

UNESCO World Heritage Conference Weekend 24-25 May 2019, Canterbury Christ Church University - 30th Anniversary Celebrations of Canterbury as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Chancellor's and Vice-Chancellor's Foreword



2019 is a special year for Canterbury. We are delighted to welcome you to the UNESCO World Heritage Conference Weekend at Canterbury Christ Church University, as part of the 30 year celebrations in recognition of the city's UNESCO World Heritage status.

The World Heritage Site was inscribed in 1988 for three buildings: Canterbury Cathedral, with its stunning mixture of Romanesque and Perpendicular Gothic architecture; the modest Church of St Martin, the oldest church in England; and the ruins of the Abbey of St Augustine, founded shortly after 597AD, a reminder of the Saint's evangelising role in the Middle Ages. UNESCO recognises all three buildings as directly associated with the history of the re-introduction of Christianity in England and together, these three monuments represent significantly important milestones in the history of Christianity in Britain.

Canterbury Christ Church is exceptionally proud of its unique connection with the World Heritage Site. The North Holmes Road campus occupies part of the St Augustine's Abbey site dating back some 1,400 years, providing a remarkable link between the University and Canterbury's ancient past. Additionally, the institution is at an exciting time in the development of its plans to strategically transform the campus with an ambitious £150 million investment in our estate over the next 10 to 15 years. Our future campus is helping to keep the city's rich heritage and history alive, from the preservation of some of the abbey wall in the recently opened Daphne Oram Creative Arts Building, to the recreation of the former Pilgrim's Trail from St Martin's Church through to Canterbury Cathedral.

During the Conference, speakers will examine aspects of the site's Heritage and treasures including its green spaces, its buildings, medieval manuscripts and magical animal carvings, and consider the balance between the protection and commercialisation of Heritage sites.

It is a privilege to be part of the anniversary celebrations and we hope that you enjoy the Conference.



The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury
Chancellor



Professor Rama Thirunamachandran
Vice-Chancellor