



SCA NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY

SPRING 2012

ISSUE NO.13

Letter from the Chair

LAST MONTH THE Lincoln DAC visited a church to discuss the usual installation of kitchens and loos. There was no real problem with the parish proposals: as usual it was mostly a matter of engaging a properly qualified architect and ensuring that the scheme was drawn up in a way that respected the historic and archaeological importance of the building. Not much different from many other cases, then... except that, after the end of the meeting, one of the churchwardens linked his arm through mine and took me to an obscure corner of the church and pointed, high up, to a couple of moth-eaten flags. They were so dirty, and they were placed so inaccessibly high, that it was hard to see what emblems they might have carried, though one was clearly a union jack.

The churchwarden was very much in favour of getting rid of them; mostly, I think, because he had been told a lot of contradictory nonsense about their history. Some said they were the banners captured

by the Roundheads ('... or was it the Cavaliers?') during a local Civil War skirmish; the story was a distant echo of a local event that offered some sort of popular explanation why such old flags might appear in the parish church. Our churchwarden, however, knew that the union jack had not been adopted until 1801. His point was that, without a proper historical context, these tatty things could not be a priority for the hard-pressed PCC funds. A little gentle exploration of the churchwarden's own knowledge of local history, however, revealed that a 19th-century squire, who lived in the long-demolished hall that had stood near the church when he was a lad, was said to have been a military man: a fact confirmed by his monument in the chancel.

Suddenly the flags fitted into a recognisable picture. No longer were they tatty rags, but a commemoration of Lincolnshire's part in imperial wars. Suddenly they might be worth keeping! Once given some historical context, they might be worth conserving and displaying, with lights

and a discrete notice. A clear demonstration, then, that conservation is all about putting artefacts in a context that makes sense to us today.

It was a satisfying moment of discovery for our churchwarden, and for me! A reminder that communication is a critical task in conservation. We not only have to understand the buildings and artefacts we are attempting to look-after and pass-on, but we have to connect people with them, in terms they recognise themselves and appreciate. A job for SCA then: deepening our understanding of the buildings and artefacts for which our generation has found itself responsible, and then communicating that understanding effectively to the community at large.

Our efforts to fulfil our brief this year have been focussed, as usual, on the Annual Conference at Chichester, on the Journal, and on the grants scheme. All of these are treated at greater length later in this Newsletter, but it falls to me to thank our dedicated Committee for all the sterling work undertaken to make all three of these ventures a

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success this year. In particular I would like to single out for particular thanks Michael Shapland and Jude Jones, who worked extremely hard to organise a very successful weekend indeed in Chichester (one of the best yet); our trusty editor-in-chief, Evelyn Baker, and her editorial team, who once again produced an excellent journal; and Kristján Ahronson, who has developed the grants system and managed the applications for both 2011 and 2012. Aleks McClain and Jackie Hall have also played key roles throughout the year, undertaking a whole variety of representational and administrative tasks on behalf of the Society. We say farewell this year to Sarah Botfield, our membership secretary, who has served us so well for the past few years, and who has put the membership database on a sound footing. Her work has been greatly appreciated and we all wish her well as she takes up her studies once again. We are very grateful to Josh Schweiso for stepping forward to help with this important task and we have already welcomed him to our committee deliberations.

This year has also seen the

committee move towards the ambition that I suggested in the Newsletter last year, of forging closer links with other bodies involved in the conservation of places of worship. In particular we have welcomed Joe Elders to our committee representing ADCA, and in return SCA has sent a delegate to ADCA committee meetings. We have also joined the Heritage Alliance, and Jackie Hall has represented us there on more than one occasion. It is important that we try to build bridges between such related organisations and do not dissipate our efforts in competition with each other. There are not enough of us for that luxury!

We don't want to dissipate our conservation efforts on behalf of artefacts such as historic flags either! Such artefacts are just a burden to their guardians if their historical context is not understood. But once their importance has been understood and recognised amongst their communities, people will exert themselves to look after them. There are grant-schemes ideally suited to the conservation of flags, of course, and we look forward

to seeing our Lincolnshire examples restored to a position of honour within the church. But SCA needs to think of itself as a member of that larger community of conservation assistants, who are exploring and explaining the historical and archaeological context of artefacts such as flags in churches. Perhaps continuing to develop links with other bodies involved in this same endeavours would make a worthwhile ambition for the society in 2012?

OFFICIAL RECORDS 2011

THE SOCIETY FOR Church Archaeology is governed by its Constitution, formally adopted by the Society on 23rd March 1996. The Society was formed to achieve the advancement of public education by promoting the study, conservation and preservation of churches and other places of worship and associated monuments in all their other aspects.

The Society for Church Archaeology is an unincorporated association and has been registered with the Charity Commission under no: 1056194.

The Trustees during 2011 were:

PRESIDENT:

Dr Richard Gem

CHAIR:

David Stocker

VICE-CHAIR:

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Dr Aleksandra McClain

CONFERENCE SECRETARY:

Michael Shapland

Membership at 31st Dec 2011 was 315, of which 24 were Institutions. Subscriptions are available through the Society website, or through applications to Dr Josh Schwieso, Membership Secretary.

The postal address for the Charity is: c/o Council for British Archaeology, St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ.

CONFERENCE 2012

Making Christian Landscapes: Conversion and Consolidation in Early Medieval Europe

**SCA Conference,
21-23 September
2012
University College
Cork, Ireland**

THE 2012 SCA conference will be held in Cork, marking the very first time that the SCA has organized an event outside the British mainland. We are extremely excited about this opportunity to raise the profile of the Society outside of the UK, and the chance to provide our members with an entertaining and enlightening weekend experiencing the church archaeology of Ireland. The conference is being held in conjunction with the *Making Christian Landscapes* project, based at University College Cork, and it brings together a large number of scholars from across Europe who are working at the cutting edge of archaeological and historical research into early Christianity.

Alongside the papers themselves, conference delegates will also be given the chance to explore the early Christian Irish countryside through an all-day fieldtrip.

The conference theme focuses on how landscapes across Europe were transformed, both physically and conceptually, as a result of the conversion to Christianity and the development of ecclesiastical structures during the early medieval period. The conference is drawing on papers from a range of speakers in different disciplines, seeking to illuminate this process through case studies of particular landscapes. The speakers will consider a range of settlement and ritual/burial sites as well as territorial divisions and routeways in order to explore where and how people chose, or were obliged, to live, worship and be buried, and how this changed over time. Some papers will focus on the initial process of conversion, while others will also consider changes in the nature of people's relationships with ecclesiastical sites and structures over the course of the period.

CONFERENCE VENUE AND PROGRAMME

The city of Cork was originally a monastic settlement founded in the 6th century, and later took on an urban character under Viking occupation during the 10th century. It grew throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods due to enormous prosperity generated by its trading port, and the city remains today a vibrant mix of historic and modern. The city itself features the medieval Red Abbey and two Cathedrals, and the surrounding counties of Cork and Kerry feature some of the most important early Christian sites in Europe, making it the ideal location for this conference.

The conference will be held on the campus of University College Cork in the spacious Boole 1 Lecture Theatre, and will include three full days of activities. On Friday 21st September, there will be an all-day fieldtrip to the Ring of Kerry, a landscape particularly rich in ecclesiastical remains, including a number of church buildings, early Christian sites, and OGHAM stones. On Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd the conference

presentations will take place, ending by 4:00 PM on Sunday, and there will also be a conference dinner for speakers and delegates on Saturday night.

Confirmed speakers include: Edel Bhreathnach (Dublin), Gill Boazman (Cork), John Henry Clay (Durham), Nancy Edwards (Bangor), Julio Escalona (Madrid), Steinunn Kristjánsdóttir (Reykjavík), Élisabeth Lorans (Rouen), Paul MacCotter (Cork), Adrián Maldonado (Glasgow), Richard Morris (Huddersfield), Sæbjörg Walaker Nordeide (Bergen), Tomás Ó Carragáin (Cork), José Carlos Sánchez Pardo (Santiago de Compostela), Thomas Pickles (York), Sam Turner (Newcastle), and Élisabeth Zadaro-Rio (Tours)

The conference is being organised jointly by the Archaeology Department, University College Cork, the School of Historical Studies, University of Newcastle and the SCA, and is sponsored by the Heritage Council of Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

CONFERENCE FEES

Standard/Student Fee

£30/£17

Saturday conference dinner (optional) £25

Friday fieldtrip (optional) £12.50

Registration costs have been kept low particularly to encourage attendance from the UK and SCA members, and we encourage Society members to take this excellent opportunity to visit the historic city of Cork and the striking landscape of southwest Ireland, alongside attending this exciting and groundbreaking conference on church archaeology.

REGISTRATION AND BOOKING

You may either book and pay for the conference online, or fill out a registration form by hand and send a

cheque. A printed copy of the registration form has been included with this newsletter, and they are also available for download from the SCA website. The link for online registration, booking forms, the conference programme, and information about getting to Cork and accommodation can all be found on the SCA 2012 conference website: <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol/conferences/conf12/conf12.html>

UCC has not been able to offer accommodation for the conference, but accommodation at a range of budgets is plentiful in Cork, and please don't hesitate to contact our conference coordinator Michael Shapland (m.shapland@ucl.ac.uk) if you have queries about travelling to or staying at the conference.



CONFERENCE 2012

Thetford: The Medieval Church in Context

SCA/ADCA Day Conference, 28 July 2012

IN ADDITION TO our annual conference in Cork, the SCA will also be hosting a one-day conference and AGM in Norfolk's ancient ecclesiastical centre of Thetford, where we will be joined by the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists. Now a rather neglected place, Thetford was an important Anglo-Saxon centre whose minster-church became the cathedral of the diocese of Norfolk from 1075 until 1094, when it moved to upstart Norwich. The cathedral was converted into a Cluniac priory, which itself moved shortly afterwards, and a Dominican friary was founded there in 1335, until the Dissolution ended a thousand years of ecclesiastical activity on the site in 1538.

Thetford Priory is presently the focus of an exciting research project involving our own Jackie Hall. Until the Dissolution, the Priory was the burial place of the Howard family, the Dukes of Norfolk and one of the most important noble families of the Tudor period. However, not even the might of the Howards could save the Priory from destruction. Two of the Howard tombs were salvaged and in the 1550s reconstructed in St Mary's, Framlingham, where they remain to this day. Nevertheless, many fragments of these tombs were left behind in the Priory, which is presently being revealed by research and excavation.

The Dominican friary was converted into a grammar school after the Dissolution, and this is where the conference will be held. Part of the west front, north aisle and central tower of the church remain, and we will be housed in the school's beautiful 16th-century hall, which was built on the foundations of its monastic predecessor. There will be a morning of lectures on the churches and archaeology of Thetford, followed by lunch

and the annual general meetings of both the SCA and ADCA. Confirmed to speak so far are:

Joe Elders, *The Road to Ruin Redemption?*. *The Story of Thetford St Mary the Less*

Jackie Hall, *Dissolution, Excavation and the Howard Tombs at Thetford Priory*

Duncan Wright, *Minsters, Settlement and Society in Eastern England: The Middle Saxon Church in Context*

Richard Hoggett, *The East Anglian Dioceses before the Conquest*

The afternoon will be spent exploring Thetford itself, which boasts a spectacular concentration of sites whose preservation can be ascribed to the town's post-medieval decline. We will visit many of the sites discussed in the morning's lectures, including the cathedral and Cluniac priory, and the ruins of the Priory of the Canons of the Holy Sepulchre, the only standing remains in England of this small monastic order. Nearby, the 11th-century and later church of St Mary the Less, one of Thetford's many medieval parish churches,

provides an evocative example of abandonment and neglect which we will have a rare opportunity to enter. We aim to finish on the impressive motte of the town's Norman castle, with plenty of time for onward travel home.

VENUE

Thetford Grammar School,
Bridge St, Thetford

TIMETABLE

Friday

For those needing to be in Thetford the day before the conference, we will be having dinner at 7.30pm in the Bell Inn, a medieval coaching inn in the centre of town, on King St. Please indicate if you wish to join us so we can book a table.

Saturday

- 09.30–10.00 – Registration; tea and coffee
- 10.00–12.00 – Welcome; three speakers
- 12.00–2.00 – Lunch; AGM for SCA and ADCA
- 2.00–3.00 – Two speakers
- 3.00–6.00 – Guided tours of sites in Thetford

ACCOMMODATION

- The Bell Inn, £65–75 (01842 754455)
- The Old Rectory B&B, £30–50 (01842 765419)
- The Wareham House Hotel, £55–75 (01842 761956)
- The Thomas Paine Hotel, £80–100 (01842 750372)
- Thetford Premier Inn, £40–50 (0871 527 9090).

Note: this is located two miles from Thetford town centre

REGISTRATION

- Students/SCA members £15
- Non-members £20
- ADCA members – (included in ADCA membership subscription)

To book, please contact our conference secretary, Michael Shapland:
m.shapland@ucl.ac.uk
07817 606153
Or send a cheque to 162 Elgar Rd, Reading RG2 0BN



SOCIETY AND COMMITTEE NEWS

Review of the Society's work in 2010

THREE EXECUTIVE MEETINGS were held during 2011 (11th January, 3rd May, and 12th October). The business of running the charity, preparing for the conference and production of the annual Newsletter and Journal were discussed and recorded. All members of the Executive Committee, the Membership Secretary and President of the Society are unpaid and donate their time to the Charity voluntarily.

The Society held its annual general meeting in Chichester on 3rd September, 2011.

Fourteen members of the Society were able to attend, and the minutes of the 2010 AGM were accepted. The 2012 AGM will be held in Thetford on 28th July. Formal notification of this will be sent to members in May, along with the minutes from the 2011 AGM.

There were no Trustees' actions to report during 2011.

Committee News

Sarah Botfield signalled her intention at the 2011 AGM to stand down as Membership Secretary. Sarah kindly continued to support the committee through to January of this year when she handed over the paper work to Dr Josh Schwieso. Dr Schwieso has been co-opted onto the committee in this office for the time being, and he will be put forward for formal election at the 2012 AGM. The Society would like to extend its sincere thanks to Sarah for all her hard work on the committee over several years, and we wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavours.

ABOUT JOSH SCHWIESO

Josh started digging on Roman sites in his early teens with local archaeology societies in Northwest Kent, before going on to read archaeology at University College Cardiff from 1968 to 1971. Between 1968 and 1975 he worked on a wide range of digs of all periods and types, including Silbury Hill, South Cadbury Castle, a medieval cemetery in Cambridge, and the cloister of Sherborne Abbey. In the 1970s,



his academic career took him into the social sciences, where he spent most of his working life as a social psychologist, first in Education Departments in Reading and later at UWE Bristol. Nevertheless, Josh's interest in church architecture and all things ecclesiological continued to develop, and he was able to combine business and pleasure to some degree through completing a PhD in the Sociology of Religion on a Victorian Millenarian sect, as well as running a 3rd year undergraduate course on the psychology of religion. He also has an ongoing research interest in rood lofts and rood stairs. Having retired from being Associate Head of the Psychology Department at UWE in 2011, Josh now hopes that his experience in administration and academia can be used for the benefit of the SCA.

As well as being a long-standing member of the SCA,

Josh is also a member of the Ecclesiological Society, and of the British Archaeological Association. He served for some years as churchwarden of a partly medieval church at Enmore, in Somerset, and last but not least, he has a complete, and extensively thumbed and annotated, set of Pevsners.

The Journal: Church Archaeology

Volume 13 of the Society's journal was published in late spring 2011. The centrepiece of the volume was a major paper by Paul Everson and David Stocker, entitled 'The Witham Valley; A Landscape with Monasteries?', in which the two eminent academics shared part of their many years of research into the religious landscape of the River Witham in central Lincolnshire. The paper was beautifully illustrated with detailed unpublished field surveys by the RCHME (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England), which were of such high quality that we ventured into a 'pull-out' for Figure 7 to do it justice.

Several shorter papers illustrated the width and breadth of our subject, including a previously unrecognised Saxon church and sculptural fragment at Scrayingham in the East Riding, the use of Anglo-Saxon stonework to create architectural patterning, exciting new discoveries at the Cistercian abbey of Melrose on the Scottish Borders, as well as the unification of, and preferred design and layout of, Anglican places of worship in Northern Ireland.

The intriguing and very beautiful cover picture of the *mikveh* (a pool for ritual immersion) in the London Jewish Museum in north London is indicative of the SCA's mission to promote the study, conservation and preservation of all faiths and denominations. We also hope you enjoyed the wide range of book reviews and hope they informed your reading choices – there will be more in Volume 14, expected in May 2012.

Research Grant 2009 report

In 2009, Dr David Petts, of Durham University, was awarded an SCA research grant for the project 'Mapping Early Christianity in Western Normandy', which explored the archaeological, architectural and documentary evidence for early Christianity in Western Normandy. He provided the following report on his studies of churches in the Cotentin Peninsula (roughly the north-western half of the Departement of Manche), in which he traced the evidence for the early church from its origins in the late Roman period through to the 12th century, by which point the area was fully integrated into the Duchy of Normandy. Dr Petts writes:

I am particularly interested in the impact of Viking settlement in the region. This is traditionally seen as causing major disruption to the existing ecclesiastical organisation, and certainly the Bishop of Coutances was forced to flee to Rouen. However, I am keen to explore how far this caused a break in the church at a local



level. As one part of the project I have carried out a rapid survey of around 400 parish churches to identify both the extent of church (re)building in the 12th century, as well as to attempt to recognise evidence for possible pre-Romanesque churches. This work has been particularly successful and I am able to show both a widespread investment in churches at local level in the 12th century, but also evidence for the presence of a pre-Norman network of churches dating to the 10th and 11th centuries with a number of structures still retaining pre-Romanesque fabric.

A grant from the Society for Church Archaeology enabled me to support this fieldwork with a re-examination of the antiquarian literature. This has

proved particularly useful in identifying cases where 19th and early 20th-century grave-digging has revealed evidence for pre-Viking burials on the site of later churches; this takes the form of both diagnostically datable metalwork and the recovery of dateable stone sarcophagi. Some similar discoveries from areas close to churches but outside the modern cemetery enclosure suggest that in some cases there has been a change in the size and shape of the graveyard. Research on the topographic and spatial organisation of these church sites is continuing.

A paper on this research was given at the *Local Churches and Lordship in the European Middle Ages* conference held at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London in November 2010, and will be published as part of the conference proceedings. Further publications related to this work are in the pipeline.

Research Grant 2011 report

In 2011, the Church Archaeology Research Grant was awarded to Emma J. Wells, a PhD Student at Durham University, who is undertaking a thesis entitled *Kings, Commoners and Communities: 'Sensing' the Pilgrimage Experience of the English Medieval Church c. 1170–1550*. The grant provided funding for a research campaign that sought to reconstruct the sensory experience of the pilgrimage infrastructure at four major cult churches – Canterbury Cathedral, York Minster, Durham Cathedral, and St Neot's parish church in Cornwall – from three separate audience perspectives.

From July to September, detailed surveys were undertaken at each site, focussing on investigating pilgrimage routes, shrine structures (where still extant) and the surrounding locales. This work then informed a phenomenological study, which involved walking through the churches along the



medieval pilgrimage routes, examining light and sight lines, stopping and genuflecting at each station/rood/altar screen, and terminating at the shrines.

Research was especially fruitful at St Neot's, with its alleged medieval shrine-structure and wall painting which, thus far, have been overlooked by scholars. Analysis of the site is still ongoing, although initial investigation has uncovered the subject of the wall painting as a 15th-century rendition of the Crucifixion, above a globe/map mundi, with two figures flanking the central figure of Christ – either the Virgin Mary and St John the Baptist (as is

typical of such compositions), or possibly two donor figures as suggested by their robes and pose.

Examination of the shrine structure has identified stylistic elements dating from the 11th/12th centuries right up to the 15th century, with possible additions in the 16th century. There was also a likely change in use from shrine to Easter Sepulchre in the later medieval period, although this is still subject to further analysis of comparanda. The evidence suggests that the structure is the original tomb-shrine of St Neot and that a synaesthetic pilgrimage 'route' was created within the church, involving various visual and tangible elements, including stained glass and roof bosses. A detailed analysis of St Neot's shrine will appear in the forthcoming issue of *Church Archaeology*.

Research Grant 2012 Award

The grant for 2012 has been awarded to Emma Chapman, a PhD candidate in Archaeology at Newnham College, Cambridge. Her project is entitled 'An investigation into

the treatment of children in burial within 11th to 16th-century English Christian parish churchyards', and an update on the progress of her research will be given in next year's newsletter.

Society Accounts

Due to the earlier publication date of the Newsletter this year, the Society's accounts for the financial year ending on 31st December 2011 will be published and mailed to members with the AGM agenda in May 2012.

2011 CONFERENCE REVIEW

Churches and the Sea

The Society held its 20th Annual Conference, Churches and the Sea, at the University of Chichester from the 2nd to the 4th of September 2011. The location was pleasant, convenient for the city, and particularly appropriate given our focus on Chichester Cathedral, as we were housed in the former teacher training college founded in 1839 by William Otter, then Bishop of Chichester. The Friday evening programme began with a welcoming glass of wine on the lawn outside of the 1840s buildings, followed by a fascinating talk by Tim Tatton Brown on his career in cathedral archaeology at Chichester and elsewhere.

Saturday morning commenced with a talk by Mark Taylor, entitled 'Chichester: A Coastal Cathedral and its City'. Following this, Joe Flatman explored the topic of 'Monasticism, Mysticism and the Sea: Coastal Monastic Estates in Medieval Britain'. After coffee, Nat Cohen explored the development of churches and parishes

in Romney Marsh (the fifth quarter of the world according to the 'Ingoldsby Legends'). The marsh has a fascinating range of churches both in terms of date (from a Saxon wall at Lydd to post-mediaeval repairs at Kenardington), and size (from the 'cathedral of the marsh' at Lydd to the tiny isolated brick and timber church at Fairfield). At Brookland the bells hang in a detached timber steeple rather like the freestanding belfry at Pembridge in Herefordshire or the Essex towers such as Navestock. As with parts of Norfolk, the marsh churches usually seem too big for their settlements and a number of them are now ruined. The morning was rounded off by Allan Brodie's review of ways in which rapidly expanding Georgian seaside resorts such as Brighton were supplied with sufficient churches for the numerous, but often transitory, populations.

The afternoon was occupied in an intensive study of Chichester Cathedral. Our specialists, Mark Taylor, David Bone, and Julian Munby, led us through the architecture of the building, an in-depth review of the various materials used in the

building, as well as the Bishop's Palace and the timber roofs of the cathedral, areas not normally accessible to ordinary visitors.

Few of us were able to spend as long as we would have wished in the cathedral, but this was compensated for by the first of the evening talks, by Michael Shapland and Kevin Booth, entitled 'Beacons of Faith: Lighthouses in Anglo-Saxon England'. Michael explored the ways in which imagery and reality intermingled in Anglo-Saxon descriptions of the church as a light in the darkness of paganism, and Kevin discussed his recent research on the extraordinary, relatively understudied, and perhaps underappreciated complex of the Roman pharos and late Saxon church at Dover. Finally, Julian Munby closed the conference proper with a paper that very nicely complimented the afternoon tours, 'Chichester Cathedral: An Overview'.

In the evening many delegates enjoyed an excellent conference dinner in the early 15th-century Vicars' Hall at Chichester, a fascinating first floor hall

with surviving pulpitum and, more unusually, a washbasin in a niche. Conference debates and discussions continued informally both at the dinner, and (for a motley crew) afterwards at the Park Tavern, which overlooks the park containing the surviving chancel of the Franciscan friary (very hard to get into in my experience).

Sunday saw an excursion to put into practice the theme of churches and the sea (a theme which could as well have been churches in the rain, because we were well and truly soaked by lunch time!) Firstly we travelled south to Church Norton to visit the site of St. Wilfrid's original cathedral, under the guidance of Fred Aldsworth. The site is

marked today by the chancel of the mediaeval church (the church was rebuilt in a more convenient site in the 1860s), which contains a fine wall monument of the 1530s with an engaging, if not highly artistic, carving of St George. Partially underlying the churchyard is a ring work, which contained a very late Saxon or early Norman tower which was still standing in the 16th century, perhaps as the church bell tower, when it was represented on a large painting still in Chichester Cathedral.

Then we moved on to one of Britain's most famous, and beautifully sited, Anglo-Saxon churches, Holy Trinity, Bosham. Tim Tatton-Brown gave us a masterful analysis of this

intriguing building, though one could not help but regret that the magnificent chancel arch is too late to be the actual arch shown in the Bayeux tapestry picture of Harold Godwinson praying at Bosham church! Finally we went on to examine St. Mary's, Portchester. This is the fine, but truncated, church of a short lived 12th-century priory founded, together with the great castle, within the amazingly well preserved walls of the Roman 'Saxon-Shore' fort. After a thorough tour under the tutelage of David Baker and Jude Jones, the conference party finally said their goodbyes, though some of us sneaked off to explore the castle and to ascend its large, though curiously inconveniently arranged, keep.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events in 2012

The Art and Science of Medieval Church Screens

Organized by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities •

27th–28th April 2012 • Cambridge •

<http://www.hoart.cam.ac.uk/events/medievalchurchscreens>

THIS CONFERENCE WILL help shape new understandings of old barriers: the richly carved and painted screens which filled medieval churches. It will bring together art historians, historians of religion, conservators, and conservation scientists, providing the latest scholarship on church screens from both western and eastern Europe. Further information and booking available online.

Archaeological

Investigation of a Church

12th and 26th May, 9th and 23rd June 2012 • St Mary the Virgin, Climping, West Sussex •
<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/ccce/prospectivestudents/shortcourses/x9360>

THE CENTRE FOR Community Engagement at the University of Sussex will be holding a four-day archaeology course on how to investigate a parish church. Students will be taught to accurately record and analyse structure, fittings and landscape context. The cost is £90, and

£45 for concessions. Further information available on the website.

Exeter Study Day

Organized by the Church Monuments Society •

19th May 2012 Exeter Cathedral •

http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org/CMS_Events.html

EXETER CATHEDRAL HAS a fine collection of monuments and related sculpture which has been subject in recent years to a great deal of close study. The starts at 10:00 AM outside the west front of the cathedral, and includes a cathedral tour and access to both the Grandisson Chapel and pulpitum loft. Speakers will be John Allan, Brian and Moira Gittos, Eddie Sinclair, and Clive Easter, who will give papers on both the monuments and their conservation. The cost to members is £20 (£25 to non members), including tea but not lunch. Booking forms available from the website. The final date for booking is April 21st.

Dickens Church Tours

Organised by the Churches Conservation Trust • 24th May 2012 • Rochester, Kent •

<http://www.visitchurches.org.uk/Whatson/Fulleventslist/2012-05-24/Historic-Church-Tours-2012-The-Dickens-Churches/>

THE CCT IS marking the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' death with a tour to three Kent churches with strong connections to the author: St Mary, Higham, St Mary Magdalene, Cobham and St James, Cooling. Coaches pick up from Higham Station at 10:30 AM, and return for 4:00 PM. The cost is £25 for members, and £35 for non-members. Further information and booking is available on the website.

Parish Studies Today

Tenth Warwick Symposium on Parish Research •

25-27 May 2012 •

Warwick University •

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/calendar/parishsymposium/2012/>

THIS SYMPOSIUM WILL bring together individuals and groups interested in parish history, culture and heritage to showcase the great variety of work pursued in the field across Britain and Europe from the Middle Ages to the present day. The conference is a unique opportunity for collaboration and exchange of ideas between independent researchers, preservation organizations, local communities, parish societies and academics. More information and full registration details are available

on the website. The final registration deadline is 23 April.

Church Monuments Society Symposium

17th–19th August 2012 •

University Hall, Pen-Y-Lan, Cardiff •

http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org/CMS_Events.html

ON 17TH–19TH AUGUST the CMS will be holding their first symposium in Wales, focusing on the country's varied, but little-studied, monumental heritage. The conference includes a full-day coach trip on Saturday to Roath, Llandaff Cathedral, St Athan, and to Margam for the Stones museum and abbey, followed by a day of lectures on Sunday. Speakers include Rhianydd Biebrach, Nancy Edwards, Brian & Moira Gittos, Adam White, Diane Walker and Clive Easter. The booking deadline is 31st July, and further information and a booking form are available online.

St Aelfheah from Deerhurst to martyrdom: some millennial reflections on religious ideals

Deerhurst Lecture •

8th September 2012, 7:30 PM •

Deerhurst Church •

<http://deerhurstfriends.co.uk/lectures-events/>

THE SPEAKER WILL be Professor (emeritus) Nicholas Brooks, of

the University of Birmingham. Tickets are £5 for adults, £3 for students, and can be purchased in advance or on the door. Please see the website for further information.

Monumental Brass Society Study Day

22nd September 2012 •

Lydd, Kent •

<http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/mbs-meetings.html>

THE PARISH CHURCH of All Saints, Lydd hosts a large collection of 17 brasses. This Study Day will include a range of lectures by scholars on the history of the church, the town, and its townsmen and women, and examine how the brasses and other memorials met the commemorative needs of the medieval and early modern parish. Delegates will also have the opportunity to examine the brasses which are normally hidden from view under the nave carpet. The cost for the day is Members: £20, Nonmembers: £40, Postgraduate/Undergraduate Students: £15. A booking form and full programme are available from the MBS website.

The Experience of Worship in the Late Medieval Parish Church and Cathedral

Ecclesiological Society

Conference • 6th October 2012

• St Alban's Centre, London •

<http://www.ecclsoc.org/conference2012.html>

THE 2012 CONFERENCE will explore the experience of late medieval worship for clergy, musicians and people. It is based on a major three-year research project (www.experienceofworship.org.uk) with a strong focus on the relationship of building and ritual, and has involved editing, recreating, and recording medieval liturgies, music, and ritual objects. Speakers include Paul Barnwell, Gerallt Nash, Sally Harper & Dominic Gwynne, Magnus Williamson, Jeremy Davies, John Harper, and the Small Choir. Bookings and further information are available online or by contacting conference@ecclsoc.org.

