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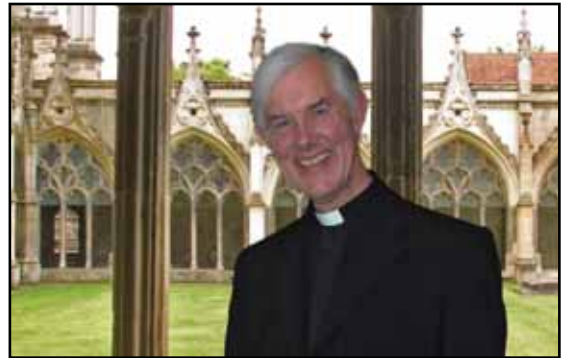
Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

March 2020

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the community at Canterbury, we wish all our Friends a very happy year.

For us it is a special year. We are hosting the Bishops of the Anglican Communion at the Lambeth Conference at the end of July and there are also significant Thomas Becket anniversaries through the year. These begin with the commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the consecration of the shrine in 1220. This will be kept during the days of the 5th-7th July and will be a very important ecumenical event. I hope the various programs connected with Becket, which run through the last 6 months of the year, may encourage many of you to visit Canterbury and enjoy the activity surrounding such an important time. Details of all this can be found on our website.



These are challenging times as the Canterbury Journey, an enormous project of renovation, restoration and modernization, nears its conclusion. This comes with my gratitude for all the encouragement our Friends throughout the world have given us.

Faithfully,

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.

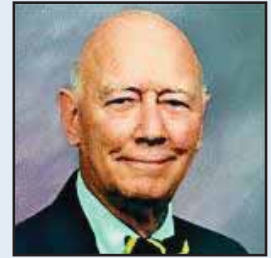
www.facebook.com
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News on FOCCUS Trustees

Milo Coerper, former long serving FOCCUS board member, died on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at the age of 94.

Milo was a true Renaissance man. He was a lawyer, earned a PhD in Political Science and then became an ordained Episcopal priest. He was a gentleman of great intellect, strong morals, and an ever ready twinkle in his eyes.

He was an honored, highly respected and revered member of the FOCCUS board for many years.



FOCCUS is pleased to announce the election at the fall 2019 board meeting of our newest trustee, The Rev. Dr. Robert Flanagan.

Bob is an Interim Priest-in-Charge and Pastor in the Diocese of New York, and is currently serving at St. Stephen's, Armonk. Bob has been an Adjunct Faculty Member at General Theological Seminary in New York City, and recently received his Doctoral of Ministry in Christian Spirituality from Virginia Theological Seminary.

He has a great love for and interest in Canterbury Cathedral, and looks forward to helping promote the mission of FOCCUS.



The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, President
The Rev. Canon Matthew T. L. Corkern,
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The Very Rev. Dr. Robert A. Willis, Dean of
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The Very Rev. Joseph H. Britton
The Rev. Dr. Robert D. Flanagan
The Rev. A. Katherine Grieb
Col. C. Powell Hutton
The Rev. Tom Purdy
The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie
Elizabeth F. H. Scott
The Rev. Canon Carl F. Turner
The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin



FOCCUS trustees pictured here at the fall board meeting in Washington, DC, left to right:

The Rev. Canon Sam Van Culin, The Rev. Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie, The Rev. Canon Matthew Corkern (Chair of FOCCUS), Barbie Harper (Vice Chair of FOCCUS), The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, Andrew Edwards, Canterbury Cathedral, The Rev. Kathy Grieb, and Powell Hutton.

PILGRIMAGE PATHWAYS

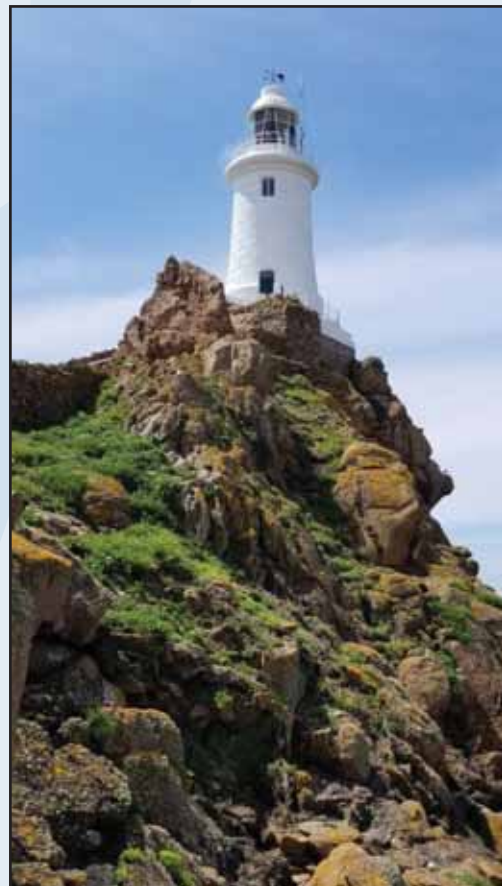
FOCCUS Chair Matthew Corkern had a busy spring and early summer leading three pilgrimages across western Europe.

His first journey ran from April 22nd through May 8th, touring the west country of England. Twelve pilgrims enjoyed the British springtime as they visited picturesque villages such as Cheltenham, Hay-on-Wye, and Chard. Highlights of the trip were tea at Highclere Castle with the owners of Downton Abbey, and a private tour of Prince Charles's gardens at Highgrove.

Eighteen travelers went on Matthew's second pilgrimage from May 24th-June 3rd. The trip followed Chaucer's pilgrimage from London to Canterbury, spending time in London, Maidstone, and Canterbury. Special events included an afternoon service at Westminster Abbey followed by a private tour of the Tomb of Edward the Confessor, a candlelight tour of Canterbury Cathedral led by Dean Willis, and a trip to the top of the Cathedral Tower for a magnificent view.

Lastly, twenty two pilgrims spent June 8th-June 22nd visiting Normandy and the Channel Islands. One special night was spent at Mont Saint-Michel, and visiting the American cemetery in Normandy, seventy five years after the Allied invasion, was a once in a lifetime experience. The Channel Islands of Guernsey and Jersey were an unforgettable treat; imagine palm trees that close to northern France!

A quotation, attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo, reads, "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page". No one who joins Matthew on these adventures would disagree.



KING HENRY II AND ARCHBISHOP THOMAS BECKET AT ODDS

By Powell Hutton



This year marks the 850th anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral on 29 December 1170, a seminal incident in the history of the Anglican Church and the Cathedral. It was the climax of a dispute between two strong willed men, with important authorities backing each side, yet the relationship wasn't initially contentious.

Henry was born and grew up in France, great-grandson of William the Conqueror, and though he had inherited, or acquired through his marriage to Eleanor of Aquitaine, major holdings in the west of France, he coveted England. His mother, Matilda, was a claimant to the English throne held by her cousin, Stephen, and when Stephen died in 1154, Henry II took it.

Henry, an “energetic and sometimes ruthless ruler”, obtained loyalty oaths from the English barons, yet opposed jousting tournaments because of the risk of gatherings of armed knights. Of his first eight years on the English throne, he spent six and half in France protecting his claims there. That meant that much of the day-to-day running of England was left to others, principally to his wife, Queen Eleanor. Another key aide was Thomas Becket, born in London and appointed Chancellor in 1155, one of the most powerful positions in the royal household. In this capacity, among other support to the king, Becket enforced collection of royal revenues from both secular and religious persons and institutions.

When Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, died, Henry nominated Becket to replace him. On 2 June 1162, Becket was ordained a priest, and the next day consecrated Archbishop. If Henry had hoped that his colleague would continue to reinforce royal prerogatives over the Church, he was profoundly mistaken. Becket resigned his chancellorship, immediately adopted an austere lifestyle, and pushed for the Church's greater autonomy from royal authority.

A main cause of dissention was the jurisdiction of secular courts over clergy even for secular offenses, with Becket maintaining that only the Church could try such cases. Henry was stubborn and bore grudges; Becket, 14 years his senior, was vain and ambitious. The dispute became progressively more personal and then international as each sought support from abroad. In 1164, Becket fled to France for sanctuary. The final break occurred in June 1170 when Henry had his son, Young Henry, crowned as king by the Archbishop of York, not the absent Archbishop of Canterbury.

Becket was furious and, with papal backing, ready to lay an interdict on England, which would have banned the sacraments and some religious services. Faced with this draconian action, Henry capitulated, and Becket returned to England in early December 1170. Just when the dispute seemed resolved, Becket excommunicated three of the king's supporters. Henry, in Normandy at the time, was enraged and overheard to say, “Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?” Variations on those words have come down through history, but whatever was said was said in French, the language of the court.

Four knights were inspired to return to England, confront Becket in the Cathedral, and murder him. The king, horrified at the deed, disowned them (they fled north), and paid public penance at the scene of the crime. He made amends with the papacy in the Compromise of Avranches, by which the king agreed to go on a crusade (he never went), allow appeals to Rome, and eliminate all customs to which the Church objected. He remained able to appoint his own bishops. The royal struggle with the papacy continued for the next several centuries. Becket was canonized in 1174, and his shrine became a major pilgrimage site.



Photo credits: Wikipedia: Medieval depiction of Henry and Becket; the Becket Shrine at Canterbury Cathedral

FOCCUS LETTER ON COPEs FOR BECKET CELEBRATION

The year 2020 will be very important for Canterbury Cathedral, as it marks two significant anniversaries connected with St. Thomas Becket of Canterbury.

There will be liturgical and processional occasions, and as a commemoration of this immensely important year, the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States have sponsored a set of six beautiful, red silk copes. These long mantles or cloaks, opened at the front and fastened with a band or clasp, as shown in the photo below, will have a pattern taken from the cloth found in the grave of Hubert Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury at the end of the 12th Century.

One cope honors The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin, former Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. He is a Virginia Theological Seminary graduate, so the cope is coming from VTS, from Dean and President Ian Markham and Dr. Kathy Grieb.

Another cope honors Thomas Locy Corkern and Rebecca Coleman Corkern for their 50th anniversary of marriage given by their sons, Matthew & Jeremy Corkern.

Four have been given to honor relevant persons in the life of FOCCUS, through the Pilgrimage Pathways monetary contributions in 2019:

One cope in honor of The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Currey, The 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, and his wife, Sharon Clement.

One cope in honor of The Very Reverend Dr. Robert Andrew Willis, 39th Dean of Canterbury.

One cope in honor of The Reverend John Carsten Harper, Rector of St. John's Lafayette Square & 1st Chair of FOCCUS, and his wife, Barbara Quarles Harper.

One cope in honor of The Right Reverend Peter James Lee, The 12th Bishop of Virginia & 2nd Chair of FOCCUS, and his wife, Kristina Knapp Lee.

Launching '**Copes for Canterbury**', is an exciting new venture to commission a complete set of bespoke festal vestments in celebration of Becket 2020.



A MESSAGE FROM A CANTERBURY SCHOLAR

By the Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson

Being a 2019 Canterbury Scholar continues to reveal blessings in my multi-faceted ministry and to generate fascinating relationships. I hope to develop some of these and form global partnerships that will advance our mutual work for God's kingdom. The program welcomes and connects like-minded people who are the "movers and shakers" in their respective dioceses across the world. Bringing us all together under the warmth and history of "The Mother Church" increases our knowledge about the varying facets of what it means to be an Anglican today. It also continues our formation, enriches our liturgical experiences, bonds us together in Christ, allows us to access resources in the Church about which we may not have previously known, and fosters lasting friendships.

The conference has three pillars:

1. Living together in community learning from each other
2. Participating in the Cathedral's life and worship
3. Engaging in theological exploration and exchange

Fellows are interested in missional engagement, church planting, Anglican ecumenism, theological discussions, global Anglican activities, and are expected to make a contribution to the life and work of the Anglican Communion. We learned so much hearing about the different cultural contexts in which we minister. Our international faculty led us through workshops and courses on prayer and spirituality, human sexuality, Anglican history, Liturgy and Music, Intentional Discipleship, and much more. We stayed at Canterbury, and joined in the Cathedral Community's life which is centered on daily worship.

We were reminded often that we are an investment in the future of the Anglican Communion, and that they expect that we will make a contribution in the years ahead. For me, that fired an arrow of passion directly into my heart. I am in love with global partnerships and forming lasting relationships that make intense and meaningful differences in people's lives and communities. I am inspired and already have plans to visit three places where my Canterbury Fellows live! Called by the Holy Spirit, we join together to grow in relationships, grow in service, and grow in Christ!



Caroline is Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents in Beach Haven, NJ and was a Canterbury Scholar in the summer of 2019.



The 2019 Canterbury Scholars with Dean Willis

VOICES FROM CANTERBURY

Andrew Edwards, Executive Director of Strategic Development
by the Reverend Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie

How do you balance your time and attention among these worthy but disparate aspects of Canterbury Cathedral life?

When Dean Robert Willis first discussed this new role with me, I could immediately identify how this opportunity so closely aligned itself with my career to date. Prioritizing how to accommodate a vast programme of events (both spiritual and secular) as part of Becket 2020 and the Lambeth Conference in July is a challenge. At the same time we are building upon the legacy of the renovation campaign, ensuring levels of support we need to sustain this Cathedral and its community. Protecting this spiritual place of global significance for future generations underpins everything I do!

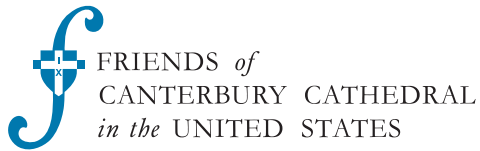
I read that as a young scholar you studied comparative religion and philosophy. How does your role at the Cathedral shape your spiritual life?

I was brought up a strict Roman Catholic in a remote community on the beautiful coastline of South West Wales. I was educated in a convent, spending my summers making yoghurt with an order of Cistercian monks on a small island near my home town. At the age of eighteen I took the decision to read comparative religion and philosophy at King's College, London. During my university years I learnt how to question and to better understand the world's great religions. Religion and spirituality have always been a central part of my life, and somehow coming here seemed inevitable! Attending Evensong at the end of the working day provides that special moment to appreciate glorious music, while reflecting on life and meaning.

When not doing strategic planning, what outside interests or activities sustain you?

Music and opera are central to my life. I was fortunate to work for one of the great United Kingdom's opera companies early in my career. From the moment I attended my first opera, "Madam Butterfly," as a student in London, I knew this would be one of my great passions. When time permits, I enjoy cooking. I always love walking my dog Toby across the magnificent countryside that surrounds us here in Canterbury.





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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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