focCUS

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

February 2015

Dear Friends,

The Archbishop of Canterbury has made clear in several public statements that the next Lambeth Conference, usually held every ten years, is on hold until the Primates' Meeting can be assured of widespread participation by the bishops in such a meeting and widespread financial support for it as well. That means the next Lambeth Conference is not likely until the year 2020 at the earliest.

I think that uncertainty expands the role of Canterbury Cathedral. While the Cathedral has always had a central role in the Lambeth Conference, the stability and centrality of the Cathedral itself, as a symbol of unity and continuity in the Anglican Communion, are especially important.

Formal gatherings of Anglican leaders come and go - the Primates' Meetings, the Anglican Consultative Council meetings, the Lambeth Conferences - but the Cathedral itself endures as the Mother Church, the Communion. It deserves our interest and support. I write these words from Christ Church, Georgetown, in Washington, DC, where I am interim rector, and where there is an abiding interest in Canterbury.

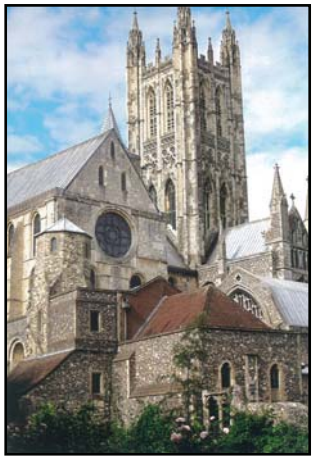
The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee
Chair, FOCCUS

PILGRIMAGE PATHWAYS IN 2015

Faith and Culture across the Lake District & Middle England, 7 – 17 May 2015
This journey, in conjunction with the Vergers Guild of America, focuses on the behind-the-scenes cultural workings of cathedrals, country-homes, and Anglican institutions, walking in the footsteps of great saints, cultural leaders, and fellow pilgrims. The visit includes the Court Ceremonial surrounding the Reburial of Richard III at Leicester; Cathedrals at Derby, Carlisle, Ripon, York and Lincoln; Hadrian's Wall; smaller local churches; Magna Carta Museum; and garden wonders across Studley Royal Gardens and Fountains Abbey. Special events at Chatsworth House and Ripley Castle.

Following in Celtic Footsteps across Northern England, 17 – 28 July 2015 *(Full, with waiting list).*
This journey draws you to visit the land, and learn the history, of the six most significant figures to have ministered in northern England during the flourishing of Celtic Christianity – *Paulinus, Aidan, Hild, Cuthbert, Wilfrid and Bede.* The visit includes Cathedrals at Durham, Ripon and York; Hadrian's Wall; Lindisfarne (Holy Island); Bede's World; The Javik Viking Museum; The James Herriot Surgery; garden wonders across Studley Royal Gardens and Fountains Abbey. Special events at Bishopthorpe, Castle Howard, and others.

For further information, please contact Matthew Corkern by email rector@calvarysummit.org or call 908-277-1814.



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=m

TRAVELOGUE 0F A PILGRIM TO CANTERBURY
by Diane Grondin

On June 29, 2014, we American pilgrims, of whom many of us were vergers in our own parishes, gathered in Windsor to start a magnificent pilgrimage ending at Canterbury Cathedral. We attended Choral Evensong at St. George's Chapel, the Queen's chapel at Windsor. The next morning we were off early for Westminster Abbey, London, for a private tour, a rare experience, and prayers in the Shrine Chapel of St. Edward the Confessor.

After a brief stop at Burghley House, the ancestral home of the Cecil family, we traveled north to Lincoln Cathedral, arriving in time for Evensong. Later that night we had a private candlelight tour of that immense Cathedral. During our full day there, the vergers were guided to places of special interest within the Cathedral while others made a trip to Chatsworth House, a stately home in Derbyshire.

The following morning, we loaded the bus to go to Hatfield House for a tour of the house and gardens before heading to the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban. After tea with the Dean of the Cathedral and a talk by the head verger, we attended Choral Evensong with the Abbey choir and clergy.

At Rochester Cathedral the next day, we renewed our Baptismal vows with the Rt. Rev. Michael Turnbull, former Bishop of Rochester, and then we headed to Canterbury to spend four days at the Cathedral Lodge within the Precincts. We entered Canterbury on foot, although not barefoot as Henry ll did so many centuries ago as penance for his part in the murder of Thomas Becket. Our days at Canterbury, beginning with 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist and ending with Choral Evensong, were filled with tours of the Cathedral, the archives, Thomas Becket Chapel, a lecture and film on the verger's life there, and reading the many stained glass windows.

Our time in Canterbury ended with a dinner in the Deanery hosted by the Very Rev. Robert Willis, Dean, who then conducted us on a pilgrimage through the Cathedral by candlelight. Exploring the Cathedral at night with the only illumination being from the small candles each of us held gave a certain amount of sacredness one is not able to find in the day.

Ultimately the time came for us to leave Canterbury but with new friendships and the lasting memories of an impressive spiritual journey.

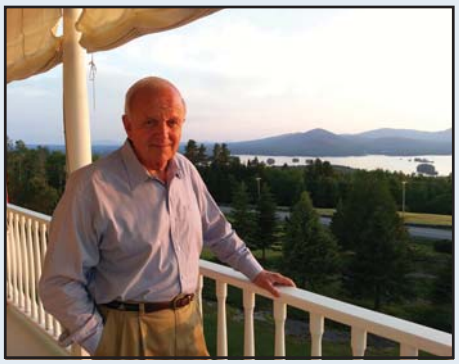


American Independence Day celebration, UK style



Pilgrimage leader Matthew Corkern at
Christ Church Gate, Canterbury Cathedral

Meet New FOCCUS Board Member, Fred Webber:



Frederick L. Webber is a native of Portland, Maine and a 1961 graduate of Yale University. He has also done graduate work at American University in International Affairs.

Fred is a former Marine Corps officer who served on active duty for 5 years during the Vietnam era. During his impressive career, he has been President and CEO of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, the American Chemistry Council, and the U.S. League of Savings Institutions.

Fred is an active member of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC, where he has served on the vestry and as co-chairman of the successful capital campaign to renovate the sanctuary.

He was voted unanimously to the FOCCUS board at its fall 2014 meeting. We are pleased to welcome Fred and his many areas of expertise to the FOCCUS family.

Thank You to Retiring Board Members:

We say goodbye to two loyal and devoted trustees, The Rev. Kate Bryant and The Rev. Andy Mead.

Kate worked tirelessly during her term on the Board, as she made enormous strides in reconnecting former Canterbury Scholars with each other, and with FOCCUS. She brought great energy and enthusiasm to the Board and we wish her well as she continues in her job as Senior Associate Rector of St. James' Episcopal Church in Leesburg, Virginia.

Andy was one of our longest serving members. His wise council and connections within the Episcopal Church served us well over the years. He generously hosted our spring meeting each May at St. Thomas Church, New York City, where he was the beloved, longtime rector. Andy retired in June from St. Thomas, and is looking forward to new

The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

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Travels of Canterbury Cathedral's Medieval Stained Glass

Sometimes tragedy has a happy consequence. In 2009 a piece of stone fell from the Great South Window of Canterbury Cathedral.

Beginning in 1178, a series of eighty-six life size figures of the Ancestors of Christ was created in stained glass for the Cathedral. They are considered among the most famous works of medieval painting. Forty-three of these survive of which twenty-two were removed from the South Window for repair, and the English government allowed six of them to travel for the first time in their history.



From September 2013 to early February of 2014, this historic loan of medieval glass was at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles where the brilliant color and detail of the stained glass were displayed to many excited viewers.

The Exhibition was then reassembled at The Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum in New York, where it remained until early May 2014. A group of members of the FOCCUS Board was extremely privileged to view this thrilling display of medieval glass under the tutelage of the Dean of Canterbury, Robert Willis.

Following its pilgrimage to the United States, the stained glass panels are now safely back at Canterbury waiting for installation in the reconstructed Great South Window of the Cathedral. Had the windows not been removed for repair, countless number of viewers would not have had the experience of a lifetime to observe close at hand their extraordinary beauty.

A Canterbury Scholar's Reflection
by The Rev. Elizabeth (Beth) Frank

It was a drizzly day when we disembarked at the Canterbury bus station and walked to the precincts. As we entered Christ Church Gate, the cathedral bells started tolling. This marked entry into an intentional community of seminarians and newly ordained priests seeking deeper connection with each other, their contexts, the binding ties of communion, and God. We stopped, spellbound. It was a "Behold!" moment: the beauty of the Cathedral; the welcome of the bells; the call to offer oneself to be transformed.



While I had thought of arriving at the Mother Church and meeting fellow scholars from throughout the Anglican Communion, I had not focused on becoming part of the Cathedral's tradition of worship and hospitality. Daily worship not only brought us closer to each other, but to members of the Cathedral congregation and visitors. With the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, we had and took many opportunities to meet and welcome pilgrims from all walks of life to the Cathedral, sharing the treasures of our common connection in Christ.



At Canterbury, I continued to find that the smaller more intimate worship experiences brought me closer to God and to my fellow scholars. As I read a lesson at Eucharist in the Cathedral Crypt Chapel, I recall wondering whose voice was echoing through the space. At Trinity Chapel, we said prayers in our own languages, sometimes in words I did not comprehend, yet the Spirit pierced my heart and the silences created a union with each speaker and each listener, including God.

Through the Scholars program, I experienced how life together in a community of prayer and study, nourished by fellowship, play and rest, builds deep bonds. Now, when the lights are out in Canada, Nigeria, and Kenya, I will be praying for the scholars there. When those in South Korea and India are sleeping, other scholars will be holding them in prayer. A Facebook page augments our prayer for each other and helps keep us knit together, sharing stories, queries, anxieties, and triumphs.

Two and a half years later, my experience at Canterbury continues to be revealed in my ministry and how I live out my vows. I have a deeper understanding of these bonds of affection that knit us all together as the body of Christ.

A 2013 Bexley Hall Seminary graduate, Beth Frank serves as the Priest-in-Charge at New Life Episcopal Church, Uniontown, Ohio and a leader in the partnership between the Dioceses of Ohio and Belize. Prior to seminary, Beth was a Federal attorney specializing in fair housing and civil rights. She has also worked for Special Olympics, and spent 4 years in Beijing and Hong Kong teaching and working as a business consultant.

VOICES OF CANTERBURY: Dean Robert Willis
by the Reverend Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie

Walking into Canterbury Cathedral, what do you notice that you did not upon first arrival?

It is almost exactly 14 years since I first walked into Canterbury Cathedral knowing that I would be coming here as Dean. It was the day of the announcement of my coming and I suppose that I was overwhelmed by the occasion but also by the aura of the place itself which at that time I hardly knew. So that my first impressions were not about noticing details but about perceiving the atmosphere which on that January day was as warm and welcoming as it is today amid the splendour of the vaulted Nave and Choir spaces. Today it is quite different for 14 years of memories and interaction with people I know well and also with strangers who have come as pilgrims and visitors have changed my perception of Canterbury completely, so that now it feels like home, a place where small details are full of meaning. The beauty of stone and glass and of the daily words and music of Morning Prayer and Evensong are now so much part of life that I feel about it as I feel about my own home and I can tell meaningful stories about practically every space in the Cathedral and outside it in the Precincts. The more I get to know it, the more special it becomes and the more it helps me perceive the wonder of God's infinite love and creativity and inspires me to reflect that in my own life.

How has serving in this historic and holy place enhanced your personal spiritual journey?

This 'historic and holy place' has been my place of pilgrimage and given me companionship along the way. I see it in terms of past, present, and future. The witness of the past and of the way in which well-known and unknown members of this community have throughout history followed the path of discipleship is evident in every stone, but of course we live this out in the present tense with the ordinary activities of our life and it gives me a vision for the future. One of the great words of the Benedictine tradition is the word 'encouragement' and in all ways this place and its community encourages me in my everyday life as a follower of Jesus Christ.

What signs of spiritual vitality do you observe in the summer Scholars' Program?

The summer visit of the Canterbury Scholars from across the Anglican Communion is something to which we all look forward. It is a time of sharing stories and music, difficulties and sadness, laughter and meals, of learning from each other and of forging friendships. Year by year our community becomes more experienced in making the most of these occasions both for our visitors and for ourselves. Handling disagreements and very different points of view is never easy, but all this happens in the context of a holy place which belongs equally to every scholar and which emphasizes their common loyalty to Jesus in discipleship despite their differences. At the end of each course firm and lasting friendships have been made which will continue across the world for years to come.



Dean Robert Willis with FOCCUS Chair Peter Lee

Archbishop Stephen Langton and Magna Carta
by C. Powell Hutton

The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta is being celebrated this year. The charter marks a formal limitation of feudal exploitation and royal authority, establishing that the English monarch was subject to and not above the law. Moreover, it protected ecclesiastical rights and specified that no free man could be deprived of life, liberty, or property unless by jury of his peers or the law of the land. It was an important inspirational document for America's founding fathers.

No man was more responsible for the charter than Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1207-1228. An Englishman by birth, he was a young cleric at York Minster, then studied and taught in Paris for 25 years. His scholarship, preaching and teaching brought him such renown that Pope Innocent III called him to Rome and made him a cardinal.



Meanwhile events in England had become increasingly unsettled, both within the church and among the barons. With the death of the then Archbishop of Canterbury in 1205, disputes arose over the successor and indeed the process of selecting him, by the bishops of England or by the monks of Christ Church, Canterbury. After two years of wrangling, the Pope sided with the latter who chose Stephen, the Pope's nominee, but over the objection of King John who sought his own man. King John banished Stephen and the monks from the kingdom and seized Canterbury's revenues. The Pope responded by excommunicating John and placing England under interdict, depriving the faithful of holy rites. After more negotiations failed, the Pope passed a sentence of deposition against John, ordering Philip II of France to carry it out. King John caved and let Stephen return to England in 1213.

More troubling for John was the growing armed rebellion of the king's barons for his excessive taxation and seizures of property. Once back in the kingdom, Archbishop Langton became a leader in the struggle against the king to free Englishmen from oppression and the Church from secular control. Steeped in canon rather than civil law, he urged negotiation rather than violence. Memories of Thomas Becket's martyrdom just a generation earlier were still fresh.

Stephen called for the renewal of the charter of liberties issued by Henry I under duress a century earlier, an approach to which the barons ultimately assented. Stephen was likely the lead author in drafting the document that King John signed on 15 June 1215 at Runnymede. Stephen's influence can be most clearly seen in the non-baronial provisions regarding Englishmen's rights and Church freedoms. When King John died the next year, Stephen was the leader and spokesman of the barons to ensure the rights enshrined in Magna Carta continued.

Archbishop Langton's impact, however, extended well beyond Magna Carta. He secured the permanent recall of the papal delegate, strengthening the position of the Archbishop of Canterbury. He developed the constitutions that form the basis of canon law. He recast the Bible into its present chapters (numbered verses came 300 years later), divisions that also left their mark on the bibles of Orthodox Christians and even the pages of the Jewish Talmud.

Photo credit: Wikipedia - Statue of Stephen Langton at Canterbury Cathedral

CURRENT WORK AT CANTERBURY
by John Meardon, Receiver General

The last year at Canterbury saw a very significant development when we heard that we had been successful in our second attempt at the UK's Heritage Lottery Fund and work is now well in hand drawing up detailed plans for the major projects that will dominate our life here for the next 6 years. Before we start these projects, which include a new Welcome Centre, landscaping the South Precincts and major work to the Cathedral's West End and the Nave roof, we have to complete the Great South Window and the new work we have just started on the North West Transept.

Great South Window





The old window has been completely dismantled and the complex process of setting out, preparing templates and carving new stones has been in full swing for most of the past year. We actually started the rebuild of the window last May and it has progressed to the level just below the tracery. It looks truly splendid – clean, crisp and homogenous – a brand new 15th Century window in fact. Stainless steel tie bars have replaced the wrought iron that contributed largely to the failure of the masonry, and the fixer masons have developed a very effective system using molten lead to space and joint the blocks. The original 15th Century tracery stones are being assessed to see which can be saved and reinserted and what has to be carved anew. This is a difficult decision and requires a stone by stone assessment. The overall project is due for completion in August, after which the glass will be re-inserted and the scaffold will come down – after 6 years.

North West Transept



The Transept has been scaffolded right up to the roof so, for the first time we have been able to closely inspect the staircase pinnacle, the parapets and the gable end. The pinnacle is showing serious signs of instability and a plan to replace much of its stonework has been prepared. The other major work for this Transept is the replacement of the lead roof and that and the stone work will be carried out in this year and 2016.

The Great Organ



We are still fine tuning the plans for rebuilding and partially relocating the Willis Organ in the Quire triforium spaces, north and south, but the critical factor in this complex project remains the siting and design of the console. It will go in the North Quire Aisle but the positioning of the platform on which it will sit, the style of console itself, and the impact that inserting a new structure into the Romanesque architecture will have are difficult matters to resolve. Experts from wide backgrounds are helping us to find answers and we hope to confirm a design by the middle of the year. Even then, it will take up to 2 years to complete the reconstruction of the organ and we are looking for additional funding to allow us to proceed.

Royal Statues



The statues of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are nearing completion and will be installed on the West Front and unveiled on 26 March. The statue of Dean Bell, which has been put on hold to allow the completion of the Royal statues, will be finished in time to be placed in another West Front niche in September. Our sculpture ambitions will then take a rest, though there are still 21 empty niches left on the West Front.

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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