday	7th	KSR Commemoration Service Michaelmas Ordination
Sunday	8th	Royal Engineers Memorial Service
Wednesday	25th	Cologne Philharmonic Concert

October

Saturday	5th	Friends of Wisdom Hospice – Voices for Hospice
Saturday	19th	Rochester Choral Society Concert

November

Sunday	10th	Remembrance Sunday
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December

Sunday	1st	Advent Carol Service
	7th 8th	Dickens weekend
Saturday	7th	Rochester Choral Society Concert
Friday	20th	Cathedral Carol Service
Saturday	21st	

Regular Services:

Sundays	Weekdays		
08.00	Holy Communion (BCP)	07.30	Matins
09.45	Sung Matins	08.00	Holy Communion
10.30	Sung Eucharist and Sermon	13.00	Holy Communion (Thursday only)
15.1	Sung Evensong (15.15 on Saturdays)	17.30	Evensong

