focus

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

March 2023

Dear Friends,



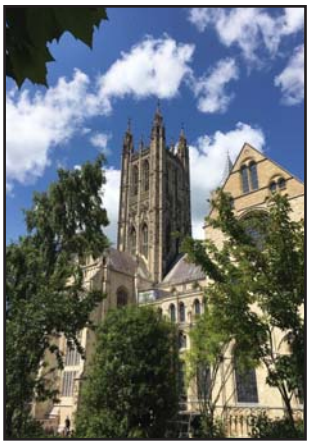
On a pilgrimage I led to Canterbury as a seminary dean, one of our students sought out the choirmaster to make his acquaintance. The student was a talented jazz musician, and the two of them quickly hit it off, so that by the time we left the choirmaster had commissioned the student, Andy Barnett, to create a "Canterbury Jazz Mass."

That was in 2011. Andy went right to work on composing the piece, and in the fall of 2012 it had its North American debut at the seminary with the Theodicy Jazz Collective. The piece served as the mass setting for the annual alumni convocation, concluding with the Doxology, solemnly played at first as the familiar hymn tune Old Hundredth. But then … suddenly out of nowhere the hymn tune erupted into an exuberant jazz rendition that Andy has described as "a pure celebration of the 'God from whom all blessings flow.'"

Who knew, that embedded in the staid Old Hundredth, was an animated, celebratory piece of jazz? Since that performance, I have used it many times as an image to suggest that when what seems merely traditional and familiar is turned inside out, it often has lurking within it something new and dynamic and exceptional.

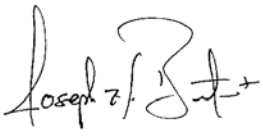
Many of us have experienced Canterbury Cathedral in much the same way. The building has stood firm for so long, and the community within it has prayed together so many countless times, that one would expect only the familiar. Yet the building and community have a way of catching you off-guard as something unexpected and astonishing suddenly captures your attention. A human figure sculpted of medieval nails hanging in the crypt. A shaft of light intruding into a dark corner. An installation of glass vessels hovering overhead in the nave to mark the centennial of the Great War.

All this is to say, that Canterbury Cathedral is a place that is intensely alive with the human spirit, as it reaches toward the divine. It is one of those "thin places" where the liminal boundary between heaven and earth seems very weak indeed. Perhaps that convergence is what has bound so many of us to the place so intensely: it is a place that spiritually can turn us inside out as well.



I will soon be stepping aside as the Interim Chair of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. But Canterbury will remain a beacon in my own life for the depth of what God equips us to think, to imagine, and to create.

Blessings on your life and labor,

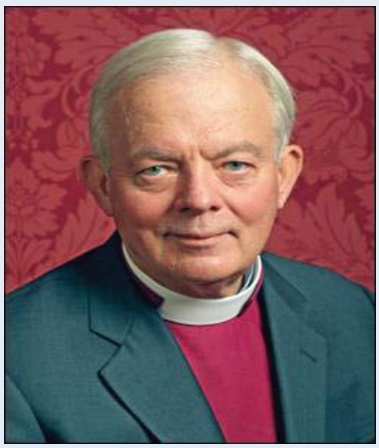


Joseph Britton
Interim Chair

NEWS ON FOCCUS TRUSTEES



The Very Reverend Dr David Monteith was installed as Dean of Canterbury Cathedral on December 17, 2022. He succeeds The Very Reverend Dr Robert Willis who retired as Dean on May 16, 2022. Dean Monteith was born in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland and studied zoology at the University of Durham, graduating in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree. From 1990 – 1993, he studied theology at St. John's College, Nottingham and the University of Nottingham, earning both bachelors and masters degrees. After his ordination in 1994, he served in various clerical capacities in Birmingham, at St-Martin-in-the-Fields, London, and in Merton, a borough in Southwest London. Before being called to Canterbury, Dean Monteith was at Leicester Cathedral for 13 years, first as Canon Chancellor, then Dean.



The Right Reverend Peter James Lee, 12th Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, died on July 2, 2022. Among his many other responsibilities, Bishop Lee was the Chair of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States (FOCCUS) for fifteen years, from 2003 – 2018, and President of the Board for the next four years until his death. In early professional life, he served as an Army intelligence officer and a journalist, before enrolling in the Duke University Law School in 1963. It was during his first year there that he felt his call to ordained ministry and graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary in 1967. After his ordination as a priest, he spent the next two years as Assistant Rector of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC. In that capacity he worked closely and developed a lifelong friendship with the Rector, the Reverend John C. Harper, who later founded the Friends of Canterbury in the US. Bishop Lee leaves a lasting legacy in Virginia, ordaining over 200 people into the priesthood, strengthening church schools in the diocese, and overseeing significant capital improvements. He also leaves a lasting legacy for FOCCUS, channeling its efforts and financial support for the John C. Harper Scholarships at the International Study Centre at Canterbury. These scholarships support clergy from around the Anglican Communion early in their ministries to pray, study, and learn from one another. Despite the fact that they come from different cultures, in fact because of it, they each serve as part of the larger fabric that makes up the richness and strength of the Communion.

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The Reverend Canon Matthew Thomas Lacy Corkern, Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, Summit, NJ, died April 24, 2022. He was a longtime trustee of FOCCUS and was elected Chair of the Board following Bishop Lee in 2018. A Mississippi native, he earned two degrees in history from the University of Richmond, following which he attended Yale Divinity School. After ordination, he served on staff at churches in McLean, Virginia and Nashville, before being called as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Mobile. Reverend Corkern's final post was for nine years as Rector at Calvary. He focused his love of history and Canterbury Cathedral by leading many pilgrimages in the UK and France, 45 in all over a twenty-year period, deepening his own faith, while finding joy in seeing it grow in others through their travel experiences. A portion of the funds he raised through these pilgrimages went to support FOCCUS and the Harper Scholarships.



A Memorial Gift to Canterbury Cathedral in grateful memory of the two of its long-standing members who died this past year was approved by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees on October 13, 2022. A joint contribution of $10,000 in their names has been made to Canterbury Cathedral. Their leadership, commitment, and lasting contributions will be sorely missed.

Join FOCCUS's Facebook

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States has a Facebook group. Facebook, the world's largest social networking site, allows users to share ideas, discussions and photos with people of similar interest.

The FOCCUS group is a great way to keep up with the latest news from Canterbury Cathedral. The creators search news sites to bring you news of interest concerning the Cathedral. In addition you can post your thoughts and share photos of your trips to Canterbury.

If you are not a member of Facebook please consider joining and then become a member of the FOCCUS group. If you are already a member of Facebook, type Friends of Canterbury Cathedral into the site's search box.

www.facebook.com
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=90862204701&ref=mf

SAINT ANSELM, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, 1093-1109

By Powell Hutton

Anselm (1033/4-1109) was born in Italy, became a Benedictine monk, and then the Abbot of Bec in Normandy, before being called to Canterbury. He is remembered for his fight for the independence of the church from monarchial control and for his reforms within it. He is equally lauded for his philosophical and theological writings, giving important arguments for the existence of God and the reason for the incarnation.



St. Anselm with pallium and crozir

After the first Norman Archbishop of Canterbury, Lanfranc, died in 1089, King William II (William the Red) seized the properties and revenues of the church in England and sought to install his own clerics. He had a change of heart, however, when he became seriously ill, attributing it to his sinfulness. On recovery, he nominated Anselm as Archbishop, a position Anselm accepted only on condition that all church properties be returned and that the Pope's authority be recognized. Conflict between the two strong personalities continued as the king sought annates (payments for ecclesiastical benefits), but Anselm refused, saying he'd already given the money to the poor. Tensions lingered over William's refusal to carry through with church reform, and Anselm went into the first of two exiles during his tenure as Archbishop.

Following William's death, his successor, King Henry I, invited Anselm to return, but demanded that he accept the ring and crozier of office from the king, and indeed the papal pallium as well, to indicate clerical subservience. Anselm refused, yet he supported the king in other ways, not least in finding that Henry's beloved Matilda had not been a nun when she had earlier entered a convent, thereby allowing Henry to marry her. Control of church properties and appointments remained a sticking point, which led to Anselm's second exile. His return came only after papal intervention and threats of excommunication.

As Archbishop, Anselm convened a church council in London in 1102 that accepted the Gregorian Reforms, measures already taken on the Continent, dealing with the moral integrity and independence of the church. Among other provisions they prohibited marriage, concubinage, and drunkenness for those in holy orders. They condemned sodomy, simony (the buying or selling of privileges), and they standardized clerical dress.

Anselm's writings reverberate even today, over eleven centuries later. He has been called "the most luminous and penetrating intellect between St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas" and "the father of Scholasticism". He argued that faith precedes reason, but that reason can expand faith. In his ontological argument for the existence of God, Anselm wrote that God is "that than which nothing greater can be thought", something even atheists could think about. However, if such a being's attributes did not include existence, then a still greater being could be imagined. Therefore, the truly greatest possible being must exist, in other words, God.

Another significant line of thinking was his argument about the nature of Jesus and the incarnation. Sin is injustice, he wrote, and more specifically, injustice against God. Since God is infinite, the injustice must be as well. One who would repair an infinite injustice has also to be infinite, but humans are finite, so the only way to repair such an injustice must be by a man who is infinite – Jesus, both man and God.

When Anselm died, his remains were laid in Canterbury. One of his successors, Thomas Becket, requested he be canonized, which he eventually was in 1494. In 1720, he was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in recognition of his contributions to theology and doctrine.

Photo Credit: Wikipedia

VOICES FROM CANTERBURY: The Reverend Tim Naish, Canon Librarian

Interviewed by the Reverend Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie

Canon Naish, you have served as Canon Librarian at Canterbury Cathedral since 2018. Would you briefly explain the scope of your position for our FOCCUS readers?

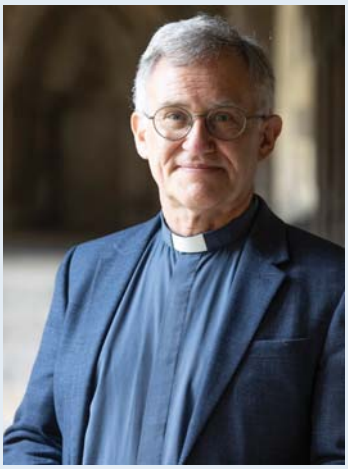
Well, the title itself is somewhat misleading: I am not a librarian by training, and though I am the Canon who relates most closely to our wonderful Archives and Library Department, that doesn't take up much of my working time. It's an historic title for what is broadly speaking the oversight of much of the Cathedral's educational work. This includes the two Anglican Communion programmes, for seminarians/new clergy and for new bishops; and also much of what we do in collaboration with the two major universities in Canterbury. Sacred Space, our weekly alternative worship and reflection time for students and other young people, is an example. About half of my time is given over to the training, support and assessment of the curates of the Diocese of Canterbury. I take my share with the other three residentiary Canons and the Dean in leading the worship and witness of the Cathedral.

FOCCUS exists primarily to support the Scholars' Program for seminarians and new clergy. What do you hope these prospective and new clergy will bring with them when they return to their home dioceses around the world?

It is exciting that we are recommencing this program after a three-year gap due to the pandemic. I believe the greatest benefit of our Courses (it is also true for the course for new bishops) is that men and women return with a transformed vision of the Christian faith and the world in which we live it out. It is primarily about encounter: although there is a syllabus, with sessions and facilitators, it is learning from each other that is at the heart of the Course, not learning facts or skills. I myself aged 23 went and spent a year in the Church of South India, and it changed my life. Subsequently, with a wife and family, I worked for ten years with the Anglican Church in Zaire/D R Congo (where I was ordained), and in Uganda. I am convinced that meeting fellow Christians from different cultures and with diverse it worldviews is often transforming - not least in understanding with heart and spirit as well as mind, what means to be an Anglican. We are enormously grateful for the support which FOCCUS gives; without it, the Scholars' Program, just could not happen.

What are the greatest joys for you in serving the Canterbury Cathedral community?

Just at the moment, welcoming our new Dean, David Monteith, and with him a renewed spirit of vision and hope after a couple of challenging years. The wonder of living in a place and community that inherit so much from a long tradition of beauty, the search for holiness, and Christian witness, in ways that build on the tradition but address contemporary society. Twice a year, welcoming and getting to know leaders from across cultures and across the Communion, and seeing their relationships develop and their mutual learning and growth. Praying with pilgrims who arrive or depart from here; taking them to the Trinity Chapel, where Thomas Becket's shrine is. There, as we pray, the holy combination of beauty, history and pilgrimage often leaves us in tears.



Update to the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

by Joanna Luck, Head of Fundraising, Canterbury Cathedral

FOCCUS have been extremely generous in supporting Canterbury Cathedral's Harper Scholarship Fund over many years. The Fund is the principal source of funding for the Cathedral's 'Seminarians/ New Clergy Anglican Communion Course'. This sees Anglican clergy, at the beginning of their careers, coming to Canterbury for training and fellowship. Travelling from all corners of the globe, they come together, usually in February, to spend time at the Mother Church.

The courses are organised and led by The Revd Dr Tim Naish (photo, right), the Cathedral's Canon Librarian and Director of Education. Canon Tim has worked at the Cathedral since 2018, following many years in theological education as well as time spent in Uganda and the Congo.



As Canon Tim says, "We are deeply grateful to FOCCUS for their support of the Harper Scholarship Fund, without which, the Seminarians' training simply would not happen."

Staying at the Cathedral for two weeks each time, course participants attend daily worship and Bible study groups, as well as talks and workshops on a variety of topics, including 'Culture and Faith', 'Inter-Faith Life' and 'Pursuing Peace and Reconciliation'. They also enjoy a trip to London to visit Lambeth Palace (home of the Archbishop of Canterbury), a local pilgrimage, as well as a reception and dinner at the Deanery.

As Canon Tim says, "Although we do offer sessions, with valuable input from other professionals, it is important to stress that the greatest value is not in learning from skilled educators, but in the interaction between participants themselves. Of course, this happens in eating, praying and socialising together as well as in the sessions. It is impossible to communicate the lovely way in which relationships are built within the course of twelve days or so, across cultural and theological diversity. We really believe that the Anglican Communion at this time needs these opportunities for future leaders to understand one another better, not just with the mind but through personal encounter."

The great value of the Course is that it brings together Anglicans from across the world to learn from each other face-to-face. The last Course took place in February 2020, but, as the Covid pandemic took hold just a month later, it became clear that the next year's sessions could not take place. Canon Tim says, "We decided not to organise anything online because its raison d'etre is that Anglicans from across the world meet together at the Mother Church. Perhaps if we had known how long the pandemic would last, we might have decided differently, but we did not." Unfortunately, no Courses have taken place since then.

Canterbury Cathedral closed its doors in March 2020. Nearly 90% of staff were placed on furlough and in May of that year, a staff restructure was announced, with the body of staff being reduced by one third. The Cathedral reopened, with restrictions, in July 2020. However, visitor numbers were a tiny fraction of normal levels, exacerbating income loss. This pattern continued with further

lockdowns. Reserves were drawn upon, and by January 2021, the Cathedral had run out of free unrestricted reserves and was surviving on its Government loan of £4m and emergency funding schemes. The Fundraising Team's applications to the national Culture Recovery Fund were successful and enabled the Dean & Chapter to proceed with a degree of confidence. However, all at Canterbury are acutely aware that further challenges await, as the cost of living increases, and political and economic uncertainty prevail around the world.

Pleasingly, we saw the number of visitors to Canterbury increasing throughout 2022. Although still at 61% of normal levels, we have been able to hold our usual events (major services, Graduation ceremonies, concerts etc), as well as our daily routine of worship. Canterbury Cathedral is once again a place for gathering, not least at Christmas, which saw thousands of people – in person and online – joining our worship.

With that in mind, we are currently planning the next Seminarians' Course for February 2023. The new Dean, The Very Revd Dr David Monteith, is entirely behind the programme of courses for Seminarians, new Clergy and Bishops. Dean David was installed at the Cathedral in December and will have his first opportunity to participate in the Course in a few weeks' time. (He very much looks forward to getting to know FOCCUS in due course too!)

Each time we hold a Course, the total cost is around £45,000 (which covers the cost of flights, visas, accommodation and training). As you probably know, we also run an annual course for new Bishops, for which the principal donor has been the St Augustine's Foundation, a significant trust for theological education in the Anglican Communion, with strong Canterbury links. We hold all our funds for the work of Anglican Communion courses (including the Seminarians' training) in one reserved account. Our ultimate aim and hope would be to be able to run our programmes from the investment income, but, at present, the endowment amount is about £620,000, which will not generate the £90,000 necessary for the running of two courses annually. We now have enough in hand for both courses in 2023, but for future years, we are dependent on generous donations such as yours.

On behalf of everyone at Canterbury Cathedral, and the new clergy who will be visiting us for training in 2023, thank you for your most recent gift.

Joanna Luck
Head of Fundraising



Jo Luck has been head of Fundraising at the Cathedral for almost 4 years, having spent 25 years in similar posts at a range of UK charities. Her love of history and personal faith come together perfectly in this role.

FRIENDS *of*
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL
in the UNITED STATES

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Becoming a Friend

Enclosed in this Newsletter you will find an envelope we hope you will use to become a member of Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. Membership includes such benefits as free admission to the Cathedral and personalized tours, notification of FOCCUS events, as well as priority consideration for a place on future pilgrimages.

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