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Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

February 2016

LETTER FROM BISHOP LEE, CHAIRMAN OF FOCCUS

Dear Friends,



The contentious meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion held in Canterbury in January 2016 reinforces the need for deep and prayerful conversation among those likely to be future leaders of the Communion. Our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, has spoken of the pain caused by decisions that were made. But he also reminds us that our communion with one another is more a matter of relationships of friendship and mutual ministry than of formal committees and structures.

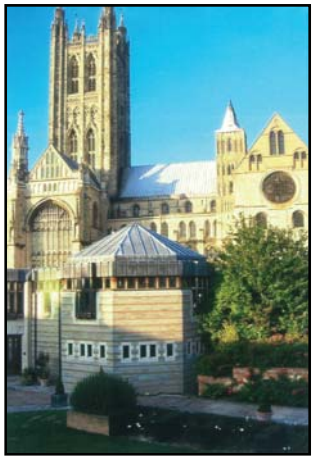
The programs that bring together in Canterbury seminarians, new clergy, and new bishops from across the Communion are more important than ever. I hope the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States will continue to generously support our worldwide ministry of reconciliation through the Scholars Program. Such reconciliation efforts are central to our life as Christians.

Faithfully yours,
Peter James Lee

MESSAGE FROM DEAN ROBERT A. WILLIS, CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Following the decisions made by the Primates at their January meeting in Canterbury, it is vitally important to continue the Canterbury Scholars Program for those in the early years of ministry. In terms of developing mutual understanding, these courses are invaluable. The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States continue to help the conferences financially and I would like to offer the warmest thanks for this needed support at this time in our Anglican story.

The Very Reverend Dr. Robert A. Willis
Dean of Canterbury Cathedral



Join FOCCUS' 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

CURRENT WORK AT CANTERBURY

By John Meardon, Receiver General

A year at Canterbury seems to slip by with increasing speed yet the amount of work we achieve on the buildings never appears to diminish. 2015 saw a re-ordering of priorities to deal with the instability of the upper parts of the North West Transept, meaning that some other work has had to be temporarily delayed. Meanwhile, the impetus of preparing the fine planning detail for the second stage of the Lottery Fund bid has increased significantly.

The Canterbury Journey

The projects which are included in the 5 year scheme of work include the design and build of a new Welcome Centre, which will be based on the properties beside the Christ Church Gate. This will be a prestigious creation that will offer visitors all the facilities they need to plan their tour as well as a new Cathedral shop and facilities for interpretation and display. There will be a community space for both outreach and Cathedral use. The compact space is a challenge for the architects and designs are now in an advanced state. Coupled with this are the work of conserving the Christ Church Gate itself and re-landscaping the South Precincts to make them look better and remove parking from the near vicinity of the church itself. Finally, there will be a continuing programme of work to the Cathedral's West End and the Nave roof and a major scheme to improve the interpretation of the Cathedral and its treasures.

Great South Window



The new window has advanced steadily and the final stones have been worked for the tracery at the window's apex. These are now being installed, very carefully, as it is essential that they fit exactly into the window void. Replacing a window of this magnitude is a considerable undertaking as each stone has to have the shape of its predecessor but, as importantly, it must have built into it the distortions and deviations that have occurred over the past two hundred years so that the stresses and strains of the of the past can be safely absorbed in the new material. The project is due to complete in the summer when the scaffold will come down and the medieval glass will be seen once again in all its glory.

North West Transept



The emergency work on the pinnacle is in its last stages and the whole of the gable end of the transept has been conserved. This has included making good some of the intricate flint work with which the north aspect of the transept is faced, a contrast to its southern neighbour where only stone ashlar was used, presumably because the north side of the Cathedral has always been the less public view, overlooking the original monastic buildings. Just before Christmas the other major work for this transept was completed when the new lead roof was finished. This required the removal and replacement of tonnes of lead and some significant carpentry repairs to the 15th Century oak timbers of the oldest in situ Cathedral roof.

The Great Organ

Planning for the rebuild of the organ itself is well advanced and we are concentrating on the other major part of the project, the new console. Its location has been chosen (in the North Quire Aisle) but the positioning of the platform and the appearance of the whole structure are matters under heavy debate. We are working with some very reputable designers and hope to confirm a design by the summer. Once we have everything in place, including the additional funding that this project will need, it will take a full year to complete the work and in that time we will have to rely on alternative sources of music making.

Royal Statues



The statues of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were unveiled in their presence last March at a very happy occasion for the Cathedral community. In September we added another statue to our rollcall when Queen Margaretha of Denmark unveiled a commemorative World War I statue to the Buffs, the local infantry regiment. It stands proud in the Precincts with its subject, a soldier in battle dress, gazing up at the Cathedral of his home County.

The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

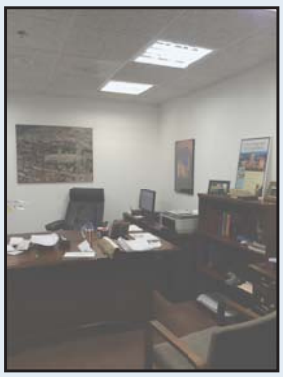
The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

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The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin

FOCCUS has moved!

The FOCCUS office in Washington, DC has moved, four floors upward!! We have changed suites in the same building; we can now be found in suite 608 at 888 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.



The FOCCUS Board of Trustees meets as a whole twice each year, in April and in October.

Our April 2015 meeting was held in New York City at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Pictured to the right are the trustees who were present that day:



Front row, left to right:
Dean Willis, Chair Peter Lee, Barbie Harper

Second row, left to right:
Betty Scott, Ted Clarkson, Carl Gerdau, Sam Van Culin, Joe Britton, Anne Ritchie, Matthew Corkern, Eugene Johnston, Powell Hutton

Reflections by a Former Canterbury Scholar
The Rev. Tom Purdy, Rector of Christ Church, Frederica, St. Simons Island, Georgia

Nearly twelve years ago I spent three weeks at Canterbury Cathedral as a part of the Canterbury Scholars program. It is an experience that I treasure and one that continues to shape the way I think about my ministry as a priest in the global Anglican Communion.

At the time I participated in the Scholars program, I was preparing to start my final year of seminary training. I got to meet other seminarians and newly ordained priests from all over the globe; places like Swaziland, South Korea, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Sudan, and so many more. As we studied and prayed together daily, the brass Compass Rose inlaid on the floor of the Cathedral was incarnated for me. Anglicanism was no longer an abstract concept, but people with whom I shared embraces, sacrament, and a common faith.

FOCCUS (Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States) exists to raise the funds necessary to ensure that participants from parts of the Communion where resources are scarce can afford the travel to Canterbury to participate in this incredible, life-changing experience. With the generosity of people like you, FOCCUS can continue to support the Cathedral's vision of bringing our Communion together.

My time in the Scholars program gave me a unique opportunity to experience the great gift of our tradition, which was particularly poignant in light of recent news of tensions within our Communion. Having spent time learning and growing alongside fellow priests from around the world, I know firsthand what the bonds of affection that hold our fragile Communion together are about. They are certainly not to be taken for granted.

Please help us continue this incredible program with a gift of any size. Your generous gift will help another generation of Anglican leaders incarnate the Compass Rose, which points the way to Anglicans in every corner of the globe.



VOICES FROM CANTERBURY: Caroline Plaisted, English Friends Secretary
An interview by the Reverend Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie

How would you describe the mission of the English Friends of Canterbury Cathedral?

The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral are the Cathedral's fan club! We are admirers of the building, its history and its community. We are part of the Cathedral and work together to cherish it forever, contributing financially to many vital projects, and to provide a channel for individuals to show their support. The Friends were founded in 1927 by Dean George Bell – the first organisation of its kind in the UK and, perhaps, the world.

Since our foundation, The Friends have given the equivalent of over £14 million towards various projects to enhance and preserve the Cathedral. During the Second World War, The Friends paid for the firefighting equipment needed by the volunteers and staff who protected the Cathedral during air raids. More recent projects that The Friends have contributed to have been restoration of the Christ Church Gate, a minibus for the Choristers, a contribution towards the purchase of a new Quire Organ, and the creation of the two magnificent statues of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh which are now on the West Face of the Cathedral. The Friends have also pledged to contribute £250,000 towards The Canterbury Journey, the Heritage Lottery Fund project which will help us to welcome many more visitors and pilgrims and improve access to resources and collections, as well as to help with urgent conservation works.

What is your role as Secretary to the English Friends?

As the Friends' Secretary, I am here to administrate our community and nurture all our individual Friends. I hope that in the Friends' Office, we provide a warm and welcoming community to all our visitors, whether they are visiting for the first time, or returning for their weekly visit. We look after 3500 Friends based in Canterbury, throughout Kent and the United Kingdom, and, indeed all over the world. Each year, we organise a programme of Friends' Events including trips to historic places, gardens, and exhibitions, talks and tours in the Cathedral Lodge, Cathedral, and Precincts, and New Member Celebrations. A highlight is our own Christmas Carol Service in the Nave which is followed by a Dinner in the King's School Dining Room. The aim of our events programme is to extend our community, offer friendship and fellowship, make new friends and Friends – and, of course, fundraise whilst we are having a great deal of fun!

This year we will be commemorating the 950th anniversary of the Norman Conquest by taking a trip to the site of the Battle of Hastings. We shall also be celebrating 'Shakespeare400'(the anniversary of Shakespeare's death) with a trip to Southwark Cathedral and The Globe Theatre, right alongside the River Thames. In my role as Friends' Secretary, I hope to spread the word so that more and more people find out about The Friends and want to join us. There can never be enough Friends – and there has never been a better time to join our community as we will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary next year.

In your personal experience, what do you most cherish about Canterbury Cathedral?

The privilege and opportunity of being here. Quite honestly, there is something new to discover every day: it might be about a Service with historic importance, or an unusual stone carving suddenly spotted in the Cloister, or perhaps the discovery of an intriguing memorial to a war veteran. I work amongst such a diverse group of over 300 talented colleagues and over 800 volunteers – it is a privilege to be in their company.

When I walk through the Christ Church Gate in the morning and glance up at the Cathedral, I sometimes have to pinch myself: do I really work in this extraordinary place? I have only been at Canterbury for three years and I am ever-conscious that, however long I am fortunate to be here, it will represent a mere blink of an eye when you contemplate a history dating back to 597AD. If I can make any contribution to the future of this incredible place whilst I am here, I shall be glad.

A Benedictine Legacy at Canterbury
By Powell Hutton

The Cathedral Church of Christ and St. Augustine's Abbey were both founded as Benedictine monasteries by St. Augustine after he arrived at Canterbury in 597 AD. While the latter was originally set aside as a burial place for archbishops and kings, both quickly became centers for learning and culture, not least because of the discipline imposed by the Benedictine Rule. This was, and remains to this day, a series of detailed precepts governing not only how a monastery would be run, but every aspect of the life of a monk, living in obedience to the abbot.



Among St. Benedict's rules were injunctions for community manual labor, for prayer and meditation, and for reading at least two hours every day. Each monastery had to have its own collection of books, and the only way to gain that was to copy them. While we think of this as being done in scriptoria, so vividly recreated by Umberto Eco, most of the early copying was likely done outside in cloisters where the light was good, even in winter when temperatures could numb the fingers. Candles were typically forbidden because of the risk of fire.

The head librarian occupied an important post, in charge of holdings, both religious and secular, and providing the pens, ink, rulers, vellum, pumice (for smoothing pages), knives (for scraping off mistakes), awls (for pinholes to line up script), and reading frames (to isolate script to be copied). He could make life miserable for a monk who needed disciplining.

While animal skins were plentiful, quality varied, and the worst might require a novice to scrape off fur to create a writing surface. One of the more treasured sources was good vellum from calves, some of the finest of which came from older manuscripts, where the parchment could be reused after the original writing had been removed. These were palimpsests (from the Greek, "scraped again"). This ready stock accounts for why some of the manuscripts kept in monasteries were ancient Latin texts, such as by Cicero, Virgil, Lucretius, Ovid, and Seneca, in spite of the fact that many were secular and humanist, if not downright sacrilegious and pagan.

Library rules were strict. Absolute silence was enforced, so an elaborate sign language was developed. While monks had no choice in the works they were copying, sometimes they had to consult other documents. As Stephen Greenblatt tells us in "The Swerve", if a scribe needed a psalter, he made the general sign for a book with open hands, then put his fingers above his head to signify a crown, representing King David. If he asked for a pagan book, he might scratch behind the ear, like a dog scratching fleas. If the book was considered dangerous to orthodoxy, he could put two fingers in his mouth as though he were gagging.

Before the printing press replaced copying by hand, monasteries were thus responsible for saving much early writing, both Christian and very non-Christian. Copying continued at Canterbury for almost a thousand years until 1538, when, during the Dissolution, all monasteries and their holdings were turned over to King Henry VIII. The extensive St. Augustine Abbey library of almost two thousand manuscripts was dispersed (a few turn up at auctions to this day), while that of Christ Church Cathedral survived as a single collection.

Photo credit: www.dellacivetta.org

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

PILGRIMAGE PATHWAYS: NORTHERN ITALY AND ALBANIA*

A Journey of History, Art, Architecture, Literature, Politics and Religion Travel

Dates: 18-30 September 2016

led by The Reverend Canon Matthew Corkern

Alas, almost 16 years have passed since I led my first pilgrimage in March 2000. Next autumn, I shall lead an intimate pilgrimage to mark this point in late September. After much thought, I invite you to join a small group of amiable companions to celebrate and accompany me on this special journey.

You may be surprised but this pilgrimage continues my original theme of trekking very extraordinary parts of Europe, I am designing a tour of the art, faith, culture, cafes and markets found in Northern Italy and Albania. Working with the leading UNESCO archaeologist of Albania, we shall traverse the exquisite countryside and oft-undiscovered nation of Albania, with an initial few days in/around Milan and Florence, and then a return of three days in Venice and Padua.

This is truly to be the journey of a lifetime with friends old and new. Our number shall be sixteen pilgrims in total with those who sign-up first. I am also delighted to announce that my Calvary colleague, Mr. Cimi (Shkelchim) Petrela from Summit will accompany us along the Way with first-hand knowledge and expertise on the regions, peoples, and superb gourmand meals interspersed with simple salad suppers.



This thirteen-day journey focuses on the behind-the-scenes cultural workings of cathedrals, country-homes, and a few Anglican institutions beside Roman cousins and Muslim friends.

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Visits include: Milan Basilica; DaVinci's Last Supper; St. James American Church in Florence; the Duomo and the Baptistery of Florence; EIGHT DAYS to explore Albania; the Macedonian monastery with the largest icon collection on earth; the Court ceremonial surrounding the Doges of Venice; Holy Eucharist Commissioning within St. Mark's Cathedral; Museo Marco Polo; glass-artists' and nativity wood-carvers' studios; cruise on the Grand Canal; and Arena Chapel (Giotto's murals).

Our ancient faith calls us to encounter the contemporary world through friendships formed across these native lands of culture, history and religion. To express interest or obtain further details, please contact Matthew Corkern by email mtlc101@gmail.com or call 908-277-1814.

Please note this pilgrimage is priced as an all-inclusive package of everything except air-travel and insurance. This trip is based on double-occupancy, but singles may be accommodated upon sign-up. This itinerary includes $300 tax-deductible donation to Canterbury Cathedral.

FRIENDS *of*
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL
in the UNITED STATES

888 17th Street, NW, Suite 608
Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994

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.

FOCCUS - 888 17th Street, NW, Suite 608 - Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994 - Email: canterburyus@gmail.com
Website: www.canterburyus.org