



Press Release

30th September 2010

A CHANCE TO GET CLOSE TO MEDIEVAL STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Because of extensive repair work being carried to the great South window of Canterbury Cathedral, the 800 year old panels of stained glass that have been in the window since the 18th century have had to be removed and placed in storage while the repair work is assessed and takes place, something which may take two years to complete. The stained glass panels were originally in the clerestory windows of the Cathedral Quire, and date to the rebuilding that took place after a disastrous fire in 1174, just four years after the murder of St Thomas Becket.

Now, four of those panels of stained glass will be displayed for some months in light boxes in the western crypt of the Cathedral, so visitors can get close to these windows and see the magnificent detail. These windows depict four ancestors of Christ: Methusaleh, Lamech, Josiah, and Hezekiah. The names of the artists are not known, but these glorious windows rival the splendour of those at Chartres and other great French Cathedrals.

You are invited to send a photographer, a journalist, or both, on Monday, 4th October at 1.00 pm to the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral to be the first to see these stained glass windows close--up. The Head of the Cathedral's Stained Glass Conservation Workshop, Ms Leonie Seliger, will be available to discuss the windows, which will first be "open" to the public in their temporary home at the Cathedral's Open Evening on Tuesday 5th October, when the Cathedral will be open free of charge to everyone from 6.30 pm until 9.00 pm, with many displays of craftsmanship, skill, and musicianship showcasing all the Cathedral's activities.

ENDS

Christopher Robinson
Press Officer to Canterbury Cathedral
Tel 01227 865282
Fax 01227 865250
Mobile 07759 215537

Notes to Editors

Attendees should come to Cathedral House, 11 The Precincts, Canterbury by 12.50 pm on the 4th October 2010. No parking will be available unless confirmed prior with Christopher Robinson.