



**B**eatus vir qui no-  
 abyt in consilio i-  
 pioꝝ: et in via pec-  
 catorum non stetit  
 et in cathedra pes-  
 tilencie non sedit.  
**S**ed in lege do-  
 mini voluntas e-

-ius: et in lege eius meditabitur die ac nocte.

**E**t erit tamquam lignum quod plan-  
 tatum est secus decursus aquarum: quod  
 fructum suum dabit in tempore suo.

**E**t folium eius non defluet: et omnia



# Lambeth Palace Library Annual Review

**Q**uoniam novit dominus viam ius-  
 tionum. et iter impiorum peribit.

**E**t are firmaverunt gentes: et po-  
 puli meditati sunt in manu





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By Pip Willcox  
Head of Lambeth Palace Library

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## In Memoriam

# Welcome

By Pip Willcox  
Head of Lambeth Palace Library

Welcome to our *Review* of 2024! This past year has been remarkable, with the Library a vibrant centre of activity and growth, and we're excited to share some highlights with you.

We have welcomed thousands of visitors to the Library on tours, open days and other events in 2024, with over 2,100 visitors to our three on-site exhibitions alone. I hope that you had the chance to enjoy them first-hand, and there are digital versions on our website if you would like to explore them further.

This year marked the 60th anniversary of the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library. We celebrated by sharing an online exhibition showcasing some of the books and manuscripts that the Friends have generously helped the Library acquire over the years.

We have had some wonderful additions to the collections this year too, many of which were acquired with the help of the Friends or donated by the public. You can read about our accessions on pages 3-6 as well as our work to catalogue and describe the collections and some of the new discoveries that we have made in the process on pages 7-10.

The Collections Care team has been particularly busy cleaning and repairing the collections, and supporting our exhibition and digitisation programmes. We have made a special effort to digitise material from the collections in 2024, including the full digitisation of some of our manuscript treasures. This work too has kindly been supported by the Friends



of Lambeth Palace Library. These, with all of our digitised material can be viewed through the image catalogue on our website.

As you will read in this *Review*, outreach activities form an important part of our work, as we share knowledge of our collections with new audiences. I was particularly pleased that this year colleagues gave talks and papers at external conferences and seminars, helping to inform potential academic and student readers about the collections, and to local history societies, reaching a general interest audience.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all our supporters, Friends, volunteers, and donors. Your generosity and expertise enrich the Library immensely. A special thanks to our dedicated colleagues who tirelessly enhance the understanding and use of our collections. Their collegiality was never more apparent than in the care and support they showed for each other and the Library's extended family and friends when we heard the sad news of the loss of our beloved and respected Senior Archivist, Rachel Cosgrave.

I hope that you enjoy this snapshot of our work this year, and that our paths cross at one of our talks or events in the year ahead.

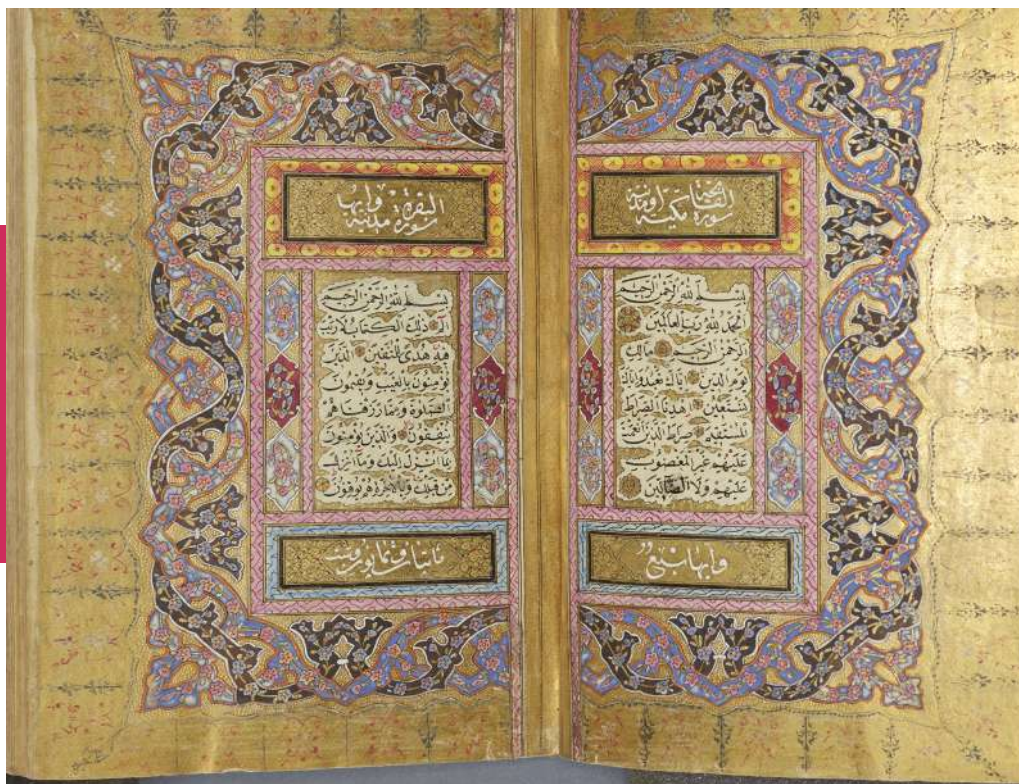
# Accessions

The Library continues to add to its collections of books, manuscripts, and archives by purchase, gift, and transfer from within the National Church Institutions. We are grateful to the Friends for their support in acquiring antiquarian items for the collections and to all those who donate material.

## Archives and Manuscripts

During 2024, the archives and manuscripts collection acquired 32 accessions which included six gifts, four purchases and ten transfers from within the National Church Institutions. The material totalled over 350 boxes and volumes.

The accessions reflect the diverse relationships of the Church and clergy with society over the last 400 years: letters from Archbishop Archibald Tait to Robert Ferguson (1817–1898), Cumberland mill-owner and Liberal politician (ref: L-2024-17); a 19th-century Qur'an formerly part of the Library of Joseph Barclay (1831–1881) (ref: L-2024-16), Anglican bishop of Jerusalem; an autograph volume, c.1635, of sermons and prayers of Francis Cheynell (1608–1665), an Anglican clergyman through the turbulent politics of the 17th century (MS 5222); and the papers of the Archbishops' Advisors for Appointments and Vocations from the 1970s (L-2024-25).

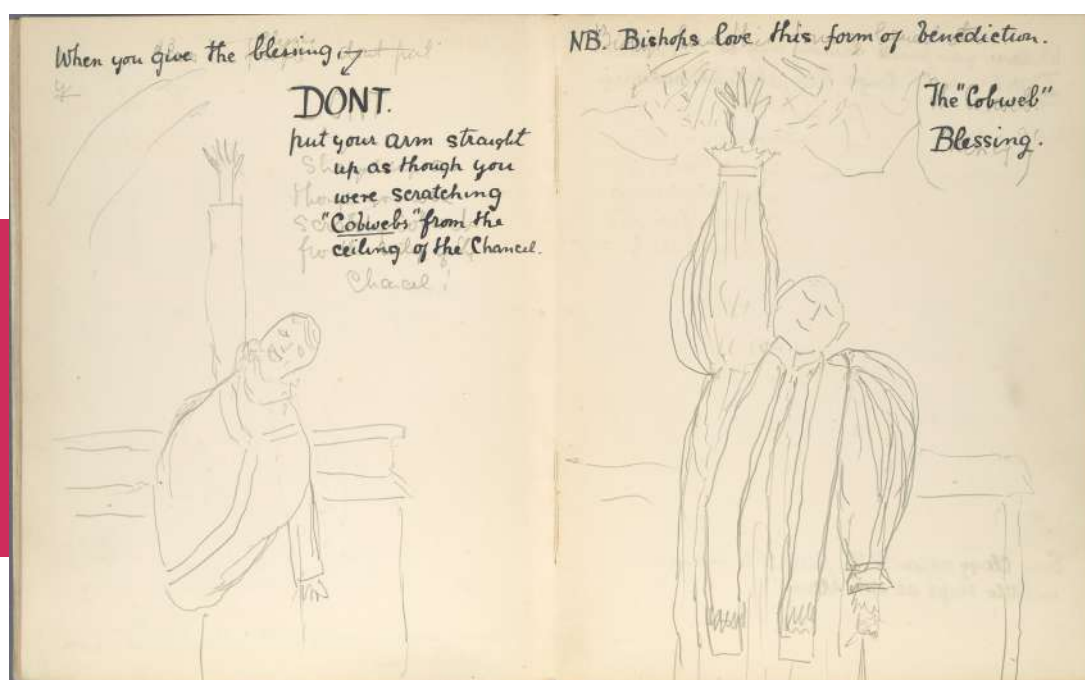


Qur'an, from the Library of Joseph Barclay (1831–1881), Anglican bishop of Jerusalem; L-2024-16.

In a fortunate twist of fate, the Library was presented with the 17th-century testimonial of a curate of St. Sepulchre, London, donated by a private collector who had acquired the item ahead of the Library at a sale fifty years earlier (L-2024-10).

The Friends continue to help the Library with purchases of relevant material. A notable acquisition made with the assistance of the Friends in 2024 was a Qur'an, associated with Joseph Barclay (1831–1881), the Anglican bishop of Jerusalem and a keen advocate of missionary work amongst Jews. The Qur'an, dated to AH 1243 (1827–8 AD), complements our existing material relating to Barclay and other bishops of Jerusalem. The volume (L-2024-16) also adds to the number of Qur'ans in our collections, acquired over the centuries for different reasons, such as to aid the study of the Old Testament or to debate Islamic teaching. The circumstances under which Barclay acquired the Qur'an are unknown but he had a strong interest in learning the languages of the other cultures with which he worked.

The Friends also helped the Library acquire a light-hearted and entertaining notebook from the late -1900s. Entitled, *Ad Clerum - Don't*, this somewhat tongue-in-cheek, illustrated manuscript was produced by the priest and organist of St. Matthews, Westminster, John Bonham-Croft, at the turn of the 20th century. It offers sage advice to clergy, presumably born of experience, on effective delivery of sermons and pastoral care (L-2024-29).



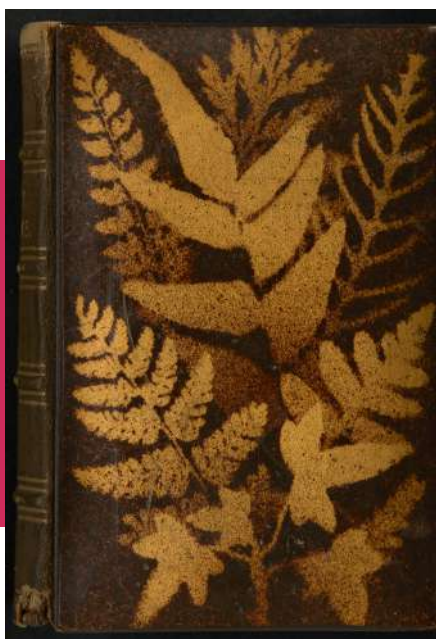
John Bonham-Croft, *Ad Clerum - Don't* (L-2024-29).



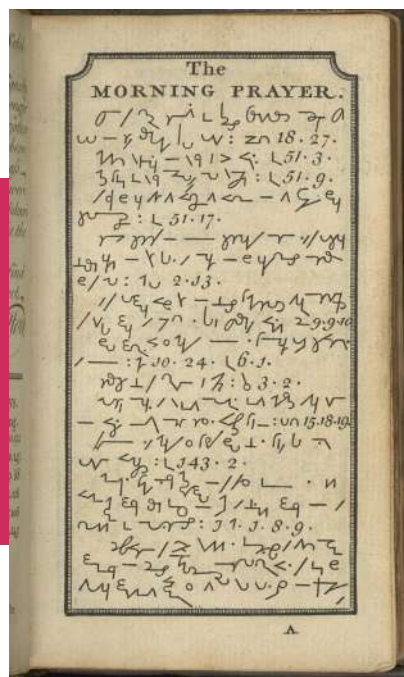
## Printed Books

The Library continues to add modern scholarly works related to the Church of England to the collection. In 2024, 285 such books were purchased. The Library also received a copy of each book published by Church House Publishing. Other modern material came into the Library by transfer from departmental collections in Church House or from the archival collections.

The Library frequently receives gifts from authors whose work was based on or refers to our collections. Such works this year included: David Scott Gehring, *A European Elizabethan: The Life of Robert Beale, Esquire*. (Oxford, 2024); David Meara, *Terror and Magnificence: The London Churches of Nicholas Hawksmoor* (Stroud, 2024) and Julia King, *Women Readers at Syon Abbey: Networks of Books and Community, 1415-1539* (Bergen, 2024). We were pleased to receive more than thirty books concerned with Anglicanism in Europe from Canon Dirk van Leeuwen, a regular benefactor of the Library.



Mauchline binding from *The Book of Common Prayer* (London, 1870).



Morning Prayer from *The Book of Common Prayer in Short-Hand According to Mr Weston's Excellent Method* (London, 1730).

2024 saw a selection of rare, interesting, and sometimes unique antiquarian items enter the Library's collections, as individual gifts or purchased with the help of the Friends. The Revd Dr Nicholas Fisher donated books from his own personal collection of material by and relating to Simon Patrick, including early editions, sermons, a copy of *The Truth of Christian Religion* bound by the 'Small Carnation Binder', and a rare modern artist binding by Ivor Robinson.

Mr. Cliff Webb continued his long-standing support of the Library, donating antiquarian material on many subjects related to the Church and particularly parish magazines and related material.

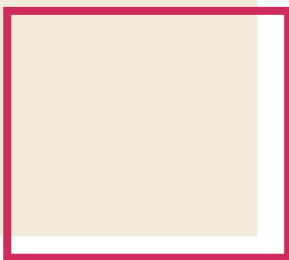
Acquisitions made with the help of the Friends in 2024 included several interesting examples of Books of Common Prayer, further enriching an area of strength in the collections, including an 1870 edition bound in a so-called Mauchline binding. Mauchline ware binding, which takes the appearance of a binding made of heavily varnished and decorated wood, was originally developed in the Scottish town of Mauchline in order to bind souvenir books, but quickly became popular and spread to other genres. Another Book of Common Prayer, published in 1730, is made up entirely of engravings in James Weston's shorthand method, which pre-dates Pitman by almost 100 years. We also acquired a Book of Common Prayer from 1748 that features a coloured fore-edge painting of the view from the east side of Magdalen Bridge in Oxford. Fore-edge paintings are relatively rare in our collections: this is our second!



Detail of a coloured fore-edge painting of the view from the east side of Magdalen Bridge in Oxford from a recently acquired Book of Common Prayer from 1748.

Another item, which takes the form of three 17th-century trial accounts bound together, is a record of the turbulence of the 1680s leading up to the so-called Glorious Revolution. It includes an account of the Trial of the Seven Bishops, and another relating to the arraignment of Algernon Percy, implicated and executed for his participation in the Rye House Plot. Bound between the two is a fascinating first-hand manuscript account of the Trial of Henry Compton, Bishop of London, which differs from the original published text: the manuscript shows

that the published testimony of the trial was considerably compressed and conflated, and the remarks of the trial commissioner, Lord Jeffreys, tempered from the forceful original which was somewhat lacking in nuance. It was owned by Benjamin Fletcher, the colonial governor of New York from 1692-1697, and Pennsylvania in 1693. It was he who made the Church of England the official denomination in New York.



# Cataloguing

## Archives

Catalogue data continues to grow, facilitating access to the expanding archive and manuscript collections. By the end of 2024 there were nearly 928,035 records in our internal database and about 850,000 records accessible via the public interface.

Significant progress was made on what is commonly known as the 'Five Figure' files. These files were generated by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' registry, with files being allocated a running number from 1 to 97548 regardless of which office generated the file's contents. Consequently their content ranges over the breadth of the Commissioners' concerns, from sums payable as pew rents, to the management of vast landed estates and mineral rights. With one fifth of the files available in the catalogue so far, the work to transfer the data from 19th-century index cards is a project that will run for some time, but it is producing fascinating insights into the social history of the period.

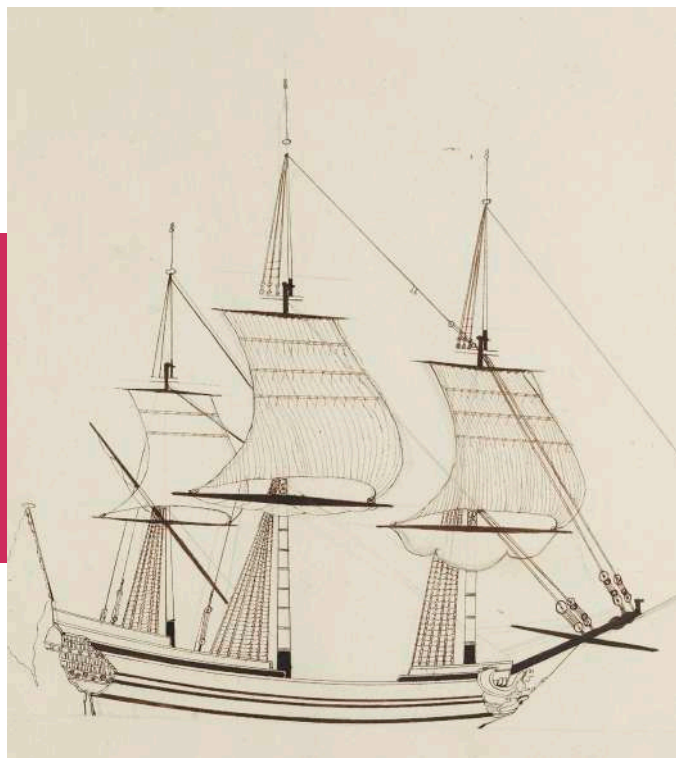
The files relating to the neighbourhood of Ethelm Street, Lambeth, make an interesting example: the development of the area began in 1822 with the lease of two acres by the Archbishop of Canterbury to a developer, five years after the construction of the nearby Waterloo Bridge. Not long after, Ethelm street was laid out, with ninety houses to accommodate workers for the growing city and, by 1924, earning the Commissioners almost £3,000 in annual rent. However, conditions in the street had deteriorated, resulting ultimately in the demolition of the original terraces as part of a slum clearance project, and the construction of low-rise flats in the 1930s. The files chart the evolution of the area in maps, leases and photographs.

Ethelm Street residents, 1922  
ECE/SEC/EST/MAN/1. The  
holes in the photograph show  
where it was attached to the  
file originally.





Ethelm Street was one of several working-class estates developed by the Commissioners, all reflected in the Five Figure files. Between the records of the buildings themselves, and the records of the management of the estates, a picture of the Commissioners as socially-conscious landlords emerges.



Pen and ink drawing from the log of the ship Le Lys, of the Compagnie des Indes, within the Court of Arches exhibit series, C18th; Arches Ff 87.

The Court of Arches catalogue continues to be enhanced, with the support of the Friends. Improved entries now exist for the act books up to 1714 and introduce a plethora of colourful characters: in marriage litigation, we meet Lucy Hooper, the widow of a prosperous coach maker, who was drugged with a dish of chocolate, and married while insensible, while Butler Chamberlaine, the indomitable lover of the privateer Thomas Hewetson, sailed and traded with him in the Caribbean, pausing only to deliver their child in New York.

A new catalogue of the exhibits series (Arches Ff) has been completed. These records, which survive at Lambeth only by virtue of being presented as evidence at the Court, are diverse in their nature: leases mapping the development of Seven Dials in Soho feature in an 18th-century testamentary case, the Battle of Malaga (1704) is recounted in a series of letters from a navy captain to his lover, and an entire medieval cartulary for Fineshade Abbey survives from a dispute about church rates in the 1760s.

Over a thousand files relating to mission in the second half of the 20th century have been catalogued this year thanks to the support of the Lambeth Palace Library Trust, including those of the Church's main body for evangelism, the Board of Mission. Work continued to catalogue the papers of George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1991 to 2002, with the papers from 1995 now being complete, and 1996 and 1997 in progress. Following on from the completion of the catalogue for the British Council of Churches (BCC) in 2023, substantial work was carried out to catalogue its successor body, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), with the catalogue due for release in Spring 2025.

The papers of the Cathedrals Advisory Commission, 1990–1992 (CATH) were also completed, and a new catalogue provided for the records of the Vicar General relating to the Archbishop as Visitor, 1560–1961 (VX). Records of the NCIs are released for public consultation after thirty years. In January 2024, a further 1,244 catalogue records were released onto the online catalogue.

These included the 1993 papers of George Carey, as well as papers from the Community of St. Andrews (CSA), the National Society (NS), and the Board for Social Responsibility (BSR). Papers relating to the campaigning organisation, Women Against the Ordination of Women (MS 4889-4891), were also made available.

Woodcut depicting the six days of Creation from *Biblia cum concordantijs veteris [et] noui testame[n]ti [et] sacroru[m] canonum* (Venice, 1519) E185 1519.



## Printed Collections

In 2024, the printed books team added 4,023 bibliographic records to the catalogue, bringing the total number of items our catalogue to 184,630. A further 105,400 bibliographic records were modified, mainly by adding provenance and copy-specific information, as well as improving authority headings to enable books to be found more easily. Aside from the cataloguing of the Sion College Library, we concentrated on modern and antiquarian accessions, previously uncatalogued 18th-century items from the main collection, and gifts.

The Robin Burnham donation of mostly 20th-century church guidebooks was catalogued, as was a small collection of printed books that had been donated in honour of Robert T.J.K. Wood; the group included a 1519 continental Bible [E185 1519] with beautiful woodcut miniatures and a 1782 Bible not listed on the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) [E185 1782]. The donation of early printed editions of works by Simon Patrick by the Revd Dr Nicholas Fisher was also received and partly catalogued in 2024.



## Sion College Library

The cataloguing of the Sion College Library is undertaken by two cataloguers funded by the Lambeth Palace Library Trust. As well as accurately describing the bibliographic item itself (who wrote it, when, by whom it was published, and what it's about), we describe the specific copy of the book, including information on evidence of ownership, such as bookplates, material features such as bindings, and signs of use and reading such as manuscript annotations. In 2024 we added high quality descriptions of 2,050 early printed books. This brings the total of Sion College Library books that are catalogued online to 20,884. The team reported more than 340 books to ESTC. Of these, nineteen, mainly 17th- and 18th-century items, are unique to Sion College Library and have not previously been reported to ESTC.



Copy of Pindarou, Olympia. Pythia. Nemea. Isthmia : Meta exēgēseōs palaias panu ōphelimou, kai scholiōn omoiōn. (Rome, 1515), once owned by Thomas Tomkis, with extensive provenance information on the title page. Sion K22.3/P65.

Cataloguing brings to light some fascinating items. This year an important collection of 16th-century continental works owned and used by the Elizabethan and Jacobean playwright Thomas Tomkis, including ancient Greek poetry, early editions of Homer and Aristotle, and educational works such as grammars and dictionaries, was catalogued. While cataloguing these books, we discovered Tomkis' copy of the first full Greek edition of Pindar's *Odes* printed in Rome in

1515. This is an exceedingly rare and valuable item. What makes this copy truly special, however, is its provenance. Before Tomkis, the book's ownership can be traced back through several hands, from the German pedagogue Johannes Sturm, to the poet Michael Toxites and before then to the Oxford-based Greek printer John Hearn.

# Collections Care

The Collections Care team had a busy year, which saw the completion of the project to conserve 1,200 chancel plans, and the start of a project to conserve over 15,000 parsonage plans. Another important project this year was the preservation, housing and cleaning of up to 400 folders of material from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) collection, in preparation for cataloguing.

We also conserved items flagged by our librarian colleagues from the Printed Books team and continued our repair programme of large-format books that were previously stored in poor conditions in Lambeth Palace's Great Hall. This work involved liaising closely with the Printed Books team to prioritise items that were rare or in high demand by readers, such as the books that were donated by the Dutch Church, Austin Friars, in the 1950s.



Conservation placement students from London City and Guilds helping to clean and repair prints in advance of digitisation.

We are keen to play a part in nurturing the next generation of conservators. In 2024, we hosted London City and Guilds conservation students, who helped us sort, arrange by size, clean and repair over 700 prints in preparation for digitisation and rehousing. The students gained important paper conservation experience by helping on this project. We supported another City and Guilds student with her final project, part of which included exploring methods to remove inappropriate historic repairs to a Sion Collection Library book before fully conserving it.



The team's regular activities include training new staff in collection handling, and completing monthly environmental and pest monitoring. An important aspect of this preservation work is the management of our quarantine space which enables us to mitigate the risk of introducing mould or pests to the collections when new items come into the Library.

An area of particular focus this year was supporting outreach activities, such as preparing material and supervising rare book and manuscript classes. Exhibition support is an important part of our work. In 2024 we helped prepare the *Women and the Church of England* and *Her Booke* exhibitions by making cradle supports, condition reporting and conserving items prior to display. The Collections Care aspects of exhibitions planning have long lead times, particularly when items are borrowed from other institutions. We have been busy preparing for the Unfolding Time exhibition, due for installation in early 2025, including liaising with other collections to arrange loans of folding almanacs and other historic items.



Collections Care colleagues installing for the *Her Booke* exhibition.

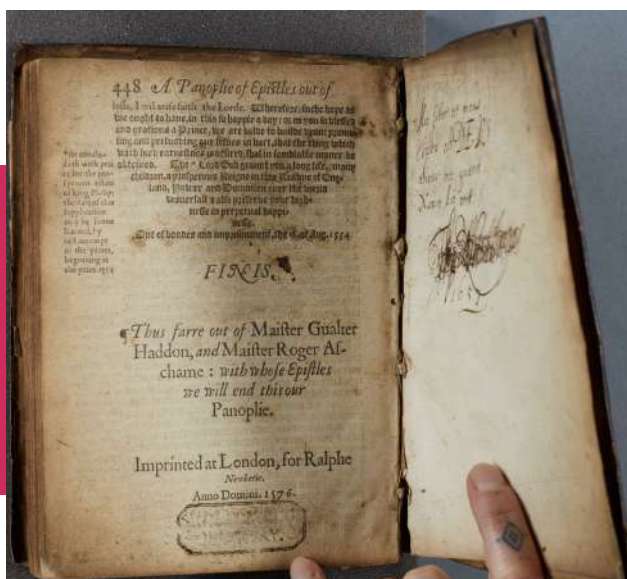
Our Senior Conservator was invited by the Bajan Prime Minister's Office to provide expert assistance following a catastrophic fire at the National Archives in Barbados. Through two month-long secondments, she delivered conservation training and developed protocols for the UNESCO-sponsored mass digitisation initiative, Reclaiming Our Atlantic Destiny (ROAD), while developing her expertise in working with fire and water damaged collections.

## Sion College Library Conservation

We are also working on conservation needs flagged by the Sion College cataloguing team. Conservation treatments have been focused on completing the ARC sequence (items of value or bibliographic significance, as identified by Sion College) and treating rare items identified by the cataloguers from the octavo sequence.

Recent treatments include the repair and rebinding of 26 pamphlets from a volume originally published separately but later bound together. These pamphlets have been strengthened and in-filled as needed, and then sewn into simple bindings that allow them to be consulted individually as they would have been originally.

The textblock of *A Panoplie of Epistles* had become separated from its limp-vellum binding. It was treated by cleaning and relining the spine and reattaching the text block into its cover. The flyleaves and pastedowns were also cleaned and in-filled.



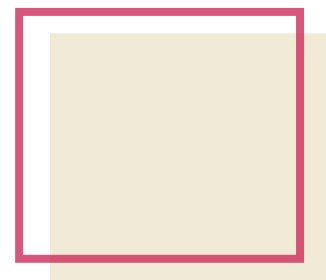
*A Panoplie of Epistles* Sion ARC K92.2F62 before and after treatment.

More mundane but equally necessary work is stack management. After a recent stack shift to create more space for newly catalogued items, the Sion team developed a plan to rehouse the books not boxed during the Library move, ensuring that all catalogued books are adequately protected. When complete, work will progress to the uncatalogued books allowing them to be shelved in a stable and orderly manner and enabling uncatalogued items to be found more easily.



# Operations

The Operations Team is the newest department within the Library and its role encompasses most of the Library's non-collection based work, from staffing reception to liaising with the Estates facilities team about maintenance. Our vital works supports everything that happens in the Library.



## Visitor Engagement and outreach

Welcoming people is one of the most important parts of the team's responsibilities. This covers everything from registering readers to organising tours and events and supporting exhibitions. This year the team registered and booked 1,525 readers into the Reading Room. They organised dozens of tours for the general public, membership organisations, NCI departments, and also those attending Lambeth Palace Garden Open Days. In total nearly 1,200 people attended tours organised by the team. The team also manages our social media accounts helping to promote the collections and to publicise our events and exhibitions, ensuring that they reach a wide audience.

## Records management

Operations has a records management function. They liaise closely with our colleagues in the NCIs' records management team to ensure the efficient management of the records created by the various NCI departments and enabling access. Another important aspect of the team's work is answering enquiries from dioceses and legal firms.

## New responsibilities

The work of the Operations team is constantly evolving. Late 2024 saw the operations team preparing to take on significant new responsibilities in early 2025: the operation of the switchboard for both Church House and Lambeth Palace; and the catering and audio-visual equipment support for events held in the Library.



One of the operations team giving a public tour of the Library, 2024.

# Readers & Research

The Reading Room was as busy as ever in 2024 with over 1,500 readers visiting to make use of the collections from all corners of the globe, researching topics as diverse as W.E. Gladstone, the Assyrian Mission, medieval Ireland, and the Band of Hope Union. The Library staff also answered over 2,600 research enquiries over the course of 2024.

Our readers continue to publish a wide range of scholarship and this year we collected 36 modern scholarly books that referenced our collections. The collections most frequently cited in 2024 were Archbishops' Registers, Archbishops' Papers, the manuscript sequence, and the records of the Court of Arches.

Titles published in 2024 that referenced our collections include: Benjamin Ziemann, *Hitler's personal prisoner : the life of Martin Neimoller* (Oxford, 2024) ; Francis Young, *The Franciscans in Medieval Bury St. Edmunds* (Woodbridge, 2024) ; Cynthia Alders, *The Spiritual Lives and Manuscript Cultures of Eighteenth-Century English Women* (Oxford, 2024) ; Travis R. Baker, *Christian Culture and Society in Later Catholic England* (Leiden, 2024) ; Henry A. Jefferies, *Reformations Compared* (Cambridge, 2024) ; David M. Fahey, *Temperance Societies in Late Victorian and Edwardian England* (Cambridge, 2024) ; Misty Schieberle (ed.) *Medieval Manuscripts, Readers and Texts* (York, 2024) ; Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks, *Women and the Reformations* (New Haven, 2024) ; Jade Scott, *The Life and Letters of Lady Anne Percy, Countess of Northumberland (1536–1591)* (Woodbridge, 2024).

Our trial of opening one Saturday a month continued into its second year in 2024. The trial was to gauge demand for access to the reading room by those who might not be able to use it during the week. Demand was such that, when we reviewed the trial in the last quarter of 2024, we decided to make Saturday opening once a month a permanent feature of our opening hours.



Volvelle from Almanack of 1460, the first item MS 454, which was mentioned in Misty Schieberle (ed.) *Medieval Manuscripts, Readers and Texts* (York, 2024).

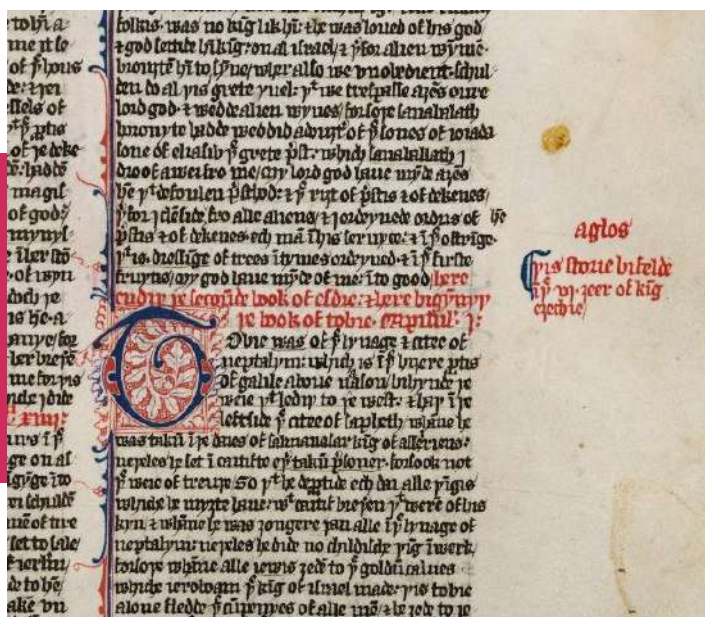


# Talks and Lectures

We had a full and varied programme of talks and lectures in 2024, many of which featured our collections. In May, Dr Charlie Rozier's talk, *Depicting Historical time in Anglo-Norman Manuscripts*, showed some of the ways in which Anglo-Norman scribes and their readers understood the concept of historical time. Using several manuscript case studies, including examples from Lambeth Palace Library's own collections, Dr Rozier showed how the decisions that scribes took regarding the placement of historical text on the page influenced reader understanding of the progression of historical time.

In October, Dr Philippa Tudor, volunteer cataloguer at the Library and Friend, gave a talk entitled *Huguenot Records in Lambeth Palace Library: Cataloguing Complexity*. In the 16th–18th centuries some 50,000 Huguenots fled to England from France. Dr Tudor gave a fascinating talk on how the records held in the Library shed light on the experiences of Huguenots in England, as well as attempts to secure the release of those condemned to the French galleys. Dr Tudor is working on a finding aid to the Library's Huguenot-related resources.

Detail of a page of a late 14th-century Wycliffite Bible, MS 25 f. 159r.



Also in October, Dr Kathleen Kennedy, British Academy Global Professor at the University of Bristol and an expert in late medieval English manuscripts and early printed books, gave a talk entitled *Archbishops and the Wycliffite Bible*. Dr Kennedy posed the question that given that the Wycliffite Bible was illegal and led to the execution of Lollards for over a hundred years, why are there so many extant copies and why are so many of them beautifully illuminated? In answering these questions Dr Kennedy showed that some Wycliffite Bibles were made by the same artisans that the archbishops themselves commissioned and threw light upon the Wycliffite Bibles held at Lambeth Palace Library.

The Library is pleased to host some of the meetings for the History of Libraries and Religious History of Britain, 1500-1800 seminars. Dr Andrew Foster, of the University of Kent & Lincoln College, Oxford, spoke in May as part of the History of Libraries seminar entitled *The Restoration and Revival of Chichester Cathedral Library, 1670-1735*. Dr Foster showed that a close examination of The Old Catalogue before 1735 reveals other stories of benefactors and books in what was quite a renaissance for the cathedral, city, and the surrounding region at the end of the 17th century. Attendance for this fascinating talk was badly affected by train strikes, so we were glad when Dr Foster was able to give the talk again in December.

Two ownership inscriptions from a copy of John Barclay's *Barclay his Argenis, or, The loves of Polyarchus & Argenis* (London, 1636), one of the books discussed by Ted Simonds and Kristyna Spencer at the June meeting of the Religious History of Britain seminar.



In March, Dr Michael Questier, of Durham University gave a talk called *Rome and the Anglicans – and their Histories of the Reformation*, as part of the Religious History of Britain seminar. He noted that histories of the post-Reformation Church of England are often incompatible with each other. Furthermore, the narratives compiled by those who wanted to give overtly 'Catholic' accounts of the Long Reformation are often in disagreement. However, when viewed alongside the better known 'Anglican' disagreements, we can discern something about both traditions, and this, according to Dr Questier, can open a discussion of the nature of the 'Catholic' tradition in the Church of England.

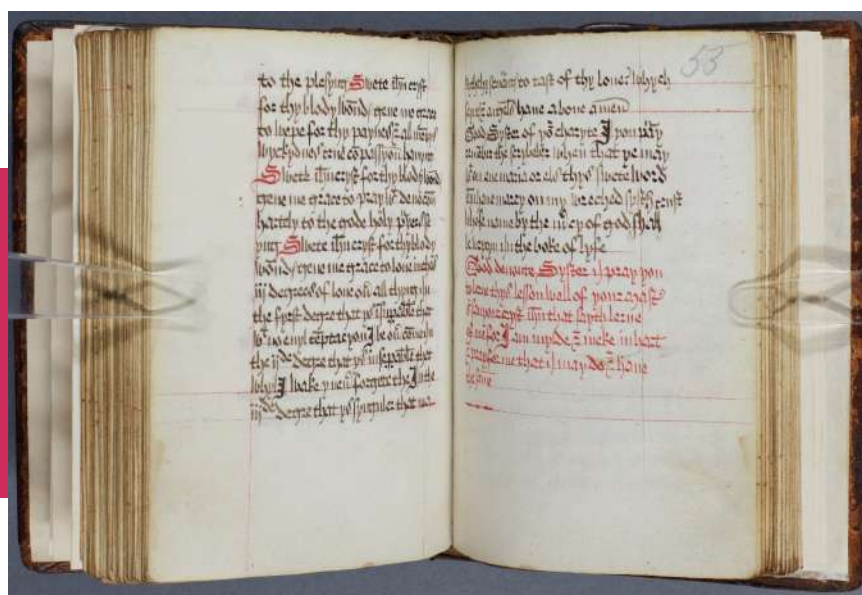
We hosted the June meeting of the Religious History of Britain seminar and there were three short talks giving brief reports on projects currently in progress.

Ted Simonds and Kristyna Spencer from Lambeth Palace Library spoke about the cataloguing of Sion College Library, particularly the recording of provenance evidence, while Dr Andrew Thrush from the History of Parliament Trust spoke about recent research on bishops in the Elizabethan House of Lords, and Professor Stephen Taylor from the University of Durham spoke about the future of the Clergy of the Church of England database.



In the autumn there were several talks as part of the programme of events that took place in association with the exhibition *Her Booke: Early Modern Women and their Books at Lambeth Palace Library*. Professor Helen Smith, from the University of York, is an authority on women's involvement in the print trade and in consumption of printed material in the early modern period. Her talk *Voices in Ink: Early Modern Women and Print* highlighted the role women played in all aspects of the printing industry in the early modern period.

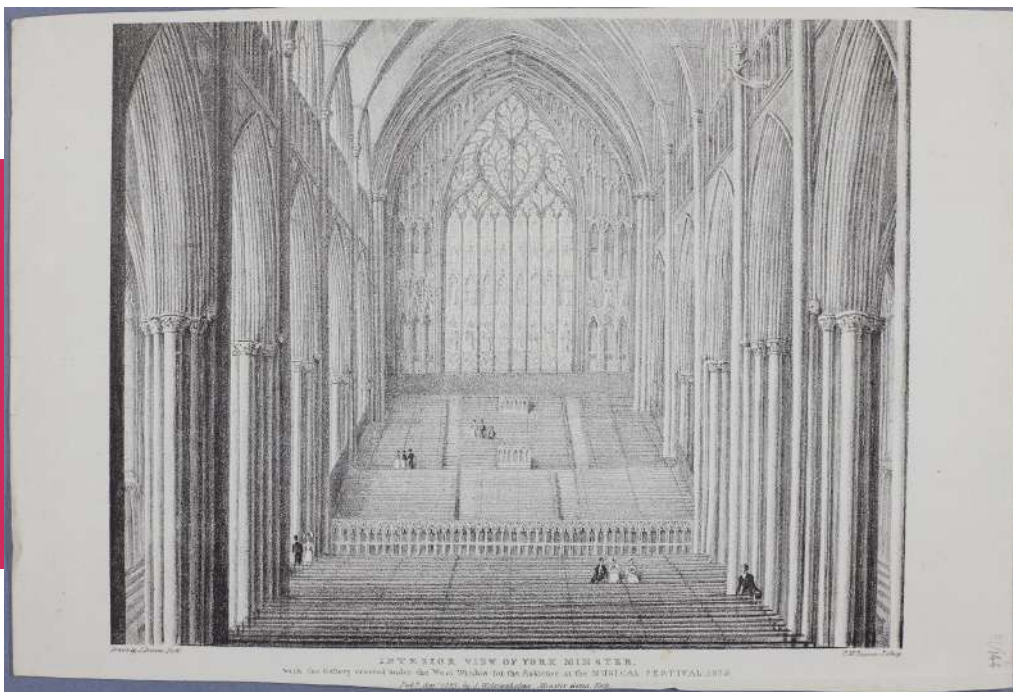
October saw Dr Julia King, Rare Books Librarian at Lambeth Palace Library and curator of the *Her Booke* exhibition give a talk called *Remember the Scrybeler: Syon Abbey's Books at Lambeth Palace Library*. Syon Abbey, England's only Birgittine house, developed one of the largest libraries in England, and was a community where reading and piety were intertwined. Using evidence from books in the Library's collections, Dr King spoke eloquently about the cultures of women's reading and writing that flourished at the Abbey.



Book of Devotions (Isleworth, 15th century) Syon Abbey nun Elizabeth Woodford wrote this manuscript for her fellow sisters to read as part of their devotional work, MS 546, ff. 52v-53r.

In November, Dr King was joined by Dr Eleanor Jackson, lead curator of the British Library exhibition, *Medieval Women: in their Own Words*, for a Curator's Forum. They spoke about the challenges of curating exhibitions on women's book and literary history in library settings, discussing material selection, curation, design, and writing accompanying literature and each event involved questions.

In association with our *Building on Cathedrals* exhibition, we hosted a symposium in September of short talks on AI tools and their uses and applications in cultural institutions. Among the speakers were Camille Koutoulakis, curator and project lead for *Building on Cathedrals* and Digital Officer at Lambeth Palace Library; Nora McGregor, Digital Curator for the Digital Research Team (British Library); Professor Julia Thomas, School of English, Communication and Philosophy (Cardiff University); Irene Testini, Digital Humanities Software Developer (Cardiff University); Dr Isadora Helfgott, Associate Professor of History (University of Wyoming); Amy Adams, Collections and Informations Access Manager (National Museum of the Royal Navy); Professor Guyda Armstrong, Director of the John Rylands Research Institute and Library (University of Manchester) and Dr Giles Bergel, Senior Researcher in Digital Humanities (Visual Geometry Group), University of Oxford.



*Interior View of York Minster.* Engraved by T.M. Baynes after a drawing by J. Browne. (York, 1823) Prints 003/144. This is one of the prints that received AI-enhanced metadata as part of the Building on Cathedrals project.

In July, Professor James Hendler, the Tetherless World Professor of Computer, Web, and Cognitive Sciences at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), a pioneer in the field of artificial intelligence and a leading voice in the integration of AI and archives, came to the Library to talk about *Artificial Intelligence and the Archive*. In conversation with Pip Willcox, Head of Lambeth Palace Library, he described his recent work with generative AI and the archive of Emily Roebling, and the possibilities for AI to enhance our understanding of history and the accessibility of archives.

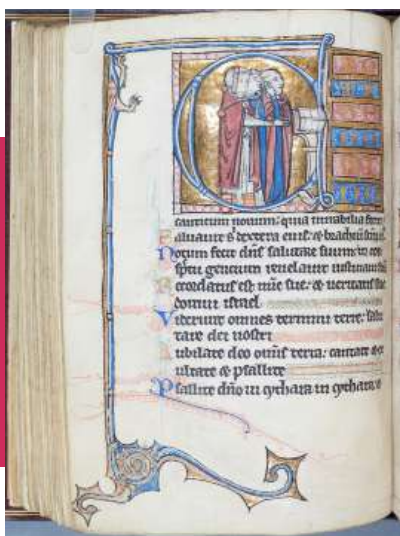


# Digitisation

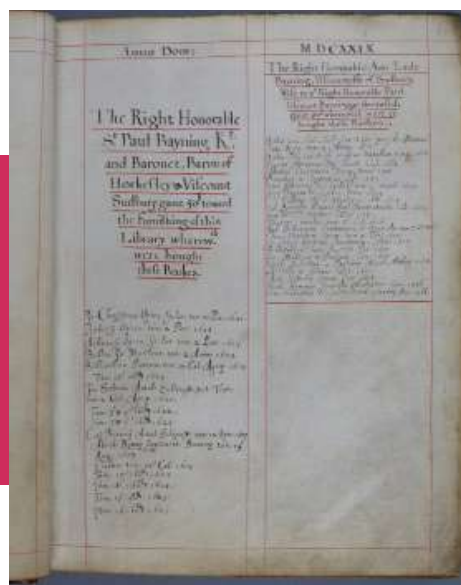
Digitisation is an important part of Lambeth Palace Library's work, allowing it to bring the collections to a wide audience, to respond to requests for images from readers, our colleagues in the NCIs and from dioceses. Permission has been given for images from the collections to appear in a wide range of publications, online resources, exhibitions and broadcasts. The work done by the reprographics team in imaging has meant that by 2024, our digital image database contained around 32,000 images across the manuscript, archive and printed book holdings.

The Friends have funded the digitisation of nine psalters and books of hours to augment the Library's digitised collection of our most treasured and high-demand manuscripts. Three have been digitised and two are available online: MS 186, a 15th-century psalter and MS 368, a 13th-century psalter.

One of the most exciting and highly-requested items from Sion College Library is the Book of Benefactors (Sion L40.2/E64). This item has been digitised in full, and the images can be viewed in LUNA. This unlocks the way researchers can interact with the history of the collection, as specific metadata from the catalogue is associated with each page of the book.



Initial C of Cantate Domino with three clerks singing from a 13th-century Psalter, which has now been fully digitised, MS 368 f.79 v.

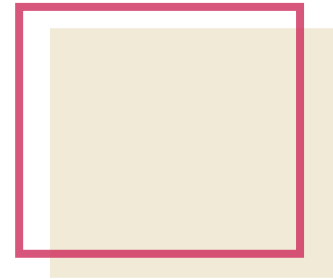


Sion College Library. Book of Benefactors, Sion L40.2/E64 p.001.

In the course of the Building on Cathedrals Project (see page 24) over 3,000 images of cathedrals have been digitised and added to the online database.

# Outreach

Reaching new audiences is a big part of the Library's work. We endeavour to disseminate knowledge to as wide an audience as possible. This not only involves bringing people into the Library for tours and classes but also getting out of the building and spreading the word about the collections.



## Tours, visits and events

Throughout the year we offered tours of the Library to members of the general public. We scheduled Saturday tours to ensure as many people as possible had the opportunity to visit the Library. Many of the 2024 tours were at the request of various clubs, membership societies and special interest groups such as Tower Hamlets U3A, the Worshipful Company of Glaziers, the Nightingale Fellowship and the British Association of Paper Historians, to name but a few.

We conducted many tours for professional colleagues, including groups from Royal Berkshire Archives, the London Library, the Institute of Conservation, CPD 25, and the British Library Humanities Reference Service.

We also participated in Open House London as there is still considerable public interest in the building itself, as well as hosting a public lecture by Stephen Smith one of the partners from Wright & Wright, the architects who designed the building.



A conservation placement student learning to make a book cradle.

## Classes and placements

The collections of the Library are in high demand for teaching. In 2024 we hosted groups from King's College London, London Rare Book School, the Courtauld Institute, University College London, the Bookscapes PhD Consortium, and the Institute of English Studies. These classes are often taught by academics who bring the groups but increasingly, Library staff teach or co-teach the classes. As in previous years we have hosted students from courses that are training the next generation of archivists, librarians and conservators.



This year students from University College London's archive and librarianship courses and City and Guilds London Art School conservation students had placements at the Library. We have also hosted placement students from King's College London and the Institute of Advanced Studies, University College London Education Department and Queen Mary University of London, some of whom are on placement as part of their London Arts & Humanities Partnership collaborative PhD studies.



## Social Media and blogs

The Library continues to use Facebook, Bluesky and Instagram to highlight its collections, as well as advertising special events and Library news. We also have a YouTube channel with a growing number of videos about our collections and activities. If you would like to follow us please see our website for details.



'Assyrian children with their Priest', The Assyrian Settlement National Appeal (London, 1936), p. 7. ; Lambeth Palace Library Douglas Papers, vol. 66, ff. 240-245.

Our blog, *A Monument of Fame*, allows us to explore subjects and collections in more detail than in our other social media channels. Blog posts published in 2024 covered subjects as diverse as printing in Syriac, the building of Christ Church, Isle of Dogs, new discoveries in the British Council of Churches archive, Cathedrals in the 20th century, the history of workhouses, setting up for exhibitions, and the digitisation of the Sion College Book of Benefactors. As well as staff, we invite guests to write for the blog. For example, in 2024, Neil Fleming, University of Worcester, wrote a post drawing on the Douglas papers, entitled *Christianity, Empire and Humanitarianism: The Church of England and Iraq's Assyrians in the 1920s and 1930s*. If you would like to write a guest blog please get in touch and let us know which aspect of the Library's collections that you would like to write about for us.

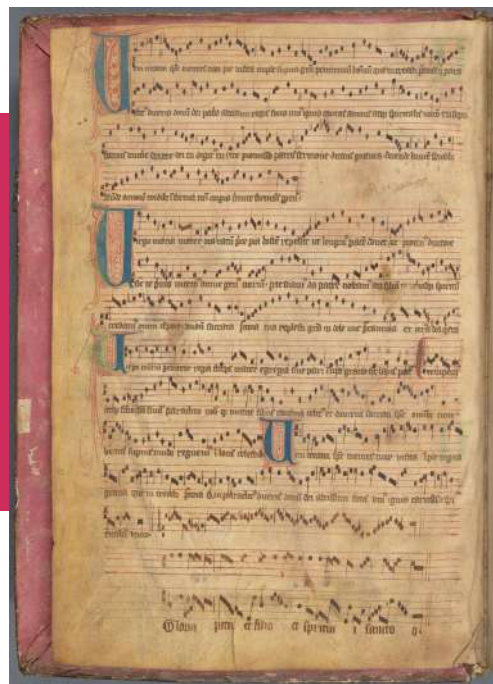
## Papers, talks and articles

This year, Edward Simonds and Kristyna Spencer gave a paper at the Clerical Lives in Britain conference at the University of Manchester entitled *Sion College Library and the Clergy who made it*. Kristyna also gave a talk at the Universal Short Title Catalogue Conference at the University of St. Andrews, entitled *Printed Material in the Archival Collection of Lambeth Palace Library*.

The Local History Project, co-ordinated by Wayne Fortune, has seen the Library engage directly with local history societies and groups in London to raise awareness of relevant 19th- and 20th-century archival collections, with a focus initially on areas where the Church Commissioners held urban estates. Members of Camden Local History Society visited the Library for a show-and-tell session in August, while a presentation was delivered at Stoke Newington History Talks in October. This has led to a number of follow-up enquiries and new readers visiting the Reading Room.

In November 2024, Rare Books Librarian Julia King gave a paper at the Lawrence J. Schoenberg Annual Symposium on Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age, at the University of Pennsylvania. The paper, *An Exploration of Two-Mode Network Analysis in Fifteenth-Century English Devotional Literary Culture* discussed the network maps she created using provenance data taken from Lambeth's books and manuscripts, and how this might be a new way of measuring literary circulation in the pre-modern period.

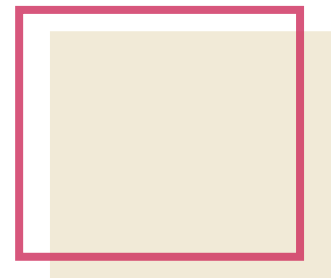
Sometimes outreach activities bear unexpected fruit. For example, in a talk to the Society of Bookbinders given in 2023, Assistant Rare Books Librarian Mary Clayton-Kastenholz, mentioned some fragments of 14th-century polyphony had been found in the binding of one of the printed books at the Library. In June 2024, she was contacted by Professor Margaret Bent, a musicologist at the University of Oxford, who described it as potentially "the most important discovery for English 14th-century music for a long time". It was reported to Digital Image Archive of Medieval Music (DIAMM). The entry for the fragments on that database notes that they contain four motets of English provenance, of which only one has a concordance elsewhere, with the other three seemingly unique and entirely new to scholarship. The fragments have been photographed, ready to appear in *English Fourteenth-Century Music: A Facsimile Edition*, edited by Peter M. Lefferts, which is to be published by Stainer and Bell for the British Academy in 2025.



Page of a 14th-century polyphony found in the binding of an early printed book, [ZZ]1482.5.

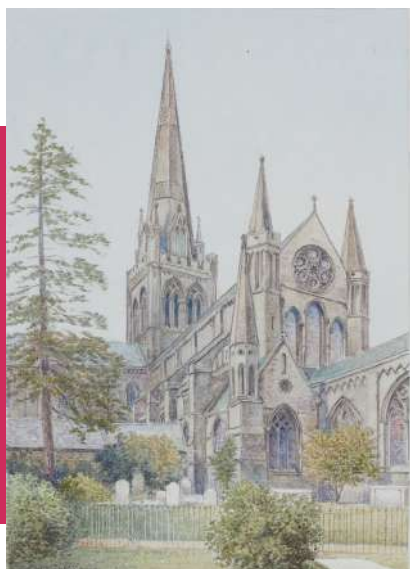
# Exhibitions

There were four Library exhibitions in 2024, three in the Gallery and Mezzanine and one online.



## Building on Cathedrals

In collaboration with Cardiff University Special Collections and Archives (CUSCA) and the University of Wyoming, Lambeth Palace Library embarked on a groundbreaking digital project. This venture used cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as caption and image recognition tools, to analyse the historical iconography of recently digitised material from the Library's collections. Open between September 2024 and January 2025, it showcased the achievements of the project and enabling the public to explore the rich tapestry of cathedral architecture through a new lens, offering a glimpse into the future of humanities research and the advances we are making towards preserving and sharing our cultural heritage.



Watercolour showing Chichester Cathedral from the South East, 1943. ART/3/7.



Martyrdom of Thomas Becket, from the Tarleton Hours [Normandy, c. 1430]. MS4509. Acquired with assistance from the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library, 2003.

## Untold Riches: 60 Years of Gifts from the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library

Untold Riches is an online exhibition that celebrates the generosity of the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library. Over the last sixty years the Friends have helped the Library acquire over 1,000 individual items and several discrete collections. These acquisitions have included early printed books, medieval manuscripts, archives, prints, and even artefacts, all of which illuminate the history of the Church in England pre- and post-Reformation. Indeed, our collections would be much poorer without the Friends. While it was only possible to include in the digital exhibition a small selection of the Friends' gifts, and we hope that it gives an idea of the richness and scale of the acquisitions that the Friends have helped the Library make.



## 'Her booke': Early Modern Women and their Books at Lambeth Palace Library

Her booke highlighted books and manuscripts owned, written, commissioned, and translated by women during the long early modern period. It celebrated the ways in which women and their books were an integral part of England's devotional, intellectual, and bibliographical cultures. Beginning in the 15th century, the exhibition examined the production and use of books for personal and spiritual practices; books as a statement of power and piety; the development of the commercial trade in books; books as a site to demonstrate women's intellectual ability; and the material evidence of women's book ownership. To illustrate the topics, a wide range of material was displayed, including medieval manuscripts owned or written by the nuns of Syon Abbey, a recently identified translation of Tacitus by Elizabeth I and the first editions of the works of Mary Wollstonecraft and her daughter, Mary Shelley.

Illustration of Dionys Fitzherbert's religious vision from her *An Anatomie for the Poore in Spirit* (Oxfordshire, 1608-1638) as displayed in *Her Booke*. Sion L40.2/E47, f. 52r.



## Women and the Church of England

This exhibition marked the 30th anniversary of the ordination of 1,200 women to the priesthood in the Church of England, the 80th anniversary of the priesting of Florence Li Tim-Oi, and the 10th anniversary of passing legislation which allows women to be consecrated as bishops in the Church of England.

The ordination of women within the Church of England, and across the Anglican Communion was, and remains, a subject of impassioned debate. The exhibition provided a small selection of material which gave a flavour of the debates, discussions, and concerns which surrounded the ordination of women.

Central to the narrative are the stories of some of those women whose steps led the way to women's ministry within the Church of England, such as Angela Burdett-Coutts, Octavia Hill, Dame Betty Ridley, Elizabeth Ferard, Isabella Gilmore, Florence Li Tim-Oi, and the 32 women ordained as priests in Bristol on 12 March 1994.

# In Memoriam

Rachel Cosgrave joined Lambeth Palace Library in 2003 after a period working at King's College London and surveying the collections of SOAS, UCL and the Royal Society of Anaesthetists. After winning the University of Liverpool's Myers Prize for best academic performance in archive studies in 1995/6, Rachel went on to study for a doctorate examining communities in the east Cheshire Pennines from the thirteenth to the twentieth centuries. At Lambeth, Rachel quickly made her mark, taking on leadership of the archives team not long after she joined. Her contribution to the Library cannot be overestimated. Rachel oversaw a transformative period for access to Lambeth's archives and manuscripts by leading the mammoth project to retro-convert over 40,000 catalogue pages for inclusion in the Library's newly-acquired online catalogue. Negotiating substantial acquisitions and leading the Archives team through extensive cataloguing projects, focusing in particular on opening up the papers of successive archbishops, Rachel developed the holdings to become the broad and accessible collection it is today. More recently, the Library could not have accomplished its 2020 move into new premises, and the successful union of the teams at Lambeth and the Church of England Record Centre, without her tenacity, logic and humour.



In remembrance of Rachel, we will install a memorial bench in the garden of Lambeth Palace, a place that Rachel loved. If you would like to remember Rachel through contributing to the bench and memorial plaque, please use the link on this page. Any additional funds raised will be donated to Mind, one of the leading mental health charities in the UK. You can find out more about the work of Mind on their website: <https://www.mind.org.uk>.

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