



Press Release

3rd June 2008

For Immediate Release

Rowers training for endurance feat during Canterbury Cathedral's Open Gardens weekend.

Seven rowers will be in training on Saturday, 7th June 2008 in the garden of 15 The Precincts during the Cathedral's Open Gardens weekend, prior to a sponsored crossing of the English Channel in mid July. The team are raising funds for the Save Canterbury Cathedral campaign and Odyssey (a Kent based charity which enhances the quality of life for people with cancer through imaginative programmes of challenging and dramatic activities using the outdoors). Using two rowing machines, the teams will be working non-stop from 11.00 am until 5.30 pm to develop their muscles for the challenging crossing of the world's busiest waterway and hope to cover the equivalent of at least 100 miles during the day. The team for the crossing itself will leave Dover harbour sometime between the 11th and 13th July (the precise date will depend on weather conditions) and hope to reach France in four to six hours. The team includes Ed Condry, Canon Treasurer of the Cathedral who led the sponsored cycle ride to Rome in August 2007, and Peter Curtis, the Cathedral's Estates Maintenance Manager.

The Open Gardens Weekend is when the private gardens of the Dean and Chapter are open to all. The gardens will be open from 11.00 am – 5.30 pm on Saturday, 7th June and 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm on Sunday 8th June. All proceeds will go to charity, including the RNLI and Odyssey, as well as medical and gardening charities. The weekend is part of the National Garden Scheme – details at <http://www.ngs.org.uk/gen/default.aspx?>. As well as entry to the Dean's and the Canons' gardens, the Campanile garden (part of the International Study Centre) and the exquisite small garden at Starrs House will also be open. Admission to the seven gardens will cost £4 and normal Precincts entry charges will apply. Refreshments will be available on both days.

E N D S

Notes to editors

- 1 For more information, please contact Christopher Robinson on 01227 865282 or 07759 215537.