

# BULLETIN

of the C B A Churches Committee



Number 1 May 1975







## INTRODUCTION

During the two years that have passed since the CBA Churches Committee and the Council for Places of Worship began to press for archaeological representation on Diocesan Advisory Committees the efforts of diocesan consultants have not been effectively co-ordinated. Few consultants seem to feel that they belong to a network in any corporate sense; rather the consultant performs his diocesan duties in isolation, unaware of what may be going on even in adjacent dioceses and usually uninformed of the thinking and plans of the Churches Committee.

So despite the fact that the consultants for certain dioceses have made appreciable progress, the consultants as a group have not been receiving the guidance which might have enabled some to draw on the experience of others, or would have ensured that mistakes once made were not unnecessarily repeated elsewhere. The growth of the network has thus been irregular. In part this has been to do with the fact that each diocese has a distinctive temperament of its own - sleepy, alert, sympathetic, indifferent - but in the main it is the result of poor communications.

This is the reason for the Bulletin. It will facilitate the exchange of ideas, provide an opportunity for criticism, and by linking the consultants' network with the Committee it will play a part in the formulation and promotion of a policy for archaeological action in churches.

This first edition is heavy with administrative material; having primed the pump I hope that future editions will consist largely of original copy. The Bulletin will also carry pull-out bibliographical material and working notes and articles presented in filing format, and before long we hope to be including local reports and research news. I expect that this will be the last edition to be compiled at Leeds: a consultant-editor or possibly an editorial group would be better placed to do the job. I await offers. As the Bulletin grows so will it improve in appearance. For the time being the Bulletin will appear thrice in a year and will be issued free of charge to all diocesan archaeological consultants who have been nominated by the CBA Churches Committee. Copies will be available to those who are not consultants for the sum of 20p per copy or an annual subscription of 50p.

R K MORRIS

Secretary to the CBA Churches Committee

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## NOTES

### Caring for Churches

The Council for Places of Worship and the Ecclesiastical Architects' and Surveyors' Association have organised an exhibition entitled 'Caring for Churches'. Two editions have been prepared, and these will go on tour to some sixteen cathedrals and a number of National Trust properties during the course of the year. The declared object of the display is to illustrate by means of photographs, graphics and drawings the advantages and shortcomings of the present methods of maintaining churches, both living and redundant.



### Insurance

All DAC consultants who have been nominated by the CBA are now insured against Third Party Liability and Personal Accident. Full details of the policy may be obtained on application to the CBA, 7 Marylebone Road, NW1. Consultants are warned that before starting work on a site, borrowing or renting machinery, or working within a church they may be asked to sign documents which can mean that they are accepting liabilities beyond those covered by the basic CBA policy. Hazardous work with machinery in or trenches greater than six feet in depth may also require additional cover. The CBA has arranged that this may be negotiated direct with D G Durham & Co Ltd of 2 Baldock Street, Ware, Herts (Ware[STD 0920] 5035).

### Middlesbrough

A collection of essays on church archaeology drawn mainly from papers which were delivered at the recent Conference in Middlesbrough is to be published by the CBA. The volume will contain contributions from Martin Biddle, Dr Lawrence Butler, Professor Rosemary Cramp, John Hurst, Dorothy Owen, Philip Rahtz, Kirsty and Warwick Rodwell, Dr Harold Taylor and Dr Peter Wade-Martins.

### Departure or resignation

A consultant who is likely to be moving out of his diocese, or who for one reason or another feels obliged to resign from the network, is asked to inform the Secretary of the Churches Committee at the earliest possible moment. Failure to do this can lead to the appointment of a successor who is not an archaeologist.

### Seminars

The consultants' seminar which was held at York in March 1974 was not packed to the doors. Yet there is a continuing need for consultants to meet from time to time in order to talk out problems freely and to hear of specialist and experimental work at first hand. Since there are great difficulties in bringing together the entire membership at a single meeting there is to be a trial series of seminars in different parts of the country, thus reducing travelling for most and widening the choice of dates. The series will begin in the autumn. Please turn to the reply page for details.

### Redundancies

During the first quinquennium since the Pastoral Measure took effect on 1 April 1969 there were 455 declarations of redundancy. According to the most recent Annual Report of the Redundant Churches Fund the annual numbers have been: 1969, 4; 1970, 40; 1971, 93; 1972, 112; 1973, 115; 1974, 91. Of these only 65 have been vested in the RCF, a figure well below that which was predicted by the Bridges Commission. The figures for actual redundancies, however, are now climbing well in excess of the Bridges estimate. The RCF is to receive a total of £1,750,000 for its work during the next five years. This sum is based on an intake of 100 churches and presupposes 'a rate of inflation of only 5 per cent per annum . . . '

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN AND AROUND CHURCHES IN USE

PETER MARSHALL

(Note: The Archaeologist who intends to investigate a church will encounter legal and technical complications not met with elsewhere. The idea of a Code of Practice for archaeological work in churches thus has a good deal to recommend it, and one year ago a proposal of this kind was aired by Mr Peter Marshall, the Architect to Wakefield Cathedral, during a seminar for diocesan archaeological consultants (March 1974). Mr Marshall's ideas have since been discussed at the Conference of Cathedral Architects (April 1975) with the result that a sub-committee of the Conference under the chairmanship of Dr Bernard Feilden has generously offered to review any proposals on the subject that the CBA would care to make. The Churches Committee would then be able to publish and circulate the Code of Practice, possibly with a form of contract included as an appendix. In order to promote a worthwhile flow of ideas on this subject an edited version of Mr Marshall's paper is included here. Space is reserved on the reply page for comments and further ideas, which should reach the Secretary before 1 June 1975. Proposals will then be forwarded to Dr Feilden.)

"The role and the duties of an archaeologist who has been invited to carry out research or rescue work in a church need to be clearly defined. Until recently archaeological work has mainly taken place on open sites or in disused buildings, and the investigation of standing churches in use raises problems that have not been encountered before.

Procedure Structural or repair work in churches will normally be authorised by an Archdeacon's Certificate or by Faculty. Where archaeological research is intended full details should be included in the faculty petition. All archaeological work in any church or churchyard should, in my opinion, be carried out with the co-operation of the consultant architect. The architect should be consulted on all matters affecting the stability of the church, particularly if deep excavation near walls or piers is envisaged. Even if a structural engineer is involved the final decision on the extent of an excavation should rest with the architect. It may also be pointed out that the architect's knowledge of a structure, gained from previous quinquennial surveys, may be of great help to the archaeologist.

Approach Great discretion must be exercised to avoid offence to worshippers. The team will have to look to its behaviour and manners, and the work must not interrupt the normal routine of church services and must take account of funerals and weddings. When excavating old floors burials will almost certainly be revealed, and if these are left open to view they are likely to upset some parishioners and arouse morbid curiosity in others. The use of effective screening and discreet covering of exposed skeletons is thus recommended. Daily clearance of rubbish and debris will be necessary to enable worship to proceed in a seemly way.

Practical matters Before work can begin it will be necessary for the parish and the archaeologist to reach agreement on a number of points. A suitable dumping area will have to be found. Access to the churchyard for vehicles and routes in and out of the church for equipment and wheelbarrows must be considered. It is important that a policy for the removal and subsequent reburial of human remains is agreed with the incumbent. Artificial lighting will be necessary in most excavations within a church, and this may involve the securing of battens to walls, roofs and piers, as well as the provision of a power supply. If the excavation is likely to be deep the question of reinstatement will arise. Spoil cannot be properly consolidated at depth, and a suitable replacement material will probably be expensive. Monuments



and organs may need protection against dust. In short, for research work to be effective and to safeguard the rights and feelings of parishioners, any archaeological work must be treated in the same way as a traditional building contract, and a clear, comprehensive specification should be drawn up and agreed by all parties. As the nature of the investigation will vary from church to church it would be impossible to devise a standard specification to cover every case. But to facilitate the preparation of individual specifications a standard checklist of items requiring agreement could be prepared by the CBA Churches Committee in collaboration with the CPW. The archaeologist could then agree headings with the PCC or diocesan authority for inclusion in the specification. This approach may seem excessively cumbersome, but it is, I suggest, highly desirable for all parties to embark on a programme knowing their respective responsibilities."

#### THE CHECKLIST

- 1 Parties: Archaeologists  
Church Council
- 2 The site: description of proposed investigation, with reasons and locations
- 3 Supervising officer on site
- 4 Architect or agent
- 5 Obtaining of Faculty/Local Authority/Statutory Authority notices
- 6 Keys And security
- 7 Protection of works, screens, fencing, temporary lighting
- 8 Photography and drawings
- 9 Publication of report: timetable, copyright and financial responsibility
- 10 Timetable, including arrangements for services etc
- 11 Noise control and nuisance (e.g. smoking, transistors)
- 12 Fire precautions
- 13 Arrangements for use of water, electricity, power and light, telephone, plant, tackle, ladders, scaffolding etc
- 14 Access routes on site; vehicular and pedestrian restrictions
- 15 Sanitation
- 16 Location of spoil dump
- 17 Definition of working area and plant and tackle compound
- 18 Cleanliness and periodic cleaning of site
- 19 Extent to which archaeological work to be under control of PCC architect or engineer



- 20 Procedure for opening graves and covering human remains
- 21 Removal and return of human remains
- 22 Protection of structure, fittings, organ etc. against damage and dust
- 23 Attachment of scaffolding to structure, lighting battens etc.
- 24 Ownership and analysis of finds
- 25 Treasure
- 26 Responsibility for removal of surplus spoil and for reinstatement (excavations at depth will require automatic involvement of PCC architect)
- 27 Removal of all plant at end of investigation
- 28 Cleaning of the building and site at the end of the investigation
- 29 Insurance of the property during the investigation
- 30 Insurance of persons engaged on the investigation
- 31 Financial liability for the investigation

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#### DAC WORK - WHO PAYS?

Many of the consultants who answered the circular sent out in February raised two questions: expenses for DAC work, and the matter of excavation costs; most of us can cope with minor incidents, but what is to happen if full-scale investigation becomes necessary?

DAC work involves travel and some correspondence. Few dioceses pay expenses as a matter of course, although some probably would if claims were pressed hard. But few of us would care to make an issue of this by ourselves, and this would seem to be a case for an inter-diocesan initiative. It is hoped that consultants will realise that this is a delicate subject, particularly considering the reluctance of many dioceses to recognise archaeologists at all, but the Churches Committee understands the problem and is actively considering the best course to take.

Excavation presents greater problems. The Committee has already declared that it would like to see rescue work supported on a regular basis by the Department of the Environment. Whether such an arrangement can be negotiated remains to be seen. There would certainly appear to be a need for it: a recent survey of some 225 churches in the Archdeaconry of Colchester suggests that this part of the Chelmsford Diocese alone is generating enough work to justify the employment of a full-time archaeologist. Throughout the country it is likely that there is much work going on in churches which is simply not coming to the attention of the diocesan consultant, even where he is a full member of the DAC. It is hoped that further surveys will take place in different parts of the country and that these will give us a clearer idea of the problems we are facing. Meanwhile a mere handful of important rescue cases could precipitate a credibility crisis for the Churches Committee, and consultants who suspect that any such cases are in the offing in their dioceses are asked to contact one of the Secretaries or the Chairman of the Churches Committee at the earliest possible moment.



## DAC MEMBERSHIP

Archaeological representation of one kind or another has now been achieved in 25 out of 43 dioceses. The Council for Places of Worship has promised to repeat its recommendation that dioceses should recognise an archaeologist nominated by the CBA. Consultants who still await an approach from their dioceses should know that DAC appointments are a matter for the bishop; a DAC has no formal powers of co-optation. In some cases, however, the bishop will be sympathetic to the views of his DAC. Several consultants have managed to gain full membership by negotiating with the diocesan authorities on their own behalf. Letters of recommendation can be arranged if any other consultant would like to attempt this.

It should hardly be necessary to add that if any consultant is unwilling to accept full membership if it is offered he should reconsider his position as a CBA nominee. Full membership is desirable in every diocese. Occasionally there will be cases where the consultant is prevented from becoming a full member by the demands of his normal job, and where the reasons are understood by all parties exceptions can be made. But in general full membership should be the goal.

In this connection it ought to be said that one or two consultants have written to question the relevance of much that goes on in DAC meetings. They would prefer to rely on DAC Minutes and informal consultation. Yet it is becoming clear from the general pattern of events that a reliance on information issuing from diocesan sources can lead to the impression that little is going on and that all is well, whereas evidence from independent sources is beginning to suggest that the reverse is nearer the truth. There is certainly much archaeological damage taking place in churches which is not coming to our attention. Quite apart from this, however, it should be remembered that the consultant-member is in an ideal position to influence diocesan policy towards archaeology and to educate his colleagues: two dioceses are now about to include paragraphs concerning archaeology in their revisions of the Inspection of Churches Measure; and all DAC consultants will have the opportunity to meet members of the clergy, architects and contractors. It is essential that such contacts should be fostered and strengthened, and for this to happen full DAC membership should be sought and, when offered, accepted. The full member should then seek to develop his role: one well-known architect who specialises in church work in twelve dioceses has informed us that he has not heard a single word on the subject of archaeology from any DAC. He suggests that consultants who have been officially recognised should insist that the local panel of architects knows of the fact. The recent Conference of Cathedral Architects at Exeter took an extremely constructive view of church archaeology; it is now up to the church archaeologists to respond. This cannot be done by simply waiting for cases to crop up: we must actively look for them and enlist the help of others who are involved in the care of churches.



Name: .

Diocese:

DAC Status (if changed)

Address (if changed):

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Seminars are planned for consultants serving dioceses in the Midlands (Leicester, 26 September); the North (York, 24 October) and the West Midlands (Worcester, 22 November). Consultants from these regions are asked to indicate whether it is their intention to attend. Consultants from further afield will of course be welcome, although it is hoped that more seminars will take place in other parts of the country during the months that follow. The first three sessions will run from 10.30 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. and will include talks from guest speakers. As soon as approximate numbers are known further details will be circulated.

I will/will not/hope to be attending the consultants' seminar on 26 September/  
24 October/22 November.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN AND AROUND CHURCHES (see p.4)

Comments:

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Please return this sheet to R K Morris, Dept of Archaeology, Leeds University,  
Leeds LS2 9JT not later than 1 June 1975.



