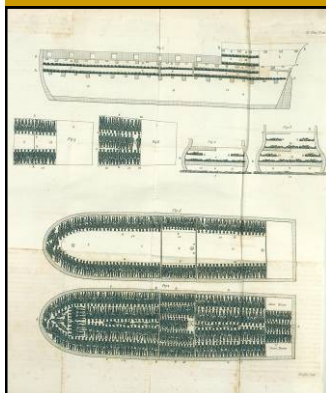




Ties and Lives



The year 2007 marked the bicentenary of the Parliamentary Abolition of the British slave trade. The 'Ties and Lives' project, run by Kent County Council, has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Creative Partnerships to explore the historic records of Kentish slave-owning families and abolitionists, and to foster an understanding of the impact that slavery and the abolitionist movement have had on the lives of Kentish people. Daniel Easley was appointed in August 2007 to spend nine months researching Kent's archives and to work with schools and community groups. The following provides a summary of the research findings to date.

CCL H/Vv-4-15/16

Canterbury Cathedral Archives (CCA) and Library (CCL)

CCA holds papers relating to the evangelical Tory MP, Robert Harry Inglis who collected slavery and anti-slavery material, was a member of the African institution and who had connections with the abolitionist group, known as the Clapham Sect. The Inglis Papers reveal his wider interests and attitudes which may have informed his anti-slavery beliefs. The printed materials, donated by Inglis and held at CCL, provide an excellent resource for anyone researching the slave trade. There are a number of works by the group of Kent abolitionists known as the Teston Circle, including the Reverend James Ramsay's *Essays on the Treatment and Conversion of African Slaves*, a poem by Hannah More entitled *Sensibility*, and Thomas Clarkson's *History of the Rise, Progress and Accomplishment of Abolition of the African Slave Trade by the British Parliament*. At CCA Poor Law records contain printed anti-slavery petitions from at least seven towns and villages in Kent and parish records reveal a wealth of demographic information. Research undertaken by Geoff Randerson into Black and Asian people in Kent is particularly valuable. [Pamph. 73/22]

East Kent Archives Centre (EKAC)

The Cobb Collection revealed both Francis Cobb's involvement in the anti-slavery movement, and indirect gain through salvage of ships carrying slave produced goods and exports to West Africa. Shipping registers reveal information about a ship called the 'Emma', owned by the MP, Sir William Curtis of Ramsgate, which was condemned in 1822 for being 'engaged in an illicit traffic in slaves...'

Centre for Kentish Studies (CKS)

The collections of the Romney, Gordon Ward, Pratt and Streatfield families all reveal evidence regarding Kentish slave-owning families with interests in the West Indies, The Stanhope collection includes notebooks containing witness statements about the slave trade and letters from William Pitt, Hannah More and William Wilberforce. Parish records contain references to Black servants and an anti-slavery petition from the parish of Mereworth.

Conclusion

Sources at Kent's archives reflect fully both the geography of the Atlantic slave trade and its chronology, and offer some fascinating in-depth studies of enslaved Africans, slave owners and abolitionists.

A fuller account by Daniel Easley is available from Sheila Malloch



Quirky Facts

All these entries are from the Canterbury diocesan marriage licences as indexed by J.M. Cowper and have been collected by one of our regular readers, Robert Chown. They show the variety of unromantic reasons that people gave in order to receive their licence! Marriage licences can be a great source of information and often provide the only evidence of a signature for an ancestor.

April 1st 1612 John Pettyt of Graveney, husbandsman, and Margaret Martin, spinster of Graveney. Before this licence was granted the said Margaret appeared and alleged 'that whereas Peter Keyne of Graveney, husbandsman, hath heretofore obteyned a licence to marry with her, truth it is that she was never contracted in matrimony unto the said Peter, but long before...she...was contracted in marriage unto John Pettyt, whose father's maid servant she was, and by him, the said John, begotten with child wherewith she is now great; and upon some agreement made between the said John Pettyt and Peter Keyne (to salve the said Peter's credit) viz. for the sum of ten pounds, the said Keyne undertooke to marry with her the said Margaret, which she utterly disliked and yet disliketh; and now at length hath persuaded the said John Pettyt (God so putting it into his mynde) to be as good as his word, and to marry with her'.
(No evidence of a licence obtained by Peter Keyne)

Sept 1st 1618 Roland Dixon of St Mary Bredmans, Canterbury, a tailor, and Emma Dickenson of St Andrew's, Canterbury, widow, at St James's Dover.

They alleged 'that there was no other reason why they should marry in Dovor but because the said Emma Dickenson her sister dwelt in Dovor aforesaid where they meant to keepe their wedding dynner'.

Sept 22nd 1618 Thomas Litle of Biddenden, clothier and Agnes Bishopp, at St Margaret's Canterbury. Litle alleging 'that there was noe other cause why they would marry in Canterbury aforesaid but because the father of the said Agnes Bishopp told him that it would save charges to marry there'. Thomas Bishopp of Biddenden, husbandsman, bondsman .

Feb 3rd 1628 Catherine Sayre of St Peter's, Sandwich, about 33, daughter of Roger Sayre of Northbourne, husbandsman, 'who consents and allegeth that she intendeth to marry with Richard Burrish late of St Lawrence in Thanet, maltman, about 28 who by reason of his imprisonment in the jail of Sandwich could not personally appear and desireth licence for the said Catherine and Richard to be married at the church of St Peter's, Sandwich'. They married the next day so presumably he came out of prison to be married.

Jan 19th 1634 John Brockman of Leysdown, husbandsman, about 31, and Mary Clinton, about 23, whose parents are dead. Two days before William Long also of Leysdown, husbandsman, appeared as a messenger on their behalf and urged the condition of Mary Clinton and the suspicion that Brockman would quite 'run away' if allowed to procure the licence as reasons why it should be granted on Long's allegation.

Nov 25th 1634 John Lee of Charing, husbandsman, alleges that John Chambers, about 20, son of Thomas Chambers of Battle in Sussex, with his father's consent, intends to marry Jane Pottman of Charing, about 22, daughter of Christopher Pottman of Challock, who also consents. 'The said Jane Pottman being now with child as she confesseth by the said Lee whereupon the said Chambers is in the custody of the Bossholder until he shall marry with her whereby he cannot come to procure his licence'.

Oct 12th 1640 'George Edwardes of Cliffords Inn, London, gentleman, bachelor, about 25, whose father, Bartholomew Edwardes gentleman, consents, and Elizabeth Cobb of Lynstead, about 22, daughter of Mary Cobb, widow, who also consents (it is further alleged that, though the said George heretofore obtained a licence from this court to marry Dorothy Cobb, sister of the said Elizabeth, yet he is not contracted to her, nor hath he married her by virtue of the said licence'.

April 9th 1645 Thomas Denn of St Peter's, Sandwich, grocer, about 25, and Mary Finch of St Clement's Sandwich, about 19, 'whose parents are dead and she without guardians and being of age by her father's will to receive her portion. At St Peter's Canterbury. Richard Baker of Sandwich, brazier and John Willes of Canterbury, clothier, bondsmen'.

If you find any interesting snippets that you wish to share, please send them to Sheila at archives@canterbury-cathedral.org or jot them on a piece of paper and hand them to a member of staff marked for her attention.

ARCHIVES CATALOGUE ADDITIONS

October 2007 to February 2008

The following have been added to the finding aids between October 2007 and February 2008.

Parish:

Barham, St John the Baptist

Register of Marriages, 1994-2001 (U3/163/1/D/9)
Register of Marriages, 2002-2006 (U3/163/1/D/10)
Register of Services, 1981-1995 (U3/163/1/H/10)
Register of Services, 1995-2007 (U3/163/1/H/11)
Plan of Barham Churchyard Extension (U3/163/3/B/1)
PCC Minute Book (U3/163/8/A/6)
School Minute Book (U3/163/25/B/11)
A Guide to the Church of St John the Baptist' (U3/163/28/6)
'Dear old Barham' by Frank Edwards (U3/163/28/7)
'The Parish Church of Barham, St John the Baptist' (U3/163/28/8-9)
History of Barham' (U3/163/28/10)
Photographs of the Church of St John the Baptist (U3/163/28/11-12)

Birchington, All Saints

Parish Magazine, July 2007 (U3/76/28/14/6)

Eastry, St Mary

Vestry Book, 1858 (U3/275/8/A/6)

Kingston, St Giles

Register of Marriages, 1993-2003 (U3/168/1/D/3)
Tithe Altered Apportionments, 1890-1925 (U3/168/27/C/1-3)
'A Brief Guide to Saint Giles Parish Church of Kingston' (U3/168/28/12)
Plan of lands to be acquired by Mid-Kent Water, 1928 (U3/168/28/13)

Patricbourne St Mary

Parish magazines for Patricbourne with Bridge, 1952-1957

Reculver, St Mary

List of Incumbents (U3/99/28/19)
Map of Reculver (U3/99/28/20)

Ringwould, St Nicholas

PCC Minute Books (U3/104/8/A12-A14)

Sturry, Broad Oak, Fordwich, Westbere and Hersden

Parish Magazine, July 2007 (U3/189/28/11)

Wickhambreaux, St Andrew

Tithe Altered Apportionments, 1841-1901 (U3/63/27/C/2-11)

Womenswold, St Margaret

Register of Banns, 1939-2003 (U3/106/1/C2)

Canterbury Diocese

Register of Licences under Seal (curates licences etc), 1934-1963 (DCb/F/C/15)

Canterbury Dean and Chapter

Plan for vestries on site of Cheker building, c1947 (DCc/Plan/Prec/665A)
Report on cathedral lighting, 1945 (DCc/Fabric/98(ii))

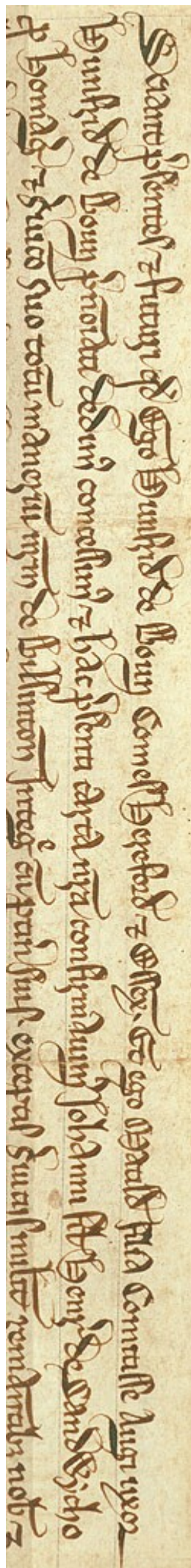
Other:

Gardner and Allard Deeds (U7)
Kent Property Deeds (U23/2)
Killick Property Deeds (U31)
Wakeley Deeds (U35)
Archdeacon of Canterbury (U39)
Kingston Deeds (U55)
Love Deeds (U72)
Newspapers and Journals (U73)
Canterbury Chequers of the Hope Inn Deeds (U76)
Newspapers (U100)
Somerset Deeds and Related Properties (U140)
Canterbury Beer Cart Lane Deeds and Related Properties (U148)
Bishop Walsh's Photograph Album of Kentish Churches (U165)
Canterbury Old Stagers (U449/4/2/1-3, 9-16)
John Aucher Charity Account Book, 1703-1971 (U483/F/1)
Ann Wilks Papers (U500)
Canterbury Cathedral Cricket Club (U501)
Deakins Tailors and Gentlemen's Outfitters (U502)

Noteworthy accessions awaiting cataloguing have included

Whitstable Yacht Club Minutes of Committees
Additional Papers of Archdeacon Bernard Pawley

By producing microfilm or digital copies we can help preserve archive material, through the reductions of handling in the searchroom. Microfilming and digitisation can also extend and enhance access: copies can be made available outside the Cathedral Archives; digital images of maps are more convenient to use than the maps themselves and reproduction is easier and cheaper. If there are any categories of documents in the Archives which you would like to see microfilmed or digitised, please contact us by email at archives@canterbury-cathedral.org or phone on 01227 865330.



More Memories of Wingham

Family Life

Family life, especially with eight kids, all living, sleeping and trying to co-exist under one small cottage roof was not always a successful operation. By and large as a family unit with only Mum to both run and organise our daily lives, things worked out fairly well. We, and by that I mean the older members of the family, always had specific weekly chores to perform. My duties were to take the potato peelings down the hill to Mrs Medgett for her to mix with bran etc and after being boiled fed to her rabbits and hens. I was happy to do this because she always gave me a three-penny piece for the peelings, so the journey was worth the cash. My other task was, after school on Mondays or after nine o'clock on Monday mornings during the holidays, to take the green Chirms rent book up to Mr Elgar's office in the bank chambers at the top of Wingham High Street, clutching the money Mum had entrusted me to pay the rent. This amounted to six shillings or in present-day money 30 pence. The chambers themselves were situated on the corner of the High Street and Harrison's Alley, obliquely across from the famous Red Lion Inn. I recall nipping up the alley to the side door, pushing it open and then climbing the stairs, which were furnished with deep brown lino. As you climbed those stairs everything echoed and sounded quite hollow. There were two flights of stairs which ended at the doorway to Mr Elgar's office. I always tapped on the door and walked in. Miss Julia Sitten was always busy at her typewriter and at my entry she would always stop what she was doing, remove one of those fascinating black, gold and red lock-up cash boxes from her desk drawer and proceed to give me the right change, should I give her a ten shilling note. She then entered the rent paid in the book and handed it back to me. This ritual went on for quite a few years in winter and summer. Our real landlord was a Mr William Maxted who, as I recall, was a bit eccentric hence Mr Elgar acting as his agent although Mr Maxted was a very good small-holder. Sometimes he would get in touch with Mum and ask why he hadn't received the rent. This remark was like petrol and matches to Mum and she wouldn't take it on the chin even with her knowledge of what the financial arrangements were. It just wasn't good enough. Her honour was at stake and she was having none of it. Once this happened I was given strict instructions to make sure that the accompanying letter was given to Mr Elgar. The reply was always the same. 'Please ignore Mr Maxted's comments, I receive your rent without fail every week and that is an end to the matter, I will have a word with Mr Maxted about this on your behalf'. This he always did and for the time being peace, harmony and honour were restored once again.

Alf Beeching

Cathedral Library : Some recent accessions

- Asbury-Bailey, J. : Foundation on a hill : the history of St. Edmund's School, Canterbury (and the Clergy Orphan School for Boys) (privately published, 2004)
- Clifton-Taylor, A. : The cathedrals of England (Thames and Hudson, 1967)
- Ditchfield, G., ed. : The letters of Theophilus Lindsey (1723-1808) : volume 1: 1747-1788 (Boydell Press/Church of England Record Society, 2007)
- Duggan, A. J. : Thomas Becket : friends, networks, text and cult (Ashgate, 2007)
- Foster, P., ed. : Chichester deans : continuity, commitment and change at Chichester Cathedral, 1902-2006 (University of Chichester, 2007)
- Irvine, C., ed. : They shaped our worship : essays on Anglican liturgists (SPCK, 1998)
- Poplawski, P., ed. : English literature in context (Cambridge University Press, 2008)
- Sparks, M. : Canterbury Cathedral Precincts : a historical survey (Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, 2007)
- Stamp, G. : Britain's lost cities (Aurum Press, 2007)
- Starkey, D., et al : Making history : antiquaries in Britain, 1707-2007 (Royal Academy of Arts, 2007)
- Sumption, J. : Pilgrimage : an image of mediaeval religion (Faber and Faber, 1975)
- Toman, R., ed. : Romanesque : architecture, sculpture, painting (Ullmann & Konemann, 2004)
- Webb, D. : Pilgrimage in medieval England (Hambledon and London, 2006)

Useful Sources for Family Historians

No 5 - Coroners' Records

Among those sources particularly helpful to the genealogist or local historian, not all have survived in quantities sufficient to be considered indispensable to the researcher. In this category must be placed the records of HM Coroner, the oldest public office in England, as the survival of coroners' files in England and Wales can be described only as patchy, even those relating to the last few centuries.

Loss and destruction, both accidental and deliberate, account for only a part of this, as the "weeding" of coroners' files has long been the norm and even in cases where records have survived, they have not necessarily been placed with statutory archive repositories. In general, the county record office should be an enquirer's first "port of call" but gaps in holdings – or no holdings at all – are by no means uncommon.

The office of coroner is more than 800 years old, although its duties have altered since its original inception and its present function was clarified in 1887. These responsibilities include the investigation of unnatural, sudden or suspicious deaths, as well as those occurring in prisons. By virtue of its "county borough" status until 1974, Canterbury had its own coroner from the Middle Ages and these records have been deposited at Canterbury Cathedral Archives and were fully catalogued in 2002. They contain coroners summons; coroners notes; early coroners rolls and Quarter Sessions papers (16th – 18th centuries); supplementary notebooks and registers of general licences (16th/17th centuries) and, undoubtedly the most useful element of the collection for family historians, the reports of inquests.

Although dating from 1337, even this series contains lengthy gaps, the largest being between 1818 and 1893. However, a rich collection of inquest reports awaits the researcher, with all centuries covered and, by the 18th century, several inquests a year being reported upon. The very earliest are in Latin and most reports from the first few centuries are limited to a single sheet containing brief details of the deceased and cause of death, but from around the 18th century one will sometimes find additional information, including the statements of witnesses to supplement the report itself.

The obvious benefit to the family historian lies in the fascinating detail relating to the death of an individual about whose passing only a date in a parish register had previously been traced - and perhaps not even that. So we see, for example, a report on the inquest of the death of Joan Johnson of the parish of St Mary Northgate in 1564 is accompanied by a full list of the jurors; or that the death of Katherine Iverson in 1669 was caused by her falling into a well. The coroner of 1749 decided that Mary Somes had been non compos mentis when she committed suicide by hanging herself, and in that same year he held four more inquests in the city, one of them following the sad drowning of a child.

Indeed, deaths by drowning were not at all uncommon, nor were suicides, whether by drowning, hanging or by poison, the latter method accounting for the demise of Ann Bradley in 1766. "Visitations of God" are equally prevalent among the supposed causes, as in the case of one William Blacklocks, for whose death no alternative reason could be established in 1808. Evidence of violent deaths will be frequently found, such as that of Henry Dixon in 1760, who, in attempting to act as peacemaker when two soldiers quarrelled, was fatally struck by a raised sword. Colourful incidents abound in these records, as in the case of the writer's favourite, when a drunken fight followed a dispute over a wager on a cricket match and led to the death of Thomas Dilnutt at the hands – or fists – of Edward Blyghe in 1762. The number of inquests held for which reports survive rises to around two dozen or more a year by the 20th century.

It will be seen that much interesting information is available to the reader who traces an inquest on a Canterbury citizen or, occasionally, an inhabitant of a neighbouring parish, despite the unfortunate 19th century gap. For those who suspect a coroner's court sat at an inquest for a deceased individual, the local newspapers are also strongly recommended for reports on the findings from the mid-18th century, and considerable detail of the inquest's deliberations – including statements from witnesses – is more often than not to be found in the newspapers of the 19th and 20th centuries, thus ameliorating to some extent the absence of inquest reports in this series during the period outlined above.

These records are closed for 75 years, so that already those of the early 1930s and before are available, and requests for sight of more recent records should be addressed to the local coroner's office. Readers are also particularly directed to Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers, *Coroners' Records in England & Wales* (Federation of FHS, 2nd Ed. 1997). The searchroom catalogue for the Canterbury Coroners' records (ref CC/C/5) includes a listing of all cases set out chronologically as well as a name and subject index.

Peter Ewart

Dates for your diary

Calling Family Historians!!

Induction Sessions for new users

Would you like some help with using the resources of the Archives and Library?

The Cathedral Archives and Library will be offering some sessions for those new to using our services, or those who would like further advice on resources for their research. Sessions have been arranged on **Monday 14th April** and **Thursday 19th June**, and these will be aimed on those carrying out family history research. Please email archives@canterbury-cathedral.org or speak to a member of staff to book your place. The sessions will last for 90 minutes starting at 9.30am, and will include an overview of relevant archive and library sources, as well as of available catalogues and guides.

Thurs 13th to Sat 15th March and Mon 17th March, 10.30am to 4pm Ingenious Inventions - Science Week Roadshow

Museum of Canterbury, Stour Street

This event is held in partnership between Canterbury Museums and the Cathedral Archives.

For more information on Museum events telephone 01227 475202

Easter closing. The Archives and Library searchroom will be closed over the Easter bank holidays, Friday 21st to Monday 24th March inclusive.

Saturday 22nd March, 1pm to 4pm The Great Eggscapel!

Discover and take part in some exciting Easter customs from around the globe! Drop-in family event at the Museum of Canterbury, Stour Street.

This event is held in partnership between Canterbury Museums and the Cathedral Archives.

28th March to 6th July The Battle of Maidstone exhibition at Maidstone Museum

The Cathedral Library is lending some books for this exhibition.

29th March 2008 A 'Renaissance Colloquium' will be held in the Cathedral Archives searchroom. An annual day-long event in Canterbury, this year's is organised by the Archives and Library in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University, and takes as its theme 'Reading and Writing in Renaissance Society 1400-1700'. It will consist of a number of short papers presented by scholars from a range of backgrounds, including many working on resources held at the Cathedral. There will be an accompanying exhibition of manuscripts and early printed books from the Archives and Library collections.

The conference fee is a modest £5 payable on admission, to include tea/coffee but not lunch.

For further information, or to book a place, contact the Archives by email on

archives@canterbury-cathedral.org or by telephone on 01227 865330.

Sat 24th May to Sun 1st June The Last Battle

Find out about 'Mad Tom' and The Battle of Bossenden Wood, the last armed rising on British soil, which took place on 31 May 1838 just outside Canterbury.

Westgate Towers Museum, Canterbury

This event is held in partnership between Canterbury Museums and the Cathedral Archives.

Staffing news

We are delighted to announce that Amy Jones will be moving to another position within the Archives team. Amy has been working mostly on our Reception desk, providing a warm welcome to those visiting the searchroom. As from 10th March, she will be leading the Bargrave Project. This exciting six-month project is looking at the Bargrave Collection, a 17th-century 'mini-museum' held within the Archives. The project will include documenting the individual objects within the collection and producing learning and promotional materials. It is being funded with a generous grant from the J. Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust.

Replacing Amy on the searchroom team is Ali Heaps, who has been working for us on an occasional basis. Ali is a recent history graduate from the University of Kent.

Our partners

The Cathedral Archives and Library are run by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury in conjunction with several partners. The Archives is a branch of the Kent Archives Service, funded by Kent County Council, and also has a partnership with Canterbury City Council. The Library is part-funded by the University of Kent and also works in close association with Canterbury Christ Church University.



When one thing leads to another!

One of the unpredictable joys of reading is that one book invariably leads to another. A reference can lead you along an unknown path of discovery, and some of the most rewarding books to study are those which provide a selected bibliography for the serious reader to explore the subject further. A similar route of discovery, of course, opens up as soon as you enter a library. Having checked the shelf-mark of the particular volume you are particularly wanting to consult, it repays a little time just casting your eye along the shelf, to the left and right of the book. Again, other titles covering the same ground as the volume you've tracked down begin to catch your eye, and when this happens, it is well worth taking the time to check the contents page, and if you're really serious, the index of the books you take off the shelves. As the saying goes, one thing leads to another.

I have recently completed a short essay on a piece of sculpture that was temporarily exhibited in the Cathedral in the early part of last summer. The sculpture, called Tsunami Noni, is the work of Rosie Musgrave and commemorates those who died as a result of the tsunami which struck on Boxing Day 2006. The sculpture was placed in the eastern crypt, in the very place which became the first shrine of Thomas Becket. The placing of the sculpture in this particular space suggested the line which I would take for my essay, namely, pilgrimage. The Cathedral, as we know it, was deliberately built as a place of pilgrimage, and my essay begins with the imaginary pilgrim entering the south-west door and walking along the pilgrim's route, down into the undercroft and then along into the eastern crypt. Of course, I needed to describe both the architectural sightlines which are seen by the pilgrim and the different spaces which the pilgrims enter as they progress through this multi-layered building. And to do this I needed to consult a reliable historical source.

The first and utterly dependable choice was the substantial volume *A History of Canterbury Cathedral*, edited by Patrick Collinson, Nigel Ramsey and Margaret Sparks. My sense of the deep historic layering of the building was enhanced by another book, *Canterbury Cathedral Nave: Archaeology, History and Architecture*, which was published in 1997. But in my reading and in my imagination what I was tracking was not simply a heritage trail, but the path of the pilgrim making his or her way through sacred space. So I was led to consider the theme of space, and consulted David Brown's recent study, *God and the Enchantment of Place*. This in turn led me to that most evocative study of the spaces we construct and inhabit, Gaston Bachelard's *The Poetics of Space*. Both these two books were informative, and the latter was quite inspirational. But neither really answered the question of what motivates the pilgrim or of how an architectural space comes to be experienced as a holy place. I needed to press on further along the twin track of pilgrimage. This led me to read Diana Webb's *Pilgrimage in Medieval England*, which, incidentally, has recently been acquired for our Cathedral Library. Casting an eye along the relevant shelf in the Search Room, I came across a solid academic study, *Cathedral Shrines of Medieval England* by Ben Nilson. This book was heavy-going, but I was fortunate in having the guidance of our Cathedral Historian, Dr. Margaret Sparks, who pointed out a couple of factual errors in Nilson's description of the first Becket shrine in Canterbury Cathedral.

Perhaps there is a warning here that the researcher should not restrict their reading to a couple of sources, but allow one thing to lead to another so that their reading becomes a real trail of discovery. A single book title, or a reference will inevitably lead the reader to another, but to follow the trail takes time, and that's another story.

Christopher Irvine, Canon Librarian

Contacting us

Canterbury Cathedral Archives or Library
The Precincts
Canterbury
Kent CT1 2EH

Telephone: 01227 865330 (Archives)
01227 865287 (Library)

E-mail: archives@canterbury-cathedral.org
library@canterbury-cathedral.org

Website: <http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org>