



The regular newsletter from the Development Office of Rochester Cathedral



## From the Dean's desk...

It has been another full and exciting year with the highlight surely being the Cathedral nave dinner in October. Those who had not been to the Cathedral before were simply amazed by the stunning appearance of the nave, and Lynne Bax and the Cathedral team, under Colin Tolhurst did us proud! All the feedback has been extremely positive.

We are indebted to our Royal patron, Her Royal Highness, the Countess of Wessex for being our honoured guest, to members of the Cathedral choir for performing excerpts from James Taylor's Magnificat, specially written for the occasion and to Jools Holland for sending us home with a spring in our step. We also very grateful to Mike Aiken, the Chairman of the Cathedral Trust and to MEMS Power Generation for their generous sponsorship of the evening.

Joss Croft, the Chair of the Cathedral Trust's Development Committee, spoke about the Cathedral's most pressing priorities and the urgent need to raise £240,000 for immediate repairs to a Bath stone pinnacle above the Cathedral Library. From a casual glance at ground level there is nothing obviously wrong, but the Cathedral surveyor has identified this structure as being at risk of collapse. If it did, it would severely damage the roof of the 12th century library, which has just been reopened to great acclaim as part of the Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions project.

It was announced on the evening that we have received a remarkable pledge of £100,000 towards this project with a condition that we raise the balance before the end of next March. Work is underway in applying to trusts and foundations, but time is very short. If you have already contributed to this project we are most grateful. Donations can be made by direct bank transfer or by cheque – please contact the Development office for details. I'm delighted to announce that we raised £25K on the night.

As we move into Advent and prepare for Christmas I look forward to seeing you at some festive event and give thanks that Rochester Cathedral holds a special places in the hearts of so many.

Go well into the New Year.

The Very Revd Dr Philip Hesketh  
Dean of Rochester

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](mailto: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 2018 to end October total

£343,993.91

## Dinner in the Nave



A wonderful evening was had by all on the occasion of the Nave Dinner on 17th October. We were delighted to have as our special guests the Rochester Cathedral Trusts' Royal Patron, HRH The Countess of Wessex with her Private Secretary, Amy Mayes; The Lord Lieutenant of Kent Lord De L'Isle and his wife Lady De L'Isle; James Taylor, who's amazing new piece of work written especially for our Choir was premiered, Jools Holland, our Music Patron, who ended the evening for us by playing some of his brilliant music, and not forgetting David Starkey, our Vice Patron.



An address confirming the need of the Cathedral to raise money for both the Music and the Fabric was powerfully delivered by Trustee, Joss Croft. An anonymous donation of £100,000 has been pledged providing we can find the remaining £95,000 required to repair the Pinnacle. What a fabulous result!



We ate a delicious meal with Kentish drinks and are very grateful to our sponsors, MEMS Power Generation and the Trust Chairman, Mr Michael P Aiken MBE.

The next Nave Dinner will be in 2020 to remember the 150th anniversary of the death of Charles Dickens!

Left to right: Phil Hesketh, Dean; Jools Holland, Music Patron; HRH The Countess of Wessex; Lord De L'Isle, Lord Lieutenant of Kent; Joss Croft, Trustee

Photographs by Colin Tolhurst.



### Text donations via Just Giving

Donating a small gift has been made even easier now. All you need to do is text the message **RCTR46 £10** to **70070** and you can make a difference via **JustGiving™**

## Quiz Night at Cooling Wedding Barn!

It's that time of year again and we are delighted to advise that Rebecca, Paul and Julie Collins are hosting us for our (what has turned out to be) annual Quiz Night at their beautiful Wedding Barn.

The date is Sunday 10th February and tables are made up of ten places at £10 per person. This will include a Ploughman's Supper and there is a cash bar. Individuals and couples are also welcome to reserve places.

Please let me have your reservations as soon as possible, we only have 14 tables and this event always sells out quickly.

Contact [lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org) or telephone 01634 810074

We would be very grateful to receive donations of raffle prizes at Garth House. Thank you.



## Gundulf Society

The Gundulf Society was relaunched this year as a gesture of thanks and appreciation to our very supportive donors. We will continue to invite these wonderful people to annual receptions to celebrate them and the work of the Rochester Cathedral Trust that they enable.

## Rochester Cathedral Trust Christmas Cards

Rochester Cathedral Trust Christmas cards are once again on sale in the Cathedral Shop in the Crypt. They are A5 sized and cost £7.20 (inc. VAT) for a pack of 10. All profits made go to support the Music Endowment.



Community Christmas Card

We will be printing a Community Christmas Card again this year. If you would like to make a donation and have your name included on the card that will be distributed to all at the 10.30am Eucharist on Sunday 23rd December, please contact the Development Office on 01634 810074 or email [lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org)

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CATHEDRAL  
Growing in Christ since AD604

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

### DECEMBER

**Saturday 1 and Sunday 2**  
**12.30pm and 3pm** Carol Service  
(Christmas Dickens)

*A service of favourite Christmas carols and readings*

**Sunday 2**  
**6.30pm** Advent Procession

**Friday 7**  
**7.30pm** Messiah & Carols for all\*

**Saturday 15**  
**12.30pm** Christingle Service

**Friday 21 and Saturday 22**  
**7.30pm** A Festival of Nine Lessons  
& Carols

**Christmas Eve**  
**3pm** Children's Nativity Service  
**4.15pm** Evensong with  
Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*  
**11.30pm** Midnight Mass  
(Doors open at 10.45pm)

**Christmas Day**  
**8am** Holy Communion (BCP)  
**10.30am** The Eucharist of  
Christmas Morning

### All are welcome

No tickets required for services

\*admission fee applies; tickets available in the Cathedral shop and [www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)



Find out more at [www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)

# Diary of 2018/19 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!

Friday 7th December 7.30pm	The Messiah & Carols. Tickets available from Eventbrite at £18 each. Queries to Theresa Buckland at Garth House.
Friday 21st December 7.30pm	A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (no ticket required)
Saturday 22nd December 7.30pm	A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (no ticket required)
Sunday 10th February 2019 7.30pm	Quiz Night at Cooling Wedding Barn. £10 per person (tables of 10) Including a delicious Ploughman's Supper. Cash bar and raffle. Further information from Lynne Bax at Garth House 01634 810074 email lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org
Tuesday 12th February 2019 8am	Business Guild breakfast at The Commissioner's House in the Historic Dockyard, Chatham. The topic under discussion will be the proposed new Lower Thames Crossing. £18 per person (including a full English breakfast). All welcome. Further information from Lynne Bax at Garth House 01634 810074 email lynne.bax@rochestercathedral.org

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](mailto:development@rochestercathedral.org)

Friday 7th December 2018, 7.30pm, Rochester Cathedral

## CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

including excerpts from  
*Handel's Messiah*

Featuring Rochester Cathedral choristers  
and the Rochester Cathedral Children's Choir

**Tickets £18, concessions £16**  
(seating unreserved)  
Tickets available in the Cathedral shop and  
[www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)



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