

From: John Critchley

**VISITS SECRETARY
THE FRIENDS OF LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY
14 WILKES STREET
LONDON E1 6QF**
(Telephone 020 7247 7006) - (Mobile: 07786 933638)
(E-mail: critchley@dial.pipex.com)

FRIENDS' VISITS PLANNED FOR 2018
Amendment dated 29th October 2017

Please contact the Visits Secretary if you are interested in any or all of these visits.

Tuesday 20th and Tuesday 27th February 2018, at 2pm

The French Protestant Church of London, Soho Square

[19 Friends have booked for this visit so far which, with an upper limit of 15 for each visit, will mean two rather small groups. I hope that a few more Friends will come forward - 5 perhaps – so that we use Mme Fougier's generous offer of her time to good effect.]

This beautiful Church was designed by the architect Aston Webb (who also designed the V&A and Buckingham Palace façade) and inaugurated in 1893. French Protestants, Huguenots especially, began to flee religious persecution in France in the mid-16th century after the Royal Charter of Edward VI founding the Strangers' Church in 1550. The Soho Square church is the only one remaining of 28 French Protestant churches in London.

The honorary archivist, Bénédicte Fougier, has very kindly offered to lead a tour of the church and then show us some of the treasures from the library – including a very early printed Bible in Latin (an incunable), a first edition of the first Bible printed in French, and three manuscript volumes of Jean Calvin's sermons, only identified as such 20 years ago.

Each visit will be restricted to a maximum of 15 Friends. The cost of the visit will be about £20 per head, to allow a donation towards the church's work in conserving their books and manuscripts.

Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd May 2018

Bruges: "Colard Mansion and the printing industry in Bruges in the 15th century"

[More than 30 Friends have indicated an interest in this visit!]

The visit will be centred on an exhibition at the Public Library: "Colard Mansion and the printing industry in Bruges in the 15th century". Lambeth Palace Library is contributing the first (documented) printed book sold in Bruges to an Englishman (John Russel in 1467) and our group will have a conducted tour of this exhibition, led by a curator.

Our friends in Bruges have also suggested that we might like to be introduced to the Public Library's special collections of manuscripts and incunables; to the Grootseminarie of Bruges which has another wonderful collection of illuminated mediaeval manuscripts and incunables; and to the City Archive. Also, the Rare Books Curator at the Public Library has offered to give us a guided tour of Bruges. Several other places have been suggested for informal visits including a day trip to the Plantin-Moretus printing museum in Antwerp, possibly on the Friday.

We suggest that Friends might like to include this programme in a short holiday in Bruges. (The visits secretary will be making a reconnaissance visit later in the year and will then suggest hotel and travel options - rail travel from the UK is very straightforward - but will not make bookings on Friends' behalf).

Tuesday 10th July 2018
The Royal College of Physicians

This afternoon visit will start at 2pm with a guided tour of the College, a Grade I listed building in Regents Park designed by Denys Lasdun. The tour will be followed by a handling session when the Rare Books Librarian will set out a selection of books (the RCP has a large number of incunables and about 100 books from the lost library of John Dee). After a short break for refreshments, there will be a tour of the medicinal garden led by a Garden Fellow. The visit will finish at 5pm.

The visit will be restricted to 20 Friends only and the cost will be about £20 a head.

Tuesday 18th September 2018
Trinity College Cambridge

This visit will include lunch in Cambridge followed by a tour of Trinity College and its Wren Library, led by the Librarian, Dr Nicolas Bell.

November 2018
The Ashmolean Museum – “Spellbound”

An exhibition on witchcraft (!) to which Lambeth Palace Library is contributing several items will form the centrepiece of a day in Oxford.

2019

Lichfield: date to be decided

The visit would include Lichfield the City, its Cathedral, Ebenezer Darwin’s House and the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum.