

We were delighted to hear in January that the Cathedral Grants Scheme has awarded £230,000 of matched funding to Canterbury Cathedral's fundraising campaign for repairs to the Cathedral Library. Extensive work is required on the fabric of the Library buildings, including improvements to the building envelope and heating system to provide better control of the internal environment, essential roof repairs and the conservation of 17th-century stone and brickwork. The Cathedral Grants Scheme is administered jointly by English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation, and was launched in 1991.

Work to the Library is currently expected to start in late spring, and to last about a year. During this time, there will inevitably be disruption to access to the library stock.

As from Easter (ie from 9th April 2009), most of the rare books currently stored in the Wolfson and Howley-Harrison buildings will be unavailable. Access will be retained to some of books and also to books identified as required for specific areas of study during the closure period. Most of the books shelved in the Archives building (ie more modern books, including those with a local or family history interest) will remain accessible.

If you have any concerns about requirements for your research, please contact Library staff as soon as possible, and before 9th April (email library@canterbury-cathedral.org; telephone 01227-865287).

Access to the collections of the Cathedral Archives will remain unaffected.