focus

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

February 2014

Dear Friends,

For the past eight years, I have led the senior class of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale on a week-long pilgrimage to Canterbury. Our purpose in going is two-fold. First, we want the students to become aware of the great historical depth of the Anglican tradition, and second, of its current global breadth. Canterbury speaks powerfully to both of these identities, and the students come away with a completely changed awareness of the nature of the church to which they belong.

Other aspects of the pilgrimage make equally deep impressions, however. One is the remarkable mission statement of the Cathedral, "To show people Jesus." It is surely one of the most succinct and powerful such statements, and the students are greatly impressed by the many ways in which the life of Canterbury fulfills its vision—whether it is the daily round of worship, or the gracious greeting of pilgrims and tourists, or the palpable atmosphere of prayer which pervades the whole. Entering into the daily rhythm of the office and Eucharist also speaks deeply to the students, helping to place their experience of the daily rhythm of prayer at the seminary into the context of a much larger and longer tradition of worship.

As Dean Willis observes, the Berkeley pilgrimage has become a part of the annual cycle at Canterbury. And conversely, it has certainly become an integral part of the pattern of spiritual formation by which our students are prepared for ministry.

Sincerely,

Joseph Britton, Dean of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and FOCCUS trustee



The " King David" Window. Six panels from this window will be exhibited in the US until May.

Join FOCCUS' Facebook

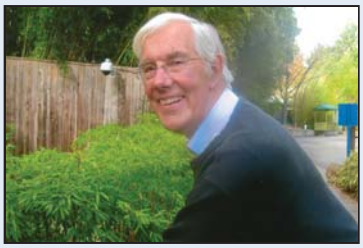
Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States has a Facebook group. Facebook, the world's largest social networking site, allows users to share ideas, discussions and photos with people of similar interest.

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

Dear Friends,



On a sunny afternoon in June 2009 an unexpected falling of a piece of Caen stone from the mullion of the Great South Window proved to be the beginning of a story which would take some of the 12th century glass from that window on a long journey to an Exhibition at the Getty Museum in Los Angeles in the autumn of 2013. On inspection, the Great Window needed to have its mullions re-carved and the glass, the earliest of which had been created in 1178 only eight years after the martyrdom of Thomas Becket, was removed for its own protection. Originally, there had been 86 life size panels of the Ancestors of Christ and 43 of these survive, 22 of which were removed from the South Window and six of these precious items were allowed to travel. The glass itself retains full colour and detail and each Ancestor is distinctive. The best were created by a stained glass artist known as the Methuselah Master since his finest panel is of Methuselah himself.

The preparation for the Exhibition in the Getty Museum was a long one but eventually the six panels left Canterbury for the first time in their history and were set in a really excellent Exhibition in a series of rooms at the Museum. The Getty Museum is one of the most prestigious and well-resourced in the world and occupies an amazing site between Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean and there was great excitement amongst the staff and scholars there that such an historic loan had been achieved. I went with the Head of our Stained Glass Department and two or three others to take part both in the opening of the Exhibition and also to give a full lecture on the importance of the glass to Canterbury and the mediaeval world. The interest in not only Los Angeles but the United States was intense and the Exhibition has lasted from the 20th of September until the 2nd of February. From there the Exhibition will be re-assembled in New York at the Cloisters part of the Metropolitan Museum from the 24th of February to the 18th of May. It is a long pilgrimage for these six venerable Ancestors of Christ but we shall look forward to welcoming them back to Canterbury later this year and in due time replacing them, together with all the other Ancestors in a reconstructed South Window.

Meanwhile, preparations are well ahead for the welcoming of 28 newly consecrated Bishops from across the Anglican Communion who are coming for the annual Course at our International Study Centre. This Course, together with the one for Seminarians in the summer, has become an important part of the Centre's programme and of the life of the Cathedral. Shortly after that Seminarians from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale will be coming to spend some time with us. This has become an annual event and we look forward to welcoming them, and their Dean Joseph Britton, who is also a member of the FOCCUS Board.

In the last year we have welcomed a new Canon Treasurer, Canon Nicholas Papadopulos and also a new Precentor, the Reverend Matthew Rushton, both of whom have become quickly established as part of the community of Canterbury. May I, as always, take this opportunity of thanking you for your support and assuring you of a warm welcome here if any of you have the opportunity of visiting us in Canterbury.

Robert Willis

The Very Revd Dr Robert Willis
Dean of Canterbury

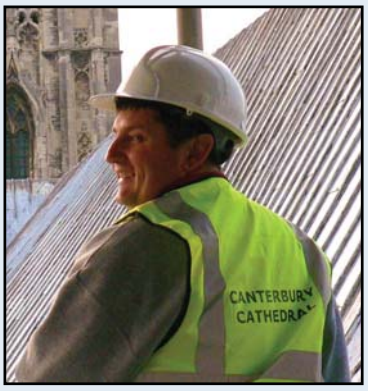
2014 Pilgrimage



Pilgrimage leader Matthew Corkern wlth Lady Rosebury while touring her private garden near Edinburgh

From 29 June through 7 July 2014, FOCCUS is sponsoring a nine-day journey focusing on the historical and personal aspects of Canterbury across the English nation. This pilgrimage--in conjunction with the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Vergers Guild of America--focuses on the behind-the-scenes cultural workings of cathedrals, country-homes, and a few Anglican institutions. This Faith Journey--carefully crafted with spiritual and cultural events--encompasses not only the places and liturgies we experience, but also the people we meet. Visits will include: Cathedrals at Winchester, Hereford, Gloucester, Coventry, Lincoln, Rochester and Canterbury; the Magna Carta Exhibition; Baptismal Renewal at the oldest parish-church in England; and garden wonders across the Cotswolds. Special events will be arranged at Westminster Abbey and Lambeth Palace as well as in Berkeley Castle, Madresfield Court, Chatsworth House and Hatfield Hall. For more information about this pilgrimage, please contact pilgrimage leader and FOCCUS Board member the Rev. Canon Matthew Corkern at rector@calvarysummit.org or call 908-277-1814.

Meet FOCCUS Board member, Eugene Johnston:



Eugene Johnston grew up at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Eutaw, AL and received his undergraduate degree from Clark University in Worcester, MA and graduate degree from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He spent over 20 years in college administration.

Eugene is a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, Mobile, AL, serving the parish as a member of the vestry, chairman of the search committee, Eucharist visitor, lector and chalice bearer. He is a graduate of the University of the South's (Sewanee) Education for Ministry (EFM) and has been a mentor in that program.

For the last twelve years he has served as the diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development and the last five years as the coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development in Province IV. Eugene was recently asked to participate on the Episcopal Relief & Development 75th Anniversary Steering Committee.

During Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, Eugene was instrumental in getting aid to devastated areas in his diocese and working with parishes in the recovery effort. Bishop Philip Duncan, Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, appointed him as the Interim Disaster Relief Coordinator working with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
In 2007 he was named to the Board of The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States (FOCCUS) and serves on the Executive Board as Vice Chair.

In Mobile, AL, he has volunteered at the local LPGA golf event, the public broadcasting station, the Mobile Bay Visitors and Convention Bureau and is an onsite Coordinator for the Roads Scholars at the University of South Alabama.

"It is a real honor to be connected to Canterbury Cathedral. Having had the pleasure of visiting it several times, I find it to be a place of reflection and renewal. The staff of the Cathedral is very serious in its efforts to treat each visitor as a pilgrim to that holy site."

The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, Chair
Barbara Q. Harper, Vice Chair
Eugene T. Johnston, Vice Chair
C. Jackson Ritchie, Jr., Treasurer
The Very Rev. Dr. Robert A. Willis,
Dean of Canterbury Cathedral

The Very Rev. Joseph H. Britton
The Rev. Kate Bryant
The Rev. Ted H. Clarkson
The Rev. Matthew T.L. Corkern
The Rev. Canon Carlson Gerdau
C. Powell Hutton
The Rev. Andrew C. Mead
Brigadier M. J. Meardon
The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie
Elizabeth F. H. Scott
The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin

Report from the Chair of FOCCUS:



A highlight for me in 2013 was attending the installation of the Most Rev'd Justin Welby as Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral in March 2013. Kristy, my wife and I, returned to the U.S. in late March 2013 and on April 1, 2013 I began work as bishop provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina.
When I was elected Bishop of Virginia in 1984, I was serving as rector of the Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill, N.C., and we have maintained contact with Chapel Hill over the years. We have a permanent home in Chapel Hill and are renting a house in Kinston, N.C., the see city of the Diocese of East Carolina.

We divide our time between the two cities. Bishop provisionals serve in dioceses in the process of seeking permanent bishops. East Carolina expects to consecrate a new diocesan bishop in November 2014 and we expect to live permanently in Chapel Hill from then on. Our friendship with Canterbury Cathedral is important to us and we appreciate the support of the Friends for the work of the cathedral.

Many thanks,

The Rt. Rev'd Peter James Lee

Bishop Provisional

About My Experience as a Canterbury Scholar
by The Rev. Phoebe Roaf
Rector, St. Philip's—Richmond



The Rev. Phoebe Roaf, Canterbury Scholar '11

I participated in the Canterbury Scholars Program in 2011, when the Most Reverend Rowan Williams was Archbishop of Canterbury. The primary purpose of the program is to enable participants to explore the rich diversity of ministry within the Anglican Communion, and this was certainly the case for me. The majority of participants were from the continent of Africa, and the group was overwhelmingly male reflecting the fact that parts of the Anglican Communion do not ordain women.

The academic focus was a review of our ordination vows. It was a powerful experience to consider my vocation as priest along with others whose ministry is quite different in some ways but very similar in many other respects.
I was also enriched spiritually through observing Canterbury Cathedral's rhythm of daily prayer. The Dean and Cathedral staff were extremely welcoming, reminding us that Canterbury Cathedral belongs to everyone within the Anglican Communion.



Shearon Williams, Canterbury Scholar '01 and Kate Bryant, Canterbury Scholar '05 and FOCCUS trustee

The most significant and rewarding part of my experience was the time spent in informal conversations with my colleagues from throughout the Anglican Communion. We did not always agree on issues of theology and policy but we approached our deliberations in a spirit of love. I am still in touch with friends I made that summer via Facebook. The Canterbury Scholars experience reinforced my personal commitment to remaining an active member of the Anglican Communion and the fact that there is so much more that unites us than divides us as Anglicans.

Spreading the Good News



3 dimensional model of Canterbury Cathedral on display at the Council of the Diocese of Virginia

In a new marketing tactic aimed at raising awareness of--as well as funds for--the Harper Scholarship Fund, FOCCUS was represented at the 219th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia held in Richmond from January 23 through January 25. FOCCUS Board Member The Rev. Kate Bryant, Canterbury Scholar '05 and Senior Associate Rector of St. James' in Leesburg, Virginia, assembled a range of marketing materials, ranging from photos and personal statements from fellow Diocese of Virginia priests The Rev. Phoebe Roaf, Canterbury Scholar '11 and Rector of St. Philip's in Richmond, Virginia, and The Very Rev. Shearon Sykes Williams, Canterbury Scholar '01 and Rector of St. George's in Arlington, Virginia, to a three-dimensional model of Canterbury Cathedral itself.

Council attendees were immediately drawn to the FOCCUS exhibitor booth by a large banner featuring the FOCCUS logo as well as key infromation, including the fact that since the scholarship program's inception, more than 300 Canterbury Scholars from Africa, Asia, and the Americas have participated in the Canterbury Scholars Programme.

Other marketing materials--some of which were generously provided by Dean Willis' office--included four-color paperback books about the Cathedral which booth visitors were invited to peruse, brochures about FOCCUS as well as the International Study Centre and Cathedral Lodge, and a hardbound book about the remarkable stained glass windows at Canterbury.

Continue to page 5

Continue Spreading the Good News from page 4

Kate was at the booth at various times when not attending to the business of Council. "I was asked all sorts of questions," she said. "People were very eager to learn why the Canterbury experience was so important to the ministries Phoebe, Shearon and I share."

Other questions ranged from "How can I learn more about pilgrimages to Canterbury?" to "How can I volunteer at the next Lambeth Conference?" FOCCUS is perceived not only as a representative of the Cathedral, but of Anglicanism, and the breadth of questions and inquiries reflected that perception. A number of Council attendees said, "I look forward to seeing you at General Convention in Salt Lake City in 2015!"



FOCCUS exhibit table at the 219th Annual Council of the Diocese of Virginia, held January 23-25, 2014.

VOICES FROM CANTERBURY: John Meardon, Receiver General

by The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie



1. Please explain for your American audience what your position as Receiver General entails in your service at Canterbury Cathedral.

The Receiver General is a member of the Cathedral Chapter and the senior lay member of the Cathedral staff. It is an employed position and I came to it 15 years ago when I retired from the Royal Marines. In commercial terms you would probably call me the Chief Executive but the title of Receiver General is more evocative of the Cathedral's long history and traditions. I broadly have responsibility for the Cathedral's fabric, finances and people and work with the departmental heads to ensure that we maintain the buildings and activities that are Canterbury Cathedral. I usually say that the only 2 areas I have no involvement with are liturgy and music, though the latter does absorb a lot of our resources.



Dismantling the tracery at the top of the Great South Window - very carefully.

2. What are one or two of your most cherished memories of your personal Canterbury experience?

Being here for all these years has given me many memorable moments but I shall never forget the exquisite beauty of the lesson read in the Cathedral Quire, in French, by the Mother Prior of Bec, the community in Normandy with whom we have very strong links. The sound of her beautiful voice and her simple robes in the setting of the 13th Century architecture was truly uplifting.

3. I've heard that you are also a beekeeper. Please tell us how you began keeping bees and what you most enjoy about it.

I came to beekeeping gradually, inspired more by curiosity than anything else. A surprising number of people do keep bees and not only those who live in the country. The late Lord Kingsdown, Seneschal of the Cathedral, used to keep bees and when he was Governor of the Bank of England, he had his hives on the top of the Bank in the centre of London. I started by doing a course in beekeeping and then acquired the necessary kit and, at last, some bees. They are amazingly industrious insects and very well organised and I love to watch them at work in and around their hives. It can be a hard life for a bee as they are affected by disease and the weather but there is no greater pleasure than opening up a hive and seeing the intense activity going on there and smelling the hint of warm honey - the joy to come for beekeeper and honey lovers alike.

A Foundational Archbishop, Saint Theodore of Tarsus

by Col. C. Powell Hutton

Foundational is an audacious word. It implies a beginning from which other effects sprout, and it presumes roots that support and nourish more visible consequences. It signifies longevity and substance, able to withstand the vicissitudes of time. These are all attributes that can be applied freely to Theodore of Tarsus (602-690 AD), eighth Archbishop of Canterbury.



Born of Byzantine Greek heritage at Tarsus, home also of the Apostle Paul, Theodore studied broadly and acquired knowledge of Syrian, Greek, Latin, and even Persian cultures, both sacred and secular. He arrived in Rome sometime before 660 with a reputation as a brilliant scholar.

Meanwhile in Britain, Augustine's efforts begun some 60 years earlier to extend Christianity were taking fruit. Well before political union was attempted, the Anglo-Saxon Church in England had taken its own steps towards unity. At the Synod of Whitby in 664, it decided to conform to Roman rather than differing Celtic traditions, such as when to calculate Easter.These were steps Theodore energetically furthered after he was consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury in 668.

Perhaps because he was a foreigner, he traveled extensively to take the measure of and survey the English Church, which at that time was a poorly organized missionary enterprise. He established new dioceses, enforced territorial boundaries, and appointed bishops to sees left vacant by an outbreak of plague. The diocesan structures he established form the basis for the administration of the English Church today.

In addition to Roman liturgical practices and new texts, he introduced Gregorian chant to England, teaching some of the music himself. He charged the heads of Christian families to say the Lord's Prayer and the creed daily with their families—in their own native languages.

Theodore, with his friend Adrian as head abbot, founded a school at Canterbury for Christians from both Celtic and Roman backgrounds, doing much to unite the two groups. Instruction was in both Latin and Greek, ushering in a "golden age" of Anglo-Saxon scholarship. The Venerable Bede, himself a graduate of the school, wrote that they "attracted a large number of students, into whose minds they poured the waters of wholesome knowledge day by day … Never had there been such happy times as these since the English settled Britain." Moreover, Bede tells us that Theodore was "the first archbishop obeyed by all the English Church."

It makes sense to call Theodore a foundational archbishop. It is also striking that our Archbishop Justin today continues steps to strengthen unity by building relationships with primates throughout the Anglican Communion, and that the International Study Centre brings together clerics and aspirants to bridge our current differences in culture and tradition for the unity of Christian fellowship.

CURRENT WORK AT CANTERBURY

By John Meardon, Receiver General

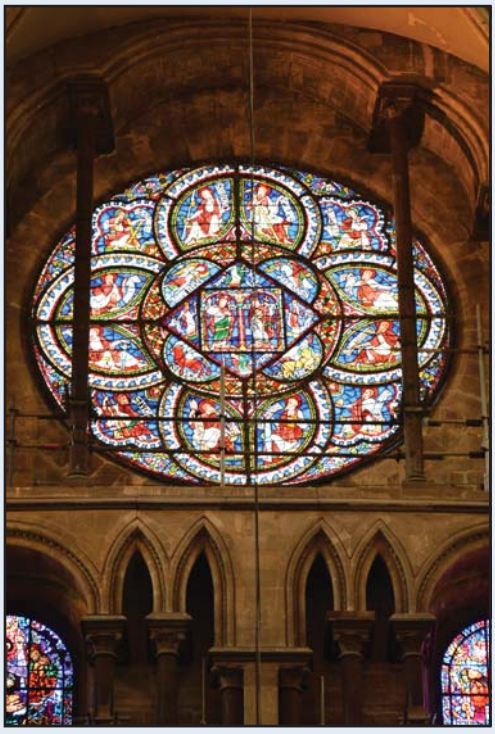
The last year has seen the completion of another major piece of conservation of the Cathedral's fabric and the start, after much investigation and planning, of the next project. In the same period we have experienced the disappointment of being turned down for a grant from the UK's Heritage Lottery Fund but, with encouragement from the Lottery, have resubmitted an application whose outcome will be known in early May 2014.



New statues of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh for the west front

The South East Transept and South Oculus

The rebuild and conservation of the spirelet and tower were completed in the summer and stonework repairs to the tower, the west and south faces of the Transept were finished recently, with a lime wash coat giving a new consistency to the whole conserved elevation. The external stone fabric of the Oculus has been repaired and the 12th Century ferramenta has been conserved, cleaned and waxed. The newly forged ferramenta frame to carry the Romanesque glass was completed in August and successfully hoisted into position in September. Finally, the cleaned and conserved Romanesque glass was taken from store and refitted into the new frame. The whole Transept was "topped out" in a ceremony on 17 October to mark the completion of another phase of the Cathedral's conservation.



South oculus finished!

The Great South Window

Extensive investigations into the structure of the window, its history and condition have been made and consent has been given to take down the window and commence a significant rebuild. The scaffold has been reorganised to include a mechanical hoist and stair access, very detailed drawings of every stone have been made and the works compound has been rebuilt so that we can set out the new stone on the ground before rebuilding the window. New stone has been purchased and is being banked and dismantling the old window has begun – very carefully! We are monitoring the stability of the structure and the environmental conditions inside the building as we go.

New Statues for the West Front

The statue of Dean Bell has been commissioned and carving has begun out at Broad Oak. The maquettes for the Royal Statues of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have been approved by Chapter and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission and work will begin on their manufacture later in the year. Some of our own masons are involved helping the sculptor, Miss Nina Bilbey and it is hoped that all the statues will be ready for installation towards the end of the year.

Broadoak Stone Yard

The new wire stone saw has been installed and is in operation, giving us excellent facilities for the efficient cutting of stone. We are looking at options for commercial work both as stone suppliers and sawyers to fully use the capacity we now have.

The Great Organ

Chapter have appointed an organ builder, Harrisons & Harrisons of Durham, to design the reconstruction of the Willis Organ in the Quire triforium. The plan is to divide the organ's pipework between the north and south triforia of the Quire so that a better musical balance is struck as well as restoring the organ to its full 19th Century capacity. Moving forward depends on finding an acceptable design for a new organ console which is to be positioned in the North Quire Aisle, above and behind the choir stalls. Once the console issue has been resolved, the Organ rebuild can move ahead, but it will take up to 2 years to reconstruct the organ and we still have to achieve full funding for the project.

FRIENDS *of*
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL
in the UNITED STATES

888 17th Street, NW, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WASHINGTON, DC
PERMIT 434

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 220 - Washington, DC 20006
202-822-8994 - Email: canterburyus@gmail.com
Website: www.canterburyus.org