
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017



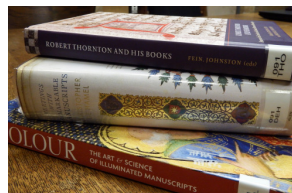
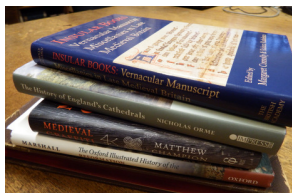
THE YEAR IN BRIEF

2017 has been another successful year for the library with numbers of visitors and researchers from far and wide, well up on last year. More than 2,000 extra visitors have made their way up the library stairs to see the Wren and Medieval Libraries. The dedication and hard work of the library volunteers has meant that the library was open on every advertised day during the open season. In June the library took part in the Heritage Skills Weekend, when many of the

City of London Livery Companies exhibited in and around the Cathedral. Hundreds of people visited the library and the library display in the Chapter House where you could also meet members of the Scriveners Company, the Goldsmiths' Company, the Cathedral Illuminator and volunteers from the Cathedral treasury. We were also busy during the Open Day on September 9th with 413 visitors, many of whom had a go at the free craft activities provided once

again by the Lindsey Scribes. Researchers from around the world continue to visit the library to look at the rare books and manuscripts.

The library will be open to the public during the Christmas Market on the following days: Thursday 7th December (1pm-5pm), Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th December (11am-5pm)



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Over the centuries the Cathedral has relied heavily on people donating books to the Library to build up its collections. Our very first written catalogue from the 12th century lists many books which were "De dono", the gift of... Our greatest benefactor was Dean Michael Honeywood, who gave almost 4,000 books to the library as well as 30 medieval manuscripts. Earlier this year we were kindly

given a 1614 "Breeches" Bible and an illustrated three volume set of the Plays of Shakespeare. The Bible is in need of repair and will initially have made for it a bespoke box to keep it from deteriorating further. It will then be catalogued and along with the Shakespeare volumes will be kept in Exchequergate. It is called a "Breeches" Bible because in the story of Adam and Eve, they are described as

wearing breeches rather than aprons made of fig leaves. Only this week we were given a set of David Vale original drawings. He produced many illustrations of the Cathedral as it may have looked through the centuries. We have also added to our modern collection with books on stained glass, medieval manuscripts, the Reformation and the history of English cathedrals.



ALL THAT GLITTERS..

Toni Watts, the Cathedral's volunteer Manuscript Illuminator, has worked regularly in the library during normal opening hours. This continues to be very popular with visitors who are fascinated to hear how Toni (and medieval scribes and artists before her) makes her paints and applies the very delicate gold leaf to her intricate designs. There have also been two full day Illumination Workshops in the library which have raised over £1000. We hope to repeat these next year, so watch this space! They are great fun and you do not have to be a skilled artist to have a go.

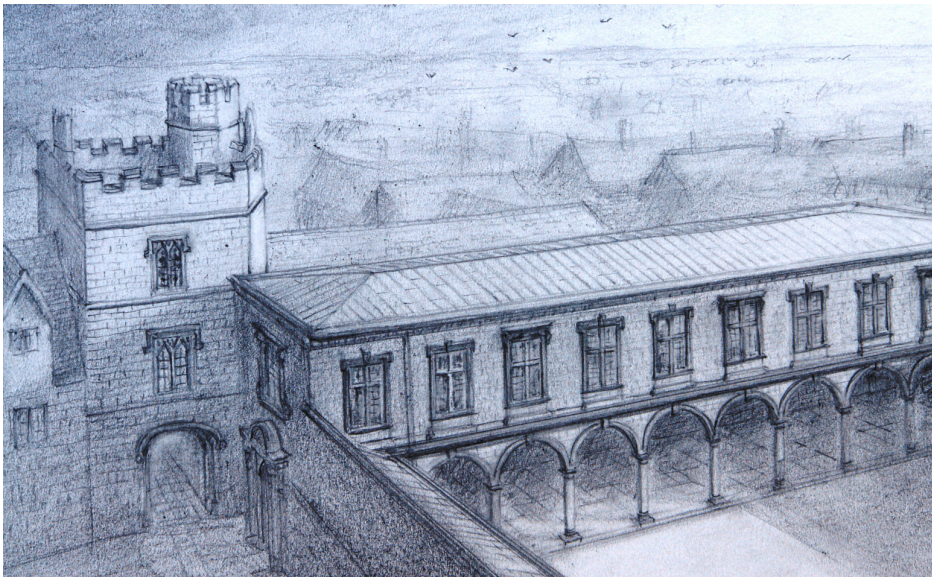


DID YOU KNOW....?

Today, thousands of visitors come to the library to enjoy its architecture and to see displays of rare early printed books and manuscripts. Christopher Wren's design however was not always popular with everyone. In a letter to the Lincolnshire Chronicle in 1892 the library was described as "an ugly modern building against one which is its senior by 400 years and of far greater grace, beauty and fitness".

A meeting of the Dean and Chapter on the 12th March 1892 agreed in principle to the demolition of the library and the rebuilding of a more suitable one on Minster Green. Had there not been a public outcry this work may well have gone ahead, but the decision was met with a "perfect storm of odium" and it was decided that it was "hardly likely that the plans for the removal of the library, involving, as they do, the

expenditure of a large sum of money, will be proceeded with in the face of the opposition". Thankfully then, Honywood's books still remain in the original building in which they were intended to be kept. It is in fact the contrast between the gothic Cathedral and the elegant simplicity of the library that often appeals most to our visitors. Thank goodness the Victorians eventually saw sense!





A BATTY VISITOR

We sometimes get unwanted visitors in the library. This furry little chap was found in a very exposed place at the foot of the library stairs. If it had been left where it was it could have been trodden on so it was carefully and safely removed to a more secure place. A few days later it was back again, but this time chose a much safer place to rest....hanging upside down from the wall near the Reading Room door. We know that the bats regularly feed on moths on the stairs, as they leave behind, for us to sweep up, the bits they don't eat...the moth wings....lovely!

LOOKING FORWARD...

We can now officially announce the appointment of a new Chancellor, Reverend Dr Paul Overend, to replace Canon Dr Mark Hocknull who left the Cathedral in the New Year to work full time at the University of Lincoln. This brings us back up to our full complement of 4 residentiary canons. Reverend Dr Overend has many years' experience of working in education. Among other things he has served as a university chaplain while

studying for a doctorate in philosophical theology; taught philosophy and ethics at Cardiff University and at Liverpool Hope University and served as principal of the Ordained Local Ministry and Reader training scheme in Salisbury. He presently works as Lay Development Officer and Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands in the Diocese of Norwich, and is a tutor in spirituality and ethics with the Eastern Region Ministry

Course. In the revised full time post of Chancellor, he will lead the Cathedral's work of public theology and Christian education. He is moving to Lincoln in January 2018 and will take up the post in early February. The Library comes under his remit and the Library and Education team look forward to working with him in the future.

A PLACE TO...

EXPLORE

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