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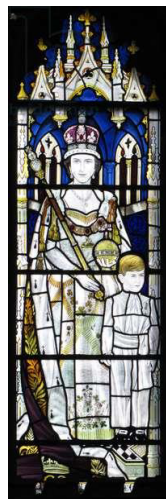
The Rev. Canon Samuel Van Culin
Washington, DC

Dear Friends of Canterbury Cathedral,

May 2022

It is an honour for me to be able to write to you direct from Canterbury Cathedral. We are seeing the green shoots of Spring throughout the Precincts, both in terms of the beautiful gardens, and the return of much-missed visitors. We are seeing new hope everywhere, for which we give thanks!

As you know, this year brings great change and also great opportunity to the Cathedral. Dean Robert leaves us in May, and an interim Dean, elected by the Archbishop of Canterbury, will support us until a permanent Dean joins us at the end of the year. The name of the interim Dean won't be released until Her Majesty the Queen has approved it, but we will let you all know as soon as we can.



On the subject of the Queen, we are looking forward to celebrating her Platinum Jubilee this June, along with the rest of the country. Whether or not one is a royalist, recognising her dedication to duty for the past 70 years seems only right. The Cathedral is hosting a 'Platinum Prom' as well as several other events. If you have had the opportunity to visit the Cathedral before, you might have seen her statue on the West Front, and her image in the 'Royal Window' in the Chapter House (see image on left). We will be lighting a Jubilee Beacon with pride!

The Lambeth Conference is scheduled to go ahead from the end of July to early August, and will see us welcome clergy from around the world (travel restrictions permitting). The Cathedral will have a new website later in the year, designed to extend the visitor welcome to our online community. And fundraising for our next big fabric project – the West Front – has begun. This sees us trying to raise £4m to complete the conservation and repairs on this iconic end of the building. So far, we've raised just over £1m, and works are due to begin later this year.

Of course, one of the major milestones this year will be the completion of the Canterbury Journey. This seven-year, £33-million project concludes in October, and we are starting to see the fruits of our labours. The new Visitor Welcome Centre is being put to good use; scaffolding is starting to come down from the exterior of the Cathedral; inside the Cathedral, the safety deck (a false roof suspended over the Nave which enabled works to be done on the ceiling and upper levels of stained glass) has come down, revealing the vaulted ceiling in all its glory; and new exhibition spaces have opened, enabling us to display some of our treasures. I've included some pictures here, but of course, we hope we can welcome many of you to see all of this in person soon!



Image of the recently restored vaulted ceiling of the Nave and the Great West Window. Testament to our amazing stonemasons and glaziers!



A stonemason working on a section of carving for the Christ Church Gate, which has also been restored as part of The Canterbury Journey. The full piece is shown on the right, in our masons' workshop.



On the left is the new Crypt Exhibition space, in which is displayed the Black Prince's 'Achievements' (shield, helmet etc). Son of Edward III and father of Richard II, he was buried in Canterbury Cathedral in 1376. For the first time in many years, we are able to display these precious objects.

Of course, one of the joys of our gradual return to normality, following the pandemic, is the fact that we are beginning to welcome back visitors from around the world. In particular, we look forward to resuming the training courses for international seminarians and recently ordained clergy which were sadly curtailed by the pandemic. We are currently working on the 2023 programme. This essential part of our role as Mother Church of the Anglican Communion has traditionally been supported by FOCCUS through the Harper Scholarship Fund, and we would be most grateful if you would consider continuing that support with another gift. The Board of FOCCUS have particularly noted that this would be a wonderful way to honour our departing Dean, The Very Revd Dr Robert Willis, who has always been a champion of participants of these courses.

As I bid you farewell, I want to extend sincere thanks, on behalf of everyone at Canterbury Cathedral, for your generosity in helping us to further our mission 'To show people Jesus'. The wider impact of being able to support seminarians and clergy from all over the world is huge; each of them takes a little of Canterbury Cathedral home with them, sharing its inspiration within their local communities, and remaining part of our global Christian family. To each one of you, from each one of us, thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

Warm wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanna Luck".

Joanna Luck
Head of Fundraising at Canterbury Cathedral