



# CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 2017

## WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Once again I am very pleased to welcome the latest edition of the CLAA Newsletter, which may soon be trading under a new name, the better to reflect our three constituencies of libraries, archives and collections. The Association has had a good year, and I look back with gratitude to all who took the trouble to come to Worcester in September for the Triennial Conference. More recently, the Association has been engaging with the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) over taking forward the important task of compiling proper inventories in accordance with the Care of Cathedrals Measure. I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM at Canterbury, which this year we are designating a 'day conference', since the AGM business forms only a small part of what is always a full and interesting day. I know that Canterbury will make us welcome.

*The Very Rev Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester*

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## CLAA NEWS

### CLAA Committee

Dr Claire Breay, committee member, was awarded an MBE for services to medieval history in the New Year Honours 2017. Claire is Head of Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts at the British Library. Over 18 years at the Library, she has taken part in several collaborative research projects and was the lead curator for the 2015 exhibition on Magna Carta. She is currently the lead curator for the exhibition on the Anglo-Saxons which is due to

open at the Library in Autumn 2018. A number of cathedrals have been approached about loans from their collections to this exhibition.

Fellow committee members are also delighted to welcome back to the committee our Assistant Secretary, Katie Flanagan, after her return from maternity leave.

*Editor*

### **CLAA Day Conference**

Taking place at Canterbury Cathedral on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June will be the 2017 Day Conference of the Association. With the theme 'Cathedral Treasures: celebrating our historic collections', the day will include the AGM of the Association as well as a programme of talks. The programme includes a presentation by the Very Rev Philip Hesketh, Dean of Rochester Cathedral, on the Cathedral's current Lottery-funded project, 'Hidden Treasures, Fresh Expressions'. There will also be updates on 'The Canterbury Journey' project (also Lottery-funded), the 'Cathedral Collections' project at York Minster, and the project to build a new home for Lambeth Palace Library. Canon Christopher Irvine, Canon Librarian at Canterbury, will speak about the place of visual arts in cathedrals, and Jon Alexander of the New Citizenship Project will talk about working from mission. The day will end with a choice of tours. We at Canterbury very much look forward to hosting the event and to welcoming you to the Archives and Library.

*Cressida Williams, Canterbury Cathedral*

### **CLAA Grants**

At the meeting of the CLAA Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015, endorsed by the AGM of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015, it was decided that the Association can currently afford to offer modest funding to enterprises that support the stated aims of the CLAA:

- To advance education by the promotion, preservation and protection of cathedral libraries and archives in the United Kingdom and Ireland
- The provision of appropriate access thereto

The CLAA therefore now invites applications from fully paid up members of two years or more standing for sterling grants in areas such as the following:

- Help in defraying the costs of holding conferences and workshops

- Support for small projects such as the web-publication of unpublished catalogues
- Assistance to members in undertaking essential travel as part of work in line with the CLAA's aims
- The provision of equipment, for example book supports, to facilitate access to collections
- Assistance with the necessary purchase of manuscripts and archives to benefit the CLAA community
- Carrying out conservation work on manuscripts and archives or providing equipment such as data loggers to help in monitoring environments

Funds will not be made available towards the cost of commercial publication but will be allocated where they can be expected to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people. Often this will be achieved by making several small awards, rather than a few larger awards. Funding levels may vary from year to year, but it is anticipated that the Committee will make awards of not more than £250 each, and of not more than £500 in total each year.

Applications should comprise: a brief outline of the project, conference or work; its overall cost; the grant being sought; the names and addresses of two referees; details of the addressee for the cheque. Forms are available from the CLAA website or by application to Dr Michael Stansfield, CLAA Treasurer (Durham University Library, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3RN, or [m.m.n.stansfield@durham.ac.uk](mailto:m.m.n.stansfield@durham.ac.uk)) to whom completed applications should be submitted by 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Successful applicants will be informed shortly thereafter.

Successful applicants will be asked to submit for publication in the CLAA newsletter a brief report (300-500 words) of the use to which the grant was put.

*Michael Stansfield, Treasurer*

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Blackburn Cathedral

The new Blackburn Cathedral Library (Caedmon) within the Cathedral Court development is now open. The book-casing, built by Frank Cooper Bespoke Joinery, has been provided by the Friends of Blackburn Cathedral through a legacy from the estate of Canon David Galilee, a former Canon Chancellor of Blackburn Cathedral. The shelves are now filled with an attractive array of books, old and more modern, arranged thematically. Many books in poor condition or badly out-of-date have been disposed of; some of them had been water damaged. Surplus books are now in store on shelving elsewhere in the Cathedral. There is a lot of work to be done in bringing the cataloguing up-to-date and in further reflection upon the potential usage of the library. The Caedmon Library is also available for external and internal group bookings, and has, as well as modern tables and chairs, a comfortable armchair and coffee table zone, with views of the new landscaped Cloister Garth. Caedmon in Blackburn is essentially a small reading library. There is a small bookable guest apartment, suitable for study or retreat within an urban cathedral environment.



*The Rev Ian Stockton, Canon Chancellor*

### Canterbury Cathedral

Canterbury is looking forward to welcoming the CLAA for its Day Conference in June. There will be opportunities then to hear more about recent developments here and about our Canterbury Journey project and to meet the team.

The physical works for The Canterbury Journey began in January, with the erection of scaffolding, the construction of a works compound and other enabling works. Discussions continue about the displays within the Cathedral and within its new Welcome Centre. Volunteer research projects support elements of the physical works and of the learning and participation programme, as well as the collections management programme. Also ongoing are discussions about items for inclusion in loan and outreach boxes and other interpretation material, and about a digital media strategy.

The Archives and Library intends to follow in the footsteps of Exeter Cathedral and apply for Archives Accreditation in the summer. Work is underway on finalising policies, plans and procedures and other necessary documentation to support the application. Last autumn, the Archives and Library participated in the national Survey of Visitors to UK Archives, which is administered by the Archives and Records Association and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The results have now been issued, and provide some useful benchmarking information for the public services we offer.

Items from the funeral vestments of Archbishop Hubert Walter (d1205) and from the 'achievements' of Edward of Woodstock, the 'Black Prince' (d1376), returned in February after their display in the 'Opus Anglicanum' exhibition at the V&A. A conference on the Black Prince is taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November. Further details and booking information is available on the Cathedral's website. A pilgrim's ribbon from the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Bargrave Collection is on loan until June 2017 to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge for 'Madonnas and Miracles'.

This year marks 75 years since the Baedeker Raids on Canterbury, during which the Victorian Library was destroyed. A book from the bombed Cathedral Library has featured as the 'Object of the Month' display in the Cathedral Crypt. The Archives and Library will be contributing a photographic display to a study day in June, and will also be opening for the September Heritage Open Days with a display on World War II. The year also marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cathedral Friends. Volunteers have been using the Archives and Library to research donations by the Friends and their findings will be showcased at the annual Friends' Day in July. Discussions are underway with institutions in Canterbury and beyond in preparation for the 800th anniversary of the 'translation' of St. Thomas Becket in July 2020.

*Cressida Williams, Archives and Library*

### **Durham Cathedral**

The Cathedral Library's new reading room, the Barker Reading Room, opened to readers in February 2017 and can now host special collections appointments from Tuesdays – Thursdays each week, including for the Refectory Library's early printed books, music, and antiquarian collections. Access to the Durham Cathedral's medieval manuscript collection continues to be administered by staff at the university's Palace Green Library.

The Open Treasure exhibition, also housed in the claustral spaces of Durham Cathedral, continues to receive positive visitor feedback. Its current temporary exhibition *BEASTS!* showcases several of the Library's medieval manuscripts and early printed books, alongside a 'Griffins Claw', thought to be the actual gift to St Cuthbert's shrine in the 13th

century, which has been borrowed from the British Museum. A narwhal tusk, ostrich eggs and an elephant's tooth have also been loaned from Sunderland Museum and Wintergarden.

The next temporary exhibition, *Magna Carta and the Forest Charters*, will display all three of Durham's issues of Magna Carta (1216, 1225 and 1300) alongside their corresponding Forest Charters (1217, 1225 and 1300). This summer will also see the launch of the permanent Treasures of St Cuthbert display, which will open to the public on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July. The treasures include the conserved coffin of St Cuthbert and the gold and garnet Pectoral Cross, the latter being the symbol of Durham Cathedral.

The implementation of the Cathedral's new Collections Management System to create an electronic inventory continues, with over 3,000 records created to date. This project has also allowed us to carry out important additional collections work to update the inventory, including the verification of object locations. Our new Adopt a Book programme also launched in October 2016 to considerable success; so far the programme has raised over £12,000 towards conservation of the Cathedral's collections, with 42 volumes adopted.

*Maria Nagle,  
Assistant Librarian (Maternity Cover)*

### **Exeter Cathedral**

Exeter Cathedral's Library and Archive has retained its Archives Service Accreditation, first awarded in 2014. Exeter is the only cathedral in the UK to hold Archives Accreditation, which is the UK quality standard recognising good performance in all areas of archives service delivery.

*Editor*

### **Hereford Cathedral**

It's been a busy start to 2017 so far! We were closed as usual for three weeks in January, during which time we undertook a comprehensive stocktake of the medieval archive and also finished off a full location guide of the archives. The Chained Library and Mappa Mundi Exhibition underwent their usual cleaning programme and the

BBC came to do some filming to support Hereford's bid for UK City of Culture. We also hosted a visit from the newly appointed Herefordshire Museum Development Officer from Ironbridge who gave us some welcome advice on considering applying for Museum Accreditation in the future. At the same time, we also made several medieval manuscripts and the Mappa Mundi available to Team Pigment from the University of Durham over a number of days, enabling them to take digital images and to use raman spectroscopy techniques to analyse pigment colours for the first time. They discovered vast pigment loss on Mappa Mundi, meaning that it was almost impossible to identify the pigments used, apart from azurite for the blue and vermillion for the red. They also used their equipment on a Bishop's Transcript loaned from Herefordshire Archives and Records Centre in order to try to read a baptism entry hoped to be for Herefordshire poet and religious writer Thomas Traherne (c 1636-1674), but unfortunately the name remains illegible!

Our new temporary exhibition opened on 23 January and ran until 7 April. 'From Venice to Jerusalem' featured a newly conserved edition of Bernard van Breydenbach's *Peregrination in Terram Sanctam* (1490) and the centre piece consisted of three fully repaired and extended woodcut pull outs, now flattened and removed from the original binding. The latest temporary exhibition has just been installed and opened: 'Mapping Inspirations' showcases the work of several established artists (including Grayson Perry) as well as 14 degree students from Hereford College of Arts in response to Mappa Mundi. It includes a huge array of techniques and approaches, from blacksmithing to gold leaf on vellum, from oil paints to 3D installations.

For the first time, the Library and Archive have contributed to Hereford WEA's popular series of spring workshops which run at the local museum and record office. The two sessions on the medieval book and on palaeography were both sold out, including the extra sessions laid on to accommodate numbers. This has helped us to reach new audiences for the first time and they were well received. We also hosted a visit from the Archive Trainees' Group (run by Erin Lee at the National Theatre Archive) jointly with HARC, giving us the opportunity to showcase cathedral archives to

those starting out in the profession. We are currently recruiting two new volunteers who are shortly to start their archive training by distance learning. James North, our Library and Archives Assistant, has also just begun his MA in Archive Administration by distance learning at Aberystwyth University and we wish him luck with his studies.

Work is also progressing on the last temporary exhibition for 2017, the Magna Carta exhibition to mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hereford's 1217 Magna Carta. A full lecture series has been planned for the second half of the year and the Cathedral is working with a number of groups across the city and county to put together a comprehensive programme.

Charlotte will be leaving her role as Archivist at the start of May after nearly two years in post, to become College Archivist at Magdalen College, University of Oxford. Very many thanks to all who have helped her to get to grips with this fascinating part of the wider archive sector!

*Charlotte Berry and Rosemary Firman*

### **Lambeth Palace Library**

The Library is pleased to announce that the proposals for the new building were approved by the London Borough of Lambeth Planning Committee. Further information on the project is given on its website at [www.newlambeth-palacelibrary.co.uk](http://www.newlambeth-palacelibrary.co.uk) and an update will be provided by Declan Kelly at the Day Conference.

The Richard III 'Book of Hours' from the collection has been digitised and is available on the website of Leicester Cathedral, accompanied by a scholarly interpretation of the text. The digitisation was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Richard III Society, and the University of Leicester.

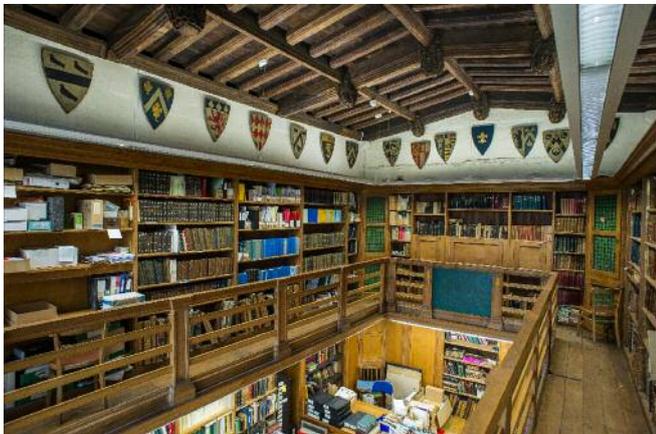
*Editor*

### **Peterborough Cathedral**

Peterborough Cathedral's library has led an exciting life, and has moved several times over the centuries. Our original collection was burned by the Parliamentary soldiers who were camped in the Cathedral for six months during the civil war.

Fortunately, White Kennett, Bishop of Peterborough (1718-1728), left a large collection of medieval manuscripts to the Cathedral in his will, restarting our collection. In 1980, all of our collection dating to before 1800 was moved to the Rare Books collection at Cambridge University Library, where they could be kept in the proper climatic conditions. The rest of our collection is currently housed in the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Trinity Chapel, located above the porch that serves as the main West entrance to the Cathedral.

Unfortunately, conditions in the Library are not ideal. There is a large stained glass window, which has been covered with a screen to protect the books. Bats have been seen to come in, probably through the roof. The climate is also less than ideal. Some of the books are starting to show damage. We requested and were awarded a grant of £250 from the CLAA in order to purchase a thermohygrometer data logger, in order to track the temperature and humidity over a period of time. We are now able to make decisions on what needs to be done to the Library to better protect our collection.



*Lisa Foulkes-Arnold,  
Volunteer Development Manager*

### **Worcester Cathedral**

The freelance conservators will be busy over the course of the next few months repairing manuscripts and medieval registers as part of a grant from a Charitable Trust and a bequest. We have also had four more Adopt-A-Book donations, which will also require some work. In recent weeks the Cathedral's fundraising officer Jane Rogers has been kind enough to update the Library's adopt-a-book form, which can be seen on the Cathedral's website here:

[http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/Adopt\\_a\\_Book.php](http://www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/Adopt_a_Book.php)

This should hopefully attract more donations. Improving the conservation of the Cathedral's map collection is something we have identified as a project to take place next, as well as improving the storage of some of the post-medieval leases.

Over the summer the library staff and volunteers will be staging a 'Constructing the Cathedral' exhibition. This will combine with displays by the stonemasons, stained glass restorers, and a local geological environmental charity. There will be panels about the different phases of construction from Anglo-Saxon times onwards, as well as about some of the monuments, and what we know about the craftsmen and stonemasons in the Middle Ages.

The lighting in the Library has been repaired within the last month, which has been a great help for visiting scholars. The next stage will be to improve the direct lighting in the Library, and an application for this is in progress. The library volunteers are continuing to catalogue or index several of the archive collections including 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century leases and many modern documents, as well as writing and managing the library's blog, and helping with enquiries.

## Adopt-A-Book at Worcester Cathedral



David Morrison, Cathedral Librarian

### York Minster

#### **Collections Development**

Last year we were delighted to be awarded an Arts Council England Museum Resilience Fund grant for the project *Cathedral Collections: Unlocking Spiritual Capital*.

The project team began their roles at the beginning of this year and work is now well underway.

Rachael Bowers has been appointed as Collections Development Officer, Kirsty Mitchell as Collections Engagement Officer. Becca McGrath and Minnie Triggs join the team as Collections Assistants. Rachael and Kirsty are looking forward to sharing more news from the project when they present at CLAA's 2017 conference *Cathedral Treasures: Celebrating our Historic Collections*.

Over the course of the project we will work with specialists to undertake significance assessments of all our collections. Our plate expert has nearly completed her assessment of our core collection of ecclesiastical silver and the William Lee bequest of York hallmarked secular silver, as well as the large collection of parish silver deposited with us. Our furnishings are next up, with assessment of this collection beginning imminently.

Work continues on the profiling of the Library's modern, borrowable collection. Meanwhile, a recent survey of our users has seen 41% of those surveyed describe York Minster Library's collections as "critical to [their] research".

#### **Collections Information**

Our 13<sup>th</sup>-century cope chest returned to York after a star turn in the V&A's *Opus Anglicanum: Masterpieces of English Medieval Embroidery* which showcased objects from a number of cathedral collections.

Inventory inputting continues for the collections and archives. 60% of the collections are now on the inventory. Meanwhile, the Archivist is working on a large records management project, so usual business is being managed by other members of the team.

We have received a request from Auckland Castle for the loan of a number of items from our library, archives and 3D collections, including a thirteenth century wooden painted panel from the Chapter House ceiling. The panel is one of only three that have survived and would have been part of a scheme of imagery which included biblical figures, saints and angels.

We are also looking to support Professor Brian Cummings' AHRC proposal to study the Archbishops' libraries of York, Canterbury, Lambeth Palace and Westminster Abbey.

### **Collections Access**

Our online catalogue is expanding! The Library catalogue is hosted by the University of York, but our collection and archive material remain largely inaccessible online. Over the course of the next year our 3D collections will be made available online, launching in stages. First to go live in May is our collection of 285 monuments.

The Old Palace (HQ for the collections team) has welcomed over 1,600 visitors in the last few months, and so far staff have retrieved nearly 400 objects for use in seminars, exhibitions, research, digitisation and demonstrations.

A new exhibition titled *Tourist, Traveller, Pilgrim?* opened on 1<sup>st</sup> April. It explores the experience of pilgrimage: the impact it has on people's lives and the powerful self-transformation it can bring about. We hope that visitors to the exhibition will be encouraged to question what a pilgrimage is, to

consider why we still do pilgrimages today, and to reflect on whether or not they are visiting York Minster as a pilgrim.

The Library Team made their annual return for Customer Service Excellence (CSE) as part of the University of York's application, for which we are a partner. They submitted three case studies around our interfaith event, *Disagreeing Badly*, our book delivery service and dealing with complaints. Steven Newman's case study on complaints was put forward as a *special* as it was considered exemplary.

### **Collections Care & Conservation**

The team has concentrated on other areas of work this year, but we are looking to focus on collections care and conservation work in the coming months.

*Kirsty Mitchell,  
Collections Engagement Officer*

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## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Religious Archives Group**

A very successful and well attended conference on the theme of 'Women in Religious Archives' was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May. A detailed summary will shortly be available on the RAG website. Dr Clive Field has been replaced as RAG President by Professor John Wolffe. Prof Wolffe is Professor of Religious History at the Open University, and he has been involved with various projects relating to religious history. This includes 'Building on History', a collaborative partnership in the London region, engaging with various faith groups to raise awareness of their

unique histories. Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church at Oxford, is the Patron of RAG.

Dr Field has produced a bibliography on the religious aspects of the First World War in Britain, which is available at <https://clivedfield.wordpress.com/publications-british-religious-history-2/british-religion-and-the-first-world-war/> He would welcome notification of any additional items for inclusion in a second edition.

*Editor*

## THE CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION

The aims of the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association are:

- To advance education by the promotion, preservation and protection of cathedral libraries and archives in the United Kingdom and Ireland
- The provision of appropriate access thereto

For our webpages, see <http://cathedrallibrariesandarchives.wordpress.com/>

Enquiries about membership should be directed to the Honorary Secretary or Treasurer.

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### COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman:

The Very Rev Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester

Vice-Chairman

Canon Ann Barwood, Lay Canon and  
Canon Librarian of Exeter Cathedral

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We aim to produce two issues of this letter each year, in summer and winter. Any contributions should be sent to the Editor, Mrs Cressida Williams, either by email to [cressida.williams@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:cressida.williams@canterbury-cathedral.org) or by post to her at Canterbury Cathedral Archives and Library, The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EH, to reach her by 31<sup>st</sup> October for the winter issue, or 30<sup>th</sup> April for the summer issue. She would also welcome comments or suggestions for content.