

BEACON

The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral

APRIL 2019

From the Dean's desk...



Every year seems to bring the opportunity to celebrate another anniversary. This year is no different as we celebrate the bi-centenary of the birth of Samuel Reynolds Hole. You may know that he founded the National Rose Society in 1876 and was widely and affectionately known as the 'Rose King', a title given to him by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. He was Dean of Rochester between

1887 and 1904 and during his stay at the Deanery planted 123 different varieties of rose. There is a magnificent monument to him in the south transept of the Cathedral by the distinguished sculpture F.W. Pomeroy.

For some time now we have been working on a strategy for the Cathedral's gardens and open spaces that will be of benefit to the mission of the Cathedral and recognise the importance of Dean Hole, not only as a notable Rosarian, but as a significant Victorian churchman and preacher. In his own day he was celebrated as the 'Dickens of the Pulpit' and widely known in literary and sporting circles. The planning is in its initial stages, but we couldn't let this year pass without marking his birth and the significant influence he had upon his generation.

Throughout the month of August, when cleared of chairs, the Cathedral nave will become a crazy golf course based on the theme of bridges. This has been made possible with the financial help of the Rochester Bridge Trust. We are enormously grateful to them and look forward to fun in the nave. There is every possibility someone might score a 'Dean Hole in one'!

There will also be an exhibition of Dean Hole memorabilia in the Cathedral Library, including a number of his letters and some fascinating photographs of him and his family. I have also managed to track down the original watercolours of his famous garden at The Deanery and they shall hopefully be on display for the first time together. The culmination of our celebrations will be over the weekend of 23rd–25/6th August with a number of activities, tours and talks arranged ending with Festal evensong with a procession to his tomb. It is hoped that members of his family will be present. We will be publishing a more detailed programme very soon.

Thank you for your continued support and helping to raise the profile of the Cathedral. As ever, the challenge of repairing, improving and enhancing the facilities of an ancient Cathedral is never ending and consistently relies on the faith of those who believe it is important and essential work. We have been entrusted with a great responsibility, we cannot do it all, but we can make a difference together and re-dedicate ourselves afresh to serving God by providing a safe and welcoming environment for all who enter this remarkable building and through it encounter the presence of living God.

The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh
Dean of Rochester

Rochester
CATHEDRAL
Growing in Christ since AD604

Please note: You are receiving this newsletter because we think you have an interest in Rochester Cathedral and its events. If we have got this wrong please let us know by emailing development@rochestercathedral.org or telephone 01634 810074.

In order to process your kind donations, keep you updated with news and events, and carry out our work effectively, we will need to store and use the information you have provided to us. We are committed to treating your information with respect and in a transparent way. To find out more, please read our fundraising promise at <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/cathedral-trust/>

Pledges and gifts from 1st January to end February 2019 total **£30,047**



Michael Aiken – in memoriam

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that Michael Aiken passed away suddenly and unexpectedly whilst out riding on Sunday morning, 24th March.

Mike was appointed Chair of Rochester Cathedral Trust in November 2010. It was a time of significant change and challenge. He worked tirelessly and enthusiastically for the Trust and was a true friend to the Cathedral. He was personally an enormous support and encouragement, provided a steady hand on the tiller. His reassuring presence will be greatly missed. Our sincere condolences go to his family and friends.

Philip Hesketh, Dean

For details regarding the memorial service arrangements please contact lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org.

New Chairman of Rochester Cathedral Business Guild

John A Spence OBE DL has retired as chairman of the Rochester Cathedral Business Guild after ten years as founder. The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh, Dean of Rochester, thanked him at a retirement lunch held in his honour in Chatham Dockyard. 'John Spence has done a wonderful job in engaging local businesses,' the Dean said. 'We are so grateful to him.'



The newly appointed chairman David Ward (pictured left) who is also the CEO of Ward Security, a £35m turnover business that operates from offices in the Chatham Historic Dockyard, is keen to make the most of the opportunity to engage with local businesses both within Rochester and across the Diocese (The Diocese of Rochester stretches as far as Bromley in the North,

Westerham in the West and Lamberhurst in the South) as well as to build a strong support network which will provide mutual benefit for businesses and the Cathedral. He has set out his intention to significantly grow the membership of the Guild during 2019 and is looking forward to bringing the same energy and commitment to the role as his predecessor.

The Business Guild is the link between Rochester's Cathedral Trust and the local business community. It was launched in 2007 to provide networking as well as entertaining at the Cathedral. The Trustees of Rochester Cathedral Trust are delighted with David's appointment and looking forward to both the Trust and the Guild moving forward.

David Ward said 'The importance of Rochester Cathedral for our local economy and business community should not be underestimated. While it is a historic venue attracting more than 150,000 visitors annually, it also plays host to over 100 events including graduation ceremonies for three Universities and operates an educational programme benefiting 17,000 school children. The financial impact to Rochester and the surrounding businesses is evident. There are shared benefits for both the Cathedral and businesses when they collaborate and support each other.'

'A key role of the Guild during 2019 will be to improve awareness with a wider network of businesses around the benefits of working in partnership with the Cathedral and to ensure expansion of its membership includes new and forward-thinking businesses as well as encompassing entrepreneurs of all sizes.'

Philip Hesketh, Dean of Rochester Cathedral said; 'This is an exciting appointment and we look forward to working closely with someone of David's calibre and in supporting business across Kent'.

The Rochester Cathedral Business Guild annual membership is £200 and open to all businesses of any size. Benefits include regular networking events and the opportunity to hear from key business leaders. Anyone interested in membership should contact the Cathedral Development Officer Lynne Bax via email Lynne.Bax@rochestercathedral.org or telephone 01634 810074.

Pinnacle Project Update



We are very pleased to announce that this project is now fully funded and the work went out to tender. Quotes have now been received and we are hopeful that work can begin in July and be completed by September.

All of the profits made at the Nave dinner held last October (made possible by the generous sponsorship of MEMs Power Generation and Trust Chairman Michael Aiken), and gifts received by the Trust, and help from the Friends of Rochester Cathedral, have been put towards this important project.

Choristers sing at Mercers Livery Hall Lenten Evensong

We were delighted to have been invited to have some of our Choristers sing again this year for the Mercers Livery Lenten Evensong Service on 13th March.

Tom Morgan drove a very excited small group to London for the service and they were very enthusiastically received. The Worshipful Company of Mercers have already sponsored a Chorister by donating £50,000 to the Music Endowment and the current recipient is Christopher Nutt, pictured here with this years Master, Mrs Xenia Violet Dennen.

The Trust's thanks go to Adrian Bawtree (Interim Director of Music) and Jeremy Lloyd (Organist) and of course not least the Choristers, who sang the Evensong so beautifully. We look forward to our ongoing relationship with The Mercers.



The Trust Development Committee

Rochester Cathedral Trust formed a Development Committee a couple of years ago the purpose of which is to concentrate on focussed fundraising. This was chaired very ably by Mr Joss Croft who has recently resigned due to work commitments. The Trust gives Joss their grateful thanks for all his effort in getting the group this far. The work is being carried on by the new Chairman, Mrs Kate Fenwick, an ardent fundraiser for many charities over her working career. The Trust is very pleased to welcome her.

Diary of 2019 Events

The following are events that are firm in the Diary for the next few months, more to be added so please watch this space!

Sunday 7th April 7.30pm

The Eight Words Jazz Suite – Tim Boniface. Acclaimed Jazz musician and priest Revd Dr Tim Boniface will be performing his jazz suite *The Eight Words* at Rochester Cathedral on Sunday 7th April. He will be joined by Phil Merriman, Ed Barbar and Jon Ormston.

The Eight Words reflects on the eight sayings of Jesus in the passion according to St John. It was written for the ArtsFest 2016 at St Paul's Church in Cambridge and released on CD in Autumn 2016.

Tickets are £15 or £10 for concessions and available through the Cathedral website or the Cathedral Shop.

Monday 27th May

The fabulous Abrams brothers are returning to perform at Rochester Cathedral on Monday 27th May. The Abrams are one of Canada's biggest country and Bluegrass bands. They last played at the Cathedral in 2017 where they wowed the audience with their combination of blue grass, country and folk/pop-rock.

Tickets are available from the Cathedral website or from the Rochester Cathedral shop. Adults £18 Student/Under 16 £12

Sunday 19th May 3.15pm

Rochester Cathedral Trust Annual Evensong and Reception.

Please reserve your place for catering purposes.

**Tuesday 18th June
8am – 10am**

Business Guild Breakfast at Commissioner's House in the Historic Dockyard in Chatham.

Our guest speaker is David Smith, Director of Economic Development at Kent County Council and will speak on "Changing Kent – East Kent & Coastal Regions"

Tickets £18 including a full English breakfast.

All of these events are open to all and for further information and tickets for any of these events, please contact Lynne Bax on 01634 810074 or email development@rochestercathedral.org