



## CHRISTMAS PRESENT IDEAS

If you are stuck for Christmas present ideas this year, why not adopt an early printed book or a page from a medieval manuscript as a gift? These come in different price ranges: £25, £75 and £150 and make the perfect present for the person who has everything. People who have adopted books or had books adopted for them can then arrange to come and see the book or manuscript that was adopted in their name. To see all the available adoption choices go to: <https://lincolncathedral.com/get-involved/give-to-the-cathedral/> or telephone the Business Services team on 01522 561613

## AND FINALLY....

Among the Cathedral's collection of 261 medieval manuscripts are about 30 copies of books by Peter Lombard, one of the most prominent Masters in the Parisian schools in the mid twelfth century. A recent visit from an international researcher has raised the question of whether we actually have 2 of the oldest known existing copies of Lombard's Sentences here in the Cathedral. The large number of his books in the

collection points to the fact that Lincoln Cathedral was once a very important centre of learning. More research into this will obviously be required, but it is exciting to think that we have these 2 extraordinarily important texts in our collection. The image above shows one of these copies. This is one of the few manuscripts at Lincoln to have its original covers with the brass fixings and this clearly shows that when the books were chained to the

desks in the Medieval library, the chains were attached at the foot of the front cover, not at the top fore-edge which was more common practice. The system of chaining books to desks definitely worked as we still have 88 of the original 109 manuscripts that were chained up in the medieval library. This put an end to the practice of allowing people to borrow the books which inevitably resulted in several losses.

A PLACE TO...

# DISCOVER

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# LINCOLN CATHEDRAL LIBRARY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2018



## CHRISTMAS MARKET

Weather permitting, the Wren and Medieval libraries will be open during the Christmas Market from the 6th to the 9th December at the following times: Thursday 1pm-5pm; Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11am-5pm. Our festive display of printed books and manuscripts will include Gesner's early 16th century zoology books, "Historiae Animalium", showing a reindeer and a robin; our copy of Gerard's "Herball or generall historie of plantes", open at a

description of mistletoe; two volumes of William Byrd music open at two anthems for the Christmas season; one of the Cathedral's earliest printed books, "The Golden Legend" open at the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and our copy of Ortelius' "Theatrum orbis terrarum" printed in 1584 will feature a map showing Lapland and the North Pole, two possible homes for Father Christmas. The display of medieval manuscripts will include an

illuminated 13th century "Gloss on the Gospels", open at the start of the Gospel of Luke, which contains the story of the Nativity and a 16th century manuscript containing the chapters or lessons for the Church year, "Manuscript Capitularium", showing a beautiful illumination of the Virgin and Child. If you want to escape the hustle and bustle of the Market, do come up and enjoy the relative calm of the library.

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INSPIRING PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS





## BEHIND THE SCENES

In 2014 an Arts Society (formerly NADFAS) volunteer began the mammoth task of working through each manuscript in Exchequergate, building up a database of illustrations, repairs and marginalia on every single page. This project is now nearing the end and the information has already proved very useful on several occasions. Earlier this year, for example, we needed to locate images relating to

death and monsters to show to delegates from conferences at Bishop Grosseteste University and to form part of our Monster exhibition and the database helped us to do this. Another Arts Society member is creating a digital spreadsheet of condition reports on each book so that we can more easily check whether a book needs to be conserved. Volunteers are also busy cataloguing pamphlets, books

and orders of service. We are hoping, in the near future, to have a new online catalogue which will enable us to provide much more information about the books and manuscripts and this will involve a huge amount of staff and volunteer time. All of this behind the scenes work is vital in helping to make the library and its resources accessible to researchers and students.



## WINTER TOURS

At this time of year when the weather has turned decidedly cooler, the library would normally not be open except for researchers and privately booked tours and meetings. This year, however, we are offering regular tours every Wednesday and Thursday throughout the winter months. The one hour tours start at 11am and 2pm on these days and cost £4 per head, so if you know anyone who would like to visit the

library at a time when it would normally be closed, do let them know. Warm winter clothing is definitely recommended however. Tours can be booked either in advance, by calling 01522 561600 or at the Entry Desk on the day of the visit. The cost of the tour is in addition to the Cathedral entry price. These tours are led by a small group of experienced library stewards. New stewards are recruited at the

start of each year, receiving training in February and March before starting to volunteer in the library when it opens again in April. Information can be found on the Cathedral website: <https://lincolncathedral.com/get-involved/> Anyone wishing to become a library volunteer should contact the Cathedral's Volunteer Co-ordinator on [vols@lincolncathedral.com](mailto:vols@lincolncathedral.com) or by phoning 01522 504399.



## NEW PERSPECTIVE

Now that the building work for the Lincoln Cathedral Connected project has started, we are being treated to a view of the library that has not been seen for a very long time. Standing at the corner of Minster Yard and James Street you can now see the whole of the Wren library, from the west end window down towards the Reading Room. By peering over the fencing you can also see the doorway below the library which originally led from the grounds of the medieval deanery through to the cloister. This work is all part of opening up the area around the Cathedral, which will eventually be landscaped. The new Interpretation Centre will be built adjoining the back wall of the library. The work should be finished by Spring 2020.

