THE FRIENDS’ TRAIL

1 Christ Church Gate
The turrets above were replaced in 1935, after their original removal in the time of Dean Powys (1797 - 1809), at the insistence of Alderman Simmons - to allow him to see the clock from his counting house! The statue of Christ, sculpted by Klaus Ringwald, was installed in 1990 to commemorate Anglo-German friendship.

2 Margaret Babington
Miss Babington (1878-1958) is one of very few to have more than one memorial within the Precincts. Steward to The Friends from 1929-1958, she oversaw the contribution of over £100,000 to the enrichment of the Cathedral. An author and lecturer, she died at her desk: ‘A devoted friend of Canterbury Cathedral’.

3 Firewatchers’ Plaque
The ‘Cathedral Roof Party’ – four Fire Guards stationed nightly on the Cathedral roof over the south-west transept – faced this most dangerous task in June 1942 when bombs falling ‘like hailstones, with the force of explosion blowing Joe Wanstall off his feet.’ The Friends helped pay their wages (£600 per annum), and for their equipment (£500).

4 Frank Salisbury Painting
This commemorates a royal visit of 11th July 1946 on a ‘day of thanksgiving for the miracle of preservation’. Frank Salisbury, ‘Britain’s Painter Laureate’, and a traditionalist, was the leading society and ceremonial painter of his day. Barack Obama requested his portrait of Harry Truman to be hung in the White House! Salisbury had been commissioned by Lord Bennett, MP for Edgbaston.

5 Tapestries in the North Quire Aisle
This painting of two tapestries, made in Belgium, in 1514 and removed from Canterbury to Aix-en-Provence in April 1656, was funded by the sale of Margaret Babington’s book The Romance of Canterbury Cathedral. The painting is by Novell Edwards, who later married Dean Hewlett Johnson in 1938! There were originally six pieces of tapestry hanging in the Quire, which were defaced by Puritan soldiers of Oliver Cromwell’s army in 1642, prior to their permanent removal.

6 St Eustace
This 15th-century wall painting was restored in 1928, helped by a gift of £500 from a Friend, Mr Harry Lloyd of Sittingbourne. It had been covered in white lime before cleaning revealed the work of an unknown artist, inspired by the local area, and designed in the style of a Flemish tapestry. Useful for an illiterate congregation, it displays vivid storytelling, as part of a comprehensive Cathedral-wide scheme.

7 Queen Ediva
Ediva, the third wife of Saxon monarch Edward the Elder, was very religious and, as a child, given a choice between a gift of a Book of the Gospels and a bracelet, chose the Gospels! This portrait, completed at the end of the 15th century, was moved to this position in 1921 – the north wall of St Martin’s chapel, where Ediva’s ashes were placed during the 12th century Cathedral reconstruction.

8 Henry IV’s Tomb
The only tomb of a monarch in the Cathedral is that of Henry IV (1367-1413). The tomb lies opposite that of his uncle, the Black Prince. One of the first Friends’ projects was the cleaning of the tomb, whose alabaster effigies were, by 1933, ‘black with grime and soot’ but in a matter of four months, ‘as if by magic’ had been returned to their medieval glory: ‘a work of substantial beauty’.

9 Stained Glass
In 1939, Surveyor to the Fabric, Samuel Caldwell, outlined his plans for the preservation of glass in the event of war. The glass that was removed was stored in the Crypt and replaced by plain glass, later shattered by the raids of June and October 1942. After the War, The Friends funded the replacement and repair of this medieval glass.

10 The Black Prince’s Achievements
The original ‘achievements’, ‘unique to the world’, were loaned to the Tower of London for an exhibition in 1949, where vital repair work was identified and undertaken, including the replacement of silk netting over the jupon. Replicas were then financed by Friend, Mr Arthur Symonds, and the collaboration of the Royal Armouries and the Royal School of Needlework allowed for these replicas to be presented on Friends’ Festival Day in 1954.

11 HMS Canterbury – Ship’s Model
The first HMS Canterbury was broken up in 1770. A second, launched in 1916, fought at Jutland and was decommissioned in 1923, to be broken up in 1934. A model of the vessel was constructed by Jeffrey Leighton and given in memory of her one-time Captain, Graham Edwardes. It was presented to the Dean and Chapter in December 1935, complete in every detail, with ‘the crowned lion that was the figurehead’.

12 The Bell of HMS Canterbury
Dean Sheppard, after HMS Canterbury was broken up in 1934, received her bell, presented at a ‘Service for Seafarers’ on 9th June 1934. ‘Six bells’ would be struck daily in ‘remembrance of all who go down to the sea in ships’. Along with the bell came a log book, presented by Admiral Percy Royds, still used daily to record the service and rank of the seafarer striking six bells at 11.00am.

13 Lady Joan Mohun
Lady Joan was the wife of John de Mohun, one of ‘the flowers of the chivalry of England’ who had fought at Crécy. She, a ‘Lady of the Garter’, was rewarded with the gift of Leeds Castle in 1384, and an annuity of £100! She was stripped of these possessions on the accession of Henry IV, but was given the right to be buried in the Crypt following a gift of 350 Marks to Christ Church.

14 Heraldy in the Cloister
The Cloister arcade, erected in the 16th century by Thomas Chillenden, contains 811 shields, representing families, countries, cities and inventions for King Arthur and Alexander the Great! Disrepair in 1932 led Dean Hewlett Johnson, in 1934, to approach The Friends for the restoration of the roof and recolouring of the bosses. The five shields representing the King and the royal family were unveiled by George VI himself in July 1946.
The Friends are the Cathedral’s fan club. We are admirers of the building, its history, and its community. We are part of the Cathedral and have been working together since 1927 to cherish it forever.

Since 1927, The Friends have given the equivalent of almost £14 million towards many individual and vital projects to enhance and preserve Canterbury Cathedral. To celebrate 90 years of The Friends, why not follow this trail which highlights 14 of the hundreds of projects that we have been involved with? The trail will take you around the Cathedral, Precincts, and Cloister.

The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral was founded in 1927. The organisation was the first of its kind in the world. The First Friend on the Roll is Her Majesty the Queen. Our Patron is His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales. Our President is The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.

Membership Benefits:
- Helping to preserve Canterbury Cathedral for future generations
- Free entry to the Cathedral and Precincts
- A New Member welcome event, including a free private guided tour
- An exclusive programme of events throughout the year
- Family events
- Friends’ Carol Service & Dinner each year
- Annual Friends’ Day
- Twice-yearly Newsletters
- The Chronicle, the annual Cathedral magazine
- 10% discount in the Cathedral Shop and Lodge
- Annual membership starts at just £25 – why not collect our leaflet from the Friends’ Desk in the Cathedral to find out more about the various memberships on offer? Or go to https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/get-involved/friends/ and download an application form.

SPECIAL OFFER!
Please quote ‘Trail’ when applying, to get 15 months for the price of 12 in your first year! We look forward to welcoming you.

The Friends’ Prayer
O Lord Jesus Christ in whose name our Cathedral Church is dedicated, Grant that its life and worship May ever abound to your greater glory; And that as Friends we may do our part, By prayer and offering, To strengthen its witness to all the world; Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit Live and reign ever One God.

Amen