



sca Newsletter

FROM THE SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY

Summer 2007

Issue No. 8

Chair's Foreword

I have now been Chair of the Society for Church Archaeology for 18 months, and I am pleased to be able to say that the Society is moving ahead with its planning for the next few years. Last year's conference in Exeter, on the theme of precincts, parks, ruins: the archaeology of ecclesiastical landscapes, was very efficiently organised by our Secretary, Nicola Smith. There were a number of stimulating papers, some of which we hope will be appearing in the Society's journal. We had a most informative and enjoyable field trip, culminating in a traditional Devonshire cream tea at Buckfast Abbey. The conference attracted quite a few non-members, thus spreading the word about the Society.

Our conference this year is being organised jointly with Scottish Church Heritage Research from 28th to 30th September; we are most grateful to Edwina Proudfoot and Derek Hall of schr for the hard work that they have done in organising this conference

on the theme of changing patterns in Scottish church archaeology. Further details are given elsewhere in this Newsletter, along with a call for papers for the 2008 conference, and we hope to see as many members in Edinburgh as possible. Our conference next year will also be a joint one, this time with the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, on the archaeology of post-medieval religion. It is hoped to hold this in Norwich from 12th to 14th September 2008. We have also begun active planning for our 2009 conference, which is likely to be held in Lincoln.

Although the forthcoming conferences are under control, the organisation has been done mainly by our Secretary with some help from other members of the Committee. As the Society develops this is not really viable. With our Journal, Newsletter, conference activities and website, the Society is becoming better known, and I have already had one approach for information from a national newspaper as a result. So we are very pleased that David Stocker has agreed to be nominated to join the

Committee at the next AGM to deal specifically with the work of organising our conferences. As I mentioned in the Foreword to the Spring 2006 Newsletter, the Committee is hoping to develop some campaigning work. We are fortunate that Harold Mytum of York University has agreed to take on this job and he is currently drawing up a brief for the position. However, I am extremely sorry to have to report that our very efficient Secretary, Nicola Smith, has decided to stand down at the AGM after five years of dedicated service to the Society. If there is anybody reading this who is efficient and enjoys organising things, of if you know of anybody like this, we would be delighted to hear from you about the post of Honorary Secretary.

One matter that has involved myself and the Treasurer in a lot of work has been an attempted fraud on the Society's bank account. I am relieved that we have now got to the bottom of this, with help from the North Yorkshire Police, and all money has now been refunded to our account.

Margaret L. Faull

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2007 conference



*Society for Church Archaeology
& Scottish Church Heritage
Research Ltd*

Changing Patterns in Scottish Church Landscapes

*Friday 28th – Sunday 30th
September 2007*

This year the Society for Church Archaeology have teamed up with Scottish Church Heritage Research Ltd to organise a conference which focuses on Changing Patterns in Scottish Church Landscapes. These changing patterns will be considered through the findings of excavation work, analytical investigation & academic study. Some of this work has only very recently been undertaken & the conference will provide the opportunity for new archaeological discoveries, research & insights to be outlined & discussed.

The weekend will commence Friday afternoon with a part-guided tour along Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile,



Holyrood Abbey

one of the oldest streets in the City, which boasts a number of interesting churches such as Canongate, Tron Kirk, Tolbooth Kirk & St Giles Cathedral. The Saturday programme will be hosted by the Scottish Storytelling Centre, which lies in the heart of Edinburgh. The day will include the AGM of the Society for Church Archaeology and also presentations from a fascinating line up of speakers including Edwina Proudfoot, Erlend Hindmarsh, Peter Yeoman, Derek Hall, Martin Carver and Alison Cameron. The Conference Dinner will be held at a unique venue in Cowgate area of the City on the Saturday evening. The

Sunday field trip will comprise guided tours around several churches in East Lothian – including the wonderfully decorative fifteenth century Rosslyn Chapel.

Further details from Nicola Smith, SCA Secretary, 38, Millstream Road, Heighington, Lincoln. LN4 1TY. Tel: 01522 851340. E.mail: nicolas-mith_sca@yahoo.co.uk.

Alternatively, please download a conference programme and booking form from:
<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol> or
<http://www.scottishchurchheritage.org.uk>

Nicola Smith

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events

Monumental Brass Society

Friday 17 – Sunday 19 August
Annual conference at King's Lynn, Norfolk, with visits and talks. www.mbs-brasses.co.uk

Church Monuments Society

Wednesday 29 August
Excursion: Huntingdonshire (Buckden, Kimbolton, Great Paxton, the Offords, Godmanchester)

Jewish Heritage

Sunday 2 September
European day of Jewish Culture and Heritage: open day for many Jewish buildings. jewishheritage.org/edojc/index.php

St Ninian and the earliest Christianity in Scotland

15–16 September
A weekend event, held by Friends of the Whithorn Trust, and consisting of a day of lectures on Saturday 15th September, and an excursion on Sunday 16th September to sites of the Late Iron Age and Early Christian periods in Wigtownshire. For more information contact the or-
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ganisers at Friends of the Whithorn Trust, c/o Headland Archaeology, 13 Jane Street, Edinburgh EH6 5HE, tel 0131 467 7705, email office@headlandarchaeology.com.

Deerhurst lecture

Saturday 15 September
Lecture by Dr Richard Gem, *Deerhurst and Rome: pilgrimage and the cult of St Mary Mediana*. 7.30 pm at Deerhurst Church (the annual lecture of the Friends of Deerhurst Church).

Hawksmoor churches

Saturday 29 September
All day tour of Hawksmoor's six London churches, organised by the Friends of Christ Church, Spitalfields.

Friends of Friendless Churches

Friday 28–Sunday 30 September
Friends AGM Weekend in Pembrokeshire. With visits to Friends' churches in the county. www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk/festival-fortheffriends.htm

Chapels Society

Saturday 6 October

Visit to chapels in Hull and Holderness. www.britarch.ac.uk/chapelsoc/

Ecclesiological Society annual conference

Saturday 6 October, 10AM–5PM, at the RIBA Lecture Theatre, 66 Portland Place, London, W1B 1AD
The Rural Church In Its Place <http://www.ecclsoc.org/>

BSMGP lecture

Friday 19 October
Lecture by Sarah Brown: *The Judge, the traitor, his wife and her lover: the medieval glass of Tewkesbury Abbey*. 6.30 pm Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, London WC1. Ticket required.

Kempe weekend

Saturday 27th – Sunday 28th October
Kempe centenary weekend in Cambridge, Organised by the Victorian Society www.victorian-society.org.uk/

G. F. Bodley Centenary

1 Nov 2007 – 17 Feb 2008,
v&a Architecture Gallery
Exhibition of drawings by Bodley and his office.





news

HLF grant-aiding

In June, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and English Heritage (EH) announced a package of grants worth £6.6 million for essential repairs to Grade II listed churches and chapels across England.

St Michael and St Bishoy Coptic Orthodox Church in Kent is the recipient of the biggest grant of almost £450,000. Bristol's All Hallows Church with its Gothic Revival architecture, Liverpool's 13th-

century-styled St Vincent de Paul Roman Catholic Church and Birmingham's Assemblies of the First Born Pentecostal Church are also amongst the buildings to have been supported in this annual round of funding.

Since 2002 more than £120m of essential repair grants have been awarded to more than 1,150 historic places of worship through the joint HLF and EH 'Repair Grants for Places of Worship' scheme, which is the largest single funding source for work of this kind.

through extending opening hours of churches and chapels.

According to EH research in 2006, the Church of England currently spends £120m a year on repairs but the backlog repair bill for all listed places of worship in England is estimated at £925m over the next five years. EH's 'Inspired' campaign launched in May 2006, identified the need for additional investment from Government and the denominations to help congregations look after their buildings.



Christ Church, New Catton, Norwich, a recipient of a grant of almost £95,000.

This news follows HLF's announcement in December 2006 which confirmed an investment level to places of worship of some £20m for 2007/2008 across the UK. Furthermore, the HLF Board agreed a dedicated funding programme for places of worship, at similar levels of investment, for the duration of HLF's next Strategic Plan running from 2008 - 2013. This programme now looks set to continue funding vital repair work and will encourage improved maintenance and greater access, particularly

For the first time, prospective visitors can now search on the English Heritage website for details of how to visit places of worship grant-aided under the scheme. To search the list of places of worship that have been repaired, please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk/vpow

The 'Repair Grants for Places of Worship' scheme was launched in April 2002 as a successor to the Joint Scheme for Places of Worship programme which ran in England from 1996 - 2002.





Thornton Abbey Gatehouse

The mid 14th century Gatehouse of Thornton Abbey was reopened in July by English Heritage after an ambitious conservation project.

The work to return the gatehouse to its former glory has been backed by regional development agency Yorkshire Forward as part of a £4.5m scheme by the South Humber Bank Heritage Tourism Initiative to promote the natural and heritage assets of North Lincolnshire.



The gatehouse, complete with barbican and battlements, has been fully opened up to house a new exhibition on the site's history and restoration. State-of-the-art visitor facilities have been installed, along with a reception point, colourful displays and facilities for disabled visitors. A new exterior oak staircase has been constructed, granting unprecedented access to the building's upper floors and atmospheric interior, with its warren of narrow corridors.

The exhibition includes the result of new research and archaeological surveys. Earthworks long believed to be monastic have been discovered to be the remains of an extensive 17th century formal garden, with flower beds, thoroughfares and fountains. It was laid out around a grand house built in the abbey grounds, which mysteriously collapsed, spelling the end for the garden.

The site later became a centre of the Victorian temperance

movement, when up to 18,000 people descended on Thornton by train to rail against the evils of drink.

Thornton Abbey will be open daily from 10am to 5pm. Winter opening times (October until March) are Saturday to Monday, 10am to 4pm. Admission is £4 adults, £3 concessions and £2 children. English Heritage members are admitted free. Visitor information on 01652 632516 or visit www.english-heritage.org.uk





news

Historic Chapels Trust rescues Salem Chapel in East Devon

Salem Chapel in East Budleigh, Devon, has been rescued from dereliction by the Historic Chapels Trust in a completed £700,000 programme of acquisition, repair and upgrading. Salem Chapel is now available for bookings and for suitable community events such as concerts, exhibitions and meetings. Salem also retains its wedding licence. A separate small com-

mittee room with a small stage was created in the former school.

A Presbyterian society met here from 1709 but the present building dates from 1719. It is located in Vicarage Lane on the edge of East Budleigh village (famous as the birthplace of Sir Walter Raleigh), at the junction with B3178, close to Bicton Cross. Chapel worship was originally Presbyterian, later becoming Congregational in character. During the 1980's the chapel was transferred to the ownership of the Assembly of God which sold the building to a private owner. He failed to at-

tract the necessary support for his proposals. By that time the chapel was in a desperate state of disrepair and was subject to periodic attacks of theft and vandalism.

Meanwhile, local campaigner Kathy Moyle was expressing her anxieties to the press and to the Historic Chapels Trust. A visit ensued in 1996. A central column in the chapel was clearly leaning and deflecting and threatening to carry the whole roof structure with it. A decision was quickly taken by HCT to acquire Salem if possible and to organise a programme of conservation minded repairs that would include the introduction of modern facilities. The chapel would thus be able to fulfil a much needed role at the centre of community life once again.

HCT achieved ownership in 1998 with the help of an acquisition grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. So dire was the condition of Salem perceived to be that the works were split into two phases. The first phase was directed towards ascertaining the precise structure and condition of the



Salem Chapel (Grade 11) at its reopening on June 16th 2007 (J Freeman)*





unique roof and to quantify the repair and upgrading costs overall. This task completed, main contract works commenced in October 2004, Ellis & Co being the building contractors with Paul Richold of Architecton acting as supervising architect.

HCT's scheme embraced the chapel itself, its attached vestry, the chapel contents, the tiny burial ground and the detached schoolroom. This separate building may have started out as a stable which later became a school.

Expenditure on Salem Chapel has been well worthwhile and demonstrates the value of English Heritage and Heritage Lottery support for the 'at risk' heritage. East Devon District Council contributed a welcome £94,000 to the scheme, recognising the importance of the chapel in a national and local context and its potential for viable and beneficial use for the future. After 20 years of vulnerability, Salem is alive again and ready to welcome everyone in.

Dr Jennifer Freeman
Director, Historic Chapels Trust

Church alignments

I am investigating the theory that churches were built with their west-east axis in line with the rising sun on the feast day of their patronal saint, and have now measured 418 (93%) of the medieval churches in Devon.

A comparison between 61 churches in North Devon and 91 in the South Hams indicates that many more northern churches are pointing towards autumn and winter sunrises.

On the following nine dates, at least two churches in the northern group are facing the sunrise, whereas in the South Hams only three churches face any of them:

Feb 17 & 18 or Oct 4 & 5
Mar 1 or Oct 13
Mar 6, 7 & 8 or Oct 6, 7 & 8
Mar 12 & 13 or Oct 1 & 2
Mar 16 or Sep 28

(Since the sunrise occurs at the same point on the horizon twice a year, each alignment represents two possible dates.)



The positions of the Devon churches surveyed so far. The highlighted churches share the range of alignment sunrise dates mentioned in the text.

The map of Devon highlights all the churches so far measured that have any of these nine 'alignment sunrise' dates. Their liking for the north coast and the region around Bideford, and their dislike of the South Hams, is quite marked. The ruined church on Lundy (which has been towed some way east so as to appear on the map) shares this group of sunrise alignments.

I would welcome the views of any members with an interest in the origin and spread of early medieval church dedications.

James Muirden, Westfield, Rewe, Exeter, Devon EX5 4EU. james.muirden@btinternet.com





project roundup

This issue's roundup looks at two recent projects undertaken by Exeter Archaeology.

Cleeve Abbey, Somerset

(ST 047 407). Concluding a programme of excavation and survey conducted for English Heritage over the last decade, Exeter Archaeology undertook further building study and post-excavation analysis. Substantial foundations below the S. transept are interpreted as parts of a church, abandoned at an early stage in the early 13th-century building programme. Burials were recorded in the S. transept and the E. and S. cloister walks. A new series of architectural records was prepared for the S. transept, the S. range, the gatehouse and parts of the E. and W. ranges. Much more of the 13th-century gatehouse is believed to survive than has been appreciated hitherto; examination of the groups of late medieval sculpture on its fronts showed that they have been reused from a different context. Dendrochronological study by I. Tyers for English Heritage established a felling

date for the famous refectory roof between 1430 and 1439; J. and T. Harcourt also conducted a detailed survey of its carpentry. Publication in Somerset Archaeology and Natural History forthcoming.

Minster Church, Cornwall

(SX 109 9048). Recording by J. Allan of Exeter Archaeology following damage in the Boscastle flood provided new information about the church of this small alien priory, which was founded before 1190 and dissolved before 1407, subsequently serving as a parish church. Much of the choir of c. 1200 survives. Two phases of early 16th-century fabric were distinguished, the first a major rebuilding of the nave with S. arcade and S. aisle, the second a chapel flanking the S. side of the chancel. The two phases employ slightly differing forms of 'South Hams' windows. Extensive areas of undisturbed late medieval mortar floor were recorded. Publication in Cornish Archaeol. forthcoming.



Cleeve Abbey: detail of east elevation of the gatehouse with reset sculpture from an earlier structure (Tony Ives, Exeter Archaeology/English Heritage)



Minster church: general view of the excavation in progress, 4. 4. 2005 looking eastward from the west tower (Photo: Gary Young, Exeter Archaeology).





society news

New Committee Members

Dr Harold Mytum – Campaigns Officer

Harold Mytum is Reader in the Department of Archaeology, University of York. His main research area regarding churches focuses on graveyard monuments and other aspects of mortuary material culture. Graveyard surveys have been undertaken in Yorkshire, Wales, Ireland, America, Australia, and Gibraltar.

He is the author of *Recording and Analysing Graveyards* (Council for British Archaeology 2000) and *Mortuary Monuments and Burial Grounds of the Historic Period* (Kluwer Academic/Plenum 2004), and has written several papers for *Church Archaeology*. He is also active in studying early medieval monastic sites in Ireland, particularly through geophysical and surface survey. Harold has been a member of the York DAC for many years.

Dr Simon Roffey Publicity Officer

Simon is lecturer in archaeology at University of Winchester. He has also taught at the University of Reading, the Institute of Archaeology UCL, and the Department of Continuing Education, Oxford University.

His specific research interests are Chantry chapels, the archaeology of late medieval religion and belief, medieval architecture, and the archaeology of Reformation. He is the author of the forthcoming *Medieval Chantry Chapels. An Archaeological Approach*.

Simon directs of the Southwick Priory Archaeological Research Project, a survey of a monastic priory, post-medieval house and formal gardens in Hampshire. He is currently working on a project investigating the Leper Hospital at Alresford, Hampshire.

Members' News

Dr Kristján Ahronson, Publications Officer of the Society and Junior Research Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford, has taken up a Lectureship in Archaeology in the School of History, Welsh History and Archaeology at the University of Wales, Bangor.

2008 Newsletter

Contributions for next year's newsletter would be most welcome. We would like to hear of any relevant conferences, courses, or fieldwork taking place around the UK and Ireland. If you would like to contribute material please contact Geraint Franklin in early 2008 preferably by email: geraint.franklin@english-heritage.org.uk or by post; The Newsletter Editor, Society for Church Archaeology, Council for British Archaeology, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ.





Laser scanning at York Minster

A recent project at York Minster has sought to test the application of 3D laser scanning in the recording of the cathedral's medieval tracing floor above the chapter house vestibule. The project was a collaboration between Michael Lobb of Birmingham Archaeology/HPVISTA and Kate Giles and Alex Holton from the Department of Archaeology, University of York.

The floor is one of only two surviving medieval tracing floors and is inscribed with numerous full-size designs, including the tracery for the windows in the Lady Chapel at York Minster and St Michael-

le-Belfry church. Previous research, carried out by Alex Holton in 2005, had shed new light on the construction sequence, extent and form of the original tracing floor. It also highlighted the complexity of the designs inscribed in the surface, which have yet to be fully understood by archaeologists and art historians.

The project aimed to test the potential of laser scanning as a method of capturing the floor's minute incisions at a high resolution in 3-dimensions, which conventional methods of recording have previously failed to accomplish. The results of the survey have proved extremely exciting.

They allow us to get sub-millimetre accuracy in the recording of lines, which can then

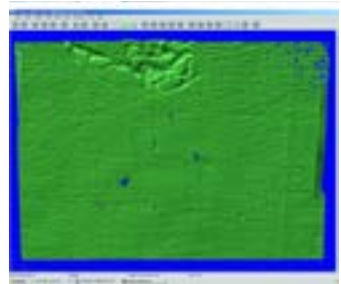
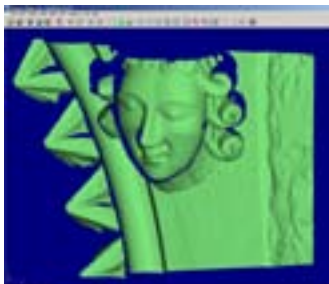
be unpicked and interpreted in CAD-based software. Using this method we hope to be able to identify the earliest tracery designs on the current floor surface which may well date to the construction of the nave in the late 13th century.

The pilot study has also revealed the potential of laser scanning to provide an accurate 'point-in-time' record of the level of preservation of carved elements at the minster, an application which has captured the imagination of both the Minster Stoneyard and the Surveyor to the Fabric, Andrew Arrol.

We hope to publish further details of the project as it develops in a future volume of *Church Archaeology*.

Michael Lobb

This page: screenshots of data processing.





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Below: fieldwork in progress.

Above : tracing floor, masons' loft, vestibule building.





2006 conference report



Exeter Cathedral

Precincts, Parks, Ruins: The Archaeology of Ecclesiastical Landscapes

Last year's annual conference (15th September – 17th September 2006) was organised jointly with the Association of Diocesan & Cathedral Archaeologists and was hosted by The Loop Centre, Exeter. The event was well supported and around sixty delegates registered for the Saturday lecture programme. Feedback from participants during the conference itself (and also subsequently) has been very positive, particularly with regard to the quality of papers given and the clarity with which they were delivered. The Society is very grateful to the speakers.

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Thirty-four members of the Society attended the Annual General Meeting on the Saturday morning. The Conference Dinner at the Queen's Court Hotel on the Saturday evening was excellent in terms of the service, the quality of the food and overall value for money.

John Allan and Richard Parker led most interesting guided tours around the roof, West Front and Cloisters of Exeter Cathedral on the Friday afternoon. The Sunday Field Trip was equally as inspiring and participants' enthusiasm re-

mained undampened despite several torrential downpours throughout the day. Our excellent Guides led over 40 eager participants around St.Mary's, Totnes (Joe Elders), Buckfast Abbey (Stewart Brown) and Holy Trinity, Buckfastleigh (Martin Fletcher). An impromptu visit to the very modern church of St.Luke's at Buckfastleigh at the end of the afternoon provided an interesting (and enlightening) architectural contrast to the other ecclesiastical sites visited over the weekend!

Nicola Smith



Holy Trinity, Buckfastleigh

