



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**4<sup>th</sup> August 2010**

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Your Cathedral opens its doors to you for a musical treat.**

Canterbury Cathedral's annual Open evening will take place this year on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. The Cathedral throws open its doors and invites you to step inside for this special night of exploration and discovery as a thank you to the local residents of Canterbury and the surrounding areas. The evening will start at 5:30pm with choral evensong followed by displays and activities till 8:40pm when the choristers will perform, the evening will end at 9:00pm with Compline.

"We hope that the residents of Kent will take this opportunity to pop in and find out more about their Cathedral, even if they can only spare a few minutes" said Christopher Robinson, Press Officer for Canterbury Cathedral; "The Open evening really caters for all the family and we invite one and all to attend".

This year the theme to this marvellous free event will be the *Music and Choristers of Canterbury Cathedral*. This connection is an age old relationship that dates back to St Augustine's arrival in 597AD. The centrepiece of the exhibition will focus on this partnership and its history, and will feature contributions from choristers past and present, who will reflect on their life at the Cathedral.

The Nave and Quire will be packed with exhibits, displays and demonstrations from many of the skilled and talented departments here at the Cathedral; this will give residents a fascinating opportunity to learn and sample the skilled craftsmanship that goes into preserving one of this country's most iconic landmarks.

This year we are also very excited to able to show visitors an illuminated display of precious medieval stained glass taken from the South window while it is undergoing restoration and repair. Visitors will also be able to take advantage of the free guided and audio tours and opportunities to visit the bell ringing tower, the Organ loft and choir practice room, as well as the private chapels that are not normally open to the public.

**ENDS**



#### Notes to Editors

1. All media enquires should contact Mrs Lisa Emanuel ( 01227 ) 865424 or [lisa.emanuel@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:lisa.emanuel@canterbury-cathedral.org) or Christopher Robinson (01227) 865282 [robinsonc@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:robinsonc@canterbury-cathedral.org)
2. We welcome members of the Press to cover either the evening itself or to record the preparations for this yearly event. Pictures of previous Open evenings are available on request.
3. The annual Open evening will take place this year on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of October and everyone is invited for free.
4. The evening is intended to be a chance for local residents to see the Cathedral and look behind the scenes. Each year the Open evening focuses on a particular theme and this year it will concentrate on the Choir and musical life here at the Cathedral.
5. This evening is organised by The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral, which is a registered charity established in 1927 to help preserve the fabric and worship of the Cathedral. For more information please see <http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/friends.html>
6. The famous former choristers include Harry Christophers, Mark Deller, Stephen Barlow, Oz Clarke, Kit Hesketh and Trevor Pinnock.
7. Some restrictions will apply to visit the Bell tower, Organ loft and Choir practice room.
8. The private chapels that will be open to the public that night will be, St Augustine's chapel, the Dean's chapel, All Saints' chapel, St Edward's chapel, The Huguenot chapel, and The Wax Chamber