

foccus

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

February 2013

LETTER FROM THE VERY REVEREND Dr. ROBERT A. WILLIS
DEAN OF CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Dear Friends,

This is a time of many changes for the Cathedral community in Canterbury, and in a close-knit community changes mean a sense of both bereavement and expectation. Canon Edward Condry, who was well known to many of you, was, until last September, our Senior Canon and was in charge of the various courses and conferences in the International Study Centre. Ed had been with us for ten years and it was his energy and initiative that shaped the coming of seminarians year by year from across the Anglican Communion. He also introduced courses for newly consecrated bishops which now happen at the end of January. Ed went off to be the Bishop of Ramsgate which is one of the suffragan or assistant bishops for the Bishop of Salisbury.

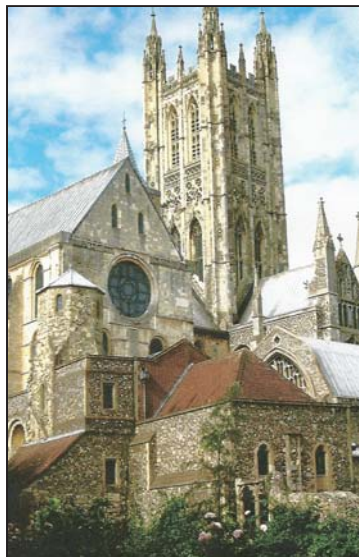
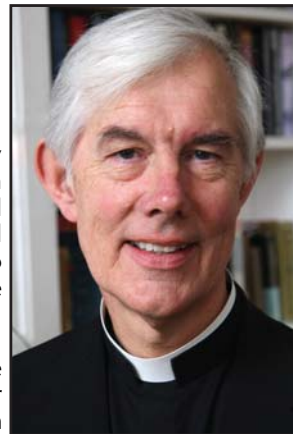
It goes without saying that we miss Ed and Sarah and the family very much, but we are looking forward to the installation of his successor, Canon Nicholas Papadopoulos, on the 10th of March. Nick and his wife Heather are coming from the parish of St. Peter's, Eaton Square in London. However, the courses in the ISC will be in the capable hands of Canon Christopher Irvine.

The greatest change is that of Archbishop. On December 30th we said a very sad farewell to Archbishop Rowan Williams, his wife Jane, and their two children. They had become an important part of our community in the ten years that they were with us. Archbishop Rowan celebrated and preached for the last time in his Cathedral Church and then laid the Canterbury Crosier back on the high altar and walked away to begin his new life as Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge. As a last gift to Canterbury, Rowan had made the most wonderful television documentary about the Cathedral, full of exquisite photography and a really profound script, which the Archbishop wrote himself and delivers in the documentary which is filmed by the BBC.

Now we are preparing to enthrone the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who comes to us after a year as Bishop of Durham. Already the Canons of the Cathedral have formally elected him and the confirmation of that election happened in London on the 4th of February. The enthronement itself will be on March 21st. Several members of FOCCUS will be present along with a large international assembly of ecumenical, royal, diplomatic, and political representatives. The BBC will film the occasion that will also be broadcast on the worldwide web.

We will be relying on your thoughts and prayers during these busy weeks. As always, we thank you most warmly for the help and support you give through FOCCUS to the life and community of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Very Reverend Dr. Robert A. Willis
Dean of Canterbury Cathedral



Join FOCCUS' Facebook

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States has a Facebook group. Facebook, the world's largest social networking site, allows users to share ideas, discussions and photos with people of similar interest.

The FOCCUS group is a great way to keep up with the latest news from Canterbury Cathedral. The creators search news sites to bring you news of interest concerning the Cathedral. In addition you can post your thoughts and share photos of your trips to Canterbury.

If you are not a member of Facebook, please consider joining and then become a member of the FOCCUS group. If you are already a member of Facebook, type Friends of Canterbury Cathedral into the site's search box.

www.facebook.com
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=90862204701&ref=mf>

Don't Forget FOCCUS' Website

A comprehensive website for FOCCUS has been designed for us by the Web Developer at Canterbury Cathedral and is updated on a regular basis with news and publications. In addition, the website has become an invaluable tool for spreading the word of our mission and information about upcoming events. The website address is www.canterburyus.org

Two Offerings from Pilgrimage Pathways

Celtic Wales and the Welsh Borders

May 2014 (details to follow)

This search for thin-places encounters the spiritual and cultural life found in modern Wales.

Experience English Relationships

27 June – 7 July 2014

The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States announce this eleven-day journey focusing on the historical and personal aspects of Canterbury across the English nation. This pilgrimage – in conjunction with the Vergers Guild of America – focuses on the behind-the-scenes cultural workings of cathedrals, country-homes, and a few Anglican institutions.

Visit will include: Cathedrals at Lincoln, Coventry, St. Albans, Rochester and Canterbury; the Magna Carta Exhibition; Baptismal Renewal at the oldest parish-church in England; and the Royal Maritime Museum at Greenwich. Special events arranged at Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral and Lambeth Palace as well as in Chatsworth House, Hatfield House and Chilham Castle.

Our ancient faith calls us to encounter the contemporary world through friendships formed across this native land. For further details, please contact The Rev. Canon Matthew Corkern, by email rector@calvarysummit.org or call 908-277-1814.



Pilgrimage leader and FOCUS trustee Matthew Corkern with parents Becky and Tom at St. Drostan's Well on the North Sea.

Why have The Rev. Canon Matthew Corkern's pilgrimages to the UK been an annual event for over ten years?

by Conni Eggers, veteran Pilgrim

Matthew has a unique gift for forming strangers into a well-bonded group of friends in just a few days of worshipping together at historic places significant to the history of the English church both indoors and out, touring cathedrals, country homes and gardens, meeting members of local parishes and dining together from box lunches en route to elegant dinners in historic venues.

In our home library are guide books from each pilgrimage. Matthew thoughtfully and thoroughly prepares a daily schedule, includes supporting historic information and a prayer book section for devotions appropriate for each day selected from many sources. He creates an itinerary that takes us from earliest historic periods to the present. Each day is planned around a specific theme. Serious worship and reflection are balanced by moments of great fun and freedom to explore on our own.

Lasting friendships have developed over the years when we see travelers join us again, and in some cases help us to remember pilgrim friends lost to death. For us, the pilgrim experience has gone beyond daily parish life to build a treasured community of pilgrim friends who have shared our experiences and the joy of traveling together with Matthew. Nothing can remotely compare with this deeply inspiring way of strengthening our faith.



Preparing an outdoor eucharist at a sacred burial site, Cumbrai, Inner Hebrides, Scotland

NEW MEMBERS OF THE FOCCUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Rev. Ted H. Clarkson is the second Canterbury Scholar to be welcomed to membership on the FOCCUS Board. A native of Georgia and life-long Episcopalian, he began his professional career in the legal world specializing in commercial litigation.

Following completion of his M.Div. degree at the School of Theology of the University of the South (Sewanee), Ted was ordained to the priesthood in 2006. He is the rector of St. Andrew's and vicar of St. Cyprian's Episcopal churches in Darien, Georgia. He has a busy schedule serving as president of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Georgia, as dean of the Southwestern Convocation, and as a recent delegate to General Convention 2012. Previously he was chairman of the diocesan camp and conference center, a member of the search committee for the Tenth Bishop of Georgia, and president of the Ecclesiastical Court.

Ted serves the Darien community on the board of Habitat for Humanity and as a member of the Ministerial Association of McIntosh County.



The finances of FOCCUS are now in the capable hands of C. Jackson Ritchie, Jr. Jack was born and educated in Houston, Texas. Following service as an officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, he moved to Washington, DC, which has been his home ever since.

Jack has had an illustrious career in commercial banking. He rose to be President, then CEO, and finally Board Chairman of First American Bank of Washington. More recently he has been in real estate development and management.

His professional activities have included the presidency of the DC Bankers Association, and board member of the American Bankers Association, Board of Trade and the Federal City Council. He has served on numerous education, health care, and economic and development boards within the city of Washington, including the Salvation Army Advisory Board and the Washington Hospital Center Foundation. As a dedicated member of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, he has been treasurer, vestry member and warden and now may be found greeting parishioners as an usher.



The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

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Greetings from FOCCUS Chair, the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee

One of the privileges of associating with people interested in the welfare of Canterbury Cathedral is making new friends and nourishing friendships of long standing with people who share that interest. I'm especially grateful to Henri Humphreys who has stepped down from the board after serving faithfully and effectively as treasurer of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. I'm confident Henri's interest in Canterbury will continue, but, after serving in what sometimes is a volunteer job that requires much attention to detail, she has decided that other obligations in her life require attention. Thank you, Henri.

My tenure as interim dean and rector of the American Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Paris ended on February 15. Kristy and I came to Paris in January 2012. One of the highlights of our time in Paris was having the Very Rev. Dr. Robert Willis, dean of Canterbury, preach at the Cathedral on Ascension Day 2012, a day that also happened to be his birthday, so we had a celebratory dinner. After some travel in France and England, including the enthronement of the new Archbishop in Canterbury, we are heading to our permanent retirement home in Chapel Hill. N.C.

SEEING WITH NEW EYES

by The Rev. Ted Clarkson

A cradle Episcopalian, I was blessed to grow up as a preacher's kid that identified not only with the Episcopal Church but also with the greater Anglican Communion. So, when contemplating how to spend my summer between my middler and senior years in seminary, I jumped at the chance to attend the course for seminarians and newly ordained clergy at the International Study Centre at Canterbury. I went with the expectation of learning more about the history of the Communion and the current work of Anglicans throughout the world. What I received was so much more.

For three weeks in July of 2005, I worshiped, studied, worked, played, found common ground with, and argued with 27 other seminarians and new clergy from around the world. That summer was only two years removed from the consecration of Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire, and controversies over human sexuality and authority within the Communion were on everyone's mind. Strong emotions were ever present. I doubt that our three weeks together changed any minds on the issues; mine certainly did not. Nevertheless, I was changed. I began to see these issues through the eyes of clergy serving in parishes from Uganda to Japan, from Canada to South Africa. I forged relationships with people whose backgrounds and current circumstances were radically different from mine. While my opinions did not change, my respect for those with whom I disagreed changed profoundly. Our discussions, at least from my perspective, became less about who was right or wrong, and more about understanding the other's position from his perspective, seeing our Christian faith and the Anglican Communion through her eyes.

I came away from my time at Canterbury more convinced than ever that our Communion is a gift from God to all of us who are Anglicans and to the rest of the world. I understand that our perspectives necessarily shape our faith, and we can only see the perspective of others if we forge relationships with them. Our Anglican Communion gives us that opportunity to build such relationships, an opportunity that we must never lose. Jesus opened the eyes of the blind. He has called our Communion to open our eyes to see him through the eyes of others. If we can learn to do so, we will go a long way to fulfilling Jesus' prayer for us as his disciples, that we be one as he and the Father are one.



Clergy and Seminarians, from Kenya, Tanzania, and the United States, in Canterbury, Summer 2005.

VOICES FROM CANTERBURY:

by The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie

An interview with the Reverend Christopher Irvine, Canon Librarian and Director of Education

1. In your roles at Canterbury, what program strengths do you see the International Study Centre building upon?

I remain as Canon Librarian and take on responsibilities for the Anglican Communion programmes as Director of Education. This portfolio helps to consolidate the educational work of the cathedral, and especially focuses on Canterbury as a place of pilgrimage, where we can meet and share our stories with others around the Communion. We shall certainly aim to continue the Canterbury scholars programme and the course for the new bishops. Ed Condry always welcomed colleagues to share in these events, and I was always struck by the real friendship which blossomed as people from different backgrounds, and often with different perspectives, found themselves together on common ground, in a place which in a very real sense was theirs! We will, of course, seek to support the Archbishop in his ministry to the Communion, and I very much hope that the ISC will increasingly become a venue for international Anglican consultations and conferences.



We must also remember the magnificent work undertaken by the Cathedral Schools Department, which is located in the ISC and is extending its work with English and Continental schools and with young pilgrims on the Journey to Adulthood programme.

2. What new directions might the ISC pursue?

I certainly want to build on the reputation of our Canterbury scholars programme and the international faculty which we have built up in recent years. Pilgrimage is certainly a theme which seems to increasingly to resonate with folk, and we want to develop opportunities for clergy and laity together to experience the riches of the pilgrim's way. I am currently negotiating a pilgrimage weekend for those training to be Army chaplains, and I hope that this is something which we could offer to other groups. In due time, I feel that we ought to explore the possibilities of a 'mid-service' course for clergy, as I feel that time spent in Canterbury with others could well refresh and inspire clergy at that mid-point in their ministerial careers.

3. Please tell us something about yourself, your history at Canterbury and other professional experience you'd like to share:

I've spent a long time involved in theological education, and came to Canterbury six years ago from being the principal of a small and unique seminary, the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. I have a real passion for worship and believe that worship can truly be transformative. I have often attended the biennial International Anglican Liturgical Consultations, and have very fond memories of our meeting at CDSP, in Berkeley, California, in 2002. More recently, in 2010, I led some clergy and parish training events and preached in the Cathedral in Chicago. The hospitality I received in the diocese of Chicago was wonderful, and the conversations I had with my hosts and their guests over evening suppers made me feel really proud to be an Anglican! My other passion is for the visual arts, and yes, you've probably guessed, I found the Art Institute in Chicago a most amazing place....but that needs more than a day! I guess places of pilgrimages, acts of worship, and art have at least one thing in common...they're places where, and occasions when people can catch a vision. And it's that, I believe, which can give our lives both depth and direction. I very much look forward to meeting more of our American friends over the next few months and years.

A GIFT FOR THE AGES

Karen Metcalf, a devoted Episcopalian who lives in New York City, saw a need and filled it - twice.

As a parishioner of St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, she saw that the "poor, pathetic, metal music stand" used by the organist and choirmaster needed an upgrade. In 2003, she had a carved wooden stand crafted and donated it to St. Thomas, in memory of her parents who were lovers of music.

Fast forward to June 2011. Karen visited Canterbury for the first time, as part of a Matthew Corkern/FOCCUS sponsored pilgrimage. As she toured the Cathedral, Karen was dismayed to see another "poor, pathetic, metal music stand" being used by the musical staff. With Dean Willis' enthusiastic approval, Karen began by resurrecting the plans from the St. Thomas stand. Working with Houghton's of York, who had just finished restoration work on the Cathedral's main gate, Karen sponsored the creation of another beautiful wooden music stand, which will be used for generations to come at Canterbury Cathedral.



The stand was blessed and dedicated by the Dean in a lovely ceremony on Sunday, June 24, 2012. Karen Metcalf was in attendance.

ST. ELPHEGE, CANTERBURY'S FIRST MARTYRED ARCHBISHOP

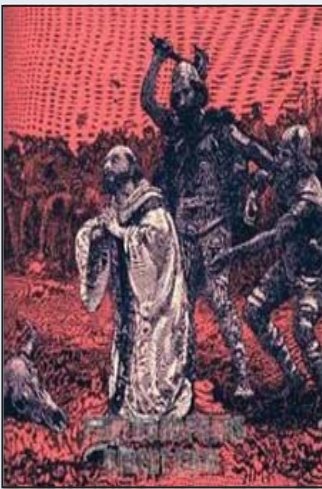
by Col. C. Powell Hutton

Our new Archbishop of Canterbury faces some difficult theological and political issues as he assumes his responsibilities this spring. Yet in the context of the over fourteen centuries of the office, he assumes them in very peaceful times. Consider that one of his predecessors, Thomas Becket, King Henry II's "turbulent priest," was murdered by misguided knights at the high altar of Canterbury in 1170. Yet Beckett was not the first Archbishop to die a violent death. The earlier martyrdom took place one thousand and one years ago.



In 1006, during the reign of Ethelred the Unready, Elphege (Ælfheah or variations thereof), who had been Bishop of Winchester for over twenty years, became the new Archbishop of Canterbury. These were hazardous times in England. The Danes had begun yet another wave of invasions, and in spite of payments of the Danegeld or tribute, they continued to pillage and plunder. In 1011, Canterbury was surrounded, and through the treachery of an archdeacon whose life Elphege had once saved, the Vikings gained entrance to the city and set it to the torch. Urged by the people to flee, Elphege responded that the shepherd should stay with his flock, and along with several other town leaders, he was captured and held for ransom.

Ransom was indeed paid for the others, but the price for Elphege was so high, 3,000 pounds, that Elphege knew it would reduce his people to starvation, so he refused to have the amount collected and paid. Angered over this setback, the Danes took Elphege back to their ships on the Thames and kept him there in chains for seven months. Then, on 19 April 1012, in a drunken celebration of a Viking festival at Greenwich, he was killed.



The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle describes the scene:

... the raiding-army became much stirred up against the bishop, because he did not want to offer them any money, and forbade that anything might be granted in return for him. Also they were very drunk, because there was wine brought from the south. Then they seized the bishop, led him to their hustings on the Saturday in the octave of Easter, and then pelted him there with bones and the heads of cattle [the remains of their feasting]; and one of them struck him on the head with the butt of an axe, so that with the blow he sank down and his holy blood fell on the earth, and sent forth his holy soul to God's kingdom.

A separate contemporary account says that the Viking chief, Thorkell the Tall, tried to save Elphege by offering all his possessions except his ship, but the mob would not be deterred. The next day, perhaps more sober, they allowed Elphege's body to be taken and buried at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

In 1016, when Cnut, the Dane, became King of England, he had Elphege's body removed and buried at Canterbury Cathedral near the high altar. It was at this place, in his last sermon before he himself was martyred, that Thomas Beckett spoke of St. Elphege (for he had been canonized by then) as Canterbury's first martyr, and, just before his own death, Beckett commended himself to God and St. Elphege.

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CURRENT WORK AT CANTERBURY

by Brigadier John Meardon, Receiver General, Canterbury Cathedral

The Corona now stands free of scaffold after 4 years and it is wonderful to see it clean and shining in the winter sunlight. The top of the building was remodelled after intensive investigations into the original form and earlier repairs were replaced with stone from Caen to match a design shown in an 18th Century painting.

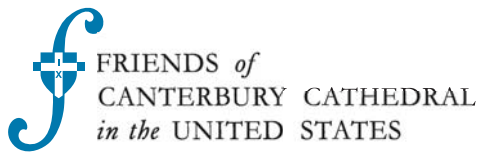
The Archives has been closed for a year while we replaced the worn out copper roof with a beautiful greenish slate one and refurbished the interior, ready for a grand re-opening on 22 January. Nearby, the whole of the **Cloister** has been re-lit with sunken lights shining up into the stone vaults, giving the Cloister garth a great feeling of gentle mystery at night. In the Chapter House, the old lighting has been replaced with much less conspicuous lights that illuminate the wonderful wooden ceiling.

Work on the **South East Transept** is nearing completion. The great metal frame of the Oculus has been conserved and new ferramenta to carry the medieval glass is being made by a local blacksmith. The spirelet on the stair turret has been extensively restored and re-leaded, and the cleaning and replacing of worn stone on the south and west sides of the transept continues apace.

This year's major work will concentrate on the **South West Transept and the Great South Window**. We have completed the assessments and investigations into the reasons for the windows instability and the window itself has been exhaustively measured and plotted. Detailed plans for taking it down and rebuilding it in new stone are well advanced. Work will commence as soon as the weather improves, and the masons are girding up to cut and fix the complicated stonework so that it can again house the 12th Century glass that is resting in the Stained Glass Studio strongroom. Some of this glass will appear in a major exhibition in the Getty Museum in Los Angeles later this year.

Finally, to round off a busy year, the wooden **Christ Church Gates** were extensively restored and have been rehung in this, the main entrance, through which all visitors to the Cathedral pass as they come into the Precincts.





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Becoming a Friend

Enclosed in this Newsletter you will find an envelope we hope you will use to become a member of Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. Membership includes such benefits as free admission to the Cathedral and personalized tours, notification of FOCCUS events, as well as priority consideration for a place on future pilgrimages.

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