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2015: Off to a good start!

Welcome to our spring/summer newsletter. 2015 is already shaping up to be another busy year, with a number of important projects underway here at the Cathedral. With your help, we have secured more than three-quarters of the required £7.5m of partnership funds for The Canterbury Journey. Along with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, this ambitious project will make a huge difference for the Cathedral’s visitors and worshippers. We are immensely grateful to everyone who has been involved so far.

In this edition, you can find out how The Canterbury Journey is progressing, and details of the complex conservation of the North West Transept, including recent archaeological discoveries. We also have news on the rebuilding of the Great South Window, an astonishing feat of craftsmanship.

We are thrilled to provide more details of our upcoming exhibition, The Ancestors, which opens on Monday 18th May and will run (with a week’s break for local graduations in July) until Sunday 23rd August. We do hope you will be able to make the journey to Canterbury over the summer, to see this truly spectacular glass at ground-level, before the panels are returned to their windows next year. This event has only been made possible with the support of the exhibition’s donor, who wishes to remain anonymous.

You may have noticed in the last few editions we have been asking people to update their Gift Aid status with the Trust. We are thankful for the flood of new certificates which have been returned to us – letting us know where we can claim additional Gift Aid, and equally importantly, when gifts are no longer eligible. Having more accurate records has allowed us to successfully claim an additional £30,000 in the last year alone – thank you so much.

Andrew Edwards
Chief Executive, Canterbury Cathedral Trust

Update: Canterbury Journey

The Project Team have been hard at work developing the individual elements of The Canterbury Journey. The programme of works covers a wide range of fabric conservation, activities and learning initiatives; so it is vital that plenty of time is invested now to ensure a solid foundation.

Detailed structural and archaeological surveys continue to be carried out, and their findings will be incorporated into our plans for conserving Christ Church Gate, the Nave roof and the Great West Towers. They will also ensure we don’t find anything unexpected when re-landscaping the southern Precincts.

You can meet the newest members of the team overleaf, and we are delighted that by the end of June we hope to have our Community Engagement and Collections Managers on board. These two new posts will ensure that we can respond to the needs of everyone who benefits from the Cathedral, as well as reaching out to new audiences. The planned public events programme will make the best possible use of our irreplaceable collections, making us an increasingly attractive place to visit.

We are also developing the new Welcome Centre with architects Burman Guedes Stretton. This space will improve how people first approach the Cathedral and provide the opportunity for educational workshops, community gatherings and information-sharing, and temporary exhibitions open to all.

In the next few months, these preparations will continue, and the team will be piloting some of these ideas with the public.
Q. What excites you about working here?

A: As Landscape Architects for the Canterbury Journey it is an absolute privilege to be working in such a rich, ancient and culturally important environment. Canterbury means so much to so many people.

Q. Will the planned re-landscaping impact the rest of the grounds?

A: Like the architecture of the Cathedral Church, the Precincts are built up from many layers of historic change. They tell a story of constant renewal. The proposals we are currently developing will form the first stages of another phase in the Precincts’ evolution, with the aim of establishing a more friendly and accessible environment: to encourage more people to experience this unique site, and to engage more closely with it.

Q: Will the changes be drastic?

A. Simpler, smoother paving is proposed, and new crafted stone bench-seating and planting will make this a place of welcome for visitors, worshippers, families and local residents. Shrub, herbaceous and meadow planting in the southern precincts, and new features and artwork cast into the fabric will ensure there is always something new to explore in the Precincts landscape.

Q. What will be improved for visitors?

A: The project’s central theme is pilgrimage. We will take a very broad definition of this to incorporate a range of activities and learning opportunities for people visiting the Cathedral. We are still developing these at the moment, but ideas have included themed visitor trails and a new public events programme. We will also expand our excellent Schools programme and make the best use possible of the planned community and exhibition spaces in the new Welcome Centre.

Q: Can school groups still visit?

A. Yes! We will be building upon the sessions already delivered here and engaging schools across East Kent to make it possible for more children to access these opportunities - both with financial support to arrange trips here, and with a new outreach scheme. We also want to encourage young people to visit with their friends and families, to share what they have learnt and discover new stories for themselves.

Q. How can people get involved?

A: We will be piloting some activities over the summer and are keen to hear people’s feedback. We will also be learning from other events planned at the Cathedral this year, including the Ancestors exhibition which opens in May. I hope everyone gets the chance to visit before the exhibition ends in August.

Meet the newest members of the Project Team

Jan Leandro
Head of Learning & Participation

In March, Jan joined us straight from another heritage project, Dreamland amusement park in Margate, Kent. Jan will be working closely with staff and volunteers across the Cathedral to develop and deliver plans for improved interpretation and activities as part of The Canterbury Journey.

Hyland Edgar Driver
Landscape Architects

The team led by Hyland Edgar Driver were the winners of our Landscape Design Competition in 2013. Since then, they have been working closely with staff here to develop plans for the South-West Precincts. We asked them to tell us a bit more about their vision:

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Supported by The National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund
The Ancestors
18th May to 23rd August 2015

This summer a series of the Cathedral’s earliest and most important surviving examples of stained glass goes on public display in the Cathedral’s Chapter House. ‘The Ancestors’ are a family of life-size figures depicting the Ancestors of Christ, the oldest painted windows in Britain, dating from the 12th Century.

These beautiful examples of medieval stained glass were removed from the Great South Window in 2009, and since then our in-house teams have been hard at work rebuilding the window from the ground upward. Before this precious collection of panels are returned to their homes in this window (and other sites around the Cathedral), the public now has a unique opportunity to view this glass face-to-face at ground level.

Friday Talks - 18:30 to 21:00
A series of lectures will accompany the exhibition. All are welcome and further details can be found at [www.canterbury-cathedral.org](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org).

Friday 22 May 2015, The Archives
Before the Ancestors: the clerestory windows of the early 12th century
Sandy Heslop BA FSA FRHistS, Professor of Visual Arts, University of East Anglia.

Friday 5th June 2015, The Cathedral Lodge Auditorium
Safeguarding the Ancestors: The Renewal of Canterbury’s Great South Window
Canterbury Cathedral’s team: Jo Deeming BArch(hons) Dip.Arch MArch RIBA SCA AABC, Surveyor to the Fabric, Heather Newton, Head of Stone Masonry and Conservation, and Leonie Seliger, Director of Stained Glass.

Friday 12th June, The Cathedral Lodge Auditorium
Making glass for windows in the Middle Ages
Ian Freestone BSc, MSc, PhD, FSA, FGS, Professor of Archaeological Materials and Technology and An experiment in light
Leonie Seliger, Director of Stained Glass

Friday 24th July
Series of Ancestors, Series of Miracles: The Glazing of the Trinity Chapel
Dr. Rachel Koopmans, Associate Professor of Medieval History, York University, Toronto

Tickets are available from The Canterbury Ticket Shop
[www.canterburyticketshop.com](http://www.canterburyticketshop.com) or 01227 787 787
The Ancestors
an exhibition takes shape...

This wonderful exhibition has been brought to life by the Cathedral’s carpenters, electricians, decorators and the Stained Glass Studio team.

Over 200,000 people visited The Ancestors of Christ series during 2013 and 2014, when a selection of panels were exhibited across the Atlantic. Our team has therefore been tasked with creating a truly extraordinary centrepiece to display nearly the entire series (21 of 24 figures) now that it has safely returned home to Canterbury.

Geoff Pentecost, one of the Cathedral’s carpenters, has led the way in this endeavour, designing a stunning 6.6 meter hexagonal tower in tandem with its construction! With seventeen years of experience at Canterbury, Geoff has spent three months creating the pieces of a tower strong enough to support the 12th century stained glass, 28 LED lighting panels and over 7,000 screws! The tower will also hold bespoke bronze supports for some of the glass. These supports will move from the exhibition to the Great South Window itself, becoming a permanent part of the Cathedral. The tower will finally come together when it is installed in the Chapter House just after Easter, ready for the glass to be carefully installed in early May.

Stephen Buchan, Lead Electrician and his team have been working to ensure people see the glass in the best light possible. Following the exhibition, the LED panels will find a new home in the Stained Glass Studio’s light tables, where highly delicate cleaning and conservation of the Cathedral’s glass takes place. Currently, the tables do not evenly distribute light, making intricate repairs challenging. The enhanced tables will make a huge difference to the conservation team, as well as being far more energy and cost effective.

Every cloud...

...has a silver lining, and the repair of the Great South Window in response to an emergency, which seemed at the start just a daunting inconvenience and expense, has had a happy outcome. With all the stained glass out, it was available for display. The twelfth century panels depicting the Ancestors of Christ listed in St Matthew and St Luke have been on show, four at a time, in the Crypt for a couple of years; yet somehow that extraordinary vividness, and the amazing level of detail, and indeed the clarity of personality of the various Ancestors – the famous ones like Methuselah and Noah, the less famous like Booz and Er –have been almost too much to take in, too good to be true.

It was the Getty exhibition in Los Angeles and the Met exhibition in New York which made those who saw them aware that we had the opportunity for something special on our home ground. To round the corner at the Cloisters in New York and to be confronted by the panels of the Ancestors, 3000 miles from home, their first excursion from Canterbury in 800 years, was breath-taking. Now we have the chance, in the exhibition in the Chapter House which begins next month, for our own exhibition, and it will have unique aspects.

To recap on what is well known, 22 Ancestor panels were moved from the Clerestory, in which they were installed at the end of the twelfth century, to the Great South Window in the late eighteenth century. We will see, in the Chapter House, all but one of these panels (the US had only 6). Moreover, we will see fathers and sons arranged in the way in which they were originally set out in the Cloisters – in pairs one above the other.

And one more special feature: when the move from the Clerestory took place, there was no room in the Great South Window for the elaborate borders which many of the panels had, so these were left behind. For this exhibition, some panels will be reunited with their borders (temporarily extracted from the Clerestory) for the first and last time. Never again will we be able to enjoy at such close quarters, and in their original arrangement, these ancient objects of beauty which we are used to seeing at a distance; and, having this chance now, we may well marvel at them all the more when they are back where they belong.

Richard Oldfield, Trustee and Chairman of the Development Committee

Become a Glass Guardian

With a gift of £5,000 or more you can help ensure this irreplaceable stained glass is safeguarded for the future. To mark your generosity, we have limited spaces to record the names of donors on the internal crossbars of the Great South Window - home to many of The Ancestors series. For more details, please get in touch either via the attached form, by visiting the exhibition, or email charlotte.walshe@canterburycathedraltrust.org.
Conservation of the NW Transept - Protecting the Martyrdom
Project Update - Spring 2015

Early last year we began a hugely important conservation project to protect one of the Cathedral’s oldest and most visited spaces. The North West Transept is a central part of life at the Cathedral, and the destination for countless pilgrims from around the world. It is home to The Martyrdom - site of Archbishop Becket’s murder in 1170, as well as surviving parts of Lanfranc’s 12th century Western Transepts.

In the last eighteen months or so, the team have got to grips with the scale of work involved, as well as the unique challenges of working at height on such a valuable part of the Cathedral. Works to make this important site safe and weatherproof are focussing on the stair turret, Pinnacles and North Eastern elevation of the Transept - as well as the roof and wall surfaces. Repairs since the turret’s initial rebuilding in the 18th century were patchy, addressing individual issues rather than considering the Transept holistically. We now have an improved understanding of the behaviour of the materials employed by past Cathedral-builders and this has given new insight to the best approach for successful conservation in the 21st century. We remain committed to recycling as much as possible from the existing quantities of lead and stone, whilst ensuring that these repairs will last for many more years to come.

In our winter newsletter you will have heard about the discovery of asbestos in the roof spaces of the Transept, which required urgent specialist attention over the autumn. We are pleased to report that the cleaning has now been completed, and a happy by-product of this process was the discovery of archaeological artefacts spanning several centuries of Cathedral life. A host of items were recovered, including Roman bricks, metalwork dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, and Victorian materials including clay pipes. Following their discovery, the items were brought down to ground level to be recorded by Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

Alongside this work, structural surveys and design work has continued in recent months. The masons are busy preparing individual stones at the Cathedral’s dedicated stone-yard just outside the City and will soon be bringing these on site to begin the task of repair and replacement where necessary. Recent cleaning of the historic Lanfranc buttress has revealed that a good proportion of the existing masonry is quite sound and that minimal repair may well be sufficient. As works progress over the spring and summer, attention will turn to cleaning and repointing the North East Pinnacle and the complete re-leading of the roof.

One of the greatest challenges of the project has been its exposure to the elements. Cleaning and repairing stone whilst being barraged by rain and gusts of wind would be testing for the best of us! However, the Cathedral’s dedicated team of skilled conservators and masons have risen to the challenge and are making excellent progress. The project is set to be completed on schedule by the end of the year. After this, the whole team’s efforts will return to completing the Great South Window, taking advantage of a more sheltered worksite for the worst of the winter weather.

How you can show your support

The works to the North West Transept have been made possible thanks to the generous support of so many. We remain grateful to those who have supported these urgent works, including a recent major gift from The H B Allen Charitable Trust.

If you would like to support this vital project, please consider sponsoring a lead tile. This initiative helps to sustain conservation projects, as well as the continuation of the traditional skills needed to maintain Canterbury Cathedral. Funds raised will ensure we can complete this urgent conservation of the North West Transept.

To find out more, please get in touch via the attached form, or visit our website, www.canterbury-cathedral.org.
Unveiling the Royal Statues

On Thursday 26th March, the Cathedral welcomed Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to unveil two statues in their likeness, commemorating the Diamond Jubilee. On a blustery but bright Spring day, the local community gathered to celebrate the occasion, marking the first time sculptures of the Royal couple have appeared alongside one another. Thanks to stone carver Nina Bilbey, the statues will be a wonderful addition to the Cathedral.

The Queen and Prince Philip also took the time to meet a number of the Cathedral’s staff and volunteers, including our stonemasons, introduced by our Clerk of Works, Mark Sharratt (pictured right).

The statues were funded by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral and will now live out their days above the Great West Door. We hope you will be able to visit soon to see them for yourselves.

The Boys’ Choir on Tour

At the time of writing, the Cathedral Choir was just completing its two week tour across the southern United States of America. The inaugural concert took place on 7th April at St John the Divine, Houston and showcased the musical talents of the choir, lay clerks and our Master of the Choristers, Dr David Flood superbly. It was a wonderful occasion which will not be quickly forgotten by all who attended, including the Trust’s US Patron President George H W Bush and Mrs Bush.

During the recent Royal visit, music was provided by both our Boys’ Choir, and our Girls’ Choir. Being able to train and support two such talented groups means the Cathedral need never be without music - which adds so much to services and special occasions.

Once the Boys’ Choir returns to Canterbury at the end of April, they will continue to accompany daily services at the Cathedral. Please visit our website www.canterbury-cathedral.org for details of special concerts by both Cathedral Choirs throughout the year.

Documenting Canterbury Cathedral

As you might remember from our last newsletter, December saw the broadcast of three hour-long documentaries by the BBC about life at the Cathedral, simply titled Canterbury Cathedral. Edited from nearly three hundred hours of footage and captivating an average 1.45m viewers each episode, this stunning mini-series gave a behind-the-scenes tour of a year at the Cathedral.

Coverage included rooftop tours, interviews with guides, volunteers and those living in the Precincts, as well as the moment we received excellent news of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for The Canterbury Journey project. The atmosphere of Canterbury was beautifully portrayed at some of the Cathedral’s most poignant services throughout the year, as well as the exuberance of some of our annual celebrations such as the Open Gardens Day in May (this year’s event will be the 30th/31st May if you can join us!). We hope to have news soon about purchasing the series on DVD to enjoy again and again.
The Martyrdom is one of the most visited parts of the Cathedral, and the transept within which it lies is currently undergoing major conservation works to ensure it remains safe and watertight. The project has been carefully planned to ensure visitors can continue to access this important part of the building during the works, due for completion in late 2015.
Gift Aid is a way for charities to benefit from further funds toward their cause, at no extra cost to you. For every £80 donated to the Trust with a valid Gift Aid declaration, we receive £100! Completing the simple form below allows us to be sure we are claiming all of the Gift Aid we are able to.

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

Full name inc. title: ____________________________

House name/number: __________________________

Road: _______________________________________

Town/City: __________________________

Postcode: __________________________

Date: __________________________

Signature: __________________________

Please treat: (Please tick appropriate box)

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

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

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

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

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

Tick here to receive more information about:

☐ our sponsor a stone and sponsor a tile campaigns

☐ becoming a Canterbury Cathedral Glass Guardian

Canterbury Cathedral Trust Fund - SS15
Registered Charity number: 1112590 Charitable Company number: 5588837