Remembering 1942

Commemorated this year are the 1942 air-raids on Canterbury, 70 years ago. During the Second World War, a total of 121 civilians lost their lives in Canterbury. The highest number of casualties was caused by the ‘Baedeker’ raid on the city on Monday 1st June 1942. Further raids took place later in that week; October 1942 also saw heavy air raids.

About 3,600 fire bombs and 130 high explosive bombs were dropped during the 1st June raid. Many buildings within the Precincts were damaged or destroyed, including the Victorian Library, where the Archives building now stands. Damage to the Library’s holdings was slight, as manuscripts had been evacuated to the crypt. Further houses in the Precincts were destroyed or extensively damaged. The Cathedral itself was protected from damage from fire bombs by the heroic work of fire-watchers, stationed on the roof. Much of the city centre was also destroyed.

As part of these commemorations, the ‘Canterbury Book of Remembrance’ has been displayed in the north quire aisle in the Cathedral. This volume lists the names of all the civilians who died during the War, and is usually on display in the south-west transept, now partly closed for repairs to the South Window. A full transcription of the volume has been available in the Cathedral, and on our website: http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/news/history-news/remembrance-book.
The Cathedral Archives closed at the end of January this year for building work. This work – the replacement of the roof – is well underway, and running according to schedule. The contractors for the work are Cardys, with the cathedral’s own masons carrying out work on the stone.

The Archives building was completed in 1954, designed by the architect John Denman. It was a replacement for the Victorian Library destroyed by bombing 70 years ago this year, on 1st June 1942. Denman’s copper roof had come to the end of its life. The decision has been made to replace the copper with slate; some further alterations are also being made to the roof design to improve its performance.

Some curious items were found during the removal of the previous roof structure. The Cardys site manager has passed to the Archives some newspaper fragments, instructions for roofing materials, a packet of Rizla papers and an empty packet of Woodbines cigarettes. These evoke life building the roof in the 1950s!

The Archives is due to reopen in the New Year. Please check our webpages for announcements about the reopening and events to mark it.

Please note that the Archives has a new online catalogue, available at http://archives.canterbury-cathedral.org Please also note that parish registers from our collections are available online at www.findmypast.co.uk

Update from the Cathedral Archives

The Flagship Centre for Kent History Opens

On 6th September a group of Archives and Library colleagues were treated to a visit to the much anticipated History and Library Centre at Maidstone to see first-hand the new flagship centre which opened on 23rd April 2012. What a treat. The new purpose built centre is large, spacious and airy with lots of room to accommodate the various initiatives on offer. We were reliably informed by Stuart Bligh, the History Services and Development Manager, that the Centre holds 14 kilometres of historic material relating to Kent and is it the place to come for anyone interested in researching local history.

On the ground floor, immediately to the left of the entrance, the Community History Section is located; this is a shared open space with interactive films, a history timeline and space for quiet research. Behind this section the Archives reading room gives access to original archival records which can be easily accessed with an ‘Archives enabled’ Kent Libraries ticket. The rest of the ground floor houses the library, containing 40,000 books, which also boasts regular story time and baby bounce and rhyme sessions, and which is, apparently, extremely noisy come Friday. (Fortunately we visited on a Thursday!)

A new and interesting addition within the library is the integration of the registration of births and deaths which would previously have been undertaken at the register office. This is done within the library space in a special ‘State of the Art’ glass pod.

Completing the ground floor public space is a reception area and an appropriately named merchandising zone, offering for sale cards and wrapping paper, etc.

Staff occupy an open plan galleried workspace, with a limited number of computers which are provided on a first come, first served basis. (Staff are then given the option of a laptop, not home!) This first floor gallery overlooks the public space below, ensuring that the staff and public are fully aware of each other. A State of the Art conservation suite is also situated on the first floor gallery.

The building of the new History and Library Centre was completed as part of a combined initiative with Housing project 21, a social enterprise offering care, health and housing for older people. This partnership enabled a residential block to be built alongside the Centre. As a result of this, visitors to the Centre can visit the nearby restaurant for refreshments, set up and run by Housing project 21, open for staff, residents and visitors.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and the Centre is definitely the place to go for anyone interested in local history.

Stephanie Roe
Lambeth Books - An Illustrated Lecture

James Carley, Professor of English at York University, Toronto, and a specialist in the history of books and libraries in the sixteenth century, came to Canterbury for two weeks in July to work on a group of books which had been given to the Cathedral Library in the late seventeenth century by Archbishop Sancroft. Professor Carley gave a public lecture on his work to a large audience in the Audio Visual Theatre, International Study Centre, on Thursday 2 August 2012 before his return to Canada.

Of particular interest were the books belonging to Archbishop Whitgift who founded the library at Lambeth Palace. The Cathedral Library has a number of books from Whitgift’s library with his armorial binding stamp on the covers (as well as similar books which had belonged to Archbishops Bancroft and Abbot). All of these books came to Canterbury as duplicates from Lambeth Palace Library given by Archbishop Sancroft, but Professor Carley was able to show that they had been on other travels before that. During the Commonwealth period the Church of England and its senior clergy were disestablished. With no archbishop at Lambeth, there was no need for a library there. Parliament decided to give the books to Cambridge University Library.

The librarians at Cambridge wrote new shelfmarks into the books as they placed them on their shelves and made a catalogue of them all. In 1660 the Church of England was restored along with the monarchy and Archbishop Sheldon had the books returned to Lambeth, where they received fresh shelfmarks and a new catalogue. From the evidence of the early shelf marks found in the Lambeth duplicates at Canterbury, James Carley was able to verify from the surviving Cambridge and Lambeth catalogues that these books had indeed been much travelled in the seventeenth century.

In addition to these books with the archbishop’s coats of arms on their bindings, Professor Carley was able to discover a small group of books from the early sixteenth century which had made the same journeys. Of particular interest were two Hebrew text books purchased in Germany in 1522 by Robert Wakefield who had succeeded Reuchlin as professor of Hebrew at Tübingen before returning to England to become the first professor of Hebrew at Cambridge. At his death these books passed to his brother Thomas who was professor of Hebrew at Oxford. They then passed into the custody of Whitgift and then into Lambeth Palace before making their way to Cambridge, back to Lambeth, and then to Canterbury where they remained unrecognised until Professor Carley pulled together all the clues to reveal their remarkable itinerary. Professor Carley’s audience was treated to a real detective story.

The Mendham Collection

Many of you may have heard, read or watched the recent media campaign to save the Mendham Collection. But some of you may not be aware of what the Collection is and why it is so important that we keep it together.

The Mendham Collection is owned by the Law Society of England and Wales but has been held under the custodianship of the University and Cathedral since 1984. The Collection was assembled during the 19th century by the Revd Joseph Mendham, and comprises about 5,000 manuscripts and books relating to the Reformation and doctrinal splits within western Christendom. The Collection was donated by the Mendham family to the Law Society at the end of the 19th Century on the understanding that it would be kept intact.

Many of the books are extremely rare and several are not known to exist anywhere else in the world. The Collection has been accessible through the Cathedral to students and researchers from around the world. A full scholarly catalogue was published with public funds from the British Library in 1994; a condition of the funding was that the Collection should not be dispersed. The Law Society plans to sell the books individually at auctions over the next few months. The University of Kent and the Cathedral believe that the Collection should be kept together as source for future scholarship. Sir Diarmaid MacCulloch from Oxford University has written:

“This really is an act of vandalism on a collection which contains the annotations of the collector: always a reason for maintaining the collection’s integrity, quite apart from the intrinsic historic interest and value of the individual books”.

The University and the Cathedral are trying to persuade the Law Society to change its policy and keep the Mendham Collection in one place. The campaign was strengthened on the 17th August 2012 when Jane Giles, a great-great-great-niece of Joseph Mendham, came to the Cathedral to view the books; she also gave an interview to Radio Kent about her fury at the Law Society’s actions.

The Prayer Book in English

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. This book, the patrimony of Anglicans worldwide, remains the standard Prayer Book of the Church of England and the measure of her reformed catholic doctrine. Strictly speaking, the 1662 Prayer Book is a revision of earlier English Prayer Books. Thomas Cranmer’s first English Prayer Book was published during the reign of the Tudor boy King, Edward VI, in 1549. Before the publication of this book, cathedrals, and parish churches required a whole library of books for each service, and here was a single volume containing all the services of the church, and, most remarkably, written in a ‘language which was understood of the people’. This amounted to nothing less than a cultural revolution, and a forging of a register of public rhetoric which was hugely significant.

A second Prayer Book followed close on the heels of Cranmer’s prototype, and was published in 1552. Cranmer had sent copies of the first Prayer Book to friends and colleagues who had been most influenced by the reforms on the Continent, and had specifically asked them for their comments and critical response. The most sustained critique of the new services was elegantly penned by Cranmer’s friend, the German theologian Martin Bucer, who became the Regius Professor of theology at Cambridge University. The changes made in the 1552 edition of the Prayer Book were most certainly in a more Protestant direction. This book too was short lived because the boy King was succeeded by Mary under whose reign Catholic faith and worship was reinstated in England. Turbulent times continued until the succession of Elizabeth I. Queen Elizabeth reclaimed the English Church, and a new edition of this book, cathedrals, and parish churches required a whole library of books for each service, and here was a single volume containing all the services of the church, and, most remarkably, written in a ‘language which was understood of the people’. This amounted to nothing less than a cultural revolution, and a forging of a register of public rhetoric which was hugely significant.

The Cathedral Library has a rich collection of English Prayer Books, including a presentation copy of the 1662 Prayer Book with its magnificent seal, and these will be showcased in the forthcoming Library exhibition running from 22 October until 2 November. These books of church services and their individual prayers embody the convictions of the Reformers, but others are memorable translations of early prayers. The opening prayer of the Communion service: ‘Almighty God to whom all hearts be open, all desires known’, for instance, echoes a prayer which had been penned by the 7th century Alcuin of York, and other prayers, such as the final collect at Evensong were taken from the Latin Sarum Breviary of the High Middle Ages. Before Cranmer, Latin had been the language of the services of the Church in the west, and his greatest achievement was in forging a robust and rhythmic language for public worship. David Starkey, in his address at the re-opening event of the Cathedral Library, claimed that the English Prayer Books did as much, if not more, to influence the development of the language as the English of the so-called authorized Bible. There are certainly many phrases, and indeed whole prayers, which became part of the stock vocabulary of English. The 1662 prayer Book is a rich treasury of prayers, many of which earlier generations learnt by heart. The cadences make the language roll effortlessly off the tongue, and are easily stored in the memory. Here are a few of my favourite ‘comfortable words’ from the prayer book: ‘Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins…’; ‘we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep…’; ‘Almighty God and father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us and all men.’ And finally, from Thomas Cranmer’s hall-mark of Cranmer’s Eucharistic theology, the so-called prayer of humble access: ‘We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord…’ which evokes the bread of life discourse in John’s Gospel, and ends with that wonderful phrase that ‘we may dwell in him, and he [Christ] in us.’

As the story unfolds we can see a whole family of Prayer Books stretching both backwards and forwards. It unfolds backwards to the liturgical books of the medieval church, and forwards through successive revisions of the English Prayer Book. The biggest hiatus in the story was caused, of course, by the Civil War and the period known as the Commonwealth. At this time the Prayer Book was abolished, and Bishops, and finally Deans were disposed of. Public worship was to be conducted on clear Puritan lines following the Directory for the Public Worship of God, published in 1645 with the singular authority of Parliament. The Prayer Book returned with the restoration of the monarchy with Charles II. A conference of Divines, some of whom, like Bishop John Cosin of Durham, had recently returned from exile, and were more catholic-minded, together with others who represented the interests of the Puritans, was convened at the old Palace of Savoy. These learned Divines were charged with the task of revising the Prayer Book. Compromises were made, and the result was the 1662 Prayer Book, which has probably been one of the most unifying features of a growing world-wide Anglicanism.

The services of the Prayer Book and their individual prayers embody the convictions of the Reformers, but others are memorable translations of early prayers. The opening prayer of the Communion service: ‘Almighty God to whom all hearts be open, all desires known’, for instance, echoes a prayer which had been penned by the 7th century Alcuin of York, and other prayers, such as the final collect at Evensong were taken from the Latin Sarum Breviary of the High Middle Ages. Before Cranmer, Latin had been the language of the services of the Church in the west, and his greatest achievement was in forging a robust and rhythmic language for public worship. David Starkey, in his address at the re-opening event of the Cathedral Library, claimed that the English Prayer Books did as much, if not more, to influence the development of the language as the English of the so-called authorized Bible. There are certainly many phrases, and indeed whole prayers, which became part of the stock vocabulary of English. The 1662 prayer Book is a rich treasury of prayers, many of which earlier generations learnt by heart. The cadences make the language roll effortlessly off the tongue, and are easily stored in the memory. Here are a few of my favourite ‘comfortable words’ from the prayer book: ‘Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins…’; ‘we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep…’; ‘Almighty God and father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving kindness to us and all men.’ And finally, from Thomas Cranmer’s hall-mark of Cranmer’s Eucharistic theology, the so-called prayer of humble access: ‘We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord…’ which evokes the bread of life discourse in John’s Gospel, and ends with that wonderful phrase that ‘we may dwell in him, and he [Christ] in us.’

Christopher Irvine

CCA ChAnt.C/1351
UCA Special Collections Project

The University for the Creative Arts has started a project to catalogue, promote and preserve its archives and special collections, starting with the commencement of an Archivist post in June 2012.

UCA has five campuses, three based in Kent (Maidstone, Rochester and Canterbury) and two in Surrey. UCA has been made up of several mergers between the different colleges, and the original colleges date from late Victorian times. Strengths in archives and special collections lie in the creative arts, including architecture, art, graphic design, fashion, and photography.

Collections include the university’s institutional archives, records of the original colleges, the Tessa Boffin photographic Archive (at Maidstone), the in-house printed press books (which show processes in book design, and printing), ‘Artist Books’ (works by visual artists that assume book form), and a number of other rare books.

Work that has progressed, and is progressing so far includes:
• Cataloguing of our collections, either to collection level, or more detailed
• UCA Archives website at http://community.ucreative.ac.uk/archives including details of our collections and catalogues, subject guides, how to get involved, and information regarding access
• Preservation assessment, and ordering of suitable materials
• Gaining links between different archival repositories and libraries for looking at outreach in the community
• Broadening interest in our collections externally and internally

Our collections are available for the public to visit, although we would ask you to email in advance at archives@ucreative.ac.uk or Rebekah Taylor (Archivist) at rtaylor8@ucreative.ac.uk

Rebekah Taylor

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My time at the Cathedral Library

I joined the Cathedral Library team in December 2011 as a casual library assistant. My first challenge was to keep my jaw from dropping every two minutes, being surrounded by so many amazing and beautiful things!

When I started working in the Library, the team was preparing for the temporary closure of the Cathedral Archives. The Library office was to be the new reading room while the renovation of the Archives was taking place. We needed to take in some of the most-used Library reference materials and make room for readers. My organization and space-saving skills were really put to the test! I also got a crash course in the history of the Library. When boxing up material to make space for the reference collection I came across lots of really interesting things, like old photo’s of the rebuilding of the Cheker in 1965, correspondence from past visitors to the Library and records detailing the re-organization of many collections held at the Cathedral Library.

Once we had settled in to a routine with reader visits I was able to start taking on some regular tasks in the Library. One of my favourites is shelf-checking. This involves checking that the books are all shelved correctly, checking the condition of the books and of course, having a look inside the books. I have enjoyed hours and hours of shelf-checking so far. It’s fascinating to browse the shelves and I always find lots of interesting material (check out ‘Picture this…’ on the Library webpage for some real gems).

It has also been great fun to talk to school groups who visit the Library. It gives me the opportunity to learn more about the books in our collection and it is always fun to share my enthusiasm about our treasures to a new generation of eager students. They are always captivated by the Library and its surroundings and really appreciate being able to get up close to something they have learnt about at school.

Not all of my regular tasks are as exciting as shelf-checking or school visits. I often accession new books and help to catalogue items, and lately I have been working on a database for Cathedral service sheets and creating help sheets for our research resources. But I do enjoy feeling that I am doing something useful and making a contribution to the Library and its team.

My time at the Cathedral Library (so far) has helped me to secure the position of Deputy Librarian at The King’s School Library. But I know that I will still look forward to my holidays when I’ll be back at the Cathedral Library, caring for the collections and enthusiastically sharing our rare treasures. Until I am back though, the thing that I will miss most is having coffee and biscuits with Karen, Stephanie, Margaret (Sparks) and David (Shaw) who have made me feel so welcome since joining the Cathedral Library team, and from whom I have learnt and am still learning so much.

Philippa Rose
Cathedral Friends on Film

On Wednesday 5th September, some 150 people gathered in the Auditorium at the cathedral for what proved to be a fascinating showing of historic film, organised by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral. This was presented by Tim Jones of Canterbury Christ Church University, a lecturer in film studies, and also a collector of old film. The Archives had worked with Tim on showings before our closure in January.

The material Tim showed dated from the 1920s onwards, and was made up of film made by various members of the Canterbury Cine Society, some of whom were in the audience. Moving image has a great power to bring us back through time, and to bring history alive. Those present enjoyed footage of Canterbury in the pre-war years, showing parts of the city changed for ever by the bombing of the Blitz. We saw the processions which formed part of the great cathedral services of the 1930s, including the Empire Service of 1935, during which 93 stone Canterbury Crosses were dedicated, to be sent to cathedrals overseas. We watched footage from the funeral in 1937 of Dick Sheppard, Dean until 1931, and footage from a wedding in 1939, the plain clothes of the bride reminding us that our country was at war. Hewlett Johnson, the ‘Red Dean’, was brought to life, as indeed was the renown Miss Babington, steward and secretary of the Friends from 1928 until 1958.

Of very great interest was footage of the Canterbury Plays. This was a series of plays staged by the Friends from 1928. The footage covered the plays from 1934, when Lawrence Binyon’s The Young King was performed, until 1939. The film was taken by Sydney Bligh, who was in charge of the lighting for many of the plays. This footage has only recently been discovered, and will be of great significance for the study of the plays.

The film was silent, so commentary was provided by Tim Jones. Prof Ken Pickering, the main authority on the Canterbury Plays, also contributed his great knowledge. He had only recently been made aware of the film footage, and was very excited by its potential.

Tim’s work is ongoing, as he continues to discover more film. Thus, he will be holding more screenings to show new material. These screenings come highly recommended!

‘Picture this...’

For those of you interested in unlocking some of the secrets housed on the library book shelves, life may have become a little easier. In August, the Cathedral Library and the University of Kent’s Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) launched ‘Picture this...’, a new and exciting collaborative project, designed to reveal some of the Library’s treasures. ‘Picture this...’ was the idea of Karen Brayshaw, Cathedral Librarian, and Jayne Wackett, Ph.D. student and Associate Lecturer at the University of Kent. The project will be a monthly feature, available on the Cathedral’s website. It will feature an image taken from one of the Library’s historical books and will be accompanied by a descriptive article, written by a student or researcher at the University. Our aim is to make items from our collections more widely available and provide an awareness, both of some of the symbolism and meaning within the images, and of their historical significance. ‘Picture this...’ will not only allow the public an enhanced insight into the Library, it will also provide valuable study opportunities, using original sources, for postgraduate students from MEMS, and visiting European Ph.D. scholars from the Text and Event in Early Modern Europe project.

‘Picture this...’ is a wonderful testimony to the partnership that exists between the University and the Cathedral Library. Jayne Wackett remarked “MEMS really values this special relationship which allows students first-hand access to the Cathedral Library treasures. It is wonderful to be able to offer such an opportunity on the Masters and Ph.D. courses. This new venture means that access to some hidden gems is made easier for absolutely everyone, which is fantastic”.

Each month a new image and accompanying text will be added to the Library’s webpage. At the beginning of 2013, a workshop will be held in the Cathedral Library, where students will be invited to have hands-on experience with a selection of primary sources. The work produced by the students will form part of an exhibition to be held next summer featuring the books and articles that have appeared on the website.

The October article in the ‘Picture this...’ collection has been provided by Jayne Wackett. The image, taken from the 1552 Book of Common Prayer, is a depiction of King Edward VI holding court. You can find this and previous articles at http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/picture-this
Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library

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www.canterbury-cathedral.org/history

**Dates for your diary**

**Monday 22nd October until Friday 2nd November**
Open Monday-Friday from 14.00—16.00

*Cathedral Library Autumn Exhibition: The Prayer Book in English*

The exhibition celebrates the 350th Anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer. Entrance to the Exhibition is free but usual Precincts charges apply.

**Friday 9th November at 19.30 hrs, Kentish Barn**

*Cathedral Library Exhibition Talk: “From Primer to Prayer Book”*

Jane Wackett (University of Kent) presents a talk on the transition from the use of the Primer to the Prayer Book in English.

**24 January 2013, 19.00 hrs at Canterbury Cathedral Archives**

*‘In Search of Amazons and Viragos: Women Castellans, Foresters and Sheriffs in Medieval England’*

Lecture by Dr Louise Wilkinson of Canterbury Christ Church University for the Historical Association. Free for Historical Association members, branch members and students; others are asked for a small contribution towards expenses.

**New Chaucer Book Launch**

Appraised Author Michael Alexander, Professor Emeritus of English Literature at St Andrew’s University and noted medieval expert, will be signing copies of his new book Geoffrey Chaucer at Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday 9th October.

The richly illustrated 40 page book has been published by SCALA as a joint venture in association with Canterbury Cathedral and details Chaucer’s life, times and works.

The Canterbury Tales is a best seller in the Cathedral shop and the public’s continued interest and fascination about his life provided inspiration for the Chaucer book. “In the last twelve months we have sold nearly 1,500 copies of Geoffrey Chaucer’s The Canterbury Tales” said Christopher Needham, General Manager at the Cathedral Shop.

The book includes a variety of images from printed copies of The Canterbury Tales (early modern and Pre-Raphaelite), portraits of Chaucer, key historical figures of the period and medieval stained glass from Canterbury Cathedral.

The book signing will take place on Tuesday 9th October between 15:00 – 17:00 in the Cathedral shop (25 Burgate, Canterbury CT1 2HA) and in the Cathedral between 18:15 – 20:00 as part of the Cathedral’s Open Evening event.

The book is available to purchase in the Cathedral Shop or on the Cathedral website priced £5.99.

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