



*The martyrdom of St. Thomas Becket,  
from the Tarleton Hours c.1430.*

Purchased with the aid of the Friends 2003

**The Friends of Lambeth Palace Library** bring together people with an interest in the Library, and provide invaluable help in the acquisition of rare books and manuscripts through grants made to the Library. Printed books presented by the Friends in this way have included the famous indulgence of Leo X issued in 1516 on the eve of the Reformation, a presentation copy of Luther's tract against Henry VIII printed in 1522, the very rare Book of Common Prayer of 1559, the first prayer book of Elizabeth I, and the first English edition of Foxe's Book of Martyrs of 1563.

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The Friends also support other work in the library, including conservation, publications, cataloguing and digitization, helping to preserve the collections and to enhance access to them for all.

The annual meeting of the Friends is held in the Great Hall of Lambeth Palace each summer, followed by a lecture by a well-known scholar and by convivial refreshments. There is a further programme of events, and members also receive an informative annual report, with details of books and manuscripts acquired by the Library during the year.

**Please join the Friends so that, with your help, the Library may continue to develop and flourish.**

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# FRIENDS OF LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY



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The Friends of Lambeth Palace Library came into being in 1964 as a  
focus of public goodwill towards the Library, and as a source of support  
in augmenting its collections of books and manuscripts for the benefit  
of present and future generations.

Lambeth Palace Library is the historic library of the Archbishops of  
Canterbury. It was founded in 1610 by Archbishop Bancroft, who  
bequeathed his rich collection of printed books and manuscripts to  
form the nucleus of a free public library. With the support of James I  
and Archbishop Abbot the Library flourished, and its collections have  
steadily increased down to the present day. It now contains some 5,000  
manuscripts (including more than 600 medieval codices dating from  
the ninth century onwards), over 200,000 printed books (including  
numerous incunables and some 30,000 books printed before 1700),  
and immense quantities of archives.

The Library is the main resource for the history of the Church of  
England, but its wide-ranging collections are of value for almost every  
branch of history, and are freely available for research.

The collections have been awarded Designated status by the Museums,  
Libraries & Archives Council in recognition of their outstanding  
national and international importance.

