

foccus

Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States

February 2019

Dear Friends,

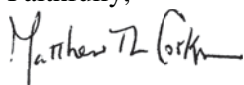
I am writing you as the new Chair of FOCCUS. I begin by offering immense gratitude to Bishop Peter Lee for his 17 years of leadership, particularly directing the Friends of Canterbury in the United States. Over almost two decades of service, his great vision corresponded with Dean Robert Willis' vision to build the Friends' community and provide guidance with the International Study Centre and other projects, especially The Gift Campaign, which came to our shores.

As we enter 2019, I want to think back over the last year and joyously provide a vision of where we are headed. This past year, there were several pilgrimages supporting Canterbury Cathedral through FOCCUS. From these travels, we were able to fund more than \$20,000 toward the John Harper Scholarships in order to assist seminarians around the globe to study at Canterbury.

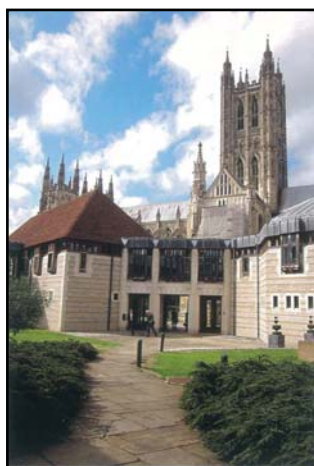
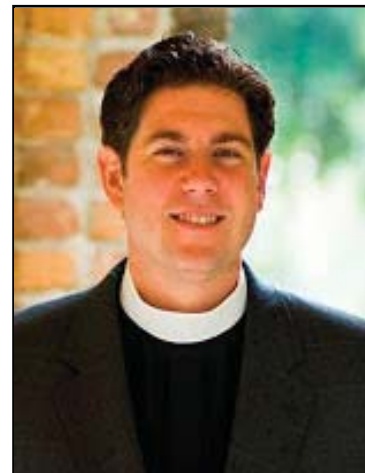
As we move forward, I am encouraged about how our American Friends will become more involved in the endeavors at the Cathedral. Last year, artists from Canada began a study of the miracle windows. They were able to discover what some once thought Victorian glass was actually medieval glass tracing to the time of sacred stories around Becket's shrine. It will be a delight to raise-up this study with gifts given by our membership to assist our cousins – The English Friends of Canterbury – to help increase our ability to support and fund the efforts at the Cathedral into the future.

I am delighted to have been asked to hold this position. I look forward to working with all of you and to welcome others as they find their spiritual home at Canterbury Cathedral at the heart of our Anglican Communion.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Canon Matthew TL Corkern
Chair, FOCCUS



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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/90862204701/>

FOCCUS NEWS

At the fall board meeting of FOCCUS, we marked the retirement of the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee as chairman.

For the past 16 years, Peter's leadership has deepened our relationship with Canterbury Cathedral and expanded our appreciation for its historic and living importance as a unique and holy place. His patient and gentle authority will be missed. As he hands his chairmanship to his successor, Peter has agreed to serve as our honorary president, lending his gifts of wisdom, knowledge and experience to the board's continuing deliberations and responsibilities.

FOCCUS will continue in good hands, however, as the Rev. Canon Matthew

Corkern has agreed to succeed Peter as chairman. Matthew, rector of Calvary Church in Summit, NJ and leader of numerous pilgrimages for which FOCCUS has been the financial beneficiary, will no doubt continue in Peter's footsteps, leading the board with cooperative and productive harmony.



The Rev. Canon Matthew Corkern, new FOCCUS chair, The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, new President of FOCCUS, and The Very Rev. Dr. Robert A. Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Board of Trustees of FOCCUS

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, President
The Rev. Canon Matthew T. L. Corkern,
Executive Chairman
Barbara Q. Harper, Vice Chair
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Ralph E. Olson, Treasurer
The Very Rev. Dr. Robert A. Willis, Dean of
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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



CONSIDER A GIFT TO FOCCUS IN YOUR FINANCIAL PLANNING

There are many ways to align what's important to us with our money. One of the most thoughtful ways we can combine these considerations is through Planned Giving. By making thoughtful choices in our estate planning, we can begin to create a legacy for the future. Why not consider a gift to FOCCUS in your financial planning considerations! Whether it's making a beneficiary election on an IRA, annuity or life insurance policy or naming FOCCUS in your trust or will, each of these actions are a way to further FOCCUS' mission of providing scholarships to young clergy and seminarians from around the world to study at Canterbury.

Further, at the approach of the end of the year, those over 70 ½ years old have an opportunity to gift up to \$100,000 of their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a charity without having to realize any tax impact. If you fall into this group, consider giving part or all of this year's RMD to FOCCUS. Also, as the stock market climbs, giving highly appreciated stock, bonds or funds to FOCCUS can be a great tax strategy and an additional way for you to support FOCCUS.

Be sure to consult with your tax advisor before taking any action.

Archbishop William Laud

The Very Reverend Dr. Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury



In the huge west window of the Chapter House at Canterbury Cathedral, the story of the English Church from St Augustine to Queen Victoria is told in 27 scenes of stained glass. Five of the scenes show Archbishops who have been killed in office: St Alphege, who was killed by the Danes in 1012, St Thomas Becket, who was murdered in the Cathedral in 1170, Simon Sudbury, who was murdered during the Peasants' Revolt in 1381, Thomas Cranmer, who was burned at the stake in 1556, and William Laud, beheaded by order of Parliament during the English Civil War in 1645.

Laud finds a place in the modern calendar of the Church of England among those who have shaped the life of the Church as we now know it, but he is a contentious figure. The early and middle years of the seventeenth century saw a bitter struggle between the Puritans and those who came to be called Arminians over beliefs, practices, and the organization of the religious community.

The "Arminians" were High Churchmen who believed in the ordering of the liturgy of the Church into a Book of Common Prayer and a calendar of seasons and saints' days. They also believed in the ordering of church buildings with the altar at the east end, reverently protected by altar rails, and decorating churches with stained glass, statues, candles and tapestries to assist the people in their worship. They believed in the orders of bishops, priests and deacons, and in the sacraments. Archbishop William Laud was very firmly an Arminian, as was his friend King Charles I who had appointed him as the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There can be no doubt of Laud's total commitment to his firm belief and regular devotional practice, but at the same time, like the Puritans themselves, he was "thorough" in his determination to make everyone conform to that belief and practice. He had been appointed in 1633 when the King was ruling without a Parliament, but when the King was forced by his need for revenue to call a Parliament in 1640, the Puritan majority impeached and imprisoned Laud in the Tower. By 1645 in the middle of the Civil War, it was beyond the power of the King to protect him, and he was executed on 10th January 1645.

Four years later the King himself was executed, and there followed eleven years of England as a Republic. The use of the Book of Common Prayer was made illegal, and the furnishings of Churches and Cathedrals were destroyed. Only at the restoration of King Charles II in 1660, did the worship of the Church of England return to the ordered liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer. Laud was the last of the Archbishops of Canterbury to die violently, but his heritage in the ordered liturgies and ministries of the provinces of the Anglican Communion has earned him an honoured place in the Calendar.

Photo credit: Wikipedia

A MESSAGE FROM A CANTERBURY SCHOLAR

This past December, I received an email from my friend The Reverend Simion Kinono. He wished me a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Rev. Simion wrote, “You are in my prayers every day. May the Lord shine upon you, the family, and the ministry you are called to.” And, he added, “please receive greetings from my family.” Now, you might ask, “what’s so extraordinary about this?”. Well, it’s the backstory!

In June of 2018, I had the privilege of participating in the Canterbury Scholars Programme at Canterbury Cathedral, England. This event brings together seminarians and newly ordained clergy from around the world. Together with colleagues from six continents, Canterbury Scholars live in community for two weeks. We worship, pray, study, sing, listen, discuss, and deepen our connections to each other, and as members of the world-wide Anglican Communion, and the Body of Christ.

The Very Reverend Dr. Robert Willis, Dean of the Cathedral, Program Director The Reverend Dr. Tim Naish, professors, staff, and cathedral members offered our group hospitality and guidance. We walked together in the footsteps of St. Augustine, while at the same time focusing on the challenges and joys of ministry in the contemporary Church. Scholars had the honor of meeting and talking with the Most Reverend Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury. We discussed with him the complexities of the Anglican Church and its ministry throughout the world.

This place called Canterbury, where the mission “is to show people Jesus”, is where Rev. Simion, an Anglican priest from Buyu, Burundi, and I, an Episcopal priest from Minnesota, became fast friends, along with many others from around the world. Were it not for the program, I would never have had the opportunity to meet Rev. Simion and the other participants.

The Canterbury Scholars Programme was a life-changing event for me, one that I carry with me each day and share abundantly with others. I now have clergy friends from around the globe, and a much deeper understanding of the Anglican Communion. The beauty of the Canterbury Scholars Programme is that it is accessible to seminarians and clergy members from around the world. This is made possible through scholarships provided by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the US (FOCCUS). Without the vital financial support of FOCCUS, many of the program participants could not have attended the program.

I am very grateful to have participated in the Scholars Programme at Canterbury and to have Rev. Simion and the other scholars as friends and colleagues. Additionally, I am so appreciative of the efforts of FOCCUS to provide scholarships that assure program diversity and accessibility for many. I am pleased to be a member of FOCCUS and look forward to assisting with their good work.

Blessings in Christ,
The Rev. Ramona Scarpace
Priest, The Episcopal Church in Minnesota, USA

¹ From the Mission Statement of Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, England



The Rev. Ramona Scarpace, Burnsville, MN



2018 Canterbury Scholars Programme

PILGRIMAGE PATHWAYS



Matthew in Bruges, Belgium

The Rev. Canon Matthew Corkern, Chair of FOCCUS, led a successful trilogy of pilgrimages in 2018.

In early April, the “Ancient Manuscript and Modern Art” pilgrimage provided participants with many unique experiences, traveling from London to Oxford, Coventry, Lincoln, Cambridge, and places in between. A highlight was the Parker Library at Corpus Christi College in Cambridge, where pilgrims had the rare opportunity to view the 6th century Gospels of St. Augustine.

At the end of June, Matthew led a group through Sweden and Denmark. Entitled “A Viking Cultural Legacy”, this was a journey of history, art, architecture, literature, politics, and religion. Cities visited were Stockholm, Arhus, and Copenhagen.

The final Matthew-led trip of 2018, in early July, honored the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I. Pilgrims explored battlefields, churches, and monuments in northeastern France and Belgium. In addition, they visited art, music, and cultural sites as well as many cathedrals, including those in Strasbourg, Reims, Amiens, Ghent, and Bruges.

A portion of every participant’s fee is earmarked for FOCCUS and its mission work at Canterbury Cathedral. Matthew’s trips are extraordinarily worthwhile and enriching on so many levels; the fond memories linger on, long after the suitcases are unpacked.

VOICES FROM CANTERBURY - Sarah Frankland, former CEO of the Canterbury Cathedral Trust
by the Reverend Dr. Anne Gavin Ritchie

What was most rewarding about guiding the mission of the Canterbury Cathedral Trust?

The Trust exists to raise funds for the Cathedral, so what has been most rewarding has been the creation of our campaign for music, The Canterbury Voice. After careful consultation, I put together four main strands that make up The Canterbury Voice: restoration and repair of the organ; scholarships for choristers; a refurbished rehearsal space for the Cathedral choirs, local and international visiting choirs; a community outreach program using choral music to reach ill and disenfranchised people.

I particularly enjoyed taking our message out to those who do not have the opportunity to visit the Cathedral personally, especially our friends in the USA. I was so privileged to be a representative of this extraordinary place, even for a short while.



Ms. Sarah Frankland, Dean Robert Willis, and David Flood, Director of Music

Speaking of music, tell us about the Adopt a Stop program.

Repair and renovation of the Cathedral's great organ and fabric of the Quire must be completed in time for the Lambeth Conference in 2020. The Adopt a Stop programme is a popular way to raise funds from a large number of donors, each giving a relatively modest donation. It's a good way for friends and supporters to create a link with the Cathedral, either in their own name or that of a loved one. To contribute, please visit the Just Giving section on the Cathedral website.

How did your service with the Canterbury Cathedral Trust impact your personal spirituality?

The Trust office is located within the Cathedral Precincts, so I was able to attend Evensong daily. I joined others on staff attending all of the major services in the Cathedral calendar, either on our own or as part of an event we coordinated for supporters. When not joining other worshippers at a service, I often spent time entirely on my own in a quiet part of the Cathedral. The age of the building and the history it has witnessed are palpable, and it stands as a powerful reminder of the fleetingness of our time on this planet and our need to spend it wisely and for the greater good.

Dear Friends,

As 2019 begins, we at Canterbury Cathedral find ourselves in the middle of all the works of the restoration and development of facilities so as to receive visitors into the Precincts and Cathedral and to give them a good understanding of the life, history, and message of this place of pilgrimage.

Over Christmas the construction paused for a while but one could never be unaware of all that is going on because of the enormous amount of scaffolding and disruption, both inside and outside the Cathedral. However, by the beginning of 2020 we hope that this will largely be complete.

At the same time, work on the restored grand organ progresses apace and many new pipes are already in position. The “voicing of each pipe”, when each one is tuned and tested, is progressing each evening after the Cathedral is closed.



The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby and the Dean of Canterbury Robert Willis on Christmas morning, 2018.

During Christmas and Epiphany, there were joyful festivals and services outside the Cathedral, like the ‘Son et Lumiere’ at the south transept and the Crib Service. Inside, the many Carol Services and Services of Christmas Day itself attracted large congregations.

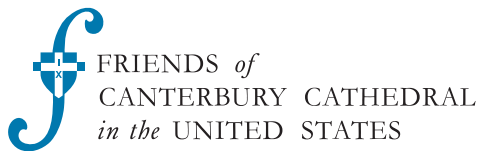
Thank you for your support of all we continue to do and for the interest The Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States take in our work.



The Epiphany Carol service (photo credit to James Drew)

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





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202-822-8994

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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Website: www.canterburyus.org