



118th Annual Conference



Canterbury

10am, Monday 14 July 2025
to
4pm, Wednesday 16 July 2025

INTRODUCTION

The 118th Annual Conference of the Dickens Fellowship will be held in the historic city of Canterbury, in the south east of England. The theme will be 'Dickens, Faith & Antiquity'.

The Annual Conference is your opportunity to meet in person with fellow Dickensians from around the world, to have your say on Fellowship matters at our Annual General Meeting (AGM), and to hear a range of informative and entertaining lectures relating to our theme.

Our venue this year is the Cathedral Lodge Conference Centre, within the precincts of England's oldest cathedral, which was founded by St Augustine in 597AD. The Conference Centre is much more modern!

The conference is non-residential, but all meals will be provided and are included in the cost.

There is some accommodation available to book onsite, at the Cathedral Lodge Hotel. Information about this, and other accommodation available within 10 minutes' walk of the precincts, can be found on page 7.

Canterbury has significant links with the life and work of Charles Dickens as well as with other giants of literary history, such as Geoffrey Chaucer, Christopher Marlowe and Aphra Behn, and we will have the opportunity to explore some of these during the conference. A preliminary programme is included on the following pages.

Attendees will have free access to the cathedral and its precincts for the duration of the conference. Parking is, however, extremely limited, so please travel by public transport if you can (see travel information on page 7).

The seaside town of Broadstairs, where Dickens spent so many very happy family holidays, is nearby, and members attending the conference may also wish to spend a few days there, before or after the conference.



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME
(subject to changes nearer the time of the conference)

Monday 14 July

10am - Registration and refreshments

11am - Official Welcome

12 noon - Lunch

1pm - The 118th Annual General Meeting of The Dickens Fellowship (also live-streamed on Zoom)

3pm - break for refreshments

3:30pm - Lecture 1 -
in which historian Dr Doreen Rosman will introduce us to ‘Canterbury in the Age of Dickens’

4:15pm - Lecture 2 - to be confirmed

5pm - a chance to ask questions of our afternoon lecturers

5:15pm - chance to rest before dinner - and you may wish to attend Evensong in the cathedral at 5:30pm

6:30pm - dinner, after which we will be entertained by Gerald Dickens

Tuesday 15 July

9am - Lecture 3 - to be confirmed

9:45am - Lecture 4 - to be confirmed

10:30am - a chance to ask questions of our early-morning lecturers

10:45am - break for refreshments

11:15am - Lecture 5 - to be confirmed

12 noon - Lecture 6 - to be confirmed

12:45pm - a chance to ask questions of our late-morning lecturers

1pm - Lunch

2pm - Walking tours of Canterbury City Centre
OR
(for those with mobility issues, or in case of heavy rain) Pre-Recorded AV tour of Canterbury

4pm - break for refreshments

4:30pm - Lecture 7 - to be confirmed - followed by a Q&A session with the lecturer

5:30pm - a chance to rest before the Conference Grand Banquet - or you may wish to attend Evensong in the cathedral at this time

8pm - Conference Grand Banquet, with local dignitary Guest of Honour

Wednesday 16 July

9am - Lecture 8 - to be confirmed

9:45am - Lecture 9 - to be confirmed

10:30am - a chance to ask questions of our early-morning lecturers

10:45am - break for refreshments

11:15am - Lecture 10 - to be confirmed

12 noon - Lecture 11 - to be confirmed

12:45pm - a chance to ask questions of our late-morning lecturers

1pm - Lunch

2pm - Keynote Lecture, by Professor Malcolm Andrews:
‘Dickens and the “Jackdaw Sentiment” for Antiquity’,
followed by a chance to ask questions

3:30pm - farewell refreshments and Close of Conference Speeches

4pm - Close of Conference

All events will take place in the Conference Centre’s Claggett Auditorium, which has a large floorspace, a raised platform and a balcony. It is fully accessible at ground level, and those unable to climb the stairs to the balcony will have no need to do so.



Our Lecturers will include:

Dickens Fellowship President, Lucinda Dickens Hawksley

Professor Malcolm Andrews, Emeritus Professor of English, University of Kent, and author of several books on Dickens and on landscape art.

Professor Carolyn Oulton, Professor of Victorian Literature, Canterbury Christ Church University, and author of *Dickens and the Myth of the Reader* (2016)

Dr Doreen Rosman, Former Lecturer in History, University of Kent, and author of *The Evolution of English Churches* (2003) and *Canterbury: A History since 1500* (2022)

Dr Keith Hooper, Author of *Dickens: Faith, Angels and the Poor* (2017)

Dr Peter Merchant, Retired Principal Lecturer, Canterbury Christ Church University, editor of a number of Wordsworth Classics and co-editor of *Dickens and the Imagined Child* (2019)

Dr Jeremy Parrott, Honorary Research Fellow, University of Buckingham; his book identifying all the hitherto anonymous contributors to *All The Year Round* is in course of publication.

Mr Edward Preston, Former Honorary General Secretary of the Dickens Fellowship and author of the guidebook *Hastings in Dickens & Dickens in Hastings*.

and others yet to confirm

THE PRICE

The price for attending the Annual Conference is £350 per person

This includes:

All Lectures

The AGM

A show by Gerald Dickens

A Walking Tour (or pre-recorded tour) of Canterbury

Lunch on all 3 days

Morning and afternoon refreshments on all 3 days

Dinner on the evening of Monday 14 July

Grand Banquet on the evening of Tuesday 15 July

Free access to Canterbury Cathedral and its Precincts

To reserve your place, please register online at www.dickensfellowship.org,
or complete the booking form on the next page.

Thank you.



CONFERENCE BOOKING FORM

118th Annual Conference of the Dickens Fellowship

Canterbury, 14-16 July 2025

Please Register and Pay online at www.dickensfellowship.org, OR complete **one form per person** and either:

- email to jacqueline.stamp99@gmail.com

OR

- post to: Annual Conference 2025, The Dickens Fellowship, The Charles Dickens Museum,
48 Doughty Street, London, WC1N 2LX

Title:

Surname: Forename:

Postal Address:

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Email Address:

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Telephone Number(s):

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Are you a member of the Dickens Fellowship? (please circle your answer) Yes No

Branch Name (if you've answered 'Yes' above):

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Dietary Requirements:

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Accessibility Requirements:

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Emergency Contact details:

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PAYMENT

Please pay in Pounds Sterling.

- By card to our Paypal account – please pay to dftreasurerlondon@gmail.com , or email the Treasurer at dftreasurerlondon@gmail.com to ask for a Paypal payment request.
- Cheque made payable to “The Dickens Fellowship” posted to the CD Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX
- Bank Transfer to “The Dickens Fellowship 2020 Conference”*, Sort code – 20-41-41, Account number – 90872407, SWIFT code: BUKBGB22, IBAN GB73 BUKB 20414190872407. As reference, please quote: Conf25 followed by your surname

**please don't worry that the account is named for '2020': this is our conference-only account.*

ACCOMMODATION IN CANTERBURY

Some rooms at the Cathedral Lodge Hotel, next door to the Conference Centre, are being held for those attending our conference.

Please note that these rooms are only available for the nights of 14 and 15 July and they will be released for other, public bookings 8 weeks prior to our conference.

If you wish to book one of these rooms, please contact the hotel direct - by either email or telephone - and state that you are attending the Dickens Fellowship Annual Conference.

Contact via:

Email: stay@canterburycathedrallodge.org

Tel: +44 1227 865350



There are many other accommodation options within 10 minutes' walk of the Conference Centre.
For example (listed alphabetically):

ABode Canterbury, 30-33 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2RX
www.abodecanterbury.co.uk
Email: info@abodecanterbury.co.uk
Tel: +44 1227 766 266

Cathedral Gate Hotel, 36 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HA
www.cathgate.com
Email: cathedralgatehotel@btconnect.co.uk
Tel: +44 1227 464 381

Greyfriars Lodge, 6 Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NR
www.greyfriarslodgecanterbury.com
Email: enquiries@greyfriarslodgecanterbury.co.uk
Tel: +44 1227 788 455

Hampton by Hilton Hotel, 7 Margaret's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TP
www.hilton.com/en/hotels/rcshxhx-hampton-canterbury
Tel: +44 1227 936 505

Travelling to Canterbury

The city has two railway stations: Canterbury East and Canterbury West.
Both are within 10-15 minutes' walk of the conference centre.

The city also has a sizable bus station, served by National Express coaches as well as local buses.
This is within 10 minutes' walk of the conference centre.

By car, the city can be accessed via the M2, the A2 or the A28

“... in the course of the evening I had rambled down to the door, and a little way along the street, that I might have another peep at the old houses, and the grey Cathedral; and might think of my coming through that old city on my journey, and of my passing the very house I lived in, without knowing it.”

David Copperfield, chapter XV

