

What can I find in Lambeth Palace Library?

i. Overview

The Lambeth Palace Library is the historic library and record office of the Archbishops of Canterbury and the principal repository of the documentary history of the Church of England. Its collections have been freely available for research since 1610. The records held here date from the 9th century to the present day, and their broad scope reflects the office of Archbishop as head of the Province of Canterbury, his national and international roles in leading the Church of England and the Anglican Communion worldwide, and the wealth and power of Archbishops in past centuries which enabled them to collect books and manuscripts of the highest quality and significance. In 1996 Lambeth Palace Library took into its care all the early collections of Sion College, the historic library of the City of London clergy, which comprise manuscripts, pre-1850 printed books, and pamphlets. Its collection complements that of Lambeth with a key focus on the Church, but a rich diversity of other subject material.

ii. Contact Details

Address

Lambeth Palace Library,
London SE1 7JU

Telephone: (020) 7898 1400

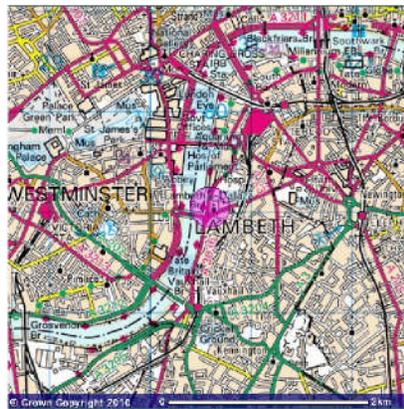
Fax: (020) 7928 7932

Email:

archives@churchofengland.org

Website: www.lambethpalacelibrary.org

Open: Mon-Fri 1000-1 700



Map from getamap.ordancesurvey.co.uk

iii. Access

Access to the Library's collections is freely available to the public and appointments are not necessary. However, on their first visit users must obtain a reader's ticket which is valid for five years. In order to be issued with a ticket, readers should bring the following: For a ticket valid only for post-1800 printed material, all microfilms (which include marriage allegations before 1851) and all original wills, please bring **proof of permanent address** (eg. driving licence, bank statement, utility bill) and **two recent passport-style photographs**. For a ticket valid for all classes of material, including original manuscripts and archives of any date, and pre-1800 printed material, please bring, **in addition to the above, a formal letter of introduction** (eg. from an academic supervisor/colleague, archivist, librarian, employer, vicar, or someone known to you in a formal capacity). Please note that we do not accept e-mails as a form of introduction. In addition, special permission is needed for access to some categories of material, eg. original illuminated manuscripts. It is a condition of access that all readers observe the rules of the Library.

iv. Catalogue

Lambeth Palace Library has separate online catalogues for its collections of printed books; and archives and manuscripts. Further details about the wide ranging collections held at Lambeth including a number of subject research guides are available on the Library's website.

The [online printed books catalogue](#) includes over 130,000 items held by the Library, including the entire collections of printed books, prints and periodicals. It does not generally contain records for the Sion College collections, for which card catalogues are available, though Sion material is gradually being added.

The [online catalogue of archives and manuscripts](#) includes descriptions of original records held at the Library and at the Church of England Record Centre, although it is not complete, with new entries being added on a regular basis.

The [Church Plans Online](#) website gives online access to the catalogue database and digitised images of the 13,000 plans in the archive of the Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS).

T h i s d o c u m e n t i s o n l i n e a t :
<http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/building-on-history-project/resource-guide/source-guides/lambeth-palace.htm>

Short version:

Lambeth Palace Library

Lambeth Palace Library is the historic library and record office of the Archbishops of Canterbury and the principal repository of the documentary history of the Church of England. Within the collections are a number of resources relevant to London in particular the Fulham papers – the official papers of the Bishops of London. These include correspondence, visitation returns and much detail about the administration of the diocese. There are also extensive resources relevant to researching clergy and a number of downloadable guides on various elements of the library collections.

Lambeth Palace Library
London SE1 7JU
Tel: 0207 898 1400
[Email: lpl.staff@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:lpl.staff@c-of-e.org.uk)
www.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk

Church of England Record Centre (CERC)

The record centre holds the records of the Church Commissioners, The National Society (NS) & the General Synod. Of interest and relevance to the diocese of London are the NS school files and the Commissioners records relating to Church building and creation of parishes from the 19th Century onwards. Material is accessible via Lambeth Palace Library reading room. The record centre has also published guidance on parish and diocesan record keeping which are freely available to download from the Lambeth Palace Library website.

Church of England Record Centre
15 Galleywall Road, South Bermondsey, London SE16 3PB
Tel: 020 7898 1030
[Email: archivist@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:archivist@c-of-e.org.uk)

Further details about the record centre can be found on the Lambeth Palace Library website.

Cathedrals & Church Buildings (CCB) Library

This small library, based in Church House in Westminster specialises in Ecclesiastical architecture but has a wealth of material relevant to London Churches –specifically:

- Survey files on every church (incl. closed) detailing changes over time
- Books on London Churches including Basil Clarke's classic 1966 work on London Churches and his picture and postcard collections as well as a range of other picture and postcard collections of churches
- NADFAS survey files on London Churches

CCB Library (open Tues & Weds by appointment) –
Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1 P 3AZ
Tel: 020 7898 1884
[Email: enquiries.ccb@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.ccb@c-of-e.org.uk)