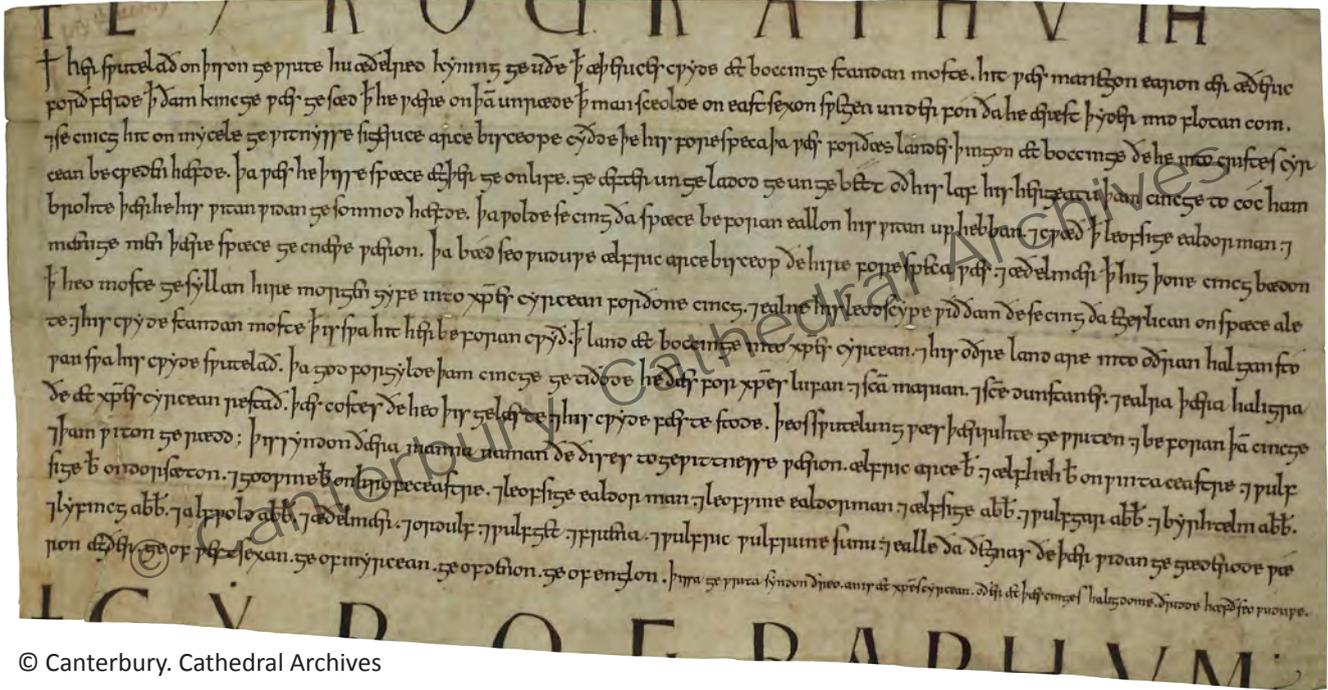


Newsletter

Canterbury Cathedral
Archives and Library News

The Vikings are coming!



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September will mark the 1000th anniversary of the siege of Canterbury by the Vikings. The city was sacked, the cathedral burned, and many of the inhabitants killed. Archbishop Alphege was captured, and held until April 1012, when he was martyred in Greenwich.

Together with the Schools Department, the Cathedral Archives is working with Canterbury Museums and other partners on a series of events to mark the anniversary. A leaflet detailing these, produced by the Siege of Canterbury Commemoration Committee, will be available shortly. This will feature a reproduction from one of the magnificent windows in the cathedral showing the Viking attack. Events will include commemorative services, family events, a public lecture and city walks and trails. For details of some of these, see the 'dates for your diary' listing.

The Schools Department is also organising a creative writing competition for children, based on the story of the siege of Canterbury. To download an

entry form visit www.canterbury-cathedral.org/schools or contact Canterbury Cathedral Schools Department on 01227-865262. The deadline for entries is 11th November 2011.

Items from the Archives will feature at the family activity day at the Canterbury Heritage Museum on 10th September, when those attending will be able to examine copies of Anglo-Saxon charters held at the Cathedral. Illustrated here is a charter of King Ethelred the Unready dating from the 990s, written in Anglo-Saxon, and witnessed by Alphege when Bishop of Winchester. His name is spelt in the document as 'Aelfheh' – can you find it? It is a type of document known as a 'chirograph', written in this case in triplicate, with the word 'CYROGRAPHUM' written between the three sections, and the document then cut in three through the word.

Further commemorations will take place next April, for the anniversary of Alphege's martyrdom.

Canterbury on Camera

Last winter, the Cathedral Archives held some very successful film showings, compiled from the extensive collection of cinefilm held by Tony Blake, film collector and historian, of Chestfield, Whitstable. Four showings were held, on two themes: 'On the streets of Canterbury', looking at film of Canterbury streets, and 'The Cathedral on Camera', including historic film showing the cathedral. All but the last showing were presented by Tony Blake.

Very sadly, Tony died in April, following a short illness. A service of celebration of his life was held at his local church, St John the Baptist in Swalecliffe with Chestfield—it even included a short piece of film which he had himself made, and in which he featured.

We will miss Tony, his great knowledge and his gentle humour, but we will continue to build on the great interest in historic film which his screenings revealed. The

Archives will be working with Canterbury Christ Church University on a showing on 27th October. This will take place at 7.30pm in the Powell Lecture Theatre at Christ Church, and will be entitled: "Canterbury on Film: a screening of archive film from the 1920s to the 1960s". Admission will be free; please contact the Archives to reserve a ticket.

Linked to this showing will be a family activity day at Canterbury Heritage Museum on Saturday 22nd October, 1pm to 4pm, entitled "Canterbury in the 1960s and 1970s". During this day, families can explore the 1960s and 1970s through film, museum and archive collections, share memories, and take part in fun hands-on activities.

These events will be linked to an exciting BBC series.

Summertime in Wingham

Those long hot summer days spent living in Wingham during the 1940s were beyond enjoyment and although we appeared to have very little of anything, as did everyone else at this time, we had more than enough to keep us kids happy. Just think about everything we had that was free! Down in the village there was the river in which we spent endless hours with jam-jars catching small fish as they drifted in and out of the waving fronds of water-weeds, then after a while, putting them carefully back in the stream to enjoy their lives. On Gobery Hill just beyond the small coppice wood which skirted the road, there was a large meadow and at the Ash Road end was Johnny Marden's house. We played our own version of cricket just outside his garden gate and when we were fed up with running around, we would walk a couple of hundred yards over the grassy expanse and just below the ridge from which you could see the road to Staple and look down towards Dambridge there were the remains of some Army trenches which were very wide, long and deep. The main constituent of their soil was a rich pit-sand and we sat for

hours in the warm sunlight, creating large walls which we called our Hadrian's walls. This was great fun. Becoming bored with these labours, we then walked back to John's house and at the back of this was a line of pine trees and situated within their midst was a line of slit trenches just large enough to hold one or two men with small guns. Covering one of these was a small sheet of corrugated iron and on cold days we would get down inside out of the weather and use this as our small camp. In late summer we could cross over the road from his house and go into the Sweet Chestnut Wood, climb the trees and shake down the nuts encased in their green spikey shells, take out the rich brown nuts, peel off the skin and munch away until satisfied. Across the lane was Mr Pay's small orchard and farm and often there were windfall apples left on the grass verge for anyone to help themselves to. So all in all there was plenty for everyone. Safe places to play and always close to home in case anyone hurt themselves.

What a wonderful world!

By Alf Beeching

Mr Ashbee remembers...

Browsing through the bottom drawer of my filing cabinet recently I came across a postcard dated 1959 and addressed to my grandfather Norman W.Q. Ashbee. It was from the Genealogical Quarterly, a London-based research company, and it was to inform him that details of the Ashbee family coat-of-arms were included in the summer issue of their quarterly journal. Sadly, my grandfather had died the year before so, oblivious to any commercial forces that may have been at work and feeling certain it would reveal a noble descent, I sent for a copy.

Looking back, this proved to be a useful exercise; it impressed on me that expectations seldom agree with reality, a vital lesson for anyone starting out in family history. Of course, this happened at a time when genealogy was not the popular pastime that it is today and as a beginner it was relatively difficult to get started. Unlike present-day practice, most sources of information were at the County Record Office or other repositories so travelling and correspondence were an essential part of research. Access to parish registers often involved making arrangements with the vicar in order to make a search because many parishes at that time were holding on to their registers instead of depositing them with the C.R.O. Likewise, research of the census returns meant a visit to the P.R.O. which was in Chancery Lane, London. It was the release of the 1861 census that convinced me that the journey was worthwhile and I would take the train to Charing Cross and walk to Chancery Lane. Research there involved using the enumerators' original census forms. These were bound up into hefty volumes according to parish and were brought to readers' desks on large trolleys.

Research nearer home took me to Canterbury Cathedral Archives, and in 1965 I applied for a reader's ticket. Dr. Urry was archivist then and he was running the search room with a few helpers who, I assumed, were volunteers. He had warned me beforehand that he was short-staffed and on several occasions he appeared to be running the archives entirely on his own. But, despite these difficulties he was always helpful and generous with advice. Those who used the

search room at that time will remember the very basic facilities and lack of heating in the winter.

Moving on, 1974 was a significant year for all family historians in Kent. It marked the formation of the Kent Family History Society and the ever increasing interest in genealogy. Over the years its Quarterly Journal has been uniting researchers and bringing to our notice news and events of everything genealogical. I am proud to say that my collection of journals is complete from the first number. But, as always, change was on the way. Family history, which had been traditionally correspondence-based on account of scattered resources and families, is taking a different form. Fuelled by television programmes and an outpouring of magazines and books, online research seems to be producing a generation of armchair genealogists. That more people are involved and that more records are accessible can only be applauded but we must never lose sight of that fundamental rule of genealogy always go back to the original source.

By Gilbert Ashbee

An amusing item from the Census records

In 1841 and 1851 a farmer in Hawkhurst was living in a place called Highgate. His name was John Mercer Durrant and he lived with his sister, Ann, who was 10 years his senior. In 1851 he was 71 and she was 82. Both were unmarried. [Census ref HO 107/1619 f. 373 .] Come 1861 Ann Durrant presumably has died because John Mercer Durrant, now aged 81 had moved to Gills Green and was living with his new wife aged 41. There are no children living with them! [Census ref RG9/508 f. 103]

John Mercer Durrant was listed as unmarried in 1851 which means he got married for the first time somewhere between the ages of 71 and 81!

If he was a widower this would have been recorded!

By Nicola Waddington

The Cathedral Library re-launched

When the Cathedral books were boxed and securely stored away in carefully monitored conditions, the members of the Cathedral Library Committee were busy fixing the details for the re-opening of the Library on March 31st. We looked to this event as an occasion to re-launch the Library and its services, and to this end we planned a series of lectures and talks which would both raise the profile of the Cathedral Library and help us all to appreciate more fully something of its history and the many treasures that are contained in its various historic collections.

The opening day itself was a huge success, and the Library manager, her staff and intrepid volunteers welcomed over 300 visitors to the exhibition which had been arranged in the Howley Harrison Library. A great number of these visitors had never entered the building before. Some expressed a little surprise that the Cathedral actually had a Library. The visitors admired the building, and were amazed at the exhibits on display, which our staff were proud to show and explain. The re-opening attracted some media interest and a short report was shown on local television. Prior to the opening, Dr David Starkey had come on a private visit to see the collections,

and to begin to identify those books and artefacts which he would show and talk about during his public lecture on the evening of Thursday 31st.

That event, which filled the auditorium in the International Study Centre on the south side of the Precincts, began with a wine reception at which we were able to thank the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral for their financial contribution towards the cost of the re-roofing of the Library and the conservation work. David Starkey then presented his 'Choice' of books and artefacts from the Library, and his illustrated talk was informative and entertaining in equal measure. He began by speaking of the importance of books and libraries in a digital world where so much is ephemeral, shifting and superficial. Books, he suggested were not only interesting and valuable objects in themselves, but by the very fact that they could be handled, provided solid markers in the history of our intellectual and cultural life.

For a self-confessed agnostic, we were a little surprised at Dr Starkey's choice of some Prayer Books from our collections, but these he presented as evidence for his thesis that although in this anniversary year of





the King James Bible much attention has correctly been given to the influence of the Tyndale Bible in shaping the English language, it was the introduction of a vernacular Prayer Books in the reign of Edward VI which was the primary force in shaping literary English. This trajectory, beginning with the work of Chaucer, was a fascinating and convincing excursus, after which Dr Starkey presented the remainder of his choices to delight and entertain the audience.

Three other monthly lectures on the Library were planned for April, May, and June. The first of these was presented by John Burton the Cathedral’s Surveyor to the Fabric, and our honorary historian, Dr Margaret Sparks. John Burton gave an illustrated talk on the work that had been carried out on the Howley Harrison building, and we were especially appreciative of the degree of care and craftsmanship that had been shown by our stonemasons in the repointing and rebuilding of the brick elevation of the building. Dr Sparks followed with a fascinating account of the history of the Cathedral Library, and told the story of how the books had fared through the vicissitudes of English history from the time of Christ Church Priory, through the Reformation to that of the Restoration. We are delighted that we now have a comprehensive and beautifully illustrated booklet ‘A History of the Library at Canterbury Cathedral’

by Margaret Sparks and Karen Brayshaw which was published to coincide with the reopening.

In May, Dr David Shaw took up the baton from Margaret Sparks and gave a detailed illustrated talk on the several extant catalogues dated: 1630, 1634, 1638 and 1650. Dr Shaw is a longstanding member of the Library Committee, and now the collections are back on their shelves, he is able to resume his research on the seventeenth century catalogues, and trace the provenance and dates of the books in our care. The third illustrated lecture, on the Library and the Civil War, was given by Professor Jackie Eales, whom we recently welcomed as a member of the Library Committee. Professor Eales’s lecture was a model of ‘local history’, focussing on Canterbury, and it amply demonstrated that the books in our collections are an invaluable resource for both teaching and research. We are most grateful to the lecturers for sharing with us their knowledge and enthusiasm, and to those who supported this series of evening talks and discussions. Finally, and most importantly, let me in this article congratulate again our enthusiastic and hard-working staff and volunteers, and also pay particular tribute to all those who serve on our Library Committee, and who bring to its work a wealth of expertise, knowledge, and interest.

By Canon Irvine

NEW: Autumn programme of day schools and short courses

Canterbury Christ Church University is running a wide range of Adult Education programmes for you to discover, learn and enjoy. Programmes are running across the campus network in Kent and are offered as day schools and/or short courses. An example of the wide range of programmes includes:

- Church Music: ministry and worship
- Religion, Atheism and Philosophy
- Salomons: its contribution to our cultural heritage
- The Folklore of Kent
- Reading Marx’s Das Kapital
- King James Bible: its words, history, music

For full details on all day schools and short courses available and to book your place visit:
www.canterbury.ac.uk/community-arts-education



Recent Library Accessions

Richard Gameson, Manuscript Treasures of Durham Cathedral, Third Millennium Publishing Limited, 2010
S.A.J. Bradley, (ed.), N.F.S. Grundtvig: A life recalled, Aarhus University Press and S.A.J Bradley, 2008
King James: The Holy Bible ,Oxford University Press
Patrick Collinson, The History of a History Man: On, the twentieth century viewed from a safe distance, The Boydell Press, 2011
Catherine Royer-Hemet, (ed.) Canterbury: A Medieval City ,Cambridge Scholars, 2010
Pearce J Carefoote, Great and Manifold: A Celebration of the Bible in English, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, 2010
Clare Edwards, Isabella Gilmore: Forerunner of Today's Women Parish Priests,The Gilmore Trust, 2009
David Hook & Ambrose Robin, Boxley: The story of English Paris, Modern Press Ltd, 2009
William Henry Taylor, Antioch and Canterbury, Gorgias Press, 2005
Katharine Eustace, Before or After? A model of the monument to Mary Thornhurst (1549-1609) in St Michael's Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral, Church Monuments, 2010
Kurt Weitzmann, Late Antique and Early Christian Book Illumination, George Braziller Inc., 1977
Nigel Tattersfield, Thomas Benwick: The complete illustrative work, The British Library,2011
Richard Palmer & Michelle P.Brown (ed.) Lambeth Palace Library: Treasure from the collection of the Archbishops of Canterbury, Scala Publishers Ltd, 2010
Nicholas T. Parsons, Worth the Detour: A history of the guidebook, Sutton Publishing Ltd, 2007
David Crook, (ed.) Curia Regis Rolls: Preserved in the Public Record Office, The Boydell Press, 2006
Joan Greatrex, The English Benedictine Cathedral Priors, Oxford University Press, 2011
Bragg, Melvyn The Book of Books: The Radical Impact of the King James Bible 1611-2011, Hodder and Stoughton, 2011
David Crystal, Begat: The King James Bible and the English Language, Oxford University Press, 2010
David Norton, The King James Bible: A short History from the Tyndale to today, Cambridge University Press, 2011



Canterbury Cathedral Archives *Closure from 31st January 2012*

Due to the need to carry out essential repairs and replace the 50 year old roof, the Cathedral Archives will be closed from 31st January 2012 for approximately 7 months.

These works are vital for securing the building's suitability for housing irreplaceable archive material, and for providing access to it, in the decades to come. Planning for the closure is now taking place. It is unlikely that there will be access to any of the collections in that period, in all but very exceptional circumstances.

The Dean & Chapter, to whom the management of the Archives reverts in February 2012 after the withdrawal of Kent County Council from the existing partnership arrangement, regret any inconvenience and hardship that this decision may cause but look forward to offering a full service to all users of these facilities from the Autumn of next year. There will continue to be access to the rare book collections of the Cathedral Library.

If you would like further information, or want to make any comments, please contact the Cathedral's Receiver-General (administrator) on receivergeneral@canterbury-cathedral.org, tel **01227-762862**

Recent Archives Accessions

Parish Records

Bekesbourne, St Peter (U3-165)

PCC Minutes, 1992-2006

Papers relating to the chancel, 2007-2008

Birchington, All Saints (U3-76)

Highways Accounts, 1771-1806

Chillenden, All Saints (U3-156)

Register of baptisms, 1813-2009

Chislet, St Mary (U3-55)

School Managers' minute book, 1903-1946

Eastling, St Mary Magdalene (U3-208)

Acts of Parliament relating to clandestine marriages, 1822-1823

Marriage licences, 1844; 1846; 1907

Papers relating to the churchyard, 1927

Plans of new vicarage, c1960s

Papers relating to the church, 1856-1967

Papers relating to the war memorial, 1946-1949

Elmstead, St James (U3-250)

Registers of services, 1945-1968

Vestry minutes, 1854-1888

PCC Accounts, 1949-1967

Harvest New Anglican Church (U3-292)

Steering group minutes, 2007-2011

Newsletters, 2007-2011

Folkestone, Christ Church (U3-217)

Register of confirmations, 1909-1977

PCC minute books, 1920-1931

Folkestone, Holy Trinity (U3-215)

Registers of baptisms, 1869-2002

Registers of banns, 1903-2001

Registers of marriages, 1869-2007

Register of confirmations, 1920-2007

Registers of services, 1885-2009

PCC minute books, 1886-1991

Finance committee minute books, 1951-1987

Missionary committee minute books, 1953-1970

Folkestone, St Augustine (U3-265)

Register of services, 1977-2004

Goodnestone next Wingham (U3-232)

Register of baptisms, 1893-2009

Margate, All Saints, Westbrook (U3-246)

Register of banns, 1987-2006

Newington, St Christopher (U3-234)

Registers of services, 1955-1988

Management committee minute books, 1955-1982

Nonington, St Mary (U3-118)

Parish magazines, 1892-1895; 1900-1901; 1922-1939

Ringwould, St Nicholas (U3-104)

Annual Church accounts, 1982; 1990 & 1994-1995

St Laurence in Thanet (U3-19)

Marriage licences, 1850-1978

Curate licences, 1827; 1847

Tithe correspondence, 1857

Stourmouth, All Saints (U3-97)

Overseers' account book, 1680-1723

Throwley, St Michael and All Angels (U3-171)

Papers relating to the churchyard, 1962-1964

Papers relating to the vicarage, 1949-1967

Papers relating to the church, 1946-1967

Papers relating to the parish hut, 1945-1949

Correspondence relating to Throwley National School, 1899

Woodnesborough, St Mary (U64)

Terrier and Inventory, 2010

Unofficial

Jesus Hospital

Minute books, 1947-1979, U204/A/4-5

Staffing News

At the end of this month we say goodbye to Megan Dunmall who will be leaving us to take up her new post as Collections Assistant at the Royal Armouries, Tower of London.

In November we say Bon Voyage to our Conservation Manager, Peter Whitehead who will be leaving us to start his new post as Collections Care Manager at the National Library of New Zealand, Wellington, N.Z.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 5th to Friday 16th September inclusive

Collections Closure: the Cathedral Archives and Library are closed in order to undertake vital work on our collections. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Saturday 10th September, 10am to 4pm

The Vikings are Coming! Family Activity Day
Canterbury Heritage Museum, Stour Street
Explore the museum and take part in a wealth of fun hands-on activities.

Admission rates apply; special rate for Canterbury District Residents Card holders.

Tuesday 27th September, 6.15pm

Open lecture: Canterbury and the Vikings in the reign of King Æthelred the Unready
Woolf College Lecture Theatre, University of Kent
Public lecture by Professor Simon Keynes (FBA, Fellow of Trinity College Cambridge).
Free entry, no tickets necessary.

Thursday 29th September, 7.30pm

Life in Canterbury at the time of the Viking siege: Popular Lecture
Canterbury Heritage Museum, Stour Street
An illustrated talk by an expert from Canterbury Archaeological Trust based on archaeological finds from Canterbury. Admission £6, including refreshments. Advance booking only.
Tel 01227-475202.

Wednesday 5th October, 5.30pm

Friends Open Evening, starting with Evensong

Thurs 27th October, 7.30pm

“Canterbury on Film: a screening of archive film from the 1920s to the 1960s”, presented by Tim Jones
Powell Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University
Free entry; please contact the Archives on 01227-865330 to reserve a ticket.

Saturday 22nd October, 1pm to 4pm

Family activity day: “Canterbury in the 1960s and 1970s”
Canterbury Heritage Museum, Stour Street
Usual museum entry charges apply; please contact the Archives for more information.

Friday 11th November, 6.30pm

Cathedral Archives and Library annual lecture, 2011
Cathedral Archives searchroom.
Lecture by Prof Kenneth Fincham of the University of Kent, “The making of the King James Version of the Bible”
Free entry, no tickets necessary.

Saturday 12th November, 9.30am

One day conference: The Bible in English from the early Middle Ages to 1611
Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, Study Centre
Booking is via The Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Kent.
Email: c.l.taylor.ac.uk

Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th November 9am-1pm

The Archives and Library will be closed for Diocesan Schools Days Activities.

The Manor and the Man

Saturday 8th October 2011

Venue: Christ Church University, Medway Campus, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4UF

Cost: £45

Manorial records are often dismissed as “difficult” or “only of use for very early research”. They are in fact one of the few sources that potentially span the centuries from the 1300s right through until the 20th century while, although early records are in Latin, from the 18th century the majority are in English. Manorial records are one of the few sources that can give us a run of conclusive evidence that will prove a family tree over several generations, sometimes before the advent of parish registers. With a little knowledge manorial records are not difficult and this workshop aims to break down these misconceptions and open up a much wider world of research to you.

This is an intensive workshop limited to 12 students. In the morning we will look at the manorial system and its records and also at who lived on the manor. You may be surprised to find how many of your poorer ancestors may feature. The afternoon will consist of a palaeography workshop with two tutors led by Dr David Wright and adjusted to the individual’s skill level. We will practise reading old handwriting and take a look at some basic Latin, which will be needed for pre-17th century documents. The workshop will use examples from the holdings of the Cathedral Archives.

For further details contact Celia Heritage on 01797 344376 or visit www.heritagefamilyhistory.co.uk/events.