William Somner Conference and Exhibition

The eagerly-awaited one-day conference and exhibition marking the 350th anniversary of William Somner’s death in 1669 took place on 23rd March 2019, with over 50 people attending the highly successful and enjoyable event. Here was an opportunity to learn much more about one of Canterbury’s - and England’s - greatest scholars, the author of *The Antiquities of Canterbury* and compiler of the first Anglo-Saxon/Latin/English Dictionary, as well being the energetic registrar of Canterbury’s Consistory Court and Cathedral Auditor in the time of Archbishop Laud.

Meeting at the Cathedral Archives and Library, the day was launched by Cressida Williams (Head of Archives and Library) who introduced us to a varied display of material relating to Somner, selected by Dr David Wright and Dr David Shaw and containing a number of volumes associated with the scholar, together with contemporary manuscripts which dwelt on his connections with the Cathedral and his life in Canterbury. Among some fascinating items, it was rewarding to note the survival of the diminutive receipt the Cathedral obtained from Somner’s widow on the purchase of his library - for £100 8s 0d! Examining a superb 17th century map of the Cathedral’s water system enabled one to pinpoint Somner’s exact dwelling in premises long since demolished. As a bonus, the opportunity was also offered by Fawn Todd (Cathedral Librarian) for attendees to view a display of unusual and attractive historic bindings in the Howley-Harrison Library.
Continuing at the Old Sessions House, Christ Church University, we were welcomed by Dr David Wright, whose two-part life of Somner will be published in the 2019 and 2020 volumes of *Archaeologia Cantiana*. Our first speaker, Professor Jackie Eales, Faculty Director of Research at Christ Church, was the perfect choice for setting the scene in providing us with her description of life in Canterbury during Somner’s time, including the changes wrought by the presence of so many Huguenot and Walloon ‘Strangers’ and the violent disturbances during the Civil War and interregnum. Her deep familiarity with 17th century Canterbury and her own involvement with the current 1641 poll tax project enabled her to create a vivid picture of the city during Somner’s life.

Avril Leach, PhD candidate at the University of Kent, presented us with the most absorbing account of her research into Somner’s *Antiquities of Canterbury*, having traced the location of around 100 surviving copies of the 1st edition. The author’s research into - and love for - his city’s “birth, antiquity, religion and learning” shone clearly through Avril’s lecture, and her description of the publishing and printing of the work in 1640 was augmented by delightful examples of the fascinating provenance of some surviving copies. Somner’s decision to approach his task as a perambulation of the city, in the way of a modern guide book, and his use of a conversational writing style has no doubt beguiled both native and visitor for nearly four centuries.

Rachel Fletcher, PhD candidate at the University of Glasgow, described Somner’s work in producing the first example of an Anglo-Saxon dictionary - his *Dictionarium Saxonicum-Latino-Anglicum*, which appeared in 1659. In discussing the methods used in the compilation of what was a hugely important example of early Old English scholarship (sources included Lambarde’s translation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle) as well as the influence of the dictionary after its publication, Rachel suggested convincingly that the work’s lasting legacy remained its longevity and its popularity.

Dr David Shaw, Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Kent, delivered a simply delightful account of ‘William Somner’s books’ - those in the scholar’s own library (acquired by the Cathedral on his death), a few he donated before his death, and various purchases and gifts inwards and outwards.
The number of volumes in Somner’s collection and the purchase cost of individual works, some already old by the mid-17th century, provided much interest, and examples of David’s intriguing research prompted by some wonderful inscriptions revealed more than one particularly fascinating provenance. David’s explanations and the contents of Avril’s lecture dovetailed together perfectly.

The final speaker, Professor Kenneth Fincham, Deputy Dean of Humanities at the University of Kent, reminded us that Somner’s father, William Snr., was also no minor figure in early 17th century Canterbury and, indeed, has occasionally been confused by some historians with his son. We were led through the tumultuous times which influenced the complex relationship between the two Somners and Archbishop Laud, who used them both as “active agents in his persecution of the Strangers’ churches” before initially overlooking William Jnr. when his late father’s role became vacant in 1638, so that Somner’s fulsome dedication to Laud in *The Antiquities*, in the very year of Laud’s arrest, told only part of the tangled story revealed in this superb lecture.

It seems unlikely that a more apt group of scholars could be gathered in one place to create such a remarkable picture of William Somner’s life and work. A whole day devoted to the accomplishments of a single scholar, however justified, is no small undertaking, and it is to be hoped that David Wright’s vision and Sheila Sweetinburgh and her Christ Church colleagues’ combined efforts, together with the contribution of Cressida and Fawn and their team at CCAL, have brought them all a sense of achievement. If so, it would be well deserved.

**Peter Ewart, Researcher**
Welcome one and all to our latest newsletter. We made the decision to move to an annual instalment to allow us to focus our news and updates more in each issue, so you can look forward to hearing more of what we’ve been up to!

The other advantage is that it allows us to contribute more to social media and work towards creating a stronger online presence, so keep your eyes open for our future online updates. The cream of blog articles written throughout the year will be skimmed and included in this familiar newsletter format, so those who are less technologically-inclined won’t miss out!

We will now be welcoming suggestions and stories from the collections from you, the readers! 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? Let us know - articles and snippets alike are welcome, and we may include them in our social media posts, or even the annual newsletter!

Next year will see a major anniversary: 850 years since the murder of St Thomas Becket on 29th December 1170, and 800 years since his ‘translation’, that is, the move of his remains to a new shrine in the Trinity Chapel on 7th July 1220. A programme of events is taking shape, which will feature on a dedicated website at https://becket2020.com.

Canterbury Christ Church University will hold a Medieval History Weekend from 3rd to 5th April 2020, and there will be the annual Medieval Pageant throughout the city on 4th July, with a family trail.

The British Museum is planning an exhibition in the autumn, and as part of The Canterbury Journey project there will be a conference in November.
Eagle-eyed regulars may have noticed a big change of late to our Readers’ tickets.

Some will be aware that the County Archives Research Network (CARN) ticket system closed in 2018. After much deliberation, we have developed our own Readers’ tickets for accessing the Archives and Library collections.

What does this mean for me?

You’ll get a shiny new card next time you come in! You’ll need to provide two pieces of ID (see below), and staff will be happy to make a new ticket for you at the Reception Desk. As before, the cards are free and tickets will be valid for two years.

What do I need to bring in?

Please provide a piece of ID which shows your photograph (such as a driving licence, passport, university card, or older person’s bus pass, for example) and something which proves your address (driving licence, utility bill, bank statement, etc.). Documents must be current, and bills/bank statements should have been issued within the previous six months. If you are in any doubt about whether your ID will be acceptable, please contact us beforehand and we will be happy to advise (01227 865330, archives@canterbury-cathedral.org).

If you are bringing an assistant or companion into the Reading Room they will also need to obtain a Reader’s ticket.

Do I need to bring a photo in too?

We now have a camera at the Reception Desk so we will take your photo for the card. If you can’t stand having your photo taken and would prefer to supply one yourself, or perhaps have a wonderful photo which you would prefer (such as the researcher who looks fantastic in graduation gown and mortarboard on their old CARN ticket) this may be possible – please ensure that the photo is of good quality and is the standard passport size (35 x 45 mm).

We look forward to welcoming you.
I have been working on two scrapbooks (CCA-U572/1 and CCA-U572/2) compiled by William John Mercer that were presented to Canterbury Cathedral Library by Mrs W J Mercer in 1928. The scrapbooks contain printed images of Margate and Thanet from c. 1800-1900. Unfortunately there is no catalogue available which describes the contents in detail. There is however a recent growth in interest in these volumes due to the activities of the Canterbury Journey working with partners in Margate, and Thanet more widely.

My job was to give a catalogue number and brief description to each image. In most cases the names of the artists and engravers were evident but not always, as was the case with dating. To try to fill in these gaps I embarked on research, using books, old maps, and the internet. I was instructed to add as much description as possible of what was depicted and when.

Doing this extra research was one of the most pleasurable tasks I have undertaken as a volunteer in the Archives. Although I was familiar with many of the locations I found a wealth of information whilst trying to identify some of the prints. It even prompted enjoyable visits to resorts on sunny days to try and clarify some points of interest which still remained.

These scrapbooks contain copies of prints cut from various magazines and periodicals which were then affixed into large leather bound volumes. The main locations featured are Margate, Cliftonville, Ramsgate and Broadstairs, together with surrounding areas in Thanet from the late 18th to the end of the 19th century. Through these images I was able to trace the growing popularity of sea bathing and the visiting of seaside resorts for a day out. Early modes of transport depicted include horse drawn carriages, stage coaches and steam packets, the latter being a popular way to arrive in Margate from London. Then steam trains start to feature; some prints show the Harbour Station at Ramsgate (now demolished) where people could alight and be on the beach within minutes. The change in fashionable attire considered suitable for a day at the seaside spanning a century was also interesting to observe. Examples of Victorian architecture are abundant, showing the grand hotels and imposing houses along the seafronts and Promenades.
As would be expected from this geographical area, seafaring abounds and movement of various vessels is shown around the harbours of Margate and Ramsgate together with scenes of boatmen going about repairs and tasks on quaysides. Dramatic weather conditions are illustrated with many a storm destroying both ships at sea and buildings on the sea shore.

Rural aspects in the surrounding countryside are also depicted, showing the growing of crops and animal husbandry. Cattle and sheep are often shown in the vicinity of churchyards. Images of churches include: St John’s Margate, Holy Trinity Margate, St Paul’s Cliftonville, All Saints Birchington, St Peter in Thanet, St Lawrence in Thanet, and St Nicholas-at-Wade.

These scrapbooks provide a vivid picture of how the seaside towns in Thanet became an important place for people to relax and improve their health by taking part in sea bathing and promenading in order to take advantage of the sea breezes. One terrace in Margate has retained the name “Buenos Ayres” to this day.

**Pat Jenkins, Archives and Library volunteer**
Remembering Jean Utting

On Monday 12th November 2018, the Archives and Library were presented with a brass plaque in memory of the late Jean Utting, former Library Assistant, who passed away in 2017. The plaque was presented by her son, Matthew, and has since been affixed to the Reading Room shelving trolley. It describes Jean as ‘Happiest amongst books’.

Some of Jean’s former colleagues joined us for the event and many fond memories of Jean were shared with her son and granddaughter.

30 years of UNESCO in Canterbury

On the 24th and 25th May 2019, Canterbury Christ Church University will be hosting a conference to mark the 30th anniversary of Canterbury being named as a World Heritage Site.

Amongst the speakers is featured Cressida Williams, who will contribute a paper on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World scheme. In 2016, we secured the inscription on the UK Memory of the World Register of the medieval archive of the Cathedral, as held at the Cathedral Archives. This inscription recognises the archive as an exceptional example of its type.

The conference will also feature a paper given by Sarah Turner and Heather Newton on ‘The Canterbury Journey, marking meaning and a sense of place’. For full details, and to book a place, please see the Christ Church website (https://bit.ly/2IBvMRX).
The British Library’s ‘Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms’ exhibition, to which the Cathedral lent ‘The Fonthill Letter’ and the Anglo-Saxon pocket sundial, concluded in February after a run of four months. We were delighted to be able to play a part in this hugely successful exhibition.

Visitor numbers were over 108,000, including 3,200 in school groups; there were two audio-described tours of the exhibition for blind and visually impaired visitors. There was a successful accompanying events programme and an international conference; an excellent and full catalogue was published, and a dedicated website (www.bl.uk/anglo-saxons) features essays and descriptions of items on display.

The exhibition included 180 objects, 80 from the British Library’s own collection and 100 exhibits on loan from 25 national and international lenders, including five English cathedrals (Canterbury, Durham, Exeter, Lichfield and Rochester) as well as Lambeth Palace Library. The Press coverage was extremely positive.

Starting in January 2019, we began an internship at the Cathedral as part of our Heritage Studies module at the University of Kent. We have been working in the Archive and Library department, developing individual projects over the course of our time with the Cathedral. Our work has ranged from designing a Latin tour of the Cathedral for students, to researching material for upcoming anniversaries.

Working under Dr Alison Ray, we hope to have contributed to the work in the Archives department, particularly in respect to the Cathedral’s position as part of a World Heritage site.

Leah’s project was focused on the martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket (1170) and the octocentenary celebrations of 1970. Using the Archive department’s resources, she created captions of artefacts and documents relating to these events.

James’ project focused on the variety of Latin inscriptions found around the Cathedral, researching for and then developing a tour that Latin students or enthusiasts could enjoy. He then moved onto the Mayflower 2020 festival and its connection to Canterbury City and its archives.

Leah Bird and James Edwards, student interns in the Archives and Library
The Library’s five 1763 Baskerville Bibles

In 1758 John Baskerville, a Birmingham printer and businessman, decided to print a large folio Bible, of the sort needed for lecterns in churches, using a new typeface which he had designed. In 1759 he produced a specimen sheet showing the proposed title page and a page of the text, together with a call for subscribers to invest in a copy of the planned edition. A copy of this prospectus, re-issued in 1760, has been discovered in the Cathedral Archives tucked inside a copy of the Bible owned by one of the subscribers.

The production of this new Bible was a very long-drawn-out business. The Bible eventually appeared in 1763, with the imprint ‘Printed in Cambridge by John Baskerville, Printer to the University’. The Cathedral Library holds five copies of this edition of the Bible. The only other British library with as many is Birmingham University Library, Baskerville’s home town. Only one library in the world has more copies: the Houghton Library at Harvard, which owns six. Baskerville printed 1,250 copies of his Bible; 117 surviving copies are listed in the English Short-Title Catalogue [http://estc.bl.uk/T93106]

The Cathedral bought a copy the year after publication for use on the Eagle lectern (shelfmark now W/D-7-36). The Treasurer’s Book has an entry for November 1764:

Mr Smith the Bookseller’s Bill for a new Bible for the Eagle Baskerville £5-5-0

Thomas Smith was a Canterbury bookseller and printer who had a shop in the city centre. By the end of the century the Dean and Chapter seem to have replaced the copy in the church with a newer edition; the Baskerville copy went to the Chapter Library (1802 printed catalogue, shelf mark AA.ii.77). This copy is bound in heavy leather-covered boards with brass corner and centre bosses and a brass strip along the edge of the spine; it has a red leather label on the front board, tooled in gold letters reading ‘Christ Church Canterbury’.
The Cathedral Library acquired its next copy in 1875 (W2/X-12-5). It has ownership inscriptions reading: ‘W M Baskerville, the gift of Col. Thos. Baskerville’ and ‘This book was presented to the Library of the Dean & Chapter of Canterbury by Miss Baskerville, of Hearne, June 1875.’ Colonel Thomas Baskerville, who died in 1817, does not seem to have been related to the printer.

A further copy came into the Library with the collection of Archdeacon Harrison in 1887 (H/Z-3-10). Benjamin Harrison (1808–1887) was installed as a canon of Canterbury and Archdeacon of Maidstone in 1845. His widow gave his extensive library (which included the books of Archbishop William Howley (1766-1848)) to the Cathedral after his death.

The next copy (H/O-10-3) seems to have come into the Library in the inter-war years. There are two inscriptions: ‘Henrietta Manson. The gift of her dear mother 28th April 1819’ and ‘Presented to Brook Church by Miss M. Tuft. July 1913. J. N. Arkell Rector’. The book was subsequently deposited at the Cathedral Library by the parish of St Mary, Brook.

The final copy of the Baskerville Bible is in the Cathedral Archives (CCA-U3-148/28/8). It is probably the most interesting of the five. Inside the front cover is inserted Baskerville’s 1760 prospectus of the Bible mentioned above. Subscribers would pay four guineas (£4.20), with half paid immediately and half on delivery of the finished book, promised within three years. This is the equivalent of over £400 in today’s money.

On the front pastedown is a label, lettered in gold: ‘This Bible was presented to the rector and church wardens of Cheriton by Walter John, Earl of Chichester, September 1886.’ (Walter John Pelham, 1838-1902). The Subscription List in the Bible has an entry for ‘John Pelham, Esq.; of Lewes, Sussex.’ who was presumably the first owner. The Pelhams of Lewes were related to the Pelham earls of Chichester of Stanmer in Sussex. The parish records of St Martin’s, Cheriton, were deposited at the Cathedral Archives in the later twentieth century.

David Shaw, Archives and Library volunteer
To celebrate the monumental moment a medieval pocket Bible returned to Canterbury Cathedral after 500 years, the Archives and Library collaborated with experts at the University of Kent to share initial interpretations surrounding the manuscript. On 4th March 2019 members of the medieval and Early Modern community dedicated an entire afternoon to discuss the context surrounding the thirteenth century Lyghfield Bible, which is named after a Canterbury monk who probably possessed it during the sixteenth century.

Hosted by the University of Kent, six speakers were split into two separate sessions. Each applied a different area of expertise and offered a range of incredibly insightful introductions into the aesthetics and background of the Lyghfield Bible.

The Head of Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Cressida Williams, began the event by revealing the process through it was purchased. The first panel chaired by Dr Robert Gallagher (University of Kent) considered the physical aspects of the manuscript, which included: a review of thirteenth century book production in Paris presented by Dr Alison Ray (Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library), a close inspection of the illuminated folios carefully examined by Dr Emily Guerry (University of Kent), and a reflection on the Bible’s margin annotations delivered by Dr David Rundle (University of Kent).

Following a brief tea break rife with lengthy discussions amongst the speakers and the audience, the second session lead by Roisin Astell (University of Kent) placed the Bible within the context of the city, county, and country. Dr Emily Corran (University of Oxford/UCL) alluded the traditions of Bibles in Canterbury, whilst Dr Claire Bartram (Canterbury Christ Church University) widened the focus on book culture within Canterbury and Kent. Subsequently, Dr Eyal Poleg (Queen Mary University of London) extended the attention even further to compare the Lyghfield with the general history of the Bible in England.
Once a foundational overview of the Lyghfield Bible was set, many attendees rushed down the hill to the Cathedral Archives and Library for a private viewing of the manuscript. The day conveniently concluded with Dr Alixe Bovey’s (Courtauld Institute of Art) public lecture titled *Illuminating the Bible in Medieval Canterbury*, which featured the treasured Lyghfield Bible.

It was a day full of fresh perspectives and encouraging debate, which has undoubtedly laid the foundations for future investigation on the details of the Lyghfield Bible. To read a fuller report of the day, please find articles by University of Kent MEMS students Jessica Schwindenhammer (MA student) and Cassandra Harrington (PhD Candidate) here: https://blogs.kent.ac.uk/memsnews/2019/03/28/reflections-on-the-lyghfield-bible-workshop-and-lecture/

Lucy Splarn, Archives and Library Assistant

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**Picture This...**

The *Picture This* programme gives students and academics from Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent the opportunity to help us open up our collections to a wider audience. Contributors select visually beautiful and interesting items from the Cathedral Archives and Library to discuss in an informal and accessible way, and their articles are showcased on the Cathedral’s website.

The programme has been running since 2012, and we are delighted to welcome a new member to the editorial team: Dr Rob Gallagher. Dr Gallagher joined the University of Kent’s Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (MEMS) in January and is an early medievalist.

In more sombre news, we are deeply saddened to report the passing of Dr Jayne Wackett. Jayne was one of the founders of the *Picture This* programme, and brought her warmth, kindness, and expertise to every role. She will be deeply missed.

*Picture This* articles can be viewed on our website at: https://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage/collections/picture-this/
As part of my role as a volunteer in the Library, I have been working on a project relating to the oversize drawers (for items unsuitable for storage on the usual bookcase shelves) in the Howley-Harrison Library. This has proved to be an intriguing project, allowing me to explore a whole range of documents whilst checking through and recording whether the contents of the drawers match up with relevant entries on the library catalogue.

The most common documents contained in the drawers are maps – especially of Kent – and plans or illustrations of several English abbeys and cathedrals, including Exeter, Durham, Bath, St Albans and Gloucester, besides Canterbury. Along the way I have also come across botanical illustrations, eighteenth-century anatomical sketches, a ‘practical treatise on bridge-building’, a collection of images based on one of Captain Cook’s voyages, a huge book of Hogarth prints, and a document depicting a hot air balloon launch at Dover in 1785. There are several languages covered amongst the documents, from Latin illustrations of Roman coins to a German map, and from French sketches of royal tombs to a copy of scriptural commentary in Hebrew.

Of greatest interest to many researchers are probably the documents relating to the history of Canterbury Cathedral. These include some nineteenth and twentieth century newspaper cuttings, as well as several copies of the account of the opening of Archbishop Hubert Walter’s tomb in the antiquarian publication Vetusta Monumenta. One of these copies has been bound together with a collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century prints of engravings depicting scenes from around Canterbury, such as the castle ruins, Cathedral, city gates and St Augustine’s Abbey.

One type of document that sparked my curiosity was a series of almanacs, in particular two copies of earlier almanacs for the years 1661 and 1663 (by Philomath). These date from a period which saw a proliferation of almanac sales with the development of printing, though sales declined towards the end of the seventeenth century. Almanacs were popular as handy points of reference for dates of religious festivals, suitable times for planting certain crops, tide tables, medical advice and lists of weights and measures, for any given year.

The examples which I looked at would have been useful if, for instance, you happened to be living in England in 1663 and wanted to know the exact number of years that had passed since the reign of Edward II, or even which part of the body related to the zodiac sign for Capricorn (apparently the knees).
It’s also interesting to note from a modern perspective – in an age where we’re not always sure whether to trust the forecast for the week ahead – that this almanac attempted to predict the weather for the entire year!

I have really enjoyed this project and it’s definitely been worth the time spent in the Howley-Harrison Library on cold wintry days (or as Philomath’s almanac might describe it, on ‘windie’, ‘rainlike’ and ‘winterly weather’ days)!

Mary Skingley,
Archives and Library volunteer

Almanack for 1663,
H-Os-24 i
Much has been going on around the Precincts since the Canterbury Journey began in 2015, and one highlight which many of us here in the Archives and Library have been particularly looking forward to is the new Crypt display, which is due to open this summer. This display space is the culmination of two years of careful planning, and aims to tell the history of the Cathedral and its (at times turbulent) relationship to the State through surviving artefacts.

The display will be in the western end of the Crypt, where some may recall the Treasury used to be. Much consideration has been given to the space itself, with the intent that the display should complement rather than distract from the surrounding structure. The glass partition is to be removed to allow visitors to appreciate the full flow of the historic architecture of the Crypt, and a colour scheme of soft purples will complement not just the items on display, but also the existing stonework.

Protection and presentation of the items themselves has also been a high priority. The display cases are secure, and of the highest quality museum-standard. Lighting will be at low levels to ensure the precious and irreplaceable treasures on display are exposed to as small a risk of light damage as possible. Items will be rotated over time to ensure the display stays fresh and items are not out long enough to cause significant risk to their wellbeing. Attention has also been focused on item captions, to ensuring that the information is short, concise, and written at a level that makes it accessible to people from a wide range of ages and backgrounds.

Having to cover around 1500 years in a small space is no small feat, and Sarah Turner (Collections Manager), Sophie Kelly, and Philippa Mesiano (Collections Management Interns) have had the unenviable task of having to research and select only a precious few items out of our wonderful treasures to best tell our story. The cases will be positioned in roughly four groupings, and each case will focus on one person from the Cathedral’s history, with objects displayed relating to their story.

The first grouping is themed the ‘Birth of the Cathedral’, focussing on Queen Bertha, St Alphege, Archbishop Lanfranc, and Archbishop Anselm. Highlights from these cases will include the Liudhard medal (probably worn by an early convert to Christianity), and the Accord of Winchester.
The second grouping will centre around the theme of ‘Medieval Archbishops and Kings’, and will focus on the fantastic legacies and treasures left by and relating to St. Thomas Becket, Archbishop Walter, and Archbishop Langton. This range of cases will include highlights such as pilgrim badges, and items of monastic clothing worn by Archbishop Walter (removed from his tomb by the Victorians).

The third grouping covers the vast theme of ‘Reformation, War and Resolution’. Here visitors will be able to look at the impact of Henry VIII, William Somner, and Archbishop Cosmo Gordon Lang. Amongst the many fascinating treasures, you will be able to see the Lyghfield Bible (discussed in our previous newsletter), and a cope worn for the coronation of George VI.

One would think that such a display could not get any more exciting, however the final two cases in this display are arguably the most thrilling. For possibly the first time in the Cathedral’s history, visitors will be able to view the Achievements of the Black Prince at close quarters. These two cases will be set in the centre of the space to allow visitors to walk around them and see the contents from every angle.

We hope you’ll join us in exploring this exciting display of treasures later this year!

**Fawn Todd, Cathedral Librarian**
In the year to the end of March 2019, there were some 1660 research visits to the Reading Room. We keep statistics recording the percentage of visits which use archives and manuscripts, printed books, microform and online resources. We also analyse the consultation of collection items by the date of material, and by which collection the material comes from (e.g. Cathedral, City and parish). This information is presented twice a year in a report to the Archives and Library Committee.

Over the year, there were 155 group visits to the Archives and Library, attended by some 2580 people. These visits include university seminars, school groups, and special interest group visits. Collections, 6th-form students studying medieval history and seeing first-hand items relating to their learning, and primary school groups participating in our Diocesan Schools Day workshops. Examples include students from the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University holding seminars working with examples from our collections, 6th-form students studying medieval history and seeing first-hand items relating to their learning, and primary school groups participating in our Diocesan Schools Day workshops.

There were 65 accessions to the Archives collections over the past 12 months, and 107 new items added to the printed book collections. Highlights from new cataloguing are featured on pp.24-26 of this newsletter. Our wonderful team of volunteers has contributed over 1500 hours over the year. We remain hugely grateful to them for their dedication and energy.
Anyone interested in stained glass will be pleased to hear of the upcoming series of talks at the Cathedral entitled ‘See-through Stories: Windows on the World’. The talks, supported by The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in association with the University of Kent, consist of six presentations by leading public speakers looking through/at Canterbury Cathedral’s stained glass windows, the biblical figures they illustrate and their relevance for today.

The series will kick off in May and run until the 2nd October. Sessions will start at 18:30 in the Cathedral with a guided tour of the windows, followed with the talk itself at 19:00. Tickets will be £8 per talk or £35 for the series. Free entrance for school students and teachers. All places, free and paid-for, must be reserved in advance. For more information and to book a place, please visit https://bit.ly/2Vz2ZnZ.

Art plays a significant part of the experience of the Cathedral space, from music to glass, to graffiti, wall art, textiles, books and paintings. This conference will explore and appraise current and developing studies of how art changes, is reused or repurposed, disappears or is rediscovered. It will look at how and why art is defaced, destroyed or is lost within architectural settings, with a particular focus on art within the context of cathedrals, churches or other places of worship. It will consider changing ideologies, iconoclasm, war, fashion and symbolism. It will cover art from the 6th century to the present day.

The aim of the conference is to offer a vibrant and challenging perspective on the field, and review ongoing projects, scholarly activity and public engagement. The conference is supported by the Chapter of Canterbury, and the Heritage Lottery Fund, through The Canterbury Journey project. Keep an eye on https://bit.ly/2GvRs0u for more information.
Creating a new Canterbury Choristers Index

The document from which the image above is taken is a register of present and former choristers who attended annual reunion meetings from 1880 onwards. As such, it forms a valuable record in its own right. An Archives Chorister Reference Index had been created around 1987. This was based mainly on archival accounts records, the Dean & Chapter Act Books and the Canterbury Cathedral Old Choristers’ Association (CCOCA) Reunion Minute Books. It was available on an open shelf in the Cathedral Archives and a copy had been provided to the CCOCA to be made available to their members for their Annual Reunion meetings. However it was difficult to use and since it was a paper document it could not be edited. In early 2017 the Cathedral Archives came to the conclusion that a Chorister Index was needed which would be easier to read, used more data resources, was in digital form, and had an extended date range.

The first step was to create a digitised Chorister Index in tabulated form from the 1987 Reference Index using Microsoft Excel, providing one line only per chorister and cutting out unnecessary repetition. Once this first-draft Chorister Index was available and examined it became apparent that sometimes the Accounts departments had used different surnames for the same chorister in their accounts ledgers, which then led to an incorrect double entry in the original Reference Index. Also the CCOCA Minute Book contained signatures which were difficult or impossible to read, and one signature was by the Precentor! It was therefore necessary to substantially correct the first draft. “Start and leave years” columns were later added to the Index, but when the resources could not be found, “best approximation” dates had to be entered.

Above: Opening lines of U166-H-2
I then looked into different resources to build upon and improve the Index, such as a list by choristers in 1870 of their start and leave years, the CCOCA magazines, the memorial plaques and leavers’ panels, and the Joint Meeting Minutes held between St Edmund’s School and the Dean & Chapter between 1972 and 1984 (following the closure of the Cathedral Choir School). I also investigated cash payments made to choristers, the Cathedral Choir CDs, and a Head Chorister list 1971-2001 compiled by Mrs Mary Dickins.

New material had arrived in the Archives too since the first Index was made. One of the most interesting of these was the finding of a sheet of paper in the roof rafters near the Water Tower in November 2017. On it was written: “William Valentine Lowe, 1st Boy of this Cathedral. Born February 14th 1883. This was written on March 23rd 1898”. Before this discovery there was no mention of a William Valentine Lowe in the Chorister records. His note remained in the roof for 119 years, and William is now in the Index. Further research shows that William was born in Tyler Hill, of a family of tile- and brick-makers. He (and his family) left England and settled in the USA in 1911, became a US Citizen in 1918, enlisted with the US Marines in 1942, and died in Illinois in 1957 aged 74.

Now that this worthwhile project has been completed the Archives has a Chorister Index containing 1,716 names which can readily be extended in the coming years as necessary. Hopefully more evidence will appear in the coming years to expand this list even more!

**Andy Lingwood, Archives and Library volunteer**
Regulars to the Archives and Library may have noticed over the past year or so that a large number of crates and boxes have been moving around the precincts. These have been just a small part of the ongoing process to move a lovely collection of antiquarian books into their new home in the Library.

The St Augustine’s Library Collection is the historic library of the former St Augustine’s College Canterbury, a Church of England missionary college which was founded in 1848. The College was forced to close following bombing in 1942, however it later reopened as The Central College of the Anglican Communion to which clergy from all countries could come to train. It continued in this role until 1967 when the training of the students was taken over by King’s College London. This ceased in 1976, and the college buildings were taken over by the King’s School. The Trustees of the St Augustine’s Foundation have placed the College’s archive collection as well as its historic library on loan at Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library. There are over 930 sizable antiquarian volumes! The term ‘antiquarian’ is generally used in relation to collectable books and items which are considered old and rare. The volumes we have cover a comprehensive range of theological subject matter, with particular strengths in liturgy, church history and biography. Works date from the late 16th century to the mid-20th century.

Thus began a very large project to list, wrap, crate up, move, re-shelve, and assess the condition of the volumes. The process has been very time consuming but with the aid of many volunteers and members of the Works Department we’re moving ever closer to completion. The collection is now fully listed (to ensure that every volume could be located at each stage of the move and to catch any that had been previously missed from the catalogue), wrapped in acid-free tissue paper (so they would remain unharmed during transit), and crated. Although the move is still underway, about two-thirds are now on the shelves in the Library.
The volumes are far from light, so if you’ve thought that members of staff were suddenly looking more muscular, you were right! Once the move is complete, the process of assessing the condition of each volume will begin with our Book and Paper Conservator, Ariane Langreder.

We have come across some lovely treasures so far. Some, such as a history of the saints by Franciscus Haraeus, have particularly beautiful and interesting bindings. Some of my particular favourites have included touching annotations, such as a 1669 French Bible with a handwritten note recording that it was “Bought from a refugee”. Some come with very particular directions; one volume, by former Archbishop of Canterbury Matthew Parker, has been graced by a previous owner with a charming rhyme written into the front:

‘If this book should ever roam
Box its ears and send it home.’

Hopefully these volumes will now choose to roam no further than the Reading Room to be perused by interested researchers. Details of the antiquarian books from the St Augustine’s Collection are on the online Library catalogue, all catalogued under ‘St. Augustine’s Library’; do explore!

Fawn Todd,
Cathedral Librarian
Canterbury Cathedral (DCc)

Notebooks recording organ maintenance and tuning, 1982-2018 (DCc/MR/D/MU/D)

Listings of the Elham Parish Library, 1913 (DCc/LA/4/17-18)

Manuscripts of music by Anthony Piccolo, Alan Ridout, Derek Hyde and Gerard Hendrie, later 20th century (DCc/MusicMs/156-159)

Listing of seal bags, 1928 (DCc/LA/4/16)

Drawing by Hendrik Strik from the reproduction by E W Tristram of the wallpainting of St Paul and the Viper in St Anselm’s Chapel, 1979 (DCc/Plan/CATH/589)

Bifolium from a missal, late 15th century (DCc/AddMS/128/73)

Theological treatise fragment, late 15th century (DCc/AddMS/129/69)

Fragment remnants, 12th-15th centuries (DCc/AddMS/129/70)

Postcard, ‘The Chained Bible’, early 20th century (DCc/Photo/A/45)

Parish (U3)

Canterbury Cathedral: Service Sheets, 1986-1998 (U3-100/1/J)

Canterbury St Martin: Verger’s memorandum book, 1941-1950s (U3/96/28/5)

Canterbury SS Martin’s and Pauls, parish magazines and annual reports, 1949-1989 (U3-81 adds)

Elham, St Mary the Virgin: Marriage registers, 1974-2018 (U3-32/1/D/6-7)

Woodnesborough, St Mary the Virgin: register of baptisms, 1967-2018 (CCA-U3-64/1/B/5), register of burials (U3-64/1/E/3), register of confirmations, 1946-2009 (U3-64/1/F/1)

Parish Council

Harbledown parish council minute book, 2015-2018 (PC/9/A/1/12)
**Canterbury City Council (CC)**

Bundle of papers relating to the Michaelmas Fair, 1874-1888 (CC/BB/469)

Additional items for Kennedy’s Shoe Shop, 3-4 Sun Street, including accounts and photographs, 20th century (CC/SuppMs/16 adds)

Programmes, slides and other material relating to the Canterbury Archers, 1960s-1980 (CC/W/32)

**Unofficial (U)**

Papers of Joseph Weston Poole, minor canon/precentor of Canterbury Cathedral from 1936 to 1949, including papers relating to the cathedral choir (U573)

Items relating to Dane John and sundial by Henry Weekes, 19th century (U538)

Mercer scrapbooks, of prints etc. relating to Thanet, 19th century (U572)

Letters to Prof Norma Adams and Dr Nellie Neilson from William Parry Blore and others, 1939-1948 (U574)

Four folders of photographs etc. relating to the Cathedral, from Derek Butler collection; photo of 1978 Lambeth Conference; notes on Canterbury parish churches; 20th century (U575)

Specifications and drawings for works to Goodnestone Park and for Goodnestone Church, under Rickman and Hussey/R C Hussey, 1839-1845; drawing for sideboard for Goodnestone Park by Gillow of London, 1846 (U6/J-K)

Additional material for the collection of the Archdeacon of Canterbury, including watercolours by Matilda Parry and Dorothy Mowll, late 19th century to 1940s; photographs of the Archdeaconry and individual archdeacons, 19th-20th centuries; minutes of the of Archdeacons of the Southern Convocation, 1926-1949; and papers relating to enthronements, 19th-20th centuries (U39 adds)

Copy of a letter: written account by Rev. Charles Pendock Banks of the bombing of his house, 12 The Precincts, during an air raid in October 1940 (U576)

Memorial book of the East Kent Branch of the Italy Star Association, late 20th century (U577/1)
Biblia, ad vetustissima exemplaria castigata (Christophe Plantin, 1565) (W2/O-6-2)

Beryl Dean, Church embroidery (Mowbray, 1982) (NK 9310)

Brunsdon Yapp, Birds in medieval manuscripts (British Library, 1981) (ND 3339)


Sacha Llewellyn (ed.), Fifty works by fifty British women artists, 1900-1950 [publisher not identified], [2018] (N 8354)

Gladys Keable & Joan Lawrence (eds.), A record of the life and worship of St George the Martyr with St Mary Magdalene, Canterbury (Rector of St George the Martyr, 1943) (Pamph. 122/23)


Mandy Boxall & Linda Bowditch, Herne Bay Cemetery : in loving memory of women buried in the cemetery (Herne Bay Cemeterians, 2018) (DA 1078)

David Potter (ed.), The story of Oaten Hill in Canterbury ([Oaten Hill & District Society], 2018) (DA 1045)


Merrilyn Lee; Pamela Martin & Fred Whitemore, The history of Jesus Hospital Canterbury [2018] (DA 1045)


Imogen Corrigan, Stone on stone : the men who built the cathedrals (Robert Hale, 2018) (NA 4830)


Kay Brainerd Slocum, The cult of Thomas Becket : history and historiography through eight centuries (Routledge, 2019) (BR 524.T41)
Dates for the diary


Thurs 15th Aug 2019  Last day for research before summer closure

Mon 19th Aug to Fri 30th Aug 2019  SUMMER CLOSURE (re-opening to researchers Tues 3rd Sep)


Fri 13th Sep 2019  EVENT: Heritage Open Day visits to the Archives, with a focus on the medieval monastic archives of the Cathedral which are inscribed on the UK Memory of the World Register. (Two groups, starting at 14:00 and 15:00). Booking essential, please email: archives@canterbury-cathedral.org. Usual precincts charges apply.


Tues 29th Oct to Sat 2nd Nov 2019 EXHIBITION: Music in the Archives and Library collections display in the Library (14:00-16:00 Tues-Fri, 10:00-12:00 Sat). Entrance to the exhibition is free; usual precincts charges apply.

Mon 4th Nov to Fri 8th Nov 2019 SCHOOLS DAYS CLOSURE (re-opening to researchers Tues 12th Nov)


Thurs 19th Dec 2019 Last day for research before Christmas closure

Mon 23rd Dec 2019 to Mon 6th Jan 2020 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE (re-opening to researchers Tues 7th Jan)

Thurs 23rd Jan 2020 LECTURE: Historical Association Lecture: Thomas Becket and the 1220 Translation (title TBC) by Professor David Carpenter (Kings College London). (19:00-20:30, Archives). Booking not required. Free for HA members and students, £3 fee for others.