Physical Works

April
- The temporary shop store was completed and handed over to Cathedral staff.
- Samples of flint walls and landscaping surfaces were built next to the temporary Welcome Centre. They will be used as examples of materials and styles of workmanship and pattern to be used in the landscaping to be constructed as part of the project.
- The exterior of the Proctor’s Lodge near the Christ Church Gate was cleaned.
- Panels of the Austin Jr. windows on the Clerestory level started to be removed to enable the Cathedral Studios to carry out repairs and conservation on the windows.
- Work on the temporary Welcome Centre continued.
- Work on the main works compound continued.
- Erection of external scaffold on the Cathedral continued.

May
- First stones arrived on site and fixing into the building began.
- Works compound completed, including contractor welfare hut and storage.
- Temporary Welcome Centre completed and handed over to Cathedral staff.
- Work on one borehole was completed. Work on the remaining two boreholes for the relief drain continued, including the archaeological investigations.
- Panels of the Austin Jr. windows on the Clerestory level continued to be removed to enable the Cathedral Studios to carry out repairs and conservation on the windows.
- Erection of external scaffold on the Cathedral continued.
- Roof contractor appointed – Coniston Limited, based in Dartford, Kent.

June
- Contractors appointed for demolition of old Welcome Centre – Jenner Ltd, based in Folkestone, Kent.
- Work on the remaining two boreholes for the relief drain continued, though the archaeological investigations are now completed.
- Panels of the Austin Jr. windows on the Clerestory level continued to be removed to enable the Cathedral Studios to carry out repairs and conservation on the windows.
- Erection of external scaffold on the Cathedral continued.
- Erection of scaffold for temporary roofing began.

Top: View of the scaffolding going up over the Nave roof.
Bottom: a Cathedral stonemason giving the newly cleaned pinnacles a protective wash.
What’s On Success

In April, the Cathedral published its first ever What’s On guide, collectively pulling together all events in one handy booklet.

The feedback has been very encouraging, and the Cathedral will be continuing to produce the What’s On guide for the foreseeable future.

Below are some comments from happy readers - we have to be honest and say no negative comments have been received so far!

The next issue, covering events July-September is available now!

“Just to say how lovely the what’s on looks. Congratulations to whoever put it all together. Really puts one in the picture.”

Drop-In FAQ’s

Every month we hold drop-in sessions for Cathedral staff and volunteers so they can ask questions about the development - and then feel informed for when members of the public have questions of their own.

Some questions come up quite often, so we have answered them here:

How long will the scaffolding be up for?
The scaffolding around the West Towers, roof and inside the Nave will remain in place until the end of the project in 2021. This will enable all of the works to take place both inside and out.

How much will it cost?
The Canterbury Journey is a £24.7m development. £13.8m as a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), £10.9m was raised by the Canterbury Cathedral Trust, and £250,000 was donated by The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral.

Is the new organ part of The Canterbury Journey?
The new organ, being built by Harrison & Harrison Ltd, is a Cathedral project, but is not part of The Canterbury Journey development.

While the Journey is the biggest development currently taking place, there are many other Cathedral projects taking place at the same time such as the new organ, remodelling the visitor toilet facilities, and completing the work on the North West Transept to name a few!

Will there be a cafe?
The first-stage plans for The Canterbury Journey included a cafe that would sit in the Welcome Centre/Community Space. It was decided that it would not be viable for this project due to space limitations, and was removed.

In short, there will be no cafe on site as part of The Canterbury Journey, but Chapter has not ruled it out as a project for the future.

There is more information about the development, including a full timetable of the works on the Cathedral website www.canterbury-cathedral.org/the-canterbury-journey
The Cathedral has recently recruited a new Community Engagement Manager, Liam O’Driscoll. He will be responsible for running activities, and engaging new and existing audiences with the Cathedral’s heritage and historic collections.

We took a few moments to ask Liam a few Questions...

Where are you from?
London

What did you do before coming to Canterbury Cathedral?
I have just finished working on a project for a charity called Opening Doors London - part of Age UK Camden. I worked with the older LGBT community across London to help prevent loneliness and isolation in that community.

What’s your favourite part of the Cathedral so far?
My first few days were a whirlwind but one thing that stood out was the passion and dedication people have for the Cathedral.

What are you most looking forward to in your role?
Joining the Cathedral community and helping others do the same.

What do you do in your spare time?
I enjoy walking, swimming and yoga. As I’ve just moved to Margate, I’m enjoying the sea views - finding bars and restaurants with the best sea views is my new hobby!

How do you take your tea?
When I make tea I’m fanatical about pouring the water in straight off the boil. I don’t know where I picked up that habit but I think it makes a better cup.

Volunteering

Student Volunteers
In May, the Collections Manager hosted a work placement MA student from the Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, University of Birmingham.

Morgan spent two weeks learning about collections-related procedures, and working with volunteers on basic condition reporting.

Part of his time was spent at the three locations that make up the Canterbury World Heritage Site, interviewing over 200 people. He will make the results of his work available to us later in the year.

Sophie, a student from University of Kent, took up her post through the university’s Employability Scheme, and worked with the Learning and Participation team during Open Gardens and the May half-term distributing Explorer Backpacks.

Collections Care Volunteers
Cassie and Jason, having completed their research for the Friends project, have moved on to new things but hope to return to the Cathedral to volunteer for other projects.

Alyson, who worked on the Friends project with Cassie and Jason, has moved to the textiles volunteer team.

Nikki and Peter continued their research into the Black Prince. On 19 May they presented their project to an audience of Archive and Library and The Canterbury Journey volunteers, and are now working with Robert on how each of their projects might complement each other.

Pat and Linda assessed a number of vestment sets in May and worked with work placement student, Morgan, to develop a workable digital system of recording their findings.
Learning for All

Working in Partnership

Head of Learning and Participation, Jan Leandro, continues to strengthen relationships with the three local universities; the University of Kent, Canterbury Christ Church University and the University for the Creative Arts as well as Canterbury and East Kent College.

There is potential to embed the Cathedral into university study programmes through The Canterbury Journey work, across a wider range of disciplines, such as the MSc Tourism and Event Management programme at Canterbury Christ Church University focussing on heritage tourism; and the MA Curating course at the University of Kent.

The Learning and Participation team is now working with a final year MSc Tourism and Event Management student, Marianne, who is assisting the organisation of the Black Prince conferences. This will be the practical element of her dissertation.

Cathedral in the Classroom

The Learning and Participation team, Schools Department and stonemason apprentices held the second Cathedral in the Classroom event at Turner Contemporary on May 3 2017. The event was well attended with 16 primary and secondary school teachers taking part from schools across Thanet.

Teachers were asked to explore the prototype loan box content and share their comments and feedback followed by a creative print making workshop using herbs from the Cathedral’s herb garden to demonstrate how content can work across the curriculum and be used to interpret heritage and the collections.

Stonemasons & East Kent College

Head of Conservation, Heather Newton and Cathedral stonemasons, Benn Swinfield and Emlyn Harris, returned to East Kent College on 15 and 17 May 2017 to deliver lectures and workshops on stonemasonry as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative in Shepway.

The lectures and practical workshops provided construction students with an insight into traditional heritage craft skills and conservation techniques. The group will visit the Cathedral at a later date to contextualise what they have learned and find out more about The Canterbury Journey project.
Collections Management

In April 2017 the new collections access database was presented to the Collections Management Committee by the Collections Manager, Sarah Turner, the Cathedral Archivist, Ashleigh Hawkins, and The Canterbury Journey Project Finance Officer, Phil Bartholomew.

They discussed how the database had been created and how information could be extracted from it. Currently it only relates to collections held within the Archives and Library building, but this will be further developed to reflect a wider range of collections.

The aims of the database are:

• To provide a better understanding of the collections, how they are used, by whom and for what purpose.
• To help plan for the future – documentation, digitisation, access, conservation, development.
• To help protect but also provide good access to the collections.
• To understand the relevance of the collections and their significance for different users.
• To better advocate the value of the collections.

Loans

A new web page with the loans policy and an associated ‘How to Borrow’ guide has been added to the Cathedral’s website to help potential borrowers work through the loans process more easily and to advertise that material from the Cathedral’s collections is loaned out.

www.canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage/loans/

Cathedral Inventories

The long-list of ‘outstanding’ (items of particular significance) items was presented to the Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC) for examination and review. This is to better understand what these nationally and internationally significant objects and collections items are. This may need external experts to assess some of the items put forward as they are of major significance.

The Inventory Working Group (with representatives from the Cathedral’s Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) and collections specialists’ from Canterbury, York, St Paul’s and Durham) was set up to look at the nature of Cathedral inventories.

They continue to look at amending the Cathedrals Measure Rules relating to inventories, and their work will allow us to more effectively develop updated guidelines for creating and maintaining Cathedral inventories.

The Black Prince’s Tomb

Specialists will visit the Cathedral in late June 2017 to XRF (X-ray fluorescent) scan the tomb and conservators will be invited to assess the conservation requirements of the Cap of Maintenance in June 2017, with a view to its re-display.

XRF scanning is a non-invasive elemental analysis technique and can identify nearly any element from magnesium to uranium.
Here’s what is due to happen in the next few months of The Canterbury Journey...

• Scaffolding around the West Towers and Clerestory will continue.
• Scaffolding over the Nave roof to allow the repairs to take place
• Interpretation, including graphics, will be installed on all hoarding on site.
• Restoration and conservation of stonework will continue.
• The old Welcome Centre will start to be demolished.

As more works gets underway, your continued support is hugely appreciated. If you have questions about The Canterbury Journey and want to find out more, please email The Canterbury Journey team: journey@canterbury-cathedral.org, or visit the website.