

# Newsletter

Canterbury Cathedral  
Archives and Library

## The Lyghfield Bible returns to Canterbury!

Inevitably the collections of the Archives and Library grow. Books are published each year which relate to our interests, and documents (such as the minutes of the Cathedral's core committees) are produced which need to be kept for posterity.

2018, however, has proved rather an exceptional year for additions to our holdings!

In July we were extremely fortunate to be able to purchase for the Cathedral a medieval hand-written and hand-decorated Bible. This volume is now known as the Lyghfield Bible.

We think that the Lyghfield Bible was produced in Paris in the later 13th century. This assumption is made because of the style of its handwriting and its artwork, and also because Paris was the centre of the production of 'Pocket Bibles' of this type. Pocket Bibles brought all of the books of the Bible into one volume of a small format. They were produced in large numbers from the later 13th century onwards and were particularly convenient for scholars and travelling preachers; the volumes were designed for personal learning and devotion rather than for institutional use. The script is

tiny but impeccable, with its Latin written in two columns on fine parchment (animal skin). Each book of the Bible begins with a tiny hand-painted scene, or 'illumination', also exquisite.



# The Lyghfield Bible

The Lyghfield Bible is important for our collections for several reasons. As recorded on the flyleaf, it was in the possession of William Lyghfield, a monk of the Cathedral right up to the Reformation. In 1538 he was described as aged 50 and 'witty'. Lyghfield remained at the Cathedral after the Reformation, becoming a minor canon. Thus, this core religious text was in our buildings during this time of great change for our Cathedral, for the wider Church and for our country. Some former monastic cathedrals, notably Durham, still have a good part of their medieval libraries. Unfortunately, at Canterbury that is not the case. For us, during the Reformation and the decades after, the cream of the former priory's library was taken away; much is now at Corpus Christi and Trinity Colleges in Cambridge. Further volumes were destroyed or taken apart to be used as scrap materials. The Lyghfield Bible is now the only complete Bible from the medieval book collection at the Cathedral, and the finest complete illuminated book from that collection held here.

The Cathedral received a very generous grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to bring the Bible home, with further

help from the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral, the Friends of the National Libraries, and a private donation. It is due to be displayed in the new exhibition area in the Crypt which is being developed as part of The Canterbury Journey; we will also be featuring images on our webpages and exploring other ways to share its extraordinary story.



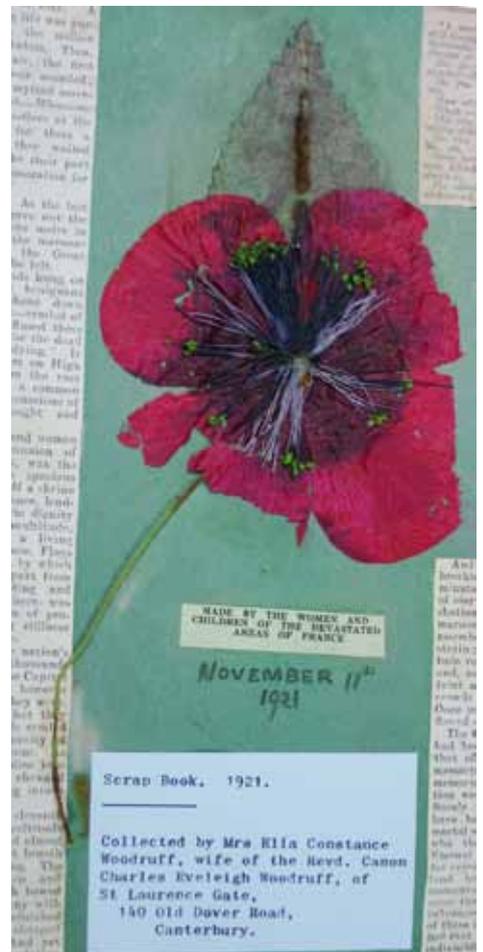
**Cressida Williams, Head of Archives and Library**

*Above and left: Illuminated letters from the Lyghfield Psalter*

# Remembering World War I

Over these past four years we have been exploring those parts of our collections relating to World War I. We considered material relating to HMS Kent, which fought at the Battle of the Falklands in December 1914, and HMS Canterbury, which fought at the Battle of Jutland in 1916. We have explored wartime diaries and have reflected upon letters written home by servicemen, including from the Trenches. We have considered the Home Front too, looking at the records of the Voluntary Aid Detachment hospitals of our city and also at the War Work Depot, which provided supplies for the troops. This research has resulted in a number of pieces for our webpages.

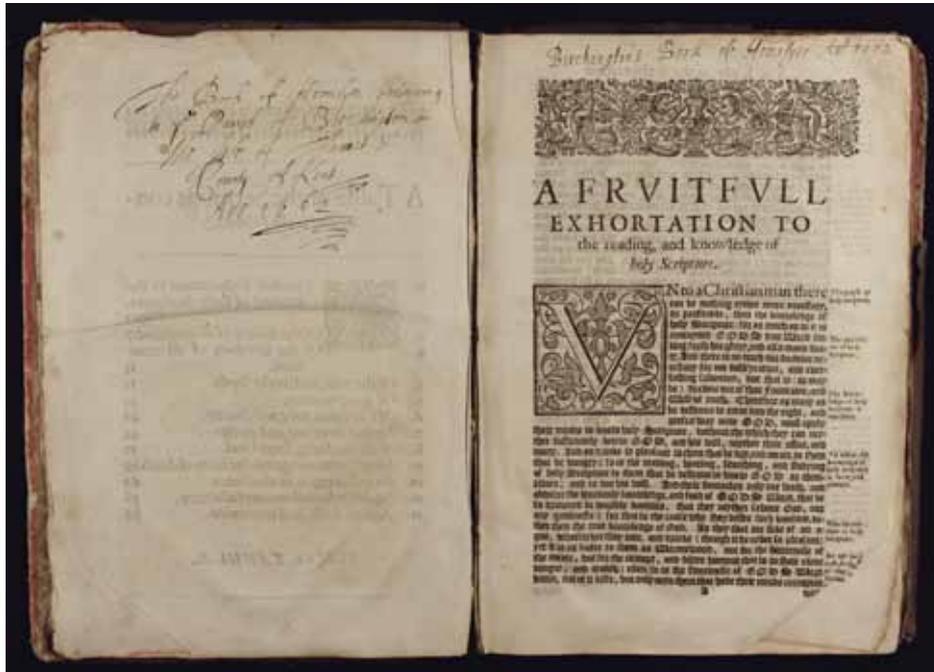
Now, our thoughts turn to the end of the war, and to remembrance. Our webpages include a piece on the Canterbury City War Memorial, which stands in the Buttermarket. The papers relating to the erection of the memorial are especially poignant. We have hugely enjoyed working with Dawn Cole, the Cathedral's Artist in Residence for 2018, who has used items in the collection for her 'Remember Me?!' exhibition in the Chapter House. Poppies feature in her work, as do pillowcases. Connected with the exhibition is the 'Diaries of the Here and Now' project. This called for members of the public to complete little diaries to record their day on 11th November this year. The diaries will be kept for posterity at the Cathedral Archives and Library and also at the Templeman Library at the University of Kent.



## Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

The Cathedral has lent two items for the 'Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War' exhibition at the British Library, which runs to February 2019. These are the early 10th-century 'Fonthill Letter' (CCA-DCc/ChAnt/C/1282) from the Archives collection and the Anglo-Saxon pocket sundial. The Fonthill Letter is the earliest surviving letter in the English language, and is also a highly important record of a lawsuit. The exhibition brings together an extraordinary number of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts, documents and artefacts. There are a number of loans from cathedrals; several manuscript books and charters have a Canterbury provenance but are now in collections elsewhere. The exhibition has been extremely well reviewed in the Press.

# Printed material in the Cathedral Archives



When the printed books in the Cathedral Library were catalogued (1979–1981), we included a small number of printed items which were known to be in the Archives. I think that we had no idea then how much more there might be and at that time no way of finding out. Now that the catalogue of the Archives is available online, it has been possible to start to remedy this. The first step was the identification of printed material from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in binding fragments in the AddMS series (*Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association Newsletter*, Winter 2013, pp. 5–6).

Searching the Archives catalogue for entries with the word 'printed' dated before 1800 produces nearly 300 hits. Some of these simply refer to a note stating that an early document has been printed in a modern work, but most are entries for books and documents printed in England which ought to be recorded in the English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC) which already has records for all the pre-1801 printed books in the Cathedral Library catalogue. Over the past couple of years I have been slowly examining these Archives items and adding them to the ESTC database at the British Library in London where I am a Voluntary Assistant.

Many of the printed items in the Archives are part of deposits of papers by parishes in the region. There are numbers of copies of editions of the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer and the Homilies, which the parishes needed for their daily and weekly services, and also copies of John Foxe's *Acts and Monuments* (the Book of Martyrs) which parishes were supposed to purchase and make available for parishioners to read. For example, CCA-U3-76/28/1(1) is a copy of the *Homilies* printed in 1635; a modern note states that 'The purchase of this book is recorded in the Churchwardens' Account for 1636/37'; an earlier inscription in the book records that it is 'The Book of Homilyes belonging to ye Parish of Birchington in the Isle of Thanet & County of Kent Ano 1662', presumably documenting the recovery of the book for the parish's use following the Parliamentary Interregnum.

An earlier example is Erasmus's paraphrase on the New Testament, (London, Edward Whitchurch, 1548; CCA-U3/6/28/1) which had been purchased by St Andrew's Church in Canterbury in accordance with the injunctions of King Edward VI issued the previous year. The book, which is part of the St Andrew's parish deposit, still has its sixteenth-century blind-stamped binding on wooden boards with remains of metal clasps, with a chain-staple hole at the foot of the back board showing that it was chained on a lectern in the church.

CCA-U47/N/8 is a unique, previously unrecorded copy of a 1550 proclamation of Edward VI in French authorising the establishment of 'le Temple du Seigneur Iesus' in the former 'Eglise des Augustins' in London. The original proclamation seems not to have been printed. This copy was printed in London in 1602, presumably for the authorities of the French Huguenot churches in London to validate their claim to the use of the Austin Friars church. It is a single-page document which was deposited with the Canterbury French Church records; it has eighteenth and nineteenth-century inscriptions by 'John Claris' (a Canterbury silk weaver, active 1761-1796) and 'M. T. Miette. Lecteur de l'église Wallonne Française à Cantorberi. 1840'.

There are many eighteenth-century printed items in the Archives collections, including a previously unrecorded edition of the broadside ballad *An Unhappy Memorable Song, Of the Hunting in Chevy-Chase, between Earl Percy of England, and Earl Douglas of Scotland. Tune of, Flying Fame* (CCA-DCc/AddMS/30/37). A little poem printed in 1718 by Canterbury's first modern printer James Abree (CCA-DCc/AddMS/30/22) ends with an advertisement for books about to be published at Abree's shop and the imprint 'Canterbury: Printed and sold by J. Abree in Castle-Street, for the Proprietors; where advertisements are taken in; and books, bonds, indentures, shop-bills, &c. printed.'

More discoveries are expected.

**Dr. David Shaw, Archives and Library volunteer**



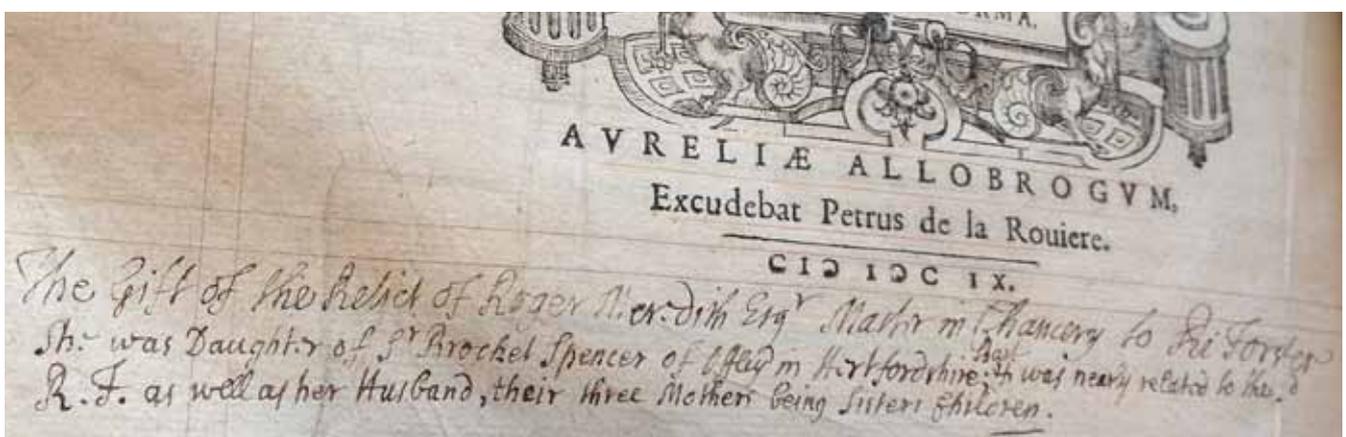
# Richard Forster, Rector of Crundale

During an audit of the Crundale Rectorial Library, undertaken by myself and other volunteers, we discovered inscriptions giving insights into the family history of the Reverend Richard Forster. I found more information in three slim volumes of accounts covering the years 1698-1727, held in the County Archives.<sup>1</sup>

The Latin inscription on Forster's tomb in St Mary's churchyard at Crundale, now broken and overgrown, explained he was descended from a high born family from Dymock in Gloucestershire.

In 1606 Giles Forster, owner of Boyce Court, acquired Great Dymock Manor. His son Clement born in 1605 may be Richard Forster's father "Clement Forster of Chester city, pleb" (*Alumni Oxonienses*). He passed on to his son a Bible of 1580 (CCL-Crundale D.61 (5)), in which he had written: "Clement fforster his booke god make him a good man and one to feare god".

In 1637 a son, also named Clement, was born to a Clement Forster in Leeds, Kent. This could possibly have been Richard Forster's brother, of whom he wrote in his copy of William Assheton's *Method of devotion for sick and dying persons* (CCL-Crundale I.32): "My brother gave mee this book". Richard Forster and his sister Anne had familial ties with the Merediths of Leeds Abbey. The account books show they were frequent visitors there, and it is confirmed by the discovery of an inscription in a Bible of 1619 (CCL-Crundale A.23) in Richard Forster's hand: "The Gift of the Relict of Roger Meredith Esq. Master in Chancery to Ri Forster. She was daughter of S<sup>r</sup> Brocket Spencer of Offley in Hertfordshire, Bart. & was nearly related to the said R.F. as well as her Husband, their three Mothers being Sisters Children" (Fig. 2).



The sisters mentioned were daughters of Thomas Bright (1539-1587), a wealthy alderman of Bury St Edmunds. Ann Spencer (Roger Meredith's widow) was descended from Thomas Bright's daughter, Susan (1579-1633); Roger Meredith from his daughter, Katherin (born 1572). I could not discover which sister Richard Forster was descended from: possibly Joan, who married Edmund Houghton ca. 1590. In his account books Forster mentions a visit to Cousins Houghton in Cambridge.

Richard Forster attained his MA at Oxford in 1673. He was usher at Tonbridge School before becoming headmaster at Sutton Valence where he was assisted in the care of boarders by his sister, Anne. In 1682 he was ordained at Chichester Cathedral and acquired the parish of Beckley, then the centre of the Wealden iron industry, where he employed a curate rather than reside there himself, where he found the air to be detrimental to his health.<sup>2</sup> *Prerogative and privilege represented in a sermon in the Cathedral Church of Rochester in Kent, March 18. 1683* by Forster was published in 1684.

In 1698 he retired from school-mastering to become rector of Crundale, taking up residence in the rectory with his sister. Crammed into three small volumes of account books with metal clasps (Fig. 3) in a cramped, abbreviated hand (Fig. 4) are details of daily life and expenses incurred.



Fig. 3. (above): Rev. Forster's account books. Fig. 4. (right): Page for February 1702 (Images courtesy of Kent Archives)

< Fig. 1 (top left): Richard Forster, 1651-1729 (with kind permission of Godmersham Heritage Centre, where the original is held). Fig. 2. (below left): Inscription in CCL-Crundale A.23

# Richard Forster, Rector of Crundale

Visits were frequently exchanged with the local landed gentry: the Meredith cousins of Leeds Abbey, the Palmers of Wingham, Sir Robert Filmer's family at East Sutton, the Finch cousins (Lord and Lady Winchelsea) of Eastwell Park, the Oxendens of the Dene, Wingham, and Leonard Digges of Chilham Castle, etc.

Forster's interest in young people survived his teaching days. Godfather to Peggy Filmer, daughter of Edward Filmer of East Sutton, he often gave her small sums of money when he visited. He took under his wing his former pupil, Thomas Palmer, nephew and heir of Sir Henry Palmer of Wingham. In August 1700, Thomas was taken by his old schoolmaster to the home of Sir Robert Marcham at the Moat, Maidstone "where he had a sight of his eldest daughter ... I had proposed for a wife to him". This attempt at match-making went well, for Rev. Forster married the couple in London at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on 20 November 1700. A final example of Forster's interest in the young is his bequest for the education of village children which continues to this day.

Forster did not neglect his parish at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey. He visited his curate, Mr Nicholls, three or four times a year: a distance of some eighteen miles which he undertook on horseback: "to E[ast] C[hurch] by Ore where I left my mare". He travelled via the Harty Ferry at Oare. On one such visit, in October 1714, he "came home at night on account of my sister's sickness". The next day, on the 12 October, he recorded: "In the morning my sister died. God prepare me for my end". Anne's grave lies in Crundale churchyard outside the blocked west door.

Richard lived until 1729, when he bequeathed his library to the succeeding rectors of Crundale.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Kent History and Library Centre U120/A2-4

<sup>2</sup> Pawley, Margaret, 'Richard Forster and the Crundale Rectorial Library'. *Theology*, 101 (Jan 1998):32-36, here pp. 33-34.

**Helen Jarvis, Archives and Library volunteer**

*Right: drawing of a face inside CCL-W/L-6-14*

# Picture This... : A Year of Delights

Picture This... was the creation of Dr Jayne Wackett of the University of Kent and Karen Brayshaw, former Cathedral Librarian. The website, hosted by the Cathedral, showcases the work of postgraduate students and academics from the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, as well as of other writers. Contributors choose items from the exceptional collections of the Cathedral to explore in an informal and accessible way.

Highlights from the past year include Mary Berg's discussion of a wax seal in the Archives which, she has suggested, depicts the Westgate Tower before it was rebuilt by Archbishop Simon Sudbury in the fourteenth century. Daniella Gonzales chose the royal Tudor indenture bound in velvet, while Janet Clayton has discussed an early modern map of Canterbury with a beautiful illustration of deer parks. New postgraduates and old friends will enrich us with more tales from the Cathedral's books and manuscripts in the coming year, with the much appreciated help of Cressida Williams, Fawn Todd, and all the Cathedral Archives and Library staff. You can explore these articles at: [www.canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage/collections/picture-this](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage/collections/picture-this)



**Dr. Diane Heath, Canterbury Christ Church University, co-editor of Picture This...**

## New-fashioned Newsletter



Exciting news for all readers of our Archives and Library newsletter! After much discussion, it has been decided that we will now be moving towards producing an annual newsletter. This change will not only allow us to focus our news more in each issue, but also allow us to contribute more to social media and work towards creating a stronger online presence.

We intend to create social media articles throughout the year, the cream of which will be selected for inclusion in the familiar newsletter format (to come out in early summer).

On this note, we are also welcoming suggestions and stories from the collections. Have you come across an interesting story or a novel entry in your research? Do you keep a list of odd names you've come across in the registers? What's a highlight of our collections for you? Articles and snippets alike are welcome, and we may include them in our social media posts, or even the annual newsletter!

# Archive Film Screenings

Dr Tim Jones of Canterbury Christ Church University will be presenting further screenings of newly-discovered amateur archive films of Canterbury and across East Kent. Many of these films have not been screened publicly for 60 years or more.

The screenings are to include footage of Canterbury between the 1930s and 1980s (2nd March and 27th April 2019). Dr Jones will also be showing *The Map*, an edit of unfinished Hollywood-style silent films starring Count Zborowski (originally shot in 1924 by amateur filmmaker Sydney Bligh) on 30th March 2019.

The screenings will take place in Pg09 in the Powell Building at the North Holmes Road Campus. Further information about the screenings, including booking information, can be found at: <http://bit.do/CAFAevents>.

## Staffing updates

As many of you will have already discovered, we have a few new faces on the staff. Lucy Splarn, introduced to you all in the previous newsletter, has now joined the team on a full-time basis to become our new Archives and Library Assistant (Printed Books). Lucy says:

*'I am absolutely delighted to have joined the team full-time as an Archive and Library Assistant. Not only has it been an incredible experience to work in such an inspirational environment, but I am also honoured to be surrounded by colleagues, volunteers, and researchers full of knowledge and desire. I am always learning about new aspects of the Cathedral and city's history.'*

We are very proud to say that Ashleigh Hawkins, former archivist here at the Cathedral, has left the staff to pursue a PhD at the University of Liverpool. Although sad to lose her, we wish her all the best on this exciting new endeavour. Ashleigh has been succeeded by Dr Alison Ray, who joined us at the end of October. Alison says:



*'I am delighted to be joining the fantastic team at Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library as Assistant Archivist, and I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received from both staff and volunteers. I previously worked at the British Library for two years on The Polonsky Foundation: England and France, 700–1200 project as digitisation and web officer, and I am currently studying on a postgraduate Archives course. I very much look forward to working with you all.'*



## James (Jim) Wayre 1937 - 2018

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jim (James) Wayre on 22nd July. Jim was the conservator and bookbinder here from 1971 until his retirement in 2001. He had trained in his profession after leaving the Navy. Many will have fond memories of the classes on bookbinding which Jim used to teach, both at the annual summer school at the University of Charlottesville (Virginia) and evening classes in the Archives and Library here at Canterbury Cathedral. He was a cherished member of the team, and had very strong connections with the cathedral workforce as a whole. His funeral held on 15th August in St Mary's Church Chartham was attended by many former colleagues.

Dr Michael Stansfield, formerly Cathedral Archivist, now Deputy Head of Archives and Special Collections at Durham University Library, writes:

*'When I arrived at Canterbury Cathedral Archives in January 1989, Jim Wayre was already an institution there as the doyen of all things conservation and preservation. He was a great master of his craft in that regard, always being happy to extol its mysteries to the many and varied visitors to whom we sought to promote the work and collections. He was generous with not just his knowledge and time, but even materials, to the astonishment once of some of the first South African ANC government officials on a learning trip to Kent who came away from the Conservation Studio gleefully clutching the fragments of gold leaf which he had given them, part of the residue of a practical binding demonstration.*



*Actually, binding presentation volumes of the Cathedral History for Dean and Chapter distinguished guests showed his particular talent for that art, an area where he was perhaps most at home in his work. As a colleague, he was never less than supportive, and pragmatic, and much was achieved through his good sense and with his cheerful good humour. He was also thereby a considerable ally in procuring the assistance and support of other colleagues around the cathedral: I would pursue requests through the official channels, Jim would go and talk to whoever would actually do whatever was needed. In later, post retirement years, that good humour and warm greeting were still very much there. It is sad to think that that twinkle in his eye has finally dimmed.'*

# Archive of the Diocese of Canterbury

We reported in our last Newsletter on the impending move of the archive of the Diocese of Canterbury to the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone. This is the collection of the diocese proper, and includes marriage licence records and faculties; parish registers remain at the Cathedral. The move has now been successfully completed. At Canterbury we retain microfilms of some parts of the collection, including probate material. Please do contact us with any queries.

## CARN tickets

As some of you may know, the Archives and Records Association is discontinuing the CARN ticket scheme at the end of November. We are currently exploring various options for a replacement card. We aim to have made a decision in the New Year, but in the meantime we will continue to accept CARN cards until the end of February; from 1st March 2019 we will only accept our own in-house tickets.

## Cataloguing selection from the Library

Fussel, Stephan (ed.), *Cities of the world* (Taschen, 2015)

Hamel, Christopher de, *Making medieval manuscripts* (Bodleian Library, 2018)

Gerard, John, *The herbal or general history of plants* (Calla Editions, 2015)

Cherry, John, Berenbeim, Jessica & De Beer, Lloyd (eds.), *Seals and status : the power of objects* (British Museum, 2018)

Sparks, Margaret ... [et al.], *A history of Choir House, Canterbury* ([s.n.], 1995)

Willis, Henry, *The organ of Canterbury Cathedral* (Musical Opinion, 1949)

Koopmans, Rachel, *Kentish pilgrims in Canterbury Cathedral's miracle windows* [offprint] (Warburg Institute, U. of London, 2017)

Koopmans, Rachel, 'Water mixed with the blood of Thomas' : contact relic manufacture pictured in Canterbury Cathedral's stained glass' [offprint], from *Journal of Medieval History* 42 No.5 (Routledge, 2016)

Johnson, Charles & Jenkinson, Hilary, *English court hand : A.D. 1066-1500. Pt. 2, Plates* (Clarendon Press, 1915)

# Cataloguing Selection from the Archives

## **Parish (U3) collections**

Lower Hardres, St Mary: banns register, 1916-1018; baptism register, 1917-2017; burial register, 1813-2016; confirmation register, 1920-2011 (U3-107)

Shepherdswell, St Andrew: churchyard plan, 1987 (U3-150)

## **Canterbury City Council (CC) collections**

Notebooks of Frank Higenbottam, City Librarian and Curator, 1950s-1960s (CC/W/29/1-3)

Canterbury City Police notebook of Alick Apps, 1942-1945 (CC/W/30/1)

Photographs and other records of the Canterbury Amateur Cine Society Film Unit, 1935-1950s (CC/W/31)

Printed Acts relating to World War II, 1938-1942 (CC-U/10/1-8)

## **Canterbury Cathedral (DCc) collections**

Engraving by John Pine of the Canterbury *Magna Carta*, 1733 (DCc/AddMs/391)

'The Lyghfield Bible', an illuminated manuscript pocket Bible, late 13th century (DCc/AddMs/392)

## **Unofficial (U) collections**

Hales Family Estate papers: deeds and property papers relating to property formerly part of the Hales estates, 1842-1968 (U85/42)

Editions of 'The Coming of Christ', 'The Young King', 'Murder in the Cathedral' and 'Cranmer of Canterbury', 1928-1936, some signed by the authors (U167/H/5/1-4)

Williamson and Sons of Canterbury, tanners: Letter from Lt. Gen B G Horrocks to Mr Williamson, regarding damage to Canterbury during WWII, 1943 (U436/15)

Sketches and drawings by Winifred Knights, c1928-c1932 (U571)

# Dates for the diary

**Thurs 20th Dec 2018** Last day for research before Christmas closure

**Fri 21st Dec 2018 to Mon 7th Jan 2019** CHRISTMAS CLOSURE (re-opening to researchers Tues 8th Jan)

**Thurs 24th Jan 2019** LECTURE: Historical Association Lecture: 'Apocalypse and Invasion; the age of Aethelred the Unready, c.966-1016' by Professor Katy Cubitt (University of East Anglia). (19:00-20:30, Reading Room). No booking required. Free for HA members and students, £3 fee for others.

**Mon 25th Feb 2019** EVENT: Plants and Print-Making: a day at Canterbury Cathedral. (10:30-16:45, Archives and Library, with a two course hot lunch at the Cathedral Lodge). Booking through the Cathedral Lodge. Tickets £49 per person.

**Mon 4th Mar 2019** LECTURE: Archives and Library Lecture 2019: 'Illuminating the Bible in Medieval Canterbury' by Dr Alixe Bovey (Courtauld Institute), followed by drinks reception. (18:45-20:15, Clagett Auditorium). Free, no booking required.

**Sat 23rd Mar 2019** EVENT: William Somner Study Day (Reading Room and Canterbury Christ Church University). Booking required. For further details see the Canterbury Christ Church University website.

**Mon 1st Apr 2019** EVENT: Scribes and Calligraphy: a day at Canterbury Cathedral. (10:45-16:45, Archives and Library, with a two-course hot lunch at the Cathedral Lodge). Booking through the Cathedral Lodge. Tickets £49 per person.

**Thurs 11th Apr 2019** Last day for research before Easter closure

**Fri 12th Apr 2019 to Mon 29th Apr 2019** EASTER CLOSURE (re-opening to researchers Tues 30th April)

**Sat 13th Apr 2019** EVENT: Tudors and Stuarts History Weekend (10.00-11.00 and 11.30-12.30, Archives and Library). Booking required. Visit <https://bit.ly/2DfzQpb> for more details.

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