



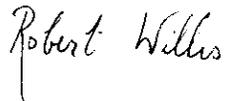
Dear Friends,

I write this having just returned from twelve days in the United States. I was able to experience once again warm support for all that we are doing in Canterbury from many different people, but particularly from those of you who are Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. At our Annual Meeting in Washington, kindly hosted by St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, I was able to share the good news of the £12M Lottery Grant which the government of the United Kingdom is offering the Cathedral as matched funding for £7.4M of new money which we have to raise by April 2016. It means that nothing that we have collected in the past can count towards this £7.4M, but already since the Lottery announcement, we have raised well over half the amount needed. We are optimistic that what we are calling *The Canterbury Journey*, in terms of restoration of historic fabric and also new facilities to make Canterbury more accessible to visitors with programmes in which they can engage and become involved while they are here, will go ahead.

It means that the contribution of FOCCUS towards the important courses for young Seminarians and people in early ministry from right across the world and also for newly consecrated Bishops of our Communion become more important in complementing all our new work. In all this we have had huge support from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and he and his family have become very involved in the life of the Cathedral Church.

We have through the summer welcomed many of you as pilgrims or private guests and I would say, as I have in the past, that the only real way to experience Canterbury and all that it stands for is to visit and share in its life. Remember that the Cathedral Lodge in the Precincts is available to stay in so that you can really be part of this community while here.

In this rather dangerous and uncertain world of today, places like Canterbury, which have been holy places for hundreds of years, become even more important to give humanity a sense of vision, continuity and peace. It is our great responsibility to see that we hand them on to the future intact and vibrant. I thank you for all the help you give in fulfilling this holy responsibility.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Willis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

The Very Revd Dr Robert Willis
Dean of Canterbury