



**Friends of Rochester Cathedral**  
Report 2010 / 2011

*Featuring 'Rochester Bishops' and incorporating 'Cathedral Windows'*

## Officers and Council of the Friends

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HRH The Duchess of Kent, GCVO

### Visitor

The Lord Bishop of Rochester

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The Dean of Rochester

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\*Canon Dr Phillip Hesketh

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Mr Robert Ratcliffe

### Vice-Chairman

\*Mr Michael Bailey

### Treasurer

\*Mr John Dalley

### Secretary

Miss Betty Trollope

### Council

#### Retire 2011

Mrs Mary Woodfield  
\*Mr Michael Bailey  
Prebendary John Prior  
Miss Betty Trollope

#### Retire 2012

Mrs Jean Callebaut  
Mrs Eileen Coleman  
\*Mr Colin Hoad  
Mr Robert Ratcliffe

#### Retire 2013

Mrs Jill Armitage  
Mr Alan McLean  
Mr Malcolm Moulton  
Mr Terry Wood

### \*Trustees

#### Archdeaconry Representatives:

Mr David Maxwell - Rochester  
Major Brian Faux - Tonbridge  
Mr Len Curtis - Bromley

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Website address: [www.rochestercathedral.org/friends](http://www.rochestercathedral.org/friends)

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### *EDITORIAL...Malcolm Moulton*

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This report is by the Publicity Sub-Committee, chaired by Jill Armitage. Her support, that of her predecessor, Anne Sears, and of our Chairman, Bob Ratcliffe, are especially acknowledged, as are the authors of this year's articles, for their research and co-operation.

Within the well-tried format are two innovations, aimed at giving more value for less outlay, so conserving funds to support the Dean and Chapter. The 8-page full-colour section on "Cathedral Windows" will also be sold to visitors, more than paying for what Friends are getting for free. And to avoid risking excess postage, the minutes of the last AGM have been incorporated.

The Dean has generously forgone his message to make room for Ralph Godsell's sermon at the Friends' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Evensong. Another article compares assessments of the number of Bishops of Rochester and there is a summary of the Friends' popular social events, all within the same report size as before.

I hope you will find it as interesting to read as it has been to compile.

## *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT...Robert Ratcliffe*

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The end of the financial year heralds an editorial demand for the Chairman's report to meet press deadlines, even though it will not hit the membership until mid-May. This report covers the first year of my second innings as chairman, having taken over from Colin Hoad at our last AGM.

In his last report Colin referred to the proposed disabled access to the Crypt. Such work has now become part of a major scheme, and is unlikely to start until 2013. Meanwhile the digital survey is complete and has resulted in some delightful drawings. Minor works for 2010-2011 were the overhaul of the clock and the restoration of the Tudor Gateway. These are now in hand, but payment for them has slipped to the 2011-2012 year, and the money allocated for them in the 2010-2011 budget has been used to cover the cost of the remaining new chairs.

On our social side, Mary Woodfield and her committee are to be congratulated on the weekend in Chester, day visits and the advent lunch, while the Publicity Committee under Jill Armitage continues to promote the Friends and has produced a useful leaflet on some of the Cathedral's stained glass which forms the centre pages of this Annual Report, and which is available separately for visitors.

John Dalley and the Finance Committee have done a great job in controlling our funds, and have also spent considerable time overhauling the Constitution to bring it into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Amendments will be put to members in due course.

Our membership is still slightly below the magic 1000 mark, but this should be attainable with a bit of a push, and I ask you all to see if we can achieve this figure during the present year.

In conclusion I thank my fellow members of Council for their support over the past year, and in particular Michael Bailey, my Vice-Chairman, and Malcolm Moulton for the production of this report. Lastly, but by no means least, I thank Christine Tucker, our office administrator, for clearing the photocopier after I've jammed it!

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**Please persuade a friend to become a Friend!**  
**By having their contact details sent to the Friends' Office:**

**by telephone:** 01634 832 142 (Mon-Thurs 0900 to 1230) or  
**by letter to:** The Friends' Administrator 1 The College  
The Precinct Rochester Kent ME1 1SU or  
**by e-mail to:** [friendsofrochstercathedral@btinternet.com](mailto:friendsofrochstercathedral@btinternet.com) or  
**via the web site:** [www.rochestercathedral.org/friends](http://www.rochestercathedral.org/friends)

**Thank you!**

## *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT...Robert Ratcliffe*

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**Thank you!**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT...Betty Trollope

---

Our total membership is now 967 composed as follows:

370 Life members, 425 Ordinary members, 7 Families, 114 PCCs,  
18 Schools and colleges, 4 Companies, 29 Associations

During the financial year (1 March 2010 – 28 February 2011) we have welcomed 61 new members, 40 ordinary, 17 life members, 1 family, 1 school and 2 PCCs. 3 members have transferred to life membership. We are delighted to welcome so many new members in our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

It is with sadness we record the death of 12 members. 20 members have either resigned or, despite our best efforts to trace them, have not renewed their membership.

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

This list is correct to February 28th 2011 when the Financial Year ends.

### **New Members**

Ms C L Annesley-Gamester  
Mr R Austin  
Revd S Austin  
Mr P Beamiss  
Capt. E H Beetham  
Mrs B Beetham  
Mr P E J Best  
Mrs J A Best  
Miss B M Brigden  
Bishop of Rochester Academy,  
Chatham  
Mrs M E Clark  
Mrs C Cordier  
Mrs S Croft  
Mr L W Curtis  
Mrs D Dann  
Mrs M Davison  
Mr R Dickerson  
Mr G M J Dummett  
Mr G T Endacott  
Mrs A Epps  
Mr M J G Fletcher  
Mrs O Garner  
Mr I Goodhew  
Mrs P Goodhew

Revd D Gower  
Mrs E Gower  
St Mary's PCC, Green St  
Mrs M L Greengo  
Mr J K A Harding  
Mr I Harris  
Mrs J Harris  
Mr E Holder  
Mrs P Holder  
Mr J R Jackson  
Mrs K M Jackson  
Mr J G Jenkins  
Mr H Kennedy-Skipton  
Miss K Kraus  
Miss J Lloyds  
Mr S Males  
Mr P J Millen  
Mr N North  
Mr A J Philpott  
All Souls PCC, Pratts  
Bottom  
Mr A Ratcliffe  
Mrs A Ratcliffe  
Dr R J Reid  
Miss S M Reid  
Mr G R Simms

Mr J H W Smale  
Mr P Stawowski & family  
Mrs S Styles  
Mrs J Tear  
Mrs V Tipp  
Mrs J M Tomkins  
Mr B Trigg  
Mrs M Trigg  
The Rt Revd Dr S Venner  
Mrs J Venner  
Mrs L Wallis-Eade  
Mr R Webb

### **Obituary**

Mrs G U Baines  
Mr G Butler  
Mr R T Clarke OBE  
Mr R L L Davis  
Mr I Fawkner  
Mrs S Hale  
Mrs L Hill  
Mr J Hubbard  
Mr T J C Lawford  
Mr T Lee  
Mr E C Lees  
Mrs E G Pugh

## *SOCIAL EVENTS... Mary Woodfield*

### *Visit to Berwick and Michelham, Thursday 20 April*

That sunny morning 55 members left the Medway Towns to visit 12<sup>th</sup> century Berwick Church, famous for its 20<sup>th</sup> century murals. Commissioned by Bishop Bell of Chichester in 1941 they were painted by the Bloomsbury artists, Duncan Gray and Vanessa and Quentin Bell, who lived nearby at Charleston.



*Nativity scene at Berwick Church*

We then drove to the Augustinian Priory, founded at Michelham in 1229, and went immediately to the great Elizabethan Barn for lunch. We had free time to visit the house, entering through the 13<sup>th</sup> century undercroft. Whilst walking round the rooms we saw many items of historical interest on display and, in the Prior's Great Chamber, a realistic model of a prior working at a table. We enjoyed the herbs in the Physic Garden, the beautiful grounds with monks' statues and the long moat walk and we were able to buy bags of stone-ground flour from the working watermill before our homeward journey.



*Michelham moat and Priory*



*Entrance to Coughton Court*

### *Visit to Chester, Friday 21 to Tuesday 25 May*

Our very enjoyable residential visit to Chester coincided with one of the warmest week-ends in 2010. On our outward journey we were relieved to have cooling-off time during lunch at Coughton Court as, to the dismay of our driver, Wolfgang, the air-conditioning of our brand new and otherwise comfortable coach had failed. Coughton Court, with

its many original features, was the home of the Throckmorton family until being gifted to the National Trust in 1946. We enjoyed the pleasant gardens and the house, with its reminders of a difficult Catholic history.



*Listening to Liz at Eccleston Church*

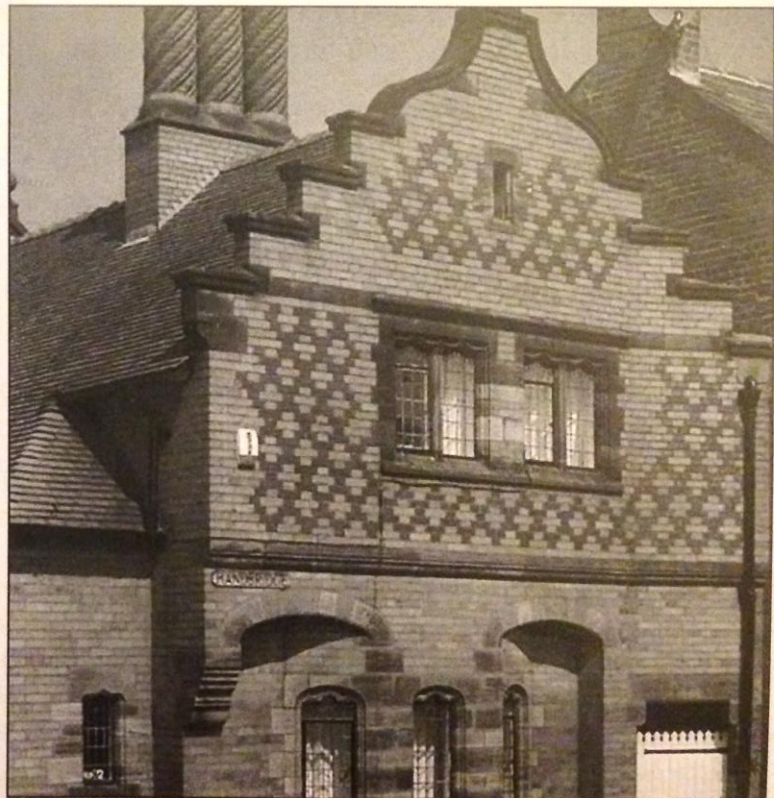
Saturday morning was even hotter. Liz, our Chester guide, suggested that, instead of the booked guided city walk, we might prefer a short coach tour of the city, drive out to the village of Eccleston (built by the first Duke of Westminster for his estate workers) and end with a shorter city walk. Members voted for this option.

En route, Liz pointed out places of special interest including sites of the old leper house, workhouse and Barrel Well Hill, where

suspected witches were put into barrels and rolled into the River Dee. If drowned, they were pronounced innocent; otherwise they were hanged.

At Eccleston we saw the diamond-shaped brickwork and barley-sugar chimneys, distinctive of all the Duke of Westminster's properties. In the church, with its beautifully cut lime-tree drive, were the tombs of the first six dukes.

Back at Chester we completed our tour with a short city walk, past the Cathedral and its precinct, up onto the city walls looking at the famous Rows before ending at the centre Cross. Here the City Town Crier gave us a special welcome.



*Diamonds and barley-sugar*



On Saturday afternoon we visited St Asaph's Cathedral in Wales. There we were welcomed warmly by Dr Rosemary Solby, their Friends' Secretary, and her husband and given an excellent guided tour. We were treated to tea and delicious homemade bara brith and Welsh cakes that Dr Solby had kindly cooked for us.

Most members attended the Chester Cathedral service on Sunday morning and we were invited to join the congregation in the Chapter Room afterwards for coffee.

On Sunday afternoon Wolfgang drove us through lovely countryside to the ancient and beautifully-timbered manor of Gawsworth Hall. The owner, Mr Richards, welcomed us with an introductory talk about the house's history before we explored it and the attractive grounds. It being another very hot day, the ice creams and cool drinks were greatly appreciated.

Monday was our last full day in Chester. After being driven to the riverside, we boarded the *Lady Diana* for a relaxing two-hour trip along the river Dee to the iron bridge on the Duke of Westminster's estate. During the trip we were given a commentary by the captain whilst we enjoyed the views and ate our lunch.

From our hotel we walked the short distance to the Cathedral to meet our two guides who gave us a short history before taking us round. We saw the only remaining ecclesiastical consistory courtroom in the country where, in bygone times, the bishop would try miscreants. Our tour ended in the Cloister Garden, near Stephen Broadbent's fascinating 'Living Waters' sculpture, followed by tea with our guides in the Cathedral refectory.

On Tuesday our lunchtime stop was at Canons Ashby, once the site of an Augustinian Priory. We were able to explore the house, lovely gardens and private church, all that now remains of the priory, before going home.

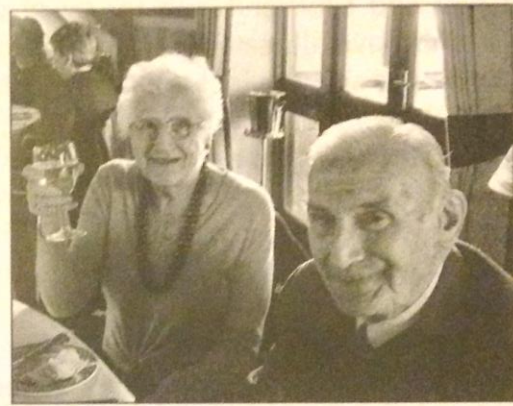
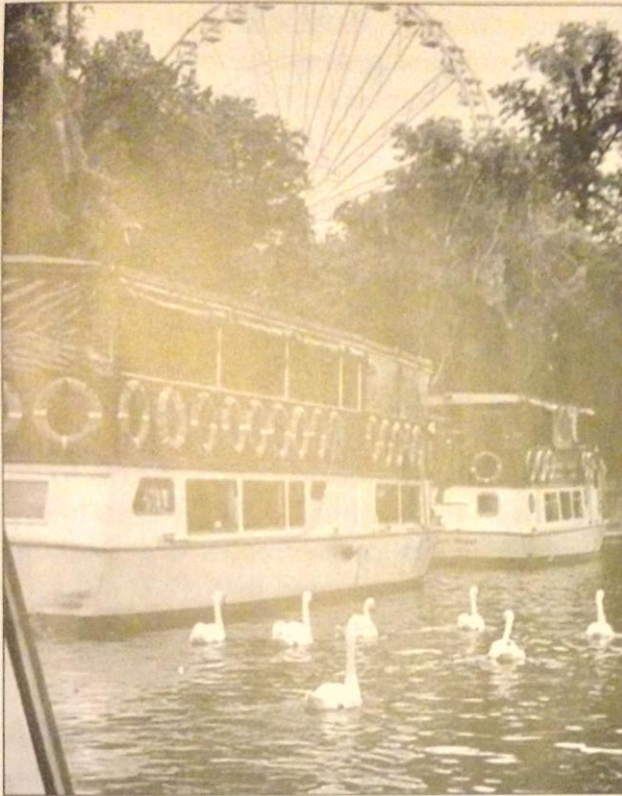
#### *Eton and Thames visit, Tuesday 13 July*

After an interesting and informative guided tour of Eton College we returned to Windsor Promenade for a relaxing two-hour boat trip on the Thames. Our captain pointed out all the places of interest while we enjoyed lunch and admired the scenery. Some later indulged in a cream tea.

#### *Advent Lunch: 24 November*

The final social event in 2010 was our very special lunch to celebrate the Friends' 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was held in the Rivers Restaurant at Upchurch River Valley Golf Club. It was well supported and enjoyed by all. Our President, the Very Revd Adrian Newman, entertained us with a delightful after-luncheon address.

Please look out for 2011 events on 17 June, 14 July, 18 October and 23 November.



*\* Clockwise from left: Windsor Promenade, Gawsworth Hall and the Friends' first lay Chairman, John Bradley and former Chairman, Joan Sharpe, at the Advent Lunch*

## *SURVEYOR'S REPORT... Ian Stewart*

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It is very gratifying to report the completion of projects, which were 'work in progress' last year. Most conspicuous are the glass porches at the great west doors and the north entrance, improving the welcome at the main entrances. Removing the gloomy old porch from the little west door has improved the appearance of the Nave's North Aisle.

The west end of the South Aisle has also been greatly improved by removing the shop fittings, redundant heater flue and rusty floor grille. The redecorated and repaved west bay of the aisle houses the splendid new Royal Engineers' memorial, designed, made and installed by Paul Wehrle.

The refurbished toilets off the North Quire Aisle and the new wheelchair-accessible WC off the South Quire Aisle are now fully operational and re-roofing the lapidarium in the old Treasury, above the aisle of the North Quire Transept, is complete. English Heritage grant-aided this work, which included masonry repairs and reglazing, made accessible by the substantial scaffolding required for the roofing job. This has enabled us to complete other recommended repairs identified in the 2008 quinquennial survey.

Important, if less apparent, has been consolidating the masonry of a section of Roman

city wall, which survives in the garden of King's Orchard, south-east of the Cathedral. My colleague Graham Keevill, our consultant archaeologist, masterminded this and the obtaining of an English Heritage grant towards the cost. The ruinous masonry has been secured and archaeological trial pits either side of the wall have revealed evidence of hitherto unknown mediaeval alterations to this part of the monastic buildings. Despite its more robust condition, it still remains just a ruinous bit of wall to the layman's eye. Part of the grant money is therefore going towards an interpretation panel explaining the significance of the surviving masonry.

A large project, which I anticipated in last year's report, to provide access to the Crypt and Cloister Garth for those with disabilities, has not yet materialised. The Friends have allocated a large sum towards this. We have prepared proposals for an ambitious scheme including a lift and levelled access as well as improvements to the Crypt's heating, lighting and flooring and a major remodelling of the vestries below the Cathedral Library. Quantity Surveyor's estimates of cost exceeded the available budget by about 50% but our ever-resourceful Dean responded that we should not diminish the scope or quality of the project but make it bigger and better. This is the exciting challenge on which we are now working.

As I write we await the outcome of a grant application for roof repairs over the Chapter Room and Library. One of the few mediaeval roofs left within the precinct, it requires structural repair and retiling. The Friends have also committed funds towards the repairs to another mediaeval survival, the so-called Tudor gateway in the Cloister boundary, south of the Nave Transept. The moulded oak door frame is thought to have come from the monastic buildings and was re-used as the side gate to the house of the 3rd Prebend, built about 1804 and demolished in 1937. The timber is now in a parlous state and we are getting Hugh Harrison, who tackled the Sextry gates a couple of years ago, to conserve it. A new iron gate in the opening is designed to be free-standing in order to relieve the ancient woodwork of the strains associated with opening closing it.

We all look forward to another busy year ahead.

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*Held in the Visitors' Centre, High Street, Rochester on Saturday 19th June 2010*

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71 Members were present.

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

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

Mrs Lesley Cashman

Mr Raymond Clarke OBE

Mr Richard Davis

Mrs Stella Hale

Mr Timothy Lawford

Mrs Pamela Lee

Mr John Matthews

Mr R L Messent

Mrs D M Penrose

Mr Don Penrose

Mrs Kathleen Stewart-Smith

Mrs Jill Wharton

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr N Allan, Canon J M Armson, Mr and Mrs M R Bailey, Mr and Mrs E F Bates, Mr and Mrs A Bell, Mr D J Bradley, Mr M Chaloner, Miss T Crouch MP, Mr and Mrs E Darwin, Mr and Mrs D Foreman, Canon and Mrs R Godsall, Mrs L Hacker, Major R D Hale, Mrs S. Hesketh, Mr and Mrs K Jennings, Mr M Lockyer, Mr D Maxwell, Revd A McCabe, Mr and Mrs D Morgan, Mr A Moss, Mr and Mrs M Moulton, The Very Revd and Mrs A Newman, Mr D R Ralph, Mrs J Ravenhill, Mrs K Richter, Mr K Russell, Major Gen. G B Sinclair CB CBE, Mrs H. Sinclair, Mrs M Springett, The Very Revd and Mrs H E C Stapleton, Mr J. Taylor, Canon and Mrs E Turner, The Rt. Revd and Mrs A M A Turnbull, The Rt. Revd and Mrs S Venner, The Very Revd M C Warner, Mr and Mrs T Youens.

### MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 June 2009, having previously been circulated, were signed by the Vice-President as a correct record. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Vice-President said that in the absence of the President, who was on Sabbatical leave, it fell to him to preside and to say a few words.

Firstly, he thanked the Friends of the Cathedral for their continued support in so many different ways, not least financial. In particular the decision by the Friends to support

the Crypt Project would enable access for all to the Crypt.

Secondly, in this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, there was much to celebrate since the first meeting of the Council held at the Deanery on 5th October 1935. Among the list of notable members were three Mayors, one Vice-Admiral, one Major General, one Colonel, two Bishops, one Archdeacon, the Chancellor of the Diocese and the Dowager Countess of Darnley. The Patron was the Duke of Kent. Canon Dr Hesketh was pleased to report the presence of the current Mayor and Mayoress, and one of the new MP's for Medway.

Although the Inaugural Festival was held in November 1935, a Service of Thanksgiving would be held in October. He hoped that as many people as possible would attend. At a time of financial hardship when so many worthy causes were asking for support, it was a challenge to attract new members. Yet, if each member were able to make just one new Friend, our numbers would be doubled in this anniversary year.

Although there might not be lots of young people queuing up to join the Friends, the mere fact that the Friends supported the Chapter's aim to make the Cathedral a safe, accessible and inviting place meant that seeds were planted in the hearts and minds of thousands of young people who come here, either for worship, an educational trip or a family visit.

T S Eliot wrote: 'Take no thought of the harvest but only of good sowing'. The Friends were planting seeds that in the future would bear fruit. The fruit of our labours might not be seen in our life time, but just like those who have gone before we should plant good seed so that others would benefit in the future; others would take up the challenge in their generation. The harvest was in God's hands – for indeed as the psalmist has reminded us 'Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain'.

So "For all that has been 'Thanks', for all that is to come 'Yes'".

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr Hoad apologised again that work had not yet begun on the 'easy' access to the Crypt and Quire. However he hoped that by the time of the next Annual General Meeting work would be well under way. The usual £6000 for the upkeep of the Garth had been paid.

Enjoyable arrangements had been made by the Social Committee including a holiday in Chester. The visit to St Asaph's Cathedral was outstanding. Day trips to Whitstable and Broadstairs, Berwick Church and Michelham Priory were also very enjoyable. The pre-Advent lunch at the 'Rivers Restaurant' in Upchurch would be repeated this year as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations when the Speaker would be our President the Dean.

The Publicity and Publications Committee continued to work hard. The Chairman thanked them for the superb Annual Report, with special thanks to Malcolm Moulton. The Finance and Projected Works Committee continued to have discussions with the Dean and Chapter on Crypt and Quire access.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of Legacies. Our predecessors over many years adopted a prudent financial policy with a result that the Dean and Chapter could receive substantial help. However this money should be replaced to meet future repairs and requirements. The present number of Members is 953. An increase in Membership would also mean a welcome increase in funds.

The Chairman had enjoyed his three-year term as Chairman. He thanked Betty Trollope, a very supportive Secretary, John Dalley, a very capable and thoughtful Treasurer, Christine Tucker, the highly efficient Administrator, and finally the sub-committee Chairmen, Anne Sears, Mary Woodfield and John Dalley.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked all Members for their support.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the Accounts for the year to 28 February 2010, presented in the Annual Report, had been inspected by our Independent Accountant who made no amendments.

Investments had risen to £1,056,753, a very satisfactory result in the light of the current economic climate.

Grants to the Dean and Chapter were £35,600.

The Accounts, examined by Mr Richard Abel and set out in the Report for the year to 28 February 2010, were put to the meeting for approval. Mrs Margaret Ratcliffe proposed and Miss Betty Trollope seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

A full copy of the signed Accounts is available from the Office.

He thanked Mrs Christine Tucker for all her help during the year.

#### ELECTION OF FOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Vice-President announced that Mrs Jill Armitage, Mr Markham Chesterfield, Mr Alan McLean, Mr Malcolm Moulton, Mrs Margaret Ratcliffe, Mrs Anne Sears and Mr Terry Wood had offered themselves for election.

Mrs Jill Armitage, Mr Alan McLean, Mr Malcolm Moulton and Mr Terry Wood were elected by ballot to serve for three years.

The Vice-President thanked and congratulated all members for their service on the Council.

#### ELECTION OF TREASURER

Mr John Dalley was proposed as Hon Treasurer by Mr Colin Hoad and seconded by Mr Robert Ratcliffe.

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

The Vice-President thanked Mr Dalley for his agreeing to act as Hon Treasurer for a further year.

#### ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT

Mr Richard Abel, having notified that he was prepared to act, was appointed Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the year to 28 February 2011.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vice-President announced that none had been notified to the Office.

#### DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Friends would be held at 2pm on Saturday, 18 June 2011.

Following the meeting, an Address on '*From One Blessed Thing to Another*' was given by The Very Revd Jonathan Meyrick, Dean of Exeter.



## **Rochester Cathedral Windows**

*A Celebration of Victorian Excellence in Glass*

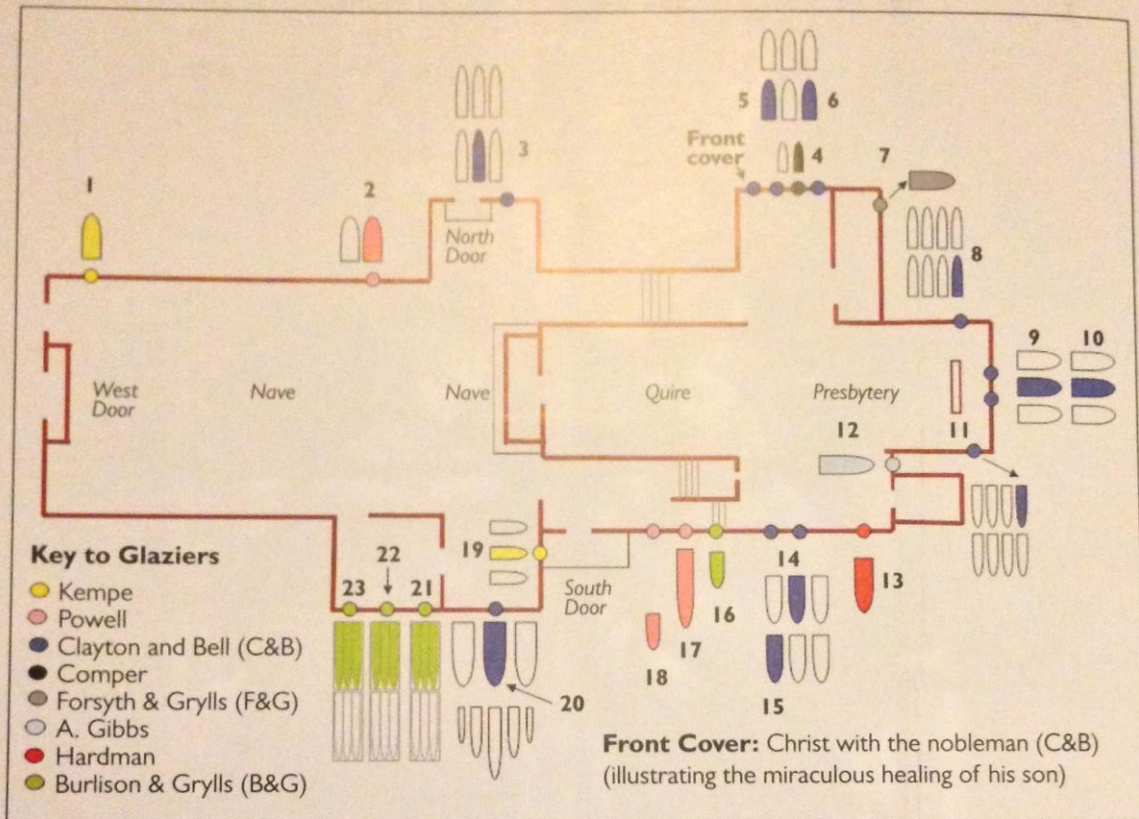


# A Celebration of Victorian Excellence in Glass

A compilation by Lyndall Hacker and David Maxwell.

Pictures by Bob Ratcliffe

With thanks to Anneliese Arnold and Joseph Miller

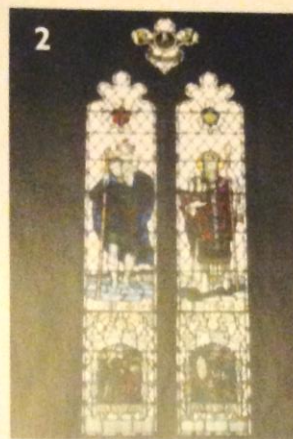
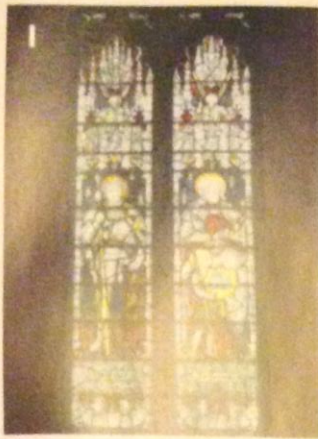


The Victorian influence on stained glass, which persisted into the early 20th century, is at last being given the recognition it so richly deserves.

Glass staining and painting, once an integral part of religious architecture, had all but ceased in England by the dawn of the 19th century. The far-reaching spiritual and artistic influences of the Oxford Tractarian Movement in the 1840s reversed this and gave rise to the greatest flowering of stained glass manufacture since the Middle Ages.

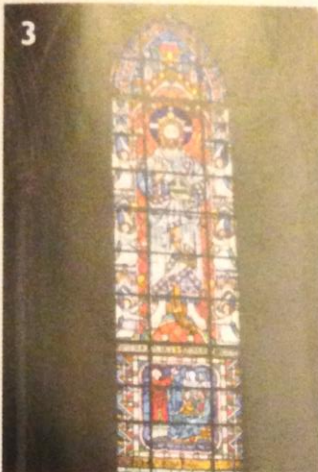
Rochester Cathedral has an exceptionally fine legacy from glaziers who replicated the spiritual aims and artistic beauty of their mediaeval predecessors. Their windows wrap around the building in subtly different styles with palettes of vibrant colours, evoking biblical narratives and local history.

The window illustrations, brief descriptions and notes on the glaziers are meant purely as a guide. Only by looking at the windows themselves can their true beauty be appreciated. We hope your interest will engender a greater appreciation of these luminous tapestries and encourage support for a comprehensive future publication.



**1: Sts George & Elizabeth**

(Kempe 1900). George stands with lance and shield on a dead dragon. (Wheat sheaf, bottom left hand corner). Elizabeth is elderly, her hair veiled. Her son, John, in camel hair shorts, holds a lamb with a cruciform halo and the resurrection banner, symbolising Christ.



**2: Sts Christopher & Nicholas** (Powell of Whitefriars, 1920). These lights are dedicated to officers and men lost when HMS Vanguard exploded at Scapa Flow in 1917. St Christopher carries the Christ Child and St Nicholas, Bishop and patron saint of sailors, holds a galleon. Lord Nelson appears in a roundel above.

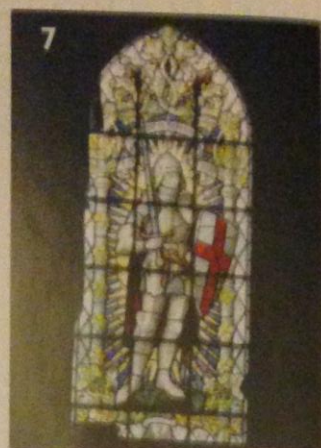
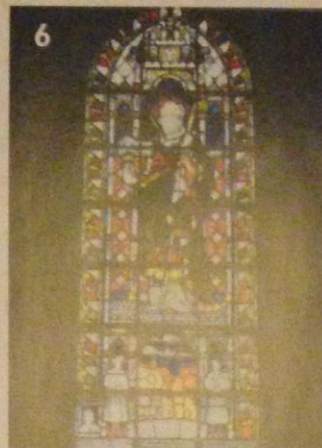
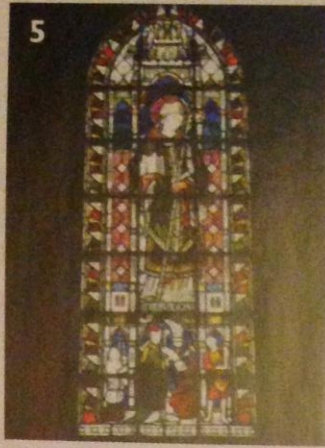
**3: Christ as Saviour of the World** (C&B, 1869).

Christ holds a cross and a three-sectioned orb symbolising the world: comprising Europe, Africa and Asia (the only continents known in mediaeval times). Below, St Stephen is on trial before the Sanhedrin. He is praying as he lifts his chained hands toward his Saviour.



**4: St William of Perth** (Comper, 1911). The right-hand pair of windows behind Walter de Merton's tomb show, on the left, St William of Perth in pilgrim dress holding a staff with a scallop on his hat and bag. Murdered outside Rochester in 1201 and buried in the Cathedral, he became a magnet for pilgrims. The other light shows John the Baptist with Comper's strawberry motif below his left foot.

**Charles Eamer Kempe** (1837-1907) (Wheat sheaf motif). Kempe, one of the giants among Victorian glass artists and deeply involved with the Tractarian Movement, learnt the elements of his craft with the leading firm of Clayton & Bell. His extravagant use of prime colours, silver staining, the delicate and detailed painting of the figures and their settings, elaborate angels' wings of peacock feathers and jewel-encrusted garments, combined to produce his own distinctive style which was essentially a new and refreshing interpretation of the mediaeval English tradition.



**5: Gundulf** (C&B, 1885). William I brought Gundulf to England for his piety and engineering skills. Famous for his design of the Tower of London, as Bishop of Rochester (1077-1108) he founded a Benedictine monastery here, designed this Norman Cathedral and undertook work on Rochester Castle. He holds a model of the castle (and a plan of the Cathedral in the scene below, where he is surrounded by workmen). His halo is unmerited as he was never canonized!

**6: Walter de Merton** (C&B, c1888), Chancellor of England under Henry III and Bishop of Rochester under Edward I, holds a model of Merton College which he founded with his eight nephews in mind! Perhaps two of them are in the scene below. A portrait of Mrs Maxwell Hyslop, the dedicatee, appears in the left-hand corner.

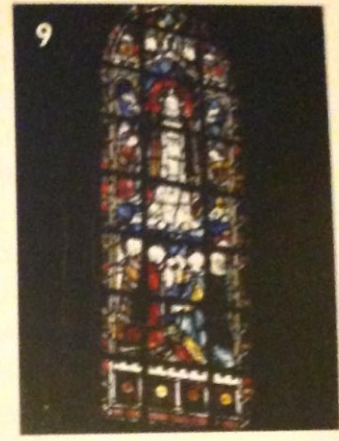
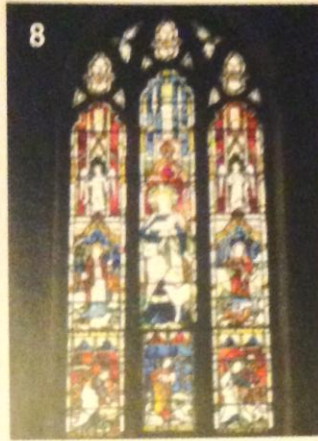
**7: St George** (F&G, 1929). Erected in memory of Lieut General Sir Ronald Charles Maxwell, KCB, KCM, of the Royal Engineers, the window depicts St George in armour with drawn sword and shield with a red cross, all in a sunburst. A scroll above the figure has the words *Let us put on the Armour of Light*. Below are the arms of Gen Maxwell and badges of the Royal Engineers.

**James Powell** (1774-1840) (Monk motif). Powell bought the Whitefriars glass factory in 1834 for his three sons. Initially they were ignorant of the art of glass making, but soon acquired the skills needed and adapted and improved upon the new technologies of the industrial revolution. Powell of Whitefriars became Britain's longest-running, most productive and innovative glass company and its association with designers such as Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris ensured that their windows reflected the fashion of the day.

**Clayton & Bell** This London-based company was founded in 1855 by John Clayton (1826-1913) and Alfred Bell (1832-1895). They specialised in inventive recreations of mediaeval glass marked by simple, linear designs and strong clear colours and were influenced by the Pre-Raphaelite movement. The firm became one of the largest and most celebrated names in the field of stained glass in the country.

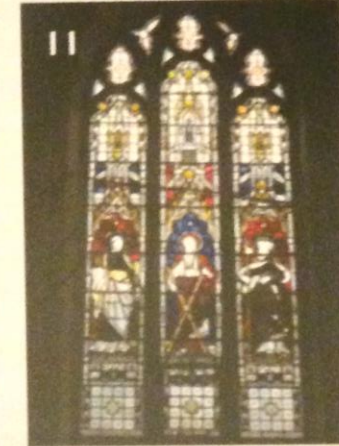
**8: The Good Shepherd**

(The Presbytery windows are by C&B: this one is after 1875). All the figures in this triple-lancet window, shown with cruciform halos holding shepherd's crooks and surrounded by sheep, represent Christ as The Good Shepherd.



**9: The Ascension**

(C&B, 1873) of Christ portrays Him in a mandorla (a space appropriately named from the Italian for almond) flanked by two angels who hold a scroll with the words which He is speaking to his disciples gathered below "*Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?*"

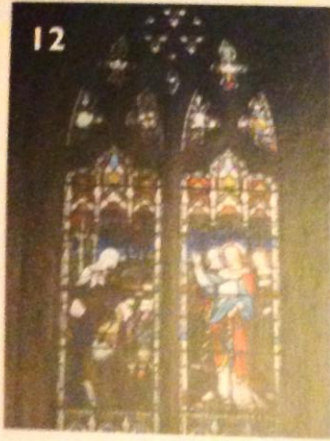


**10: Christ in Glory** (C&B, 1873). This shows Christ crowned and in a mandorla. Symbols of the four evangelists appear, one at each corner: John (Eagle), Luke (Bull), Mark (Lion) and Matthew (Winged man), the whole beneath an architectural canopy.

**11: Sts Peter, Andrew and James the Elder** (C&B, post-1897). Christ promised Peter the "*keys of the kingdom of heaven*" which he holds. Andrew stands with a saltire cross on which, according to tradition, he was crucified. James, patron saint of pilgrims, is depicted with his attributes of a staff, a gourd for carrying water and a scallop shell on his hat.

**Forsyth & Grylls** Window 7, 1924, suggests an interesting collaboration in which W A Forsyth, architect and designer for Comper and J Powell & Sons, gained the commission and H Grylls, the glazier, carried it out.

**Sir Ninian Comper** (1864-1960) (Strawberry motif). Comper, originally an artist in stained and painted glass, became one of the 20th century's foremost ecclesiastical and monumental designers. Articled to C E Kempe, he is well known for his use of colour and his subtle integration of Classical and Gothic styles. His strawberry signature is a tribute to his father, who died while giving strawberries to poor children. Comper was knighted by King George VI in 1950 and worked almost up to the time of his death.

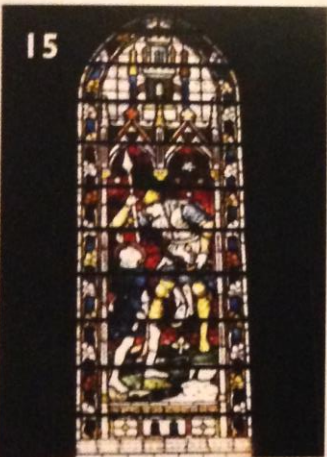


**12: Jesus with Martha and Mary** (A Gibbs, c1883). Christ's raised finger symbolises the fact that He is in the act of saying to the two sisters, in the words of the inscription below, that *Thy brother (Lazarus) shall rise again from the dead*. Above are cusped lights with crowned palms and military symbols as the window is dedicated to a soldier.



**13: The Resurrection** (Hardman, c1897). Christ rises from the tomb clasping the Resurrection Banner, an angel at His feet holds a winding sheet and Mary Magdalene accompanied by two women bring spices for embalming. Two disciples, John and Peter, look on. The tracery contains angels, one with a scroll proclaiming *I Believe in the Resurrection* and Christ's monogram IHS.

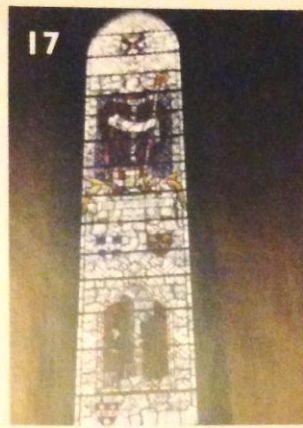
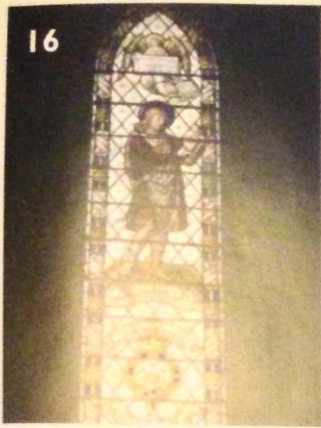
**14: The Crucifixion** (C&B, c1883). The crucified Christ is shown with the centurion portrayed as a mediaeval knight kneeling at the foot of the cross pronouncing the words of the inscription below: *Truly this was the Son of God*. Mary Magdalene also kneels and Christ's mother, Mary, and John stand on either side.



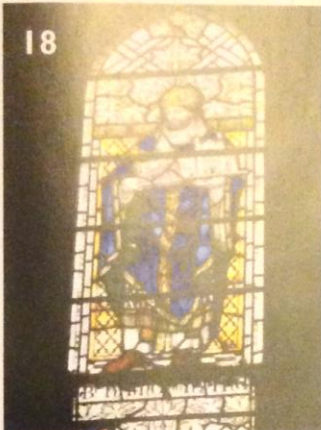
**15: David and Goliath** (C&B, c1883). Goliath carries a spear and wears mediaeval armour and chain-mail. He looks down as David advances with his sling, uttering the words on the inscription: *This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand*.

**Alexander Gibbs** (1831-86) was the second of three sons (all called Alexander) of Isaac Alexander Gibbs (1802-51) who became stained-glass designers. Isaac started the family firm in 1848. The company that Alexander established around 1855 was still functioning in 1915. His work is typified by gentle-faced figures in somewhat gaudy clothes of rather discordant colour and fairly ornate detail.

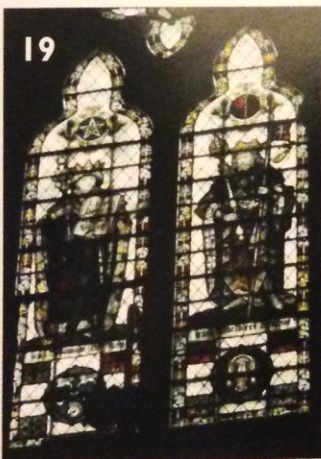
**John Hardman** (1811-67). His Birmingham-based operation started as an ecclesiastical metal works. However, following encouragement from his close friend Augustus Welby N Pugin, Hardman & Company became one of the most notable pioneers of the stained glass revival of the 19th century and was of key importance both nationally and internationally. Hardman's profound respect for the 12th century shows in his use of ruby reds, deep blues and intricate tracery.



**16: David** (B&G, c1918). The window above the steps shows David playing his harp, with the inscription *David took an harp and played with his hand*. The angel above holds a scroll bearing the opening bars of Handel's Largo. The badge below is of the 15th Battalion London Regiment Civil Service Rifles, with whom the dedicatee served.



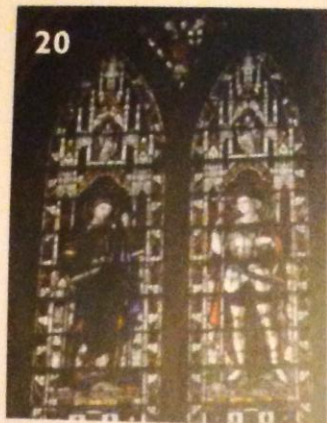
**17: Ernulf** (Powell of Whitefriars, c1917). This Bishop (1115-25) holds a plan of the Cathedral which he did much to embellish. He compiled the influential *Textus Roffensis* which includes codified Anglo-Saxon manuscripts said to have influenced Magna Carta and the American Declaration of Independence. Windows 17 and 18 commemorate Thomas Hellyer Foord, founder of the almshouses on Priestfields, Rochester.



**18: Hamo de Hythe** (Powell of Whitefriars, c1917). This active 'builder bishop' holds a model of Rochester Cathedral which he enriched. His Decorated Chapter Room doorway, which has been described as "one of the most beautiful pieces of sculpture of its date (c1340) in existence" is in the South Choir Transept.

**19: King Solomon and King Ethelbert** (Kempe, 1889) are identified by their inscriptions. Solomon was known for his wisdom and Ethelbert, as King of Kent, welcomed St Augustine in 597 on his missionary journey from Rome. Ethelbert converted to Christianity and in 604 granted land for an Anglo-Saxon Cathedral to be built, establishing Rochester as the second-oldest See after Canterbury. These lights were donated by Freemasons.

**Burlison and Grylls** John Burlison (1843-91) and Thomas Grylls (1845-1913) were apprenticed with Clayton & Bell. They started their own company in 1868, which built up a considerable reputation for its fine work until it effectively stopped trading when the premises were bombed in 1945. The company's style shows a fondness for canopies and pale borders, a fine quality in the drawing of often-rounded faces and flowing garments, figures with elaborate brocade backdrops or Germanic landscapes, and a general 'lightness' of feeling.



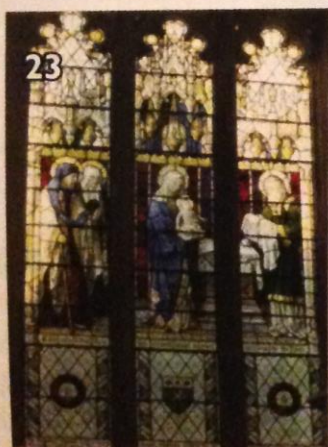
**20: Sts Martin and Alban** (C&B, 1888). Identified by their inscriptions, St Martin (d397) divides his cloak to give to a beggar and St Alban (d304), the first recorded British Christian martyr, wears mediaeval armour. The windows either side are dedicated by the Royal Engineers to comrades who died in various Victorian campaigns. They also commemorate General 'Chinese' Gordon, who taught in a Gravesend Sunday School and died defending Khartoum.



**21: Christ's Nativity** (All the windows in the Lady Chapel are by Burlison & Grylls). Christ lies in a manger while his Mother and Joseph, angels, an ox and an ass look on. Following Archangel Gabriel's visit to the shepherds, their resolve is expressed in the caption *Let us go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass*. They adore the Babe.



**22: The Epiphany** Christ stands on Mary's lap while Joseph leans on his flowering wand. The three Magi are shown as elderly, middle-aged, black and young to indicate that the Christian message is for all generations in all the world (then thought to consist of three continents: Europe, Africa and Asia). The caption: *Gentiles shall come to thy light and Kings to the brightness of thy rising*, encapsulates this. The Magi's gifts: a gold crown for kingship, a box of frankincense for priesthood and a vessel of myrrh for suffering, symbolise aspects of Christ's future life.



**23: The Presentation** Simeon, the high priest, recognises Christ whom God had promised he would live to see. He prays "*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word*" as Mary, and Anna a prophetess, watch.

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## THE BISHOPS OF ROCHESTER

*An analysis by the Revd John Prior and Alan McLean*

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Some years ago it was suggested that the names and dates of the Bishops of Rochester should be prepared for possible display on the south wall of the Presbytery, opposite the list of Priors and Deans on the north wall. Although we carried out research, a plan to publish a list in the 2008 issue was shelved because various authoritative sources had different lists and it was feared that ours might cause controversy.

The Editor nevertheless believes that Friends might like a list, even one with provisos. To avoid controversy, he invited us to explain some of the differences and the interesting history behind them, perhaps to stimulate future research. The Editor's table which follows is not prescriptive. It seeks to reconcile other listings with information engraved on the Bishop's Crozier, making *Bishop James* the 107<sup>th</sup>.

Filtering the many data sources has been complex. Differences have broadly arisen through some Bishops being appointed but not enthroned for various reasons. In one case the Latin spelling and an Anglicised version are entered for the same Bishop. Two other names appear in "Bell's Cathedral Series" without dates and are not mentioned in any of the other lists. Early on we found that data from "A Handbook of British Chronology" by F M Powicke and Bell's 'Rochester' book differed considerably.

The Diocesan Office told us that its source for listing *Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali* as the 106<sup>th</sup> was Wikipedia, which surprised us. In the table, the numbering has been made consistent with this conclusion and we have stated the sources in each case. If all sources could be believed, our present Bishop could lie anywhere between 107<sup>th</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup>. Research still continues and further information might, for example, be found in the libraries of Lambeth or Canterbury.

We discovered the list, sold at the Cathedral Shop some years ago, and then remembered that the Crozier, thought to date from about 1905, had the names and dates of the previous Bishops engraved on it. This may well have been based on a list in an 18<sup>th</sup> century volume compiled by Hasted, which seems to agree with that of the Crozier, so far as it goes. Otherwise all the lists differ from each other in some respects. We have not excluded names unless sure that appointment had not been made.

But we can with certainty begin our account with *Justus*, who was consecrated Bishop of Rochester in 604 by St Augustine, Archbishop of Canterbury. His cathedral was built on land given by King Ethelbert of Kent, who joined his Queen, Bertha, in her Christian faith. The name of *Paulinus* is equally well-known, driven from York in 633 and dying in 644.

His successor was *Ithamar*, the first native Englishman to be Bishop of Rochester," a Kentish man born" as the 18<sup>th</sup> century historian Edward Hasted describes him.



Although the names of the Saxon Bishops are known, for the most part, most of us find the period a bit hazy and the names are subject to different spellings. There is doubt about the number of Bishops named *Godwin*; some sources show two, others three. Another problem is that of *John of Sees*, who was appointed in 1137, the year in which a major fire occurred. *John* died in 1142 before rebuilding was completed and, supposedly, never visited Rochester. Some scholars exclude him as he was never enthroned.

After the Norman Conquest Archbishop Lanfranc brought over *Gundulf* from Normandy to be Bishop in 1077. He lived until 1108 and this man of extraordinary ability proved himself as Bishop, Monk, Architect and Builder. An account of *Gundulf* was given in last year's Annual Report.

In the Middle Ages Church and State were entwined and some of our Bishops held the highest Offices of State. *Walter de Merton* (1274-1277) was Chancellor and Justice of England, *John de Sheppey* (1352-1360) was Treasurer of England (1326-58), *John Kemp* (1419-21) had been Chancellor of England and of Normandy and Keeper of the Privy Seal, and so it went on until the Reformation.

All this is evinced by monuments in the Quire and Sanctuary: those of 12th and 13th century Bishops, those matrices of brasses torn out in the Civil War, *John de Sheppey* unbricked by the architect Cottingham in 1830, those lovely 17<sup>th</sup> century monuments to *Bishop Warner* and his kin in the Chapel of St John The Evangelist, with the mediaeval tiles at its entrance. If you look up you can find *Walter de Merton* in a window with a cameo of a staircase in his college at Oxford. His effigy is in the North Quire Transept. While there imagine the Shrine of William of Perth, and those of *Paulinus* and *Ithamar* elsewhere in the Quire, all destroyed at the Reformation.

For the church in England, the sixteenth was the most critical century. Perhaps the greatest of all Bishops after *Gundulf* was *John Fisher*, a holy man, a scholar and friend of the poor in Rochester, whose statue is on the Pulpitum Screen.

For refusing to recognise Henry VIII as Head of the Church of England he was beheaded on 22 June 1535 at the very Tower which *Gundulf* had built. In Mary Tudor's reign it was *Nicholas Ridley* (Bishop 1547-1550) and Hugh Latimer who were burnt for their Protestant beliefs in 1555.

The income from the bishopric was small and in 1666 *Bishop John Dolben* was unable to retain his deanery of Westminster, '*In Commendam*' as it was called. The brilliant *Francis Atterbury* became Bishop in 1713, and, as a Jacobite, fell out with George I in 1714. He was banished and died in exile in 1723. Before him *Thomas Sprat* had been Bishop since 1685.

When writing about the Bishops of Rochester we need to remember that in the Middle Ages, the diocese was small; one archdeaconry consisting of what is now

Medway, some parishes to its south, eg Halling and Trottscliffe, and some to the west, eg Cobham and Gravesend. But from 1836, the diocesan boundary changed several times. By an amazing arrangement Rochester was deprived of most of its parishes south of the Thames and most of Hertfordshire and Essex were added. Bromley Palace, the Bishop's home, was sold and a new palace built in red brick at Danbury in Essex. It is emblazoned with the arms of *Bishop George Murray*.

The railways may have helped travel to distant parishes but it was hardly convenient. So a change was made. In 1877 a new Diocese of St Albans was created and *Thomas Leigh Claughton* was appointed Bishop, taking his throne from Rochester with him!

The other half of the change was that the eastern half of Surrey, then in the Winchester diocese, was added to and this included all the Thameside parishes and Southwark. *Bishop Thorold* decided to live in the centre of his diocese and decided on Selsdon Park, now a hotel, near Croydon. Upon his translation to Winchester in 1891 he was succeeded by *Randall Thomas Davidson*, confidant of Queen Victoria and a very wise man. He decided that he should live in the midst of his teeming population and built a new See House in Kensington, destroyed in the Blitz. But before that the diocese of Southwark had been formed and Rochester again was small. *Randall Davidson*, now Archbishop, negotiated for a good number of Canterbury parishes to be transferred to Rochester, mostly against their will! Only in 1920 did the Bishop come to live in Bishops court.

Thus our account is brought into living memory and many Friends will recall with pleasure *Bishops Chavasse, Say, Turnbull and Nazir-Ali*, all in their own way dedicated men.

And now we welcome *Bishop Langstaff*, to bring this account, for the time being at least, to an end.



*The Cathedra. Please note the crozier in the glass case alongside*

## THE BISHOPS OF ROCHESTER

*A possible listing inferred by the Editor from the authors' research findings*

1	Justus (A)	604	36	Waleran (Gualeran) (A)	1182
2	Romanus (A)	624	37	Gilbert de Glanville (A)	1185
3	Paulinus (BHP)	625	38	Benedict de Sauesetun (A)	1214
4	Ythamar (HPW)	644	39	Henry Sanford (A)	1226
5	Damian (BP)	655	40	Richard de Wendover (A)	1238
5	Damianus (H)	655	41	Laurance de St. Martin (A)	1250
6	Putta (A)	669	42	Walter de Merton (A)	1274
7	Cuichelm (HPW)	676	43	John de Bradfield (A)	1277
8	Gebmund (A)	678		John de Kyrkeby (H, note 6)	
9	Tobias (HP)	706	44	Thomas Ingoldsthorpe (A)	1284
10	Ealdwulf, Alduulf (A)	727	45	Thomas de Wouldham (A)	1291
11	Dunn, Duina (BH)	741	46	Hamo de Hythe (A)	1319
12	Eardwulf (A)	747	47	John de Sheppey (A)	1353
13	Diora (HP)	765	48	William of Whittlesea (A)	1362
14	Waermund 1 (HP)	805	49	Thomas Tirilleck (A)	1364
15	Beornmod (A)	805		John de Hertley (H, note 6)	
16	Tathnoth (HPW)	844	50	Thomas Brinton (A)	1373
	Godwin 1 (HW)	c851		John Barnet (H, note 6)	
	Beadunoth (HW, note 1)	868	51	William de Bottle(I)sham (A)	1389
17	Waermund II (P)	862	52	John de Botllesham (A)	1401
18	Cutherwulf (A)	868	53	Richard Young (A)	1404
19	Swithulf (A)	880	54	John Kemp (or Kempe) (A)	1419
20	Choelmund (P)	904		John Spofford (H, note 6)	
21	Burrhic (HPW)	934	55	John Langdon (A)	1421
22	Chinefurth (HPW)	955	56	Thomas Brunce (Brown) (A)	1435
	Boerhtsige (PW note 2)	938	57	William Wells (A)	1436
23	Daniel (PW, note 3)	955	58	John Lowe (A)	1445
24	Alfstan or Athelstan (HW)	984	59	Thomas Rotherham(Scott) (A)	1468
25	Godwin I or II (HP)	986	60	John Alcock (A)	1472
26	Godwin II or III (HP)	c1011	61	John Russell (A)	1476
27	Siward (HPB)	1058	62	Edmund Audley (A)	1480
28	Arnost or Ernost (A)	1076	63	Thomas Savage (A)	1492
29	Gundulf (A)	1077	64	Richard FitzJames (A)	1496
30	Ralph d'Escure (A)	1108	65	John Fisher (A)	1504
31	Ernulf (A)	1115	66	John Hilsey (Hildesleigh) (A)	1535
32	John (A)	1125	67	Nicholas Heath (A)	1540
	John of Sees (H, note 4)	1137	68	Henry Holbeach (A)	1543
33	Ascelin (BHW)	1142	69	Nicholas Ridley (A)	1547
35	Walter (A)	1147	70	John Ponet (Poynet) (A)	1550

71	John Scory (A)	1551	89	Zachary Pearce (A)	1756
72	Maurice Griffin or Griffith (A)	1554	90	John Thomas (A)	1774
	Edmund Allen (note 5)	1559	91	Samuel Horsley (A)	1793
73	Edmund Gheast or Guest (A)	1559	92	Thomas Dampier (a)	1802
74	Edmund Freke (A)	1572	93	Walter King (a)	1809
75	John Piers (A)	1576	94	Hugh Percy (a)	1827
76	John Young (A)	1578	95	George Murry (a)	1827
77	William Barlow (A)	1605	96	Joseph Cotton Wigram (a)	1860
78	Richard Neile (A)	1608	97	Thomas Leigh Claughton (a)	1867
79	John Buckeridge (A)	1611	98	Anthony Wilson Thorold (a)	1877
80	Walter Curll (BW) Curle (H)	1628	99	Randell Thomas Davidson (a)	1891
	or Curil (P)		100	Richard Stuart Talbot (a)	1895
81	John Bowle (A)	1630	101	Reginald John Harmer (PW)	1905
82	John Warner (A)	1638	102	Martin Linton Smith (PW)	1930
83	John Dolben (A)	1666	103	Christopher M. Chavasse (PW)	1940
84	Francis Turner (A)	1683	104	Richard David Say (PW)	1961
85	Thomas Sprat (A)	1684	105	Anthony Michael Turnbull (PW)	1988
86	Francis Atterbury (A)	1713	106	Michael Nazir-ali (PW)	1994
87	Samuel Bradford (A)	1723	107	James Langstaff (W)	2010
88	Joseph Wilcocks (A)	1731			

**Key to columns in the table and principal references used in the research**

- Col 1 Listing according to the Bishop's Crozier, bearing names and dates from 604 to 1939 (107)\*
- Col 2 Names, Notes and Source used, from the following:  
 B: Bell's Cathedral Series – Rochester, published 1898 (108)\*  
 H: Edward Hasted's City and Liberty of Rochester 1782 (112\* although he cites Samuel Horsley as 91st Bishop, thus coming into line with the Crozier)  
 P: Handbook of British Chronology by F M Powick, published 1949 (109\*)  
 W: Wikipedia (111)\*  
 (A) denotes all the above ((BHPW); (a) denotes all the above, post-Hasted (BPW) (Crockford's Clerical Directory gives 109)\*  
 \* Bracketed figure in italics is the number of Bishops inferred from each source.

**Notes in Column 2**

- 1 Bishop only in 868, (if then)
- 2 Not engraved on the Crozier.
- 3 Possibly Bishop of Selsey
- 4 or Jean de Sééz: 'caretaker' Bishop only
- 5 Known to have died before taking office.
- 6 Never installed, for other reasons

## BRINGING HIDDEN FEATURES TO LIGHT...Ralph Godsall

*Editor's note:* The Revd Canon Ralph Godsall is a Priest Vicar of Westminster Abbey and a Canon Emeritus of Rochester.

*The sermon preached by The Revd Canon Ralph Godsall, at Choral Evensong on Sunday 17 October 2010, marked the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Association of Friends in 1935.*

I begin with a text.

From the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St Luke: "*Which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.*" (14: 28-29)

I have a confession to make. I have a slight anorak-fondness for obscure statistics and trivia. For example, did you know that the city of Venice, with a population of only 80,000, generates \$1 billion dollars a year in tourist revenue? That statistic means that every Venetian raises \$12,500 dollars a year in revenue for the city of Venice. Mind you, if you have ever bought a coke in a café there – at four Euros a can – you'll know why this figure is perhaps so easy to reach! Or did you know that the average man utters 2,000 words a day, compared to the average woman, who speaks over 7,000? Gentlemen, that means for every word you speak, your wife speaks 3.5. Some of you don't look very surprised by that statistic. I think it is roughly true in our household, although you will have to square this with the fact that my wife, Ellen, thinks my sermons are 15% too long. However, I would venture to suggest that this perfectly demonstrates how in touch I am with my feminine side!

So the Friends of Rochester Cathedral may be surprised to discover this afternoon that there are some apparently *sound statistics* in St Luke's Gospel. Who would consider building a tower that costs 500 shekels when they only have 200? Most wouldn't. You'd be pragmatic and attend to the bottom line of the balance sheet: the figures don't add up. This aspect of Christian pragmatism will resonate with those who share responsibility with the Dean and Chapter for the care and development of cathedral buildings. It also resonates with one of the most abiding images we have from the Old Testament – the potter's wheel from Jeremiah. In Jeremiah's parable, he suggests that the people of God have forgotten that they are fashioned by God. They are not self-made. They have not become what they are by their own efforts. This is a sobering parable. It's tempting to imagine on an occasion such as this that cathedrals are maintained and refurbished by stalwarts like the Friends, or by especially gifted and entrepreneurial Deans. And without a shadow of doubt, such contributions have been, and still are, a vital part of God's economy here in Rochester!

But the lesson of the parable of the potter is a simple one: God is crafting the pot. God is creating something that the clay cannot and should not seek to control. The only thing to be done is not to cling to the shape you inherit or prefer, but rather to offer yourselves as malleable material in the hands of God. To be obedient to the parable, we hand ourselves over to the hands of God; we pray for his shaping and crafting. To be made into the vessels he wants and needs, rather than the shapes that meet our expectations. There is also a further way in which the parable of Jeremiah can be taken. It is tempting to read the potter and the clay as a rather passive-active parable. But anyone who has ever made a pot will tell you that this is not quite right. There is, in fact, a more dynamic relationship between the clay and the crafter. The clay – like all artistic materials – also changes the one who moulds it.

Which brings me to a poem about cathedrals that is attributed to Anne Ridler. It's called "Open House".

*It begins with the words "Churches are best for prayer that have least light"; and continues:*

"But then, why build a church at all  
or dream of glory, when to crawl  
into a hole could serve us better?"

Cathedrals take another way:  
Like plants, and phototropic, they  
spire towards heaven, learn from trees  
the branching vault, and canopies  
of fretted space. The ecstasy  
of power is here, coiled like a spring,  
a god's mysterious gaiety,  
and peace that passes understanding.

And this is home to us, although  
our numbers break its calm, we pry  
with flaccid curiosity  
and stray about on weary feet.  
We are not much to boast of, yet  
thinking of God men built this home  
and signed the work with man's own name.  
Bracing their word is, and austere,  
admonishing our weak despair:  
'Renew all hope, who enter here'.

I warm to the poet's description of a cathedral as "*phototropic*" – "*bending or turning under the influence of light*", stretching out, like plants, as a living organism under the influence of the light of Christ. This insight was fundamental to the Association formed by the Friends in 1935 when they undertook to hand on this Cathedral to future generations by 'bringing to light its hidden features'. The good thing about bringing to light things hidden in darkness is that this is what cathedrals often do best – or rather what God does best in cathedrals. Like God himself, cathedrals are 'open houses' and are very likely to surprise you. Whether by chance or design, the Friends stumbled upon an important insight. In wanting to hand on this church with its beauty unimpaired by 'bringing to light its hidden features', they have responded generously to the changing landscape in which this and every cathedral finds itself today: as a place of pilgrimage and spiritual discovery, a place where growing numbers of visitors and tourists can explore and interpret serious issues honestly, safely and hopefully; a

place where, in an age of unbelief, 'facts can be seen to be friendly'; where light shines in the darkness, and where joy and peace are often found to lie on the other side of dark things.

There is an old story about the first church that was built on the site of Westminster Abbey, where I now worship, long before the time of Edward the Confessor. Legend has it that on the night before it was consecrated it was visited by St Peter, who was rowed across the Thames and then filled it with light – so that when the people came the next day for the consecration they found that the church had already been filled with light. Clearly, those who built that church and its successors on that site wanted something like that to be the experience of everyone who came to pray there, whether a king or a queen or the humblest pilgrim in the land. They wanted them to find in that place the light of Christ. They wanted that church and the lives of all who prayed there to be filled with the light and hope of Christ.

Like Westminster Abbey, cathedrals wear many masks, and mean many things to visitors and pilgrims alike, when observed through the dark prism of human experience. However, there is one mask that cathedrals do not have to hide behind - the mask of Christian commitment - since their daily liturgy sheds light on their character and identity. It is the practice of prayer and worship that leads to belief and commitment, not the other way round; prayer and worship are the consequence of belief, not the means by which we find that we believe. And that is why the uncommitted and the searching often find the undomesticated space of cathedrals and great churches easier places in which to be and even pray today.

*"Bringing to light its hidden features"* continues to be the Friends' mantra in this place – perhaps to their surprise, in an age of unbelief, God has made them clay in his hands and has stamped the hallmark of mission on their work – enabling this great church to be the place of exploration and pilgrimage that it is, filled with the light of Christ:

"Thinking of God men built this home  
and signed the work with man's own name.  
Bracing their word is, and austere,  
admonishing our weak despair:  
'Renew all hope, who enter here'."

May it continue to be so. God sets this hope before us today, and, even now, spins the wheel – yet not of fate or fortune (as depicted on the north wall of this Cathedral quire) but of the potter – and looks to fashion us afresh, ever moulding us into the vessels that he wants and needs for the care and crafting of this Cathedral church, that it, and we, may be "phototropic", ever bending and turning towards heaven under the influence of the light of Christ; to whom be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever.

Amen.

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Amen.





*Friends socialising with guests after the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Evensong*

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

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**Report of the Officers and Members of Council**

We submit our report and financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2011

**Objectives and Policy of the Charity**

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

**Organisation**

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

**Review of the Year**

The income during the year was £48,016, an increase of £6,452 over last year mainly due to an increase in dividend income and subscriptions. The capital value of the fund increased by £86,243 due to general stock market trends.

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

	Paid in year £
Purchase of Cathedral Chairs	70,000
Upkeep of Garth Gardens	6,000
	<b><u>76,000</u></b>

## TREASURER'S REPORT... *John a Dalley, Hon Treasurer*

I am delighted to report that our Investment Portfolio has increased by more than 8% during the year and we have enjoyed an investment income in excess of 3%. I consider our Investments to be of a long term nature and in place to generate income. The level of Subscriptions has seen a large increase, mainly due to one substantial life member contribution.

The Grant to the Dean and Chapter in respect of Disabled Access to the Crypt has now been funded from other sources. This has enabled us to increase the sum already advanced towards the cost of renewal of Cathedral chairs from £50,000 to £70,000.

I would again like to express my grateful thanks to Mrs Christine Tucker for making my task as Treasurer so straightforward and for her tireless enthusiasm for the work of the Friends.

The Charity Commissioners' recommended format for the Accounts of a Charity has resulted in a document of considerable size which it would be uneconomical to produce in full in this report. These figures are an extract from the Accounts to 28 February 2011. Independently-examined copies of the full Accounts will be available to any member upon request.

### Balance sheet as at 28th February 2011

	28.02.11	28.02.10
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Investments	1,142,996	1,056,753
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	1,764	1,894
Prepayments	386	50,100
Cash at bank	24,352	16,698
	26,502	68,692
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors	8,092	8,247
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	18,409	60,445
<b>Net Assets</b>	1,161,405	1,117,198
<b>Funds</b>		
Restricted	1,142,996	1,056,753
General	18,409	60,445
	<u>1,161,405</u>	<u>1,117,198</u>

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## Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 28th February 2011

	General Fund	Designated Fund	Restricted Fund	Total 28.02.11	Total 29.02.10
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Subscriptions	12,283			12,283	8,735
Donations	725			725	916
Profit on social events	463			463	831
Dividends	34,039			34,039	29,348
Bank interest	0			0	5
Profit on publications	436			436	1,229
Book of memory surplus	70			70	0
Legacy	0			0	500
	<b><u>48,016</u></b>	-	-	<b><u>48,016</u></b>	<b><u>41,564</u></b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Direct charitable expenditure					
Grants		76,000		76,000	35,603
Other expenditure					
Management and administration	14,052			14,052	13,169
	<b><u>14,052</u></b>	<b><u>76,000</u></b>	-	<b><u>90,052</u></b>	<b><u>48,772</u></b>
Net Incoming resources before transfers	33,964	-76,000		-42,036	-7,208
Transfer to designated fund	-76,000	76,000			
Unrealised gain on investment held			86,243	86,243	161,468
Net movement in funds	-42,036	0	86,243	44,207	154,260
Fund balances brought forward	60,445	0	1,056,754	1,117,198	962,938
Fund balances carried forward	18,409	0	1,142,997	1,161,405	1,117,198

**Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 28 February 2011.**

1. Accounting policies

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

2. Management and Administration Expenditure

	28.02.11	29.02.10
	£	£
Salary	6,746	6,491
Office expenses	4,245	4,208
Postage, printing and stationery	1,220	910
Annual Report, AGM and 75 <sup>th</sup> Year Expenses	1,371	995
Accountancy	470	460
Sundry expenses	0	105
	14,052	13,169

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

Investments in the year comprised	28.02.11	28.02.10
	£	£
UK Bonds	108,401	107,670
International Bonds	34,259	0
Portfolio Funds	34,105	0
UK Equities	756,624	573,451
Property	40,808	40,194
Hedge Funds	128,508	131,443
Cash on Deposit	40,291	203,995
Portfolio Valuation	1,142,996	1,056,753

## SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL – 2011

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

### **May**

Sunday 29

Mayor's Dedication Service

### **June**

Saturday 4-Sunday 5

Dickens Festival

Saturday 11

French Hospital Evensong

Concert Rochester Choral Society

FRIENDS AGM AND EVENSONG

Ordination of Priests

Saturday 18

Saturday 25

### **July**

Sunday 24

Organ Recital – Summer Series

Sunday 31

Organ Recital - Summer Series

### **August**

Sunday 7

Organ Concert – Summer Series

Sunday 14

Organ Concert – Summer Series

Sunday 21

Organ Concert – Summer Series

Sunday 28

Organ Concert – Summer Series

### **September**

Saturday 10

Ordination

Sunday 11

Patronal Festival

Sunday 18

Royal Engineers' Memorial Service\*

Sunday 18

Organ Recital

### **October**

Saturday 1

Royal British Legion Concert

Sunday 2

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 16

Organ Recital

Thursday 20

Kent Active Retirement Service

Saturday 22

Wisdom Hospice – Voices for Hospices

### **November**

Saturday 5

Concert Rochester Choral Society

Saturday 12

Royal Marine Association

Sunday 13

Royal British Legion Remembrance Service\*

Sunday 13

Organ Recital

Sunday 27

Advent Carol Service

### **December**

Thursday 1

World Aids Day\*

Friday 2

Wisdom Hospice Lights for Love

Saturday 3 – Sunday 4

Dickens Christmas Festival

Tuesday 6

BBC Radio Kent Carol Service\*

Thursday 8

Historic Dockyard Carols\*

Saturday 10

Volunteers' Evensong\*

Saturday 17

Lunchtime Carols

Saturday 17

Christingle Service

Sunday 18

Organ Recital

Wednesday 21

Cathedral Carol Service (1)

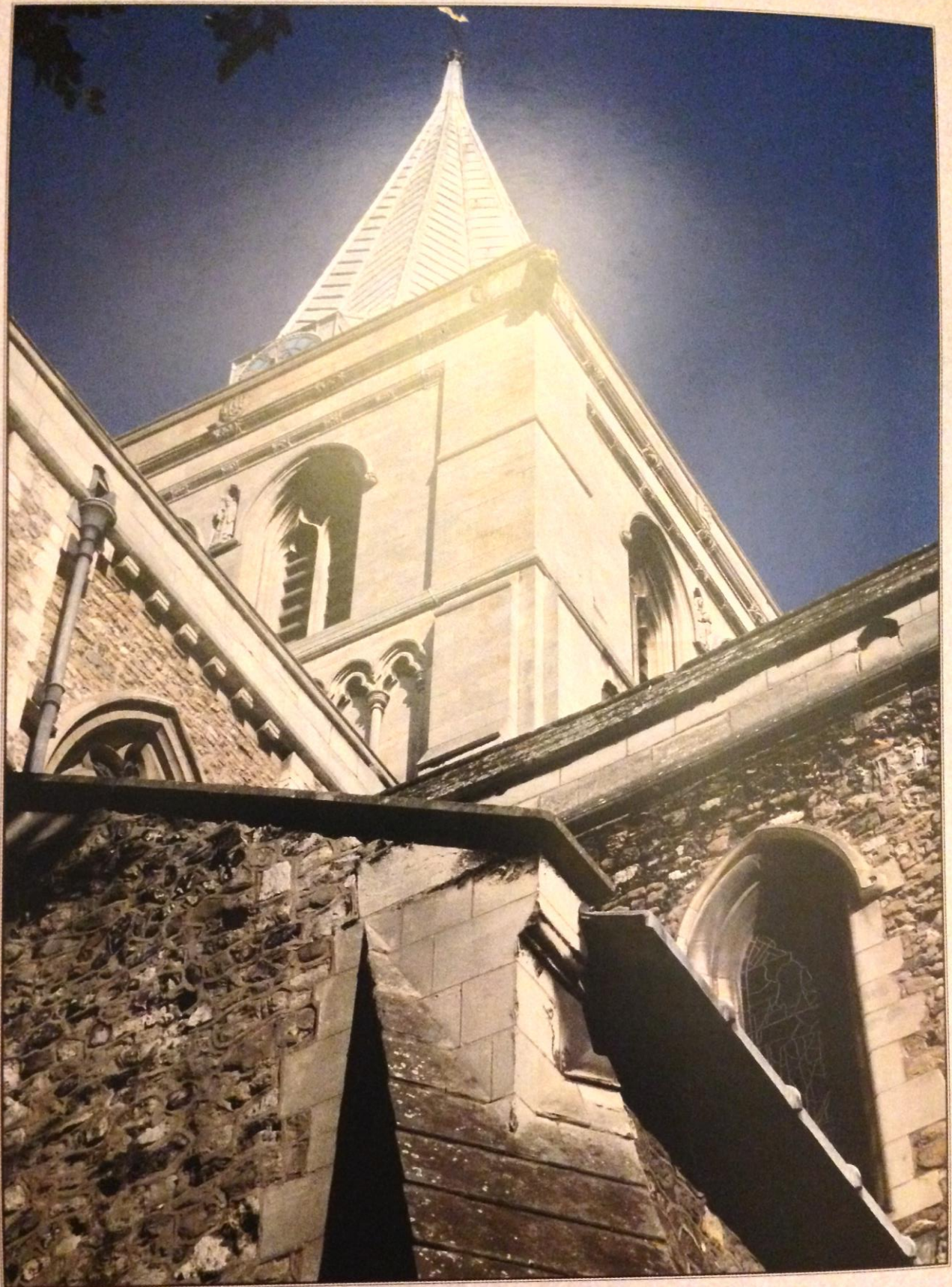
Thursday 22

Cathedral Carol Service (2)

Saturday 24

Blessing of the Crib

Midnight Mass



*"Not angles but angels"*