

Who visits the Ancient Library?

Since last summer's weekly opening to the public, well over 200 people have visited the Ancient Library.

Individuals have come to research the foundation of the diocese; to study documents relating to early bishops and to look at our photograph archive. Other individuals, including a professor of theology, a professor of geography and a rare books specialist, have had a more general interest. The family of Leonard Gough took the opportunity to look at books as well as his fine book cases. It has been good to welcome groups of visitors: the successful bidders in the Friends of the Cathedral Choir Auction; council members of our Cathedral Friends; the Great Barton History Society; the Derbyshire Archaeological Society and the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library.

Another interesting development has been to work with the Discovery Centre to provide workshops for children from Coombs Middle School, St James Middle School and Hadleigh High School. The most unusual visit however was to be filmed for the BBC programme 'Escape To The Country'. This episode features a couple interested in local history and calligraphy who wish to relocate to Suffolk. It should be on your screens next year.

If you would like to know more about the library do visit the current Treasury Exhibition of books given by Henry Blagge in 1595 or look at the Ancient Library section on the cathedral website. If you would like to arrange a visit do contact The Cathedral Visitor Officer on 01284 748721 or at visitor.officer@stedscathedral.org

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