The Cloisters - part of the pedestrian route to The Martyrdom.

Canterbury Cathedral Trust

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2014

Celebrating 40 years of supporting Canterbury Cathedral
It is thrilling to be able to open Canterbury Cathedral Trust’s Spring newsletter with exciting news of the success of our Stage One application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

I took up my post as Canon Treasurer in March 2013, and very shortly thereafter I was asked to chair a group of senior Cathedral staff to work on the application. We drew upon the work that had gone into the original application but, mindful of the HLF’s comments that we should be more ambitious for people and communities, we re-envisioned those dimensions dramatically. We are delighted that the Trustees of the HLF have shown their confidence in our renewed proposals by granting our Stage One application.

Now the work begins in earnest: developing our plans, raising £7.4m by the end of 2015 to partner the HLF’s award, and ensuring that the Canterbury Journey finally gets underway.

In tandem with this huge task, the day-to-day activities and projects continue at the Cathedral, which your ongoing support makes possible. It has been a pleasure to meet many of you in my first twelve months in post and I am deeply grateful for the great generosity that you show to Canterbury Cathedral.

As the Trust celebrates its 40th anniversary, I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months ahead, as our common journey unfolds.

The Choirs of Canterbury Cathedral

Our world-famous boys’ choir has recently been joined by a new girls’ choir. These sixteen young women, from a number of secondary school across Kent, sing in the Cathedral about once a month and when the boys are performing in other locations. This addition to the Cathedral’s creative community affords the opportunity to bring music to events which previously have gone without. The establishment of a new tradition was made possible through the generous support of the Peter Cundill Foundation. Their gift, made in memory of Peter Cundill - who had a keen interest in church choral music - is a huge boost for the Cathedral’s musical programme, and will have far-reaching benefits for local schools and families through the Peter Cundill Music & Education Programme.

Choral Music at Canterbury

Music is performed daily at the Cathedral by a team comprising the organist, assistant organist and organ scholar, as well as two choirs - 25 boys aged 8 to 13 and 16 girls aged 13 to 17 – along with 12 Lay Clerks.

The annual cost of providing music in the Cathedral is £770,000. With the support of two chorister bursaries, the Peter Cundill Foundation and others, £400k of this annual cost is met each year for the next three years. Your support ensures the Cathedral remains alive with music.

Peter Cundill Music & Education Programme

- Schools Bursary – Grant aid for local schools visiting the Cathedral, particularly encouraging first-time visits.
- Education Outreach – New workshops in schools, with a follow-up visit for pupils with their class or family.
- Enhanced Resources – New teaching space and technology, such as touch screens in the Archives.
- Music – Instrumental tuition and supporting the Girls’ choir.

This programme is part of The Canterbury Journey project. We are indebted to the Foundation for their support.

…The Peter Cundill Foundation, which supports youth in education, culture, health and sport, was pleased to be associated with the Cathedral’s plans to improve the educational and cultural facilities for visiting children through the outstanding musical traditions and its unique beauty and history. We hope this gift will benefit many more young people.

Jenny Bingham, Chairman

A Canterbury Journey for us all

We are thrilled that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded the Cathedral a grant of nearly £12m, contingent on us raising £7.4m in partnership funds in the next two years. So far, £2.6m has already been secured from a number of our supporters, leaving £4.8m to find. We are grateful to everyone who has helped us so far, and look forward to keeping you updated with our progress.

This £19.4m project will transform the way people experience and enjoy Canterbury Cathedral, and celebrate the role pilgrimage has played in shaping the Cathedral, Canterbury and East Kent. For more detail of the project’s content, please download our Brief Introduction, which is available at www.canterbury-cathedral.org.

What’s happening in 2014?

Working closely with the HLF, we now enter an intensive period of project development. The next two years will include drawing up detailed plans for our new outreach programmes, and comprehensive designs for both the new Welcome Centre and the landscaping of the South-West Precincts. At the heart of these improvements will be urgent weatherproofing and conservation of the Cathedral, including to Christ Church Gate, the Nave Roof and Great West Towers. We will ensure the benefit of these works are felt for decades to come through the dedicated training of our craftspeople - four stonemasonry apprentices will complete their training during the project’s delivery.

During this two-year period, we will be recruiting staff for the project, including a Community Engagement Officer, to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in the project. Canterbury Cathedral exists first and foremost as a place of worship, community and togetherness – a place people are inspired to journey to. A place to remember.

Alongside this exciting programme, projects to the North West Transept and Great South Window forge ahead. See overleaf for more details.

Answering your questions

Q. Why is the project so big?

A. We have a responsibility as England’s oldest cathedral and a UNESCO World Heritage Site to offer people the best possible experience when they journey (sometimes across continents) to us.

Previously, limited resources have forced us to focus on keeping the building weatherproof and safe, at the expense of other important works such as providing level access for wheelchair-users, actively engaging schools, and exhibiting our irreparable collections.

By developing a project which not only conserves the fabric, but provides improved access to the glass, stone and stories that make the Cathedral, we can combine our dual needs of conservation and education.

Q. Why is the project urgent?

A. If we do not act now, we risk jeopardising not just the safety and beauty of our built heritage, but failing to engage people in the stories of the Cathedral as fully as we might, to make their own connections with the Cathedral.

Our 2012 Quinquennial Inspection confirmed not just that the Nave Roof, Christ Church Gate and the Great West Towers need urgent repair, but that the damage to them is accelerating and is irreversible.

Recent visitor surveys and local consultation have indicated that the Cathedral is seen by some as exclusive, and that people often do not understand the conservation carried out here. We are committed to meeting modern expectations and to being a welcoming place for everyone.

The Project’s Legacy

The impact of the Canterbury Journey will extend far beyond the project’s completion in 2021.

Giving People a Sense of Ownership

On-site: explain our conservation projects, provide interpretation for schools and families, orientate visitors in the new Welcome Centre.

Off-site: work with local groups to ensure the Cathedral is accessible and meets the needs of the City and East Kent.

A Place of Pilgrimage

Build new partnerships, launch new interactive pilgrimage trails, and run the Pilgrim Pass scheme to stay connected with our visitors.

Securing Heritage for the Future

Invest in conservation, explore the Cathedral’s written and oral history, and train a new generation in the traditional crafts required to maintain the Cathedral.
2014 – The Cathedral’s Projects and Priorities

Whilst The Canterbury Journey gathers pace, urgent conservation of precious glass and stone continues around the Cathedral...

Safeguarding Becket’s Legacy

The North-West Transept of today’s Cathedral houses parts of the earlier 11th century church, including The Martyrdom, site of Archbishop Becket’s murder in 1170. It therefore remains one of the Cathedral’s most visited areas and is central to our guided tours, and visiting school groups.

The Cathedral’s Quinquennial Inspection (a survey to identify the most urgent conservation and maintenance needs of the building, carried out every five years) in 2012 identified restoration of the Transept’s stair turret, pinnacles, roofs and wall surfaces as urgent to prevent further aggressive weather damage. Previous well-meaning repairs over the last two centuries have seriously undermined the stability of the precious original fabric. Central to the building’s main pedestrian route and used daily, the turret’s growing instability poses a risk to visitor safety. Very complex scaffolding is needed to make sure that the Transept remains safe and open during the works.

The restoration has just started and we anticipate the project will be completed by the end of 2016. Much of the works will be carried out by our dedicated in-house craftsmen. We are pleased to have secured over £625,000 of the total project cost (£1m) with help from Viridor Credits Environmental Company, The Mercers’ Company and The Tanner Trust.

Rebuilding the Great South Window

The rebuilding of the Great South Window continues, with hopes to restore the precious stained glass to its rightful place in the Cathedral in 2016. The window is an incredible feat of engineering and home to some of Europe’s oldest medieval stained glass, including the 12th-Century Ancestors of Christ panels.

After a fall of stone in 2009, the window’s glass was removed to allow urgent repairs to the stone surround and metalwork supporting the window. Each pane was meticulously restored by our own conservation experts. Restoration of the masonry surround is nearly complete, so reinstalling the glass is next.

Whilst these works became urgent in 2009, the Window has cyclically undergone major works every thirty to sixty years, to stem the damage caused by the weather and the Cathedral’s heating. With these current works and a new approach to the materials employed, we hope to break this cycle. The total cost of repairing the Great South Window is £2.25m. We have gratefully received £1m toward this figure from the Allan Willett Foundation and others.

Our Stained Glass in America

Following their removal from the Great South Window, 40 panes from our Ancestors of Christ series have been on public display since September at The J Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Following monumental levels of planning, ingenuity and patience, Leonie Seliger, Director of the Stained Glass Studio at Canterbury Cathedral and her team have transported and prepared the glass for both exhibitions. We are thrilled that in addition to attracting 150,000 visitors to The J Paul Getty Museum alone, new relationships have been forged between three internal and external organisations – enabling the future sharing of conservation and interpretation techniques. The cost of these efforts was met by The Getty Centre and sponsorship from individuals. We are indebted to everyone involved.

The figures and their ornamental border panels were divorced about 200 years ago when the figures were put into another window... They are brothers and sisters getting to see each other after two centuries.

Leonie Seliger, Director of the Stained Glass Studio

How you can support these two projects

Decorative Stones

To invest in the future of the Cathedral and the skilled craftspeople who conserve and repair it, you can sponsor a stone in the Great South Window or a lead tile for the North West Transept. These two projects are currently underway, and need your help to be completed. For more information about sponsoring a stone or tile through a one-off donation or with a regular, monthly gift, visit www.canterbury-cathedral.org/supporting-us.

A donation of £300 to the Great South Window project will allow a beautiful piece of stone, carved by the Cathedral’s own dedicated stonemasons, to sit for centuries to come in the Window. A certificate will be provided as a keepsake to commemorate your gift to Canterbury.

Lead Tiles

A donation of £1,000 to the North West Transept project will be commemorated with a personalised lead tile (engraved with up to three initials) being installed on the roof. A photograph of the tile being created in our workshop will be provided as a keepsake.
Commemorating WWI

August this year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The Cathedral will host a series of acts of remembrance, which all are welcome to be a part of – to remember loved ones and the millions who gave their lives in this endeavour.

Archives – the Great War

A series of articles will be published on the Cathedral’s website over the course of 2014, to commemorate the centenary of the Great War. With the help of volunteers, the Archives team are combing our collections as part of a new research project. Archivist Cressida Williams explains:

We feel this is a fitting way to remember the people and places who played a part in the Great War, and shared a connection to Canterbury and the Cathedral. The articles resulting from this work will cover range of subjects which will add a greater context to the Cathedral’s other planned commemorations in 2014.

On April 30th 28 children from St Peter’s Methodist School, Canterbury, planted poppies alongside our gardeners and Archdeacon Sheila Watson. The poppy planting initiative comes as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York urged the Cathedral to remember the sacrifice of World War One. The Cathedral will host a series of acts of commemoration in 2014.

For more details, please visit www.canterbury-cathedral.org/conservation/archives

Further details of the service will follow in our Annual Report this summer. I do hope you will be able to join us for this happy occasion.

Ken Follett in the Crypt

We were thrilled to welcome best-selling author and Advisor to the Cathedral Ken Follett to Canterbury in March, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of The Pillars of the Earth. Nearly 250 people attended Ken’s fascinating talk in our Crypt “Why Cathedrals?”, and Ken cheerfully signed books for dedicated fans. When asked about his feelings for Canterbury Cathedral, Ken replied:

All cathedrals are awe-inspiring, but Canterbury is special because of its size, its beauty, and most of all because of its role at the centre of English history for so many centuries. Every time i visit, i picture the dramas that have taken place here. It’s the nearest thing to a time machine.

The event was part of an exclusive tour of five cathedrals marking the novel’s anniversary, which has sold 19 million copies worldwide. We are grateful to Waterstones, Canterbury for helping with ticket sales, with half of the proceeds coming to the Trust. The Cathedral is a wonderful and irreplaceable community building, designed with both intimate and vast spaces to meet its myriad daily uses.

The special anniversary edition of The Pillars of the Earth was published by Pan Macmillan on January 30th, 2014, priced £9.99.

Canterbury Cathedral Trust

Romperia de Lisle

Our 40th Anniversary

The Trust was registered as a charity in 1974: in the subsequent forty years, a host of people have helped to secure the financial future of the Cathedral and its community. Now, in our fortieth year we have passed the £20m mark of our latest appeal, begun in 2006. This astonishing achievement is wholly due to you, our supporters, and the majesty of Canterbury Cathedral.

I became Chairman in 2007, taking on the mantle from Allan Willett – who worked tirelessly for the Cathedral for many years and remains a dedicated advisor and friend today. I could not omit to mention Lord Kingsdown who was variously a Trustee, Chairman and finally President of the Trust, until his death earlier this year. Following in the footsteps of these two exemplary chairmen is no easy job. It is a privilege to lead the Trustees and I have enjoyed each service, concert and event I have had the pleasure to attend, as I’m sure is the case for many of you.

In September this year we will be recognising our milestone anniversary with a very special service of thanksgiving.

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Events at the Cathedral - dates for your diary

24th/25th May Open Gardens Weekend
July Choir Bursary Fund Concert, Date TBC (Nave)
4th August WWI Commemoration Vigil (Crypt)
13th September Benefactors’ Service (Nave)
26th September Clifford Richard Concert (Nave)
7th October Open Evening (Nave)
November Annual Lecture “The Commemoration of the Great War in Canterbury and East Kent”, Dr Peter Donaldson. Date TBC (18:30, Lodge Auditorium)
14th November Lecture on Stanley Spencer’s Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere, Hampshire by Dr Susanna Avery Quash. (Venue TBC)

Please visit www.canterbury-cathedral.org for further details.

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Please visit www.canterbury-cathedral.org for further details.
Gift Aid is a way for charities to benefit from further funds toward their cause, at no extra cost to you. For every £80 donated to the Trust with a valid Gift Aid declaration, we receive £100! Completing the simple form below allows us to be sure we are claiming all of the Gift Aid we are able to.

If you have previously signed a Gift Aid declaration for the Trust, please consider filling this short form in again. Making sure we have up-to-date records, and a declaration which covers ALL gifts you might make to the Trust will make a real difference to us.

Full name inc. title: ____________________________________________

House name/number: ________________________________

Road: ____________________________________________

Town/City: ____________________________________________

Postcode: ______________

Date: ______________

Signature: ________________________________

Please treat: (Please tick appropriate box)

☐ The enclosed gift of £ ______ as a Gift Aid donation

☐ All donations I make today and in the future as Gift Aid donations

☐ All donations I have made in the past 4 years and all future gifts as Gift Aid donations

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes e.g. VAT, Council Tax do not qualify.

Please notify us if you have a change in circumstance (e.g. move house) or if you wish to cancel your declaration.

☐ Tick here to receive more information by post about our sponsor a stone and sponsor a tile campaigns.
Canterbury Cathedral welcomes a million visitors each year. Part of The Canterbury Journey’s legacy will be an improvement in the experience of all who visit the Cathedral. By 2021 we will work to increase visitor numbers by 10%, including increasing the proportion of family visits and visits from residents across East Kent.