What’s inside:
The Canterbury Journey - the final countdown
Updates on current conservation projects
Musical news - launch of the Girls’ Choir CD and restoration of the Quire Organ
Commemorating WWI and our military links
A warm welcome from our Development Committee Chairman

I am delighted to introduce our first newsletter of 2016, just a few short months after becoming Chairman of the Development Committee. Having been a member of the committee under the outstanding leadership of Richard Oldfield, my first task is to thank him for all that he has achieved and my second is to thank all of you for your generosity.

As you will know, we have been focussed in recent years on securing the necessary partnership funds to help unlock a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for The Canterbury Journey. You can read about the stage 2 submission in these pages, and we will have a decision from the HLF in the autumn. With your help, we have exceeded our original target and these extra funds will help the Cathedral ensure a truly first-rate project is delivered by 2021.

Readers of our winter newsletter will be aware that the next priority for the Cathedral and therefore the Trust will be the Quire Organ. As this instrument struggles to provide the quality of sound needed by this magnificent building, its visitors and musicians; we will be deciding the best approach to address both this key fabric need and the ongoing cost of music at Canterbury. Given the ability for music to transcend language barriers and bring people of all cultures together, we hope this campaign will be a truly first-rate project is delivered by 2021.

On behalf of the Trustees and Development Committee thank you all, again, for your generosity over recent years.

Rebuilding the Great South Window.

Great South Window. The last stone was placed this month by the Cathedral’s stonemasons. We are delighted to update readers that a number of these energy and cost effective lights have now found their new home in our dedicated Stained Glass Studio. The lights have many benefits; a longer life than those previously used in the specialist work tables; they emit no heat and distribute light much more evenly, and they allow the tables to be mobile for use across the Studio and Cathedral. The light panels can also be used for exhibitions and commissioned work at other locations.

Update: Conservation priorities

Those who have recently visited the Cathedral may have wondered why the North West Transept’s new roof is currently gleaming from behind significant scaffolding. This is due to the great efficiencies being made by moving materials directly from here to other projects. The scaffolding will enable early surveys of the Nave Clerestory including archaeology and access for the masons to produce stone templates for use this winter. The scaffolding will then move again to the Great West Towers. The Towers need significant work as part of The Canterbury Journey to avoid damaging the new roof planned for the Nave below!

The Cathedral’s stonemasons have been hard at work and have now shaped and installed each of the 200 stones making up the Great South Window. The last stone was placed this month by the Cathedral’s Receiver General, John Meardon (below). Our talented glass conservators have installed clear protective glazing to the Window’s exterior and are now returning the stained glass panels home. They have been cared for and stored in the Cathedral’s own Stained Glass Studio.

Being able to respond to the urgent needs of the Cathedral is only possible with your support. Thank you to everyone who has helped make these important projects a reality.

Bringing light to stained glass

Between 18th May and 23rd August last year, more than 67,000 people visited The Ancestors exhibition in the Cathedral’s Chapter House. Our in-house team of carpenters, electricians, decorators and glass conservators came together to help showcase 21 figures from the Ancestors of Christ series of stained glass. This collection is one of the finest surviving examples of medieval glass. This wonderful opportunity represented the silver lining of an otherwise daunting task; removing the Great South Window’s glass and masonry to completely rebuild the structure following a fall of stone in 2009.

For the exhibition, a 6.6m hexagonal tower was specially constructed - lit by 28 LED lighting panels. We are delighted to update readers that a number of these energy and cost effective lights have now found their new home in our dedicated Stained Glass Studio. The lights have many benefits; a longer life than those previously used in the specialist work tables; they emit no heat and distribute light much more evenly, and they allow the tables to be mobile for use across the Studio and Cathedral. The light panels can also be used for exhibitions and commissioned work at other locations.

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A first for the Girls’ Choir

The Girls’ Choir was established in 2014 with the kind support of The Peter Cundill Foundation, giving girls aged 12-18 the chance to learn, perform and record wonderful music at Canterbury Cathedral.

The current 22 choristers live and study across Kent and rehearse each Wednesday at the Cathedral. As well as providing music for two Evensong services each month, they perform at real moments of significance for the Cathedral. This has included the dedication of two Royal Statues to commemorate Her Majesty The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and a service celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ordination of female priests.

We were delighted to witness the launch of the girls’ first CD, Purcell: Sacred Music on Mothering Sunday. This fine recording was made possible through the generosity of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral.

The girls perform regularly with our 12 Lay Clerks, who are professionally trained singers. All are members of the Cathedral Foundation and this unique combination of voices creates an unparalleled quality of sound - validating Canterbury’s worldwide reputation for choral music.

Instrumental accompaniment for our choirs is vitally important, making a concert-quality, reliable organ an essential piece of Cathedral equipment! Read on for news of the Cathedral’s plans to restore and improve its current Quire Organ.

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Buy the CD online: www.cathedral-enterprises.co.uk
The Canterbury Journey...

We will be returning to the Heritage Lottery Fund next month having secured more than £10m in partnership funds as the result of your support. With our fingers crossed for good news in autumn, preparations will continue over the summer, for works to begin by the end of 2016. Read about the four strands of this programme over these pages.

The Canterbury Journey will create opportunities for learning and discovery through exploration of the Cathedral’s hidden collections, both for visitors in person and online.

The building will embark on its own journey of transformation through urgent conservation, new landscaping, a Welcome Centre with free to enter Viewing Gallery, and a dedicated Community Space. These works will enable the recruitment of four new trade & craft apprentices.

Thank you to everyone who has attended an event, provided their feedback or generously supported these endeavours.

Conservation

Safeguarding the Cathedral’s heritage is central to The Canterbury Journey. Those who have followed the programme’s development will know that it will address the Nave Roof, Great West Towers and Christ Church Gate. These works will improve the movement of water away from the building, so repairs to underground drainage will also be made.

These three landmarks are the first glimpses seen by people visiting the Cathedral on foot, but are in a perilous state. Without intervention now to correct previous well-meaning repairs and weather damage, parts of the Cathedral could be closed to protect visitors. Instead, the Project Team will take advantage of these large scale repairs to allow people to see these amazing conservation projects in action.

The works being planned are the result of structural and archaeological surveys, expert consultation and the shared experience of our in-house teams. Our efforts will undoubtedly affect views of the Cathedral in the short term, to protect it for generations to come. This process will see new access points created to enable easier maintenance of those hard-to-reach areas, adding to The Canterbury Journey’s legacy.

New Facilities & Precinct Landscaping

A much-anticipated Welcome Centre next to Christ Church Gate, a separate dedicated Community Space and re-landscaped South West Precincts to improve visitor orientation will have a huge impact for visitors.

Following consultation with prospective users, heritage bodies and planning authorities, the Project Team have agreed designs for these new buildings. They will include: a Viewing Gallery for keen photographers; space to find out about the Cathedral and purchase a ticket and tour; a new Cathedral shop; and areas for learning activities, community groups and special events. These spaces will be free to the public and provide new views of the Cathedral. A new Pilgrims Pass scheme will help the Cathedral to stay in touch with visitors to get their feedback and send out news of events and activities.

For those who decide to continue their journey beyond the Welcome Centre (a great many we hope!), new landscaping will show the Cathedral at its best. New level pathways, increased seating and coherent planting schemes will dramatically improve how people move around the site, without taking away from the impact of the Cathedral building itself. Extensive surveys and trials of stone samples have supported this process.

Learning & Participation

Hundreds of people have helped the Project Team identify the best activities and resources to support learning across a range of disciplines; art, architecture, science, language, drama and more. These tools will help people from all backgrounds to develop their understanding of all that the Cathedral has to offer. New activities will include Gargoyle Picnics, creative workshops, Oral History projects and exhibitions.

Many chapters of the Cathedral’s story complement the National Curriculum and other qualifications (including the Cathedral’s trade & craft apprenticeships). Through The Canterbury Journey, current activities will be enhanced with online resources, exhibitions, loan boxes for classrooms and other community spaces, and a new bursary to help more school groups across Kent to visit.

Opening up the Collections

The Cathedral’s collections date back to the 9th Century and represent a treasure-trove of literature, textiles, historic art and other artefacts - many requiring specialist care and storage.

The Canterbury Journey will see the recruitment of a dedicated volunteer force to support our conservators, and a renewed commitment to digitising, exhibiting and loaning parts of the collections. Improved storage and recording will ensure their long-term care, as well as enabling greater online access. New displays will showcase artefacts around the Cathedral, providing an immersive experience for visitors heightened by the new media tours and explorer packs being developed.

Sharing Canterbury’s Tales

The idea of pilgrimage is central to The Canterbury Journey; when, why and how the Cathedral has become the destination for so many personal journeys over the centuries and continuing today.

To understand pilgrimage and indeed pilgrims in the context of the Cathedral, four themes have been developed with target audiences to help people navigate its complex and growing story. These themes will underpin the exhibitions, resources, activities and new media tours as part of The Canterbury Journey.

Canterbury Pilgrimage

In today’s society, the meaning of cathedrals as spiritual destinations, the culmination of a physical journey and a place of transformation can be lost. By exploring the liturgical rhythm of the Cathedral and the central role played by music throughout the year, new layers of understanding will be revealed for people to explore at their own pace.

Making History

The Cathedral has witnessed and borne the brunt of significant political and social change through the ages. By unlocking iconic documents we can tell the story of early English identity, echoed by today’s shifting ideas of citizenship. Characters such as the Black Prince and Henry IV will bring the discussions to life, with physical displays planned for the Trinity Chapel, Crypt and Archives.

Cathedral Life

Canterbury Cathedral is a working church, supported by 330 staff and 600 volunteers. By shining a light on the special individuals and changing lives of clergy, choristers and countless others, visitors will gain a far broader understanding of the Cathedral’s pivotal role throughout history at a diocesan, national and international level.

Crafting the Cathedral

Shaped by countless hands and minds over centuries, the Cathedral’s architecture is a blend of many, often-overlapping styles. By exploring the science behind the building’s greatest feats of engineering and key historic fabric, people will gain a deeper understanding of this wonderful building and its setting.

Supported by 

The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund
Mapping The Canterbury Journey’s delivery

Following several years of careful development, the Cathedral will begin delivering these works later in the year, finishing in 2021. A key part of this process has been making sure each element is carried out in the most efficient and least disruptive way for daily life at the Cathedral.


2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2021

2021

2021

WWI commemorations

As a partner of the First World War Commemoration project www.1914.org - the Cathedral has hosted acts of remembrance to mark the war’s centenary, including poppy-planting in the Precincts, special lectures and online articles. Remembrance of the Battle of Jutland on 31st May and the Battle of the Somme during Evensong on 30th June 2016 are also planned.

In October, we were delighted to welcome The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) and their patron HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark to unveil a statue of a WWI soldier (right). The Cathedral is proud of its long friendship with The Buffs. Since 1862 St Michael’s Chapel has been known as The Warrior - or Buffs - Chapel and since 1926, the HMS Canterbury bell has rung daily and the names of fallen soldiers been read from the Book of Life. 6,500 names represent losses from WWI.

We are grateful to have received support from the First World War Centenary Cathedral’s Repair Fund in 2015 towards the North West Transept project. These works will safeguard a vital thoroughfare for those seeking to remember, commemorate and celebrate here.

Right (2): By 2017 works (artistic impressions).

Easter and Holy Week

Easter arrived early this year but our dedicated team of Virgins, volunteers and staff were on hand to assist with preparations for this pivotal part of the liturgical calendar. The Cathedral’s team of gardeners created an inspiring Easter display this spring, which will remain throughout Eastertide, giving a quarter of a million visitors the opportunity to pause and reflect before entering the Nave.

During Holy Week the Cathedral hosts more than 40 services, with the main Sunday service led by Archbishop Justin Welby (left) and attended by nearly 1,700 people. The Archbishop spoke clearly on the strength of hope in overcoming terror, in the wake of the Brussels bombings in March. These services also included readings from Shakespeare’s works, marking the 400th anniversary of his death in April.

The role of Canterbury Cathedral at Easter is manifold - providing a place for reflection, prayer and celebration - as well as a platform for the Archbishop of Canterbury to reach out to people around the world.

Other, please specify:

We would be very grateful to hear your thoughts...

This year, we will be trialling a reduction in our regular mailings from three to two each year. Do you feel this will be:

- Too much - once a year is fine
- Just the right amount
- Not frequent enough

We aim to update readers on the varied projects at the Cathedral. Tell us which area(s) most interests you, or which you would like to hear more about:

- Conservation
- Fabric/Heritage
- Archives & Library
- Stained Glass
- Education/Young People
- Music
- Faith & Mission
- Other, please specify:

I am happy for the Trust to contact me directly about their work and to share my details with other organisations based within the Cathedral Precincts only.

I would like to be removed from the Trust’s mailing list, because:

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Signature:

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