

May 2016

Dear Friends of Canterbury Cathedral,

It is a great pleasure for me to write to our Friends in the United States. One of my happy responsibilities at Canterbury is to plan and coordinate our annual Canterbury Scholars' Programme. This is an intensive two week programme for Seminarians and newly ordained clergy from around the Anglican world. It is a fully residential conference in the Cathedral Lodge, where the staff are always attentive and helpful. The pattern of each day is shaped by the rhythm of prayer at the Cathedral, with Morning Prayer, Eucharist and Evensong each day. We eat together in the Lodge Refectory, and the formal presentations, seminars and daily bible study take place in the Kentish Barn. Whenever and wherever we gather, stories are shared from around the Communion.

This year we expect to welcome thirty two Seminarians and newly ordained from twenty different countries. We will be a truly global gathering, and as in previous years, I know that new friendships will be made. To give people a safe space in which to share their stories, to disagree, to pray together and break bread is what makes communion, and we are hugely grateful for the encouragement and significant financial contribution made by our Friends in the US that make this possible. Thank you!

May the risen Christ grant to you his Easter joy and peace,

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Christopher Irvine

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