

basis to the funeral arrangements for their members. The more successful of such enterprises as these then seems to have afforded the salary of their own priest and ultimately to have built a separate chapel to house the altar and its chaplain, a church within a church.

This pattern of events seems to mirror the development of the urban parish church in general: perhaps a group of pious craftsmen initially funded the construction of a chapel in their neighbourhood after which it was enlarged by gift or subscription. Prior to the 12th century, a group of townsfolk who wished to provide for their souls might choose to found a new church on a convenient local site: by the 13th century, following the clear establishment of parish boundaries, the response of such a brotherhood would be to erect an altar or chapel *within* the existing parish church. By that date, the golden age for parish church foundation was passed, but the age of the urban chantry chapel had only just begun. It would last until the drastic reforms of the 16th century swept away both the ornament and the livings associated with those altars and chapels. At St. Bride's, one third of the floor space of the high medieval church was given over to those chantries, a clear sign of the prosperity of its wealthier parishioners. It is indeed surprising that such a substantial fragment of the Lady Chapel survived Dissolution, Fire and the Blitz. It now stands as a memorial to a guild of

pious Londoners who worshipped here 'from a time to which the memory of man extends not', but which archaeological research suggests can be traced back to the 13th century. Since the crypt can also be seen as the birthplace of medieval church archaeology in England (following its rediscovery by Professor Grimes in 1952), it is arguably a monument of national significance.

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Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Enquiries to Museum of London Archaeology Service, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (071-972 9111).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA (081-688 2720).

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (071-972 9111).

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (081-855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (071-731 4498).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (081-546 5386).

North-east London, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E15 4LW (081-534 4545).

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Planning Department, Pelham Lodge, Kingston, Surrey (081-541 9457).

Vauxhall Pottery, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, SE17 (071-703 3324).

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology includes 10 issues a year of British Archaeological News, as well as the supplement CBA Briefing, which gives details of conferences, extramural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The subscription of £15 p.a. includes postage, and should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (0904 671417).