

Henry Blagge in the Cathedral Treasury

The present exhibition features some of the books given to the cathedral's Ancient Library by Henry Blagge of Horringer on 6 September 1595. He was one time owner of the monastic site in Bury (now the Abbey Gardens and the Great Churchyard) and related by marriage to Sir Robert Jermyn of Rushbrooke.

Books on display include the first Latin edition of the Koran, printed in 1543, a Chronicle of the Turkish Empire with woodcuts by the prolific Swiss artist Jost Amman and an edition of Petrarch printed by the Plantin press. Do come and see if you can read the Black Letter English typeface in John Jewel's acrimonious dispute with the Catholic Thomas Hardinge in the 1560s.

The treasury also has displays of plate from the cathedral and from many Suffolk parishes as well as a facsimile of the spectacular Cloisters Cross and information about the history of the cathedral.

Opening times are 10.00 to 4.00 Monday to Friday and 12.00 to 3.00 on Sundays.

If you would like to visit the Ancient Library itself, which is the oldest parochial library in the country, you can find details in the History section of the St Edmundsbury Cathedral website.

Stephen Dart