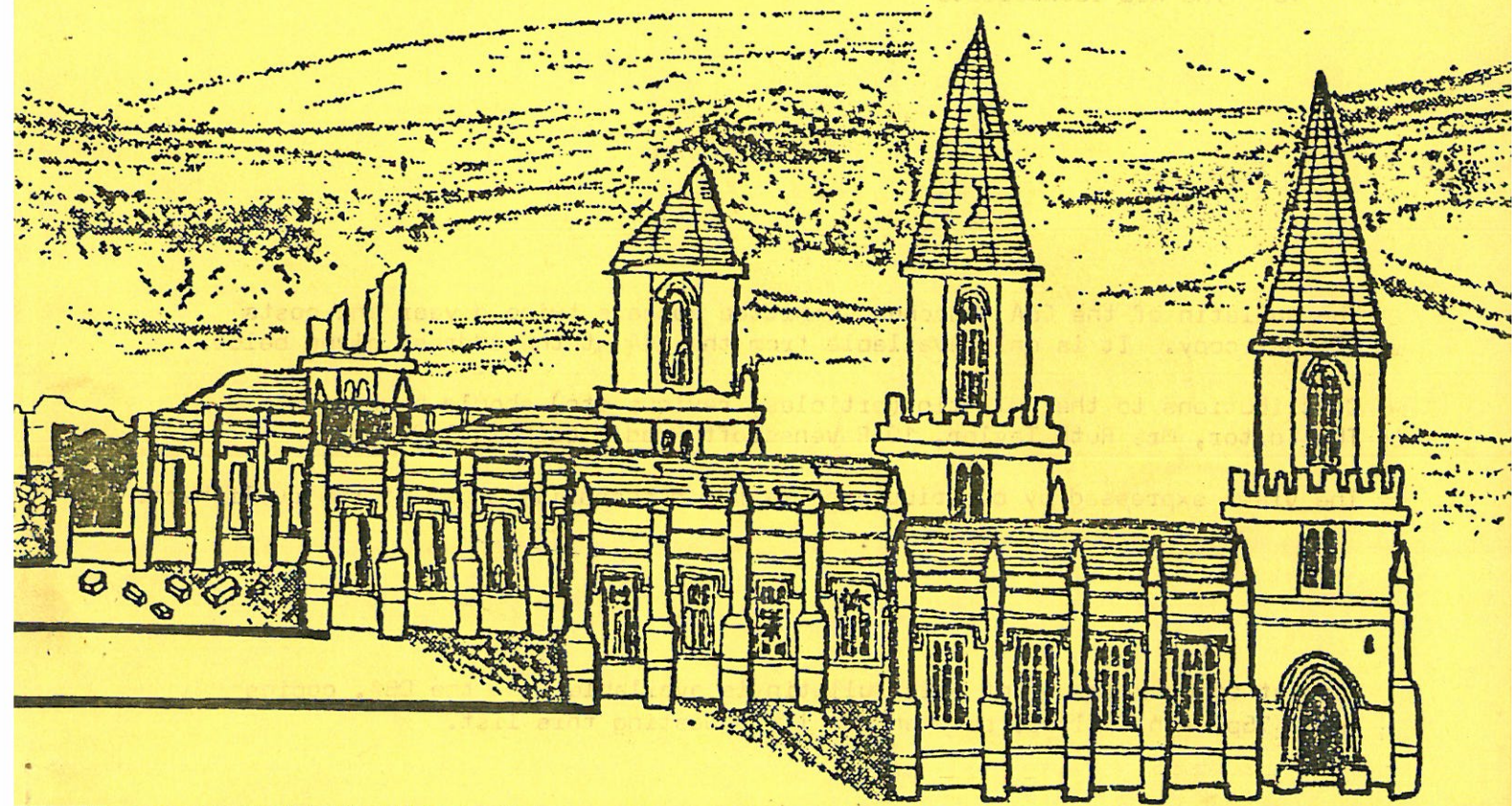


BULLETIN

of the CBA Churches Committee



Number 16

Summer 1982

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The Bulletin of the CBA Churches Committee appears twice a year and costs 75p per copy. It is only available from the CBA at the address given below.

Contributions to the Bulletin (articles, reviews etc) should be sent to The Editor, Mrs Ruth Taylor, 19 Ravenscroft Road, Solihull B92 8AH.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers.

A list of back issues of this Bulletin is available from the CBA, copies cost 75p each. Please send an see if requesting this list.

NOTES

Nonconformist news

A dayschool on the theme of 'Nonconformist places of worship in Leeds and its region' is to be held in Leeds on Saturday, 16 October 1982. This meeting is being organized by the university's Department of Adult Education in association with the CBA's Working Party on Nonconformist Places of Worship. Details of the programme and arrangements for the day can be obtained from Miss Diane Jacks, Department of Adult Education, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT (telephone Leeds 431751 extension 7403).

The Leeds dayschool is the first in a series which will look at the ecclesiology of the free churches in different parts of the country. The second meeting in this sequence will be held in Bristol on Saturday, 7 May 1983, and will include a tour of selected buildings in and around the city. Information about the Bristol meeting can be obtained from Richard Morris, Department of Archaeology, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT (telephone Leeds 431751 extension 6373).

Last year the Working Party met with representatives of most of the main nonconformist denominations in order to discuss ways in which the CBA could advise local congregations on architectural or historical matters arising upon schemes to alter or dispose of chapels and meeting houses. The Working Party has since drawn up some specific proposals and has circulated these to all the principal denominations. The text of the circular is reproduced below. Anyone who would like to participate as an advisor in this scheme is asked to contact Richard Morris at the address given above.

Working Party on Nonconformist Places of Worship Report

"It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards" said the White Queen to Alice. This strange remark contains more than a grain of truth, for history ends yesterday and if 'forward' memory means forethought then the relationship between good stewardship and history is clearly very close indeed. As we look further back in time we see not only the results of our own efforts but the tangible remains of those who have gone before. Such reminders of past generations are precious to all who want a balanced understanding of the world about them. Hut circles and stately homes, wayside crosses and cathedrals, 'remnants of history which have casually escaped the shipwreck of time' as Bacon called them, all serve to enrich our present lives as well as pointing that moralizing finger with which the writer of epitaphs used to warn his readers of the passage of years.

Council for British ... what?

Archaeology in the sense in which the Council for British Archaeology understands the word, is not restricted to the study of ancient sites nor simply to excavation. Industrial archaeology, which spreads its net well into the present century, is now acknowledged as an important and urgent concern in this age of rapid technological change. Ecclesiastical archaeology, or ecclesiology, has taken longer to recognise the threat that for a variety of reasons hangs over church buildings. Buildings of all periods are under this threat but particularly those of the last two centuries and this greatly concerns the Free Churches whose fluctuating needs have already resulted in the loss of much that might have been usefully kept.

Church buildings and the law

Since the beginning of this century there has been growing concern over the demolition of buildings of architectural merit and this has resulted in protective legislation intended to prevent precipitate action by owners of buildings and at least to allow records to be made or alternative uses discussed.

It is well known that listed building control exercised by the Department of the Environment does not fully cover ecclesiastical buildings in use. This exemption, which excludes complete demolition, is the result of existing safeguards within the Church of England and the Church in Wales: it applies to all denominations and so leaves them with a full measure of responsibility for safeguarding their own buildings from ill-considered actions. In the case of proposed demolition, the CBA with other organizations has a statutory right to be notified and to make objections. This could give rise to a situation that the CBA does not feel to be in the best interests of the denominations or their buildings. Last minute objections can be costly and frustrating and often inhibit an unprejudiced discussion of the physical and pastoral problems. At the same time, the independent nature of many individual congregations means that there is no adequate internal system of consultation and control that would enable local proposals to be considered in a wider context and with expert advice. The working party therefore believes it to be of first importance that there should be an opportunity for local church officers to have access to advice on architectural and archaeological considerations at the earliest possible stage.

Can we help?

At the very least, advice should be available to local congregations as to what architectural or historical features of their buildings are valuable and worth an effort to preserve. The very familiarity of local people with their buildings may cause these to be overlooked. For many years the CBA has maintained a network of correspondents with expert knowledge on different subjects to provide advice. Some of these will be able to help nonconformist churches and more can be appointed. From these local churches will be able to obtain independent advice, including suggestions of alternative schemes to avoid serious or permanent loss, on the funds available to help with repairs, and with recommendations about records and photographs. Normally there would be no fee at all for this service, but unavoidable travelling expenses would be agreed in advance. The number of people with this expertise who are available at present is small but it is hoped that all requests for advice can be met.

Why bother?

"What is yours is mine and what is mine is my own" has too long been the attitude of some nonconformists towards church buildings. We are all aware of the importance of parish churches in the local scene and feel hurt when they are closed even though we may never have entered their doors. But chapels and meeting-houses are just as much a part of our national heritage, built with the same loving care and attended with the same loyal affection. They have too long suffered abuse from ill-informed critics within as well as without their own denominations which a truer knowledge of the historical and architectural background would never have allowed. In order to correct this imbalance the CBA Working Party intend to encourage in every way the wakening interest in nonconformist buildings particularly by way of lectures and where possible the publication of relevant booklets.

What can you do?

If you feel that these proposals are helpful then the CBA would be pleased to circulate information to individual congregations or denominational committees, either directly or through the medium of existing periodicals or circulars, as each church may advise us. We heartily commend these suggestions to you and in repeating our desire to be of positive help we hope that you will respond to this offer so that some of the unfortunate dilemmas of recent years may be avoided.

Wells Conservation Centre

Thanks to the generosity of the St Andrews Trust, a Conservation Centre has been founded at Wells specialising in the care of church monuments and carved stonework of all descriptions. The Centre will work in the closest collaboration with the Wells Cathedral Masons' Yard and will trade under the name of 'Wells Conservation Centre'.

The Centre is at present closely involved in the campaign that has been in progress since 1975 to preserve the 13th century figures on the West Front of the Cathedral, but is now in a position to offer its services to a wider public. For the immediate future it will in general confine its activities to the conservation of limestone. The following services are offered:

- 1 Inspection of stonework, diagnosis of faults, and submission of professional advice.
- 2 Consultation with architects and surveyors responsible for the care of historic stonework.
- 3 Preparation of estimates.
- 4 Cleaning, consolidation, and repair of stonework.
- 5 Preparation of drawn and photographic records and the submission of fully documented conservation reports.

Enquiries should be addressed to: Mr P J Cooley, Masons' Yard, Wells Cathedral, Wells, Somerset

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C A S E S

Urishay Chapel, Peterchurch. Herefordshire

R Shoesmith

The ruined chapel at Urishay in a remote part of Herefordshire on the edge of the Black Mountains was taken into care by the Friends of Friendless Churches in the late 1970s. The building had fallen into ruin since the Royal Commission carried out their survey in 1930, and the Friends of Friendless Churches proposed to re-roof the chancel and part of the nave and demolish other leaning walls to make the building safe. The Department of the Environment commissioned a survey and limited excavation work on the site in advance of the building works. This was organised under the auspices of the City of Hereford Archaeology Committee.

Work will continue in 1982 and this report should be considered as provisional. The problems involved with the relationship between the chapel and the adjoining motte and bailey earthworks are left to the final report, but it should be appreciated that this relationship is fundamental to the understanding of the entire site (Figure 1). The chapel appears to sit on the re-entrant between the two ditches surrounding the bailey and the motte in such a position that it presents difficulties for any overall defence of the castle.

The building work involves the demolition of the north and west walls of the nave, partial rebuilding of the eastern part of the north wall of the nave, and construction of a temporary breeze-block wall across the nave, some 2m in front of the chancel arch. It is then intended to re-roof the chancel and point all the remaining stonework.

Period 1 - late 11th or early 12th century (Figure 2)

The earliest building so far established on the site consisted of a simple rectangular building with an apsidal east end. The buried foundations of the

apse, which partly remain underneath and slightly to the west of the present chancel arch, were examined in the internal excavation. The foundations consisted of several rows of stones laid on end, but at a slight angle in a rough herringbone fashion, and only a few stones of the first horizontally laid course above remained. With the exception of the south door, which is of period 2, and the north-western buttress, which is of period 5, the upstanding western parts of both the north and south walls belong to period 1. There are no architectural features whatsoever in these remaining fragments. The western end of the period 1 church has not been established but there would appear to be two possibilities. In the first case the west wall could be approximately 1.8m to the west of the present west wall, and in the second case some 6m further west again. The evidence for the first case was found in the external excavation but the north-south wall seen at this point did not have a foundation of stones laid on edge and could belong to period 2. Stones visible as surface features in the grass in the adjoining farmland provide the only evidence for the longer building.

The internal floor level of the period 1 building was apparently at a higher level than the existing stone flagged floor and must have been totally removed during the periods 2-5 works. The internal measurements of the period 1 building were 5.5m wide and either 12.2m or 18.2m long. There was no evidence to indicate the presence of a cross wall separating the nave and chancel in the internal elevations, and the building may thus have been a single celled structure with an apsidal end. However, one possible alternative is that the surviving period 1 masonry of the north and south walls represents the chancel only of the original church and that the whole nave was west of the present building and possibly wider, as at Kilpeck and Moccas.

The approximate comparative internal dimensions are:

	Urishay	Kilpeck	Moccas	Hereford Castle*
Maximum length (nave and chancel)	18.2 or 12.2	19.2	21.3	13.4
Maximum width (nave)	5.5 or wider	6.1	6.7	5.9
Chancel length (including apse)	12.2	9.1	9.8	5.2
Chancel width	5.5	5.2	4.9	3.5

*Stone church partly excavated in 1960 (Shoemith 1980, 46)

Period 2 - late 12th or early 13th century

The semi-circular apse was demolished down to its foundations and a new chancel was added to the remaining north and south walls. The foundations were of similar nature to the period 1 construction. The south doorway was probably inserted at the same time (or replaced an earlier doorway). The plan of the western end of the church is more obscure and dependent on the period 1 plan. It could have been lengthened or shortened from the original short or long church, or it may not have had any alteration. However, the evidence from the excavation indicates that at the time of period 2, or at some later date before period 3, the west end of the building was some 1.8m to the west of the present west wall. The position of the south doorway suggests that the short church is more likely at this date.

Surviving architectural features of period 2 include the two doorways, the two windows in the eastern part of the nave, the eastern of the two windows

in the south wall of the chancel, and the two narrow blocked lights in the east wall of the chancel. The chancel arch is also of this period but the oak lintel could be of a later date. However, the thickness of the masonry of the chancel arch would suggest that it included a rood-loft from its original construction. The floor level associated with the period 2 building was removed when the present flag floor was inserted.

Period 3 - undated

The two alters on the nave side of the chancel arch and the two stone seats on the chancel side are not tied into the period 2 masonry and therefore could be of period 2 or later.

Infant burials were found in front of each of the alters, on top of the period 1 apse foundations but otherwise undated. These were the only burials found within the building.

Period 4 - 16th century

The present eastern window, which is of one wide light with a four-centred head, is considered by the Royal Commission to be of probably early 16th century date. The timber lintel above it has stops similar to those on the oak lintel above the chancel arch and it is possible that both are of the same date. The Royal Commission dated the roof of the nave, which has since been demolished but was of trussed-rafter type, to the same period.

Period 5 - 17th century and later

The western of the two windows in the south wall of the chancel has now collapsed but was dated by the Royal Commission to the 17th century. There are obvious indications that this window was inserted into an earlier wall. The period 2 windows in the nave were probably reconstructed during this period or period 4.

The two windows in the western wall are of 17th century or later date and are integral to the wall. This wall was built when the northern wall had begun to lean outwards at the top and included a buttress at the north-west. The wall was built with flimsy foundations within the line of the earlier west wall, thus shortening the building by some 1.8m. The flag floor was laid at this time or possibly later, and it may be that the level of the floor was reduced, thus destroying the earlier floor level at the same time.

Minor repairs were undertaken in the early 20th century.

Note: Shoemith, R, 1980

Hereford City Excavations vol 1, Excavations at Castle Green (CBA Research Report 36)

City of Hereford Archaeology Committee

Town Hall

Hereford HR1 2PJ

March 1982.

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St James Stirchley, Telford

Bob Maeson

When St James Stirchley, Telford, Shropshire (SJ 69980671) became redundant, Telford Development Corporation bought it and carried out a programme of restoration. St James appears to be a small brick church with a west tower of c 1740 but it retains a complete Norman chancel and fragments of a medieval nave.

During the restoration work in 1979, plaster was removed from the chancel wall and it was found that the small chancel arch dated by Cranage as 'probably not before 1160' (Cranage 1912, 621) was set into the blocking of an earlier predecessor. This discovery led to a detailed recording project as it was clear that at least two phases of Norman work were present in the chancel. The results of the project have been included in a paper on the church which will appear in a future volume of the Trans Shropshire Archaeol Soc.

The detailed inspection showed that the west face of the chancel wall (Figure 3) retains two Norman chancel arches, blocked holes which once housed the joists of a ceiling or first floor, and a blocked Norman aperture near the top of the wall which may have been a window or a door. The smaller, later chancel arch belongs to the second half of the 12th century, confirming Cranage's dating. Medieval painted plaster fragments sealed the junction between the small arch masonry and the north reveal of the larger arch, indicating that the alteration probably occurred in the Norman period.

It appears that the west wall of the chancel was originally built with a very large aperture at ground level and a smaller aperture above. A plain chamfered plinth which can be seen on the exterior of the north wall of the chancel apparently returns along the west face of the chancel wall and this would seem to imply that the chancel was first built as a detached structure. The upper aperture would then be a window. However, the first aperture looks much too large for a west door to a single cell structure (the chancel is only 5.87m x 5.22m internally) and has every appearance of a chancel arch. If the church had a two cell plan from the outset, why does it appear that the external plinth returns across the west face of the chancel wall? Further, if the upper, smaller aperture was designed as a window, it would neither have lit the nave from the chancel nor the chancel from the nave. Just below the foot of this aperture on the east face of the chancel wall are blocked joist sockets. Hence, the chancel has been ceiled or floored over at some stage and this invites the speculation that the upper aperture was a door giving access to a floor over the chancel.

The problems of interpretation posed by the conflicting information presented in this chancel wall may only be resolved by excavation. The post-medieval floors in both the chancel and the nave are raised above the Norman floor level so the archaeological evidence may be relatively undisturbed. However, there is no threat to this church which, it is hoped, may remain a tantalising architectural problem for many years.

Note: Cranage, D H S, 1912 The churches of Shropshire vol 2 (Wellington)

Telford Development Corporation
June 1982

An unsuspected pre-Conquest church and cemetery at
Winwick, Cheshire

David Freke

In 1980 the Liverpool University Rescue Archaeology Unit, directed by the author, carried out DoE funded excavations on two Bronze Age barrows, part of a rapidly disappearing barrow group at Winwick, north of Warrington. In the course of excavating the complex Bronze Age features of the Southworth Hall Farm barrow (NGR SJ 618936) it became clear that it had a Christian cemetery superimposed on it.

The soil conditions were such that very little bone survived - one skull in the Bronze Age ditch, the faint outline of another skeleton, and a few stray teeth comprised the total skeletal material from the graves. All the graves had to be traced by soil colour and texture changes, and in the very disturbed upper metre of the deposit many may have been invisible. Nonetheless, at least three periods of grave digging could confidently be identified. The area excavated was almost 1500 square metres, virtually a 40 x 40m square, but no edge to the cemetery was reached, although the graves were thinning out to the south-east. The graves had probably covered the Bronze Age barrow, and many must have been lost in the virtual levelling of the mound in the centuries following its use as a cemetery. A later (but undatable) field boundary ditch cuts through the graves but makes a detour to avoid what must have been a substantial upstanding feature.

The grave alignments were generally E-W, but tended to conform to the contours of the (now missing) mound until this pulled them out of alignment and one of the later periods of interment was markedly NE-SW over most of the site. The size of graves varied: some were clearly double width, and others were child and infant graves. These were particularly numerous in one area, perhaps indicating zoning, or maybe an unlucky family. Upwards of 600 separate graves were identified, but many more may have been missed (it may be necessary to multiply by a factor of 3), and an unknown number have been lost from the area of the eroded mound.

The church was almost certainly not made of stone, but disturbance of the top levels had removed any traces of timber settings, so the site of the church was inferred from the gaps in the grave alignments. These indicated a structure 4m wide and at least 9m long (the east end extended beyond the edge of the trench). Although this method consists of inferring a structure by what might have been chance alignments, it was striking that elsewhere, even in areas of the site with few burials, no gaps more than a few metres long could be traced. In the densely packed zone in the NE corner of the trench three such lines formed part of a rectangle. It is hoped to narrow the odds still further by finding the east end in another season.

No artefacts were found in the graves, although coffin stains could be discerned in several, and in many the distinction between soil thrown in round the coffin and the later filling of the coffin area itself showed that they had been encoffined. Several graves contained stones placed, apparently deliberately, on either side of the knees, or at the head.

Given that no boundaries were found the cemetery is clearly a major, long-lived parish burial ground. Its pre-Conquest date can be deduced from the fact that the present Winwick parish church 2km away was founded c AD1000. The early ecclesiastical organisation in the NW appears to have been 'celtic' in character, based on large parishes like Winwick, with ecclesiastical centres not necessarily located in any settlement. There is no evidence on the site that it was the site of a habitation at any period, or even near one. There may not have been a centre of population in the parish in the

pre-Conquest period, and it is a moot point whether the move 2km to the SW in c AD1000 was into an existing nucleated 'village' or whether the new church stimulated the growth of a village. Much work needs to be done in the area before we can understand the development of later medieval settlement let alone the pre-Conquest patterns.

July 1982

PROJECT FUNDING

Richard Morris

Since July 1980 it has been the practice of the DoE to base its rescue funding policy on projects rather than giving support to organizations. Diocesan consultants who work as professional archaeologists will be familiar with the mechanics of project funding, but there may be others who are not fully acquainted with the system and who would welcome some explanation of what it involves.

The DoE concept of 'a project' involves a specific programme of archaeological investigation which is considered to be of sufficient importance to merit support from the start through to publication at an appropriate level. Normally, a project will concern the excavation and recording of evidence that would otherwise be destroyed, but survey and, in some circumstances, the recording of threatened evidence in buildings are not wholly excluded (for the criteria here, consult the Minutes of the Seminar for Diocesan Consultants, held on 18 November 1981). A project may be large or small, depending upon circumstances. This means that, say, the excavation of a dry area on a particularly sensitive site or the unblocking of an early window during a State-aided repair should be just as eligible for consideration as a large-scale excavation.

Naturally, the funds available for the grant-aiding of projects are limited, and more projects are being put forward for consideration than can actually be supported. Decisions on the selection of projects are taken within DoE, although outside bodies, including the CBA Churches Committee, are invited to contribute academic advice. The preliminary list of bids for 1983/84 will become available at the end of November 1982, and the Churches Committee will meet to discuss this and to give its views a few days later.

Consultants are asked to make full use of the project system in connection with the DAC work, along the following lines:

- 1 In cases where the need for action can be predicted well in advance, a formal application should be submitted for a project grant allocation in the following year. Thus, applications for identifiable projects in 1983/84 (April to March inclusive) should be submitted to DoE before November 1982. Operations demanding large-scale disturbances in and around churches seldom arise overnight; indeed, the faculty jurisdiction system makes provision for preliminary discussion between PCCs and the DAC, before schemes crystallize and the stage of making a formal petition for a faculty is reached. It is appreciated that schemes brought forward by PCCs are often surrounded by uncertainty, particularly as regards timing. However, if there is a reasonable possibility that a threat will materialise within the next 'project year', it is suggested that a project application should be made. We gather that if a project is approved for one year and then for some reason does not take place, the approval for that project will normally be expected to carry over into the following year, subject to the continuing availability of funds.

- 2 Although PCCs are encouraged to engage in preliminary consultation, the fact remains that many cases arise with little or no warning, either because the works are considered to be too trivial to merit advance discussion with the DAC, or else because the PCC simply has not bothered to seek advice before the application for a faculty is made. These cases can be difficult, but the project funding system includes provision for contingencies, and DoE maintain that while this lasts it should enable a response to be made within a reasonable timescale. It remains to be seen how this will work out in practice, and consultants who meet problems are asked to report their experiences to the Committee, through the Research Officer.

The procedure for making project applications will vary from area to area, depending upon the strength of professional coverage. Thus, to give examples, a consultant who covers a diocese which is also served by an established unit may find it best to refer proposals for projects to the unit. Consultants who work in dioceses that have little or no professional coverage may find it necessary to submit an application direct to DoE.* Direct submissions may also be appropriate in cases where the work is very small in scale.

*Advice on the submission of project applications, and on how to obtain the necessary forms, can be obtained from the regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Advice is also available from Dr G Wainwright at Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE (01-734 6010). State-aided cases with archaeological implications may also be discussed with Inspectors in the DoE Churches Section: Mr R Halsey (Room 207, Fortress House, extension 368), for dioceses north of a line which follows the southern borders of Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Norfolk, and Mr G McHardy (Room 302, extension 430) for dioceses to the south.

BOOK REVIEWS

Elizabeth Coatsworth, The carved stones of Woodhorn church
210mm x 135mm, 39pp Wansbeck District Council, 1981

Price £1.00, from the Leisure and Publicity Department, Town Hall,
Ashington, Northumberland

St Mary the Virgin, Woodhorn, was acquired from the Church Commissioners in 1973 by the now defunct Ashington Urban District Council for use as a 'museum, cultural centre, and private chapel'. Two years later, it was opened to the public with a display of carved pre-Conquest and medieval stones. The stones come from two main collections: those belonging to St Mary's itself and those which were formerly housed in the Keep at Newcastle and which are all unprovenanced. There is also one recent addition, a recumbent grave slab with relief cross, from Hepple near Rothbury, discussed in an appendix by Dr R N Bailey.

The stones belonging to St Mary's form a very interesting group. They range in date from fragments of a pre-Conquest cross with interlace and animal ornament to a fine 13th century effigy attributed to Agnes de Valence, sister-in-law to Edward Balliol, King of Scotland, and a 14th century grave slab with moulded cross and dagger above. The presence of the pre-Conquest cross and also possibly the window head and four grave

markers would seem to confirm the late Saxon date given to the earliest part of the church by Taylor and Taylor. Most of the stones are mentioned and illustrated in an architectural survey of the church carried out in 1870, about thirty years after extensive repairs to the church when it is possible that they were first recovered or uncovered.

Elizabeth Coatsworth, formerly one of Rosemary Cramp's research assistants, while writing up her PhD thesis on Anglo-Saxon sculpture, has written a combined catalogue of the stones and guidebook to the church. There is a brief history of the church mentioning Barbera Harbottle's excavation in the nave in 1974, plans showing the position of the stones, and a bibliography. It is a pity that only six of the twenty-three stones under discussion are illustrated.

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K Powell, The New Iconoclasts

300mm x 210mm, 50pp incl 28pp illustrations Save Britain's Heritage, 1981
Price £2.25

Ken Powell highlighted the destruction of Victorian Nonconformist chapels in northern England in The Fall of Zion (1980). He now turns his fire upon the Church of England in the northern cities in The New Iconoclasts. His targets are the archdeacons and diocesan administrators who permit church demolitions to take place; the legal mechanisms of the Ecclesiastical Exemption (from the provisions of the Ancient Monuments Act) and the Pastoral Measure (which allows for demolition without close enquiry if a replacement building is to be erected); and the civic authorities whose planning policies have created waste lands in the inner cities and hastened the demise of many sound structures.

The case studies are drawn principally from Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, and Bradford with slighter reference to Sheffield, Preston, and Rochdale. In them the whole range of destruction is well illustrated in both edifice and furnishings. The willful vandalism and the unthinking neglect have wrought havoc upon many fine Victorian churches and a few Georgian ones. Only one tower has been rescued by the Redundant Churches Fund; few examples are available of churches converted to other uses. Yet the march of godless tower blocks can be tamed by the Christian message and the example of St Paul, Salford shows one building saved, one case which softens the criticism that 'The Church has thrown in its lot with the demolition men.'

The solution which Powell suggests is much tighter listed buildings legislation which must apply to all churches as historic buildings whatever their use. Urban conservation is too important to be left to diocesan administrators. The cause of 'rationalisation' must not be an argument in conflict with the Church of England's responsibility for a substantial part of the nation's artistic heritage. The Pastoral Measure has become 'a meaningless formality' and is particularly weak in urban areas. What Powell urges is a reform of legislation and a reform of attitudes.

Certainly there are many areas in his booklet where Powell's criticisms strike home, though in some cases demolition has come only after long searches for an alternative use and in others vandalism has destroyed within a week of a vicar vacating his church. What Powell does not indicate is where the money for repairs will come from with a depleted

congregation and a devastated parish; nor does he admit that there are some Victorian churches that are drab, stereotyped structures filled with mail-order furniture and now surrounded by municipal flower-beds. Not every church by Pearson is a masterpiece and the Bradford firm of Mallinson and Hesley were 'talented' only in the closeness of their imitation of Scott. Yet it is essential that we keep the best of an architect's work: that means not just his church, but the ensemble of church, vicarage, and schoolroom, which are not mentioned in this booklet.

Two other questions are unanswered. The first is financial: is the Church of England being expected to make a disproportionate effort to maintain historic structures with very little recourse to state aid? How many local authorities have enforced compulsory repair of historic buildings on domestic owners in inner city areas when such a policy would militate against wholesale land clearance? The second is the time-scale of a neighbourhood's development. Once the cycle of urban decline and neglect has set in, as in Toxteth, Everton, or Chapeltown, can the church structure survive a long dormant period before housing and a Christian community spirit is restored?

The ambitious and at times sumptuous Victorian churches are eloquent of the self-confident missionary zeal bringing the Christian message to every city, suburb, and estate. If architecture provides an apt commentary on social values and aspirations, then the mean, uninspiring, gimmicky, secularised brick boxes may well be an accurate reflection of the attitudes and perceptions of the past two decades.

Lawrence Butler

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PUBLICATIONS FROM CBA

Recording a church: an illustrated glossary

by Thomas Cocke et al, with drawings by George Wilson

A comprehensive and fully illustrated list of the terms used to define the architectural and decorative features and the furnishing of medieval and post-medieval churches, including Victorian. Drawings (almost 100 of them) complement the text and are fully annotated. Recording a church costs £1.75.

How to record graveyards by Jeremy Jones is in its second edition, and costs £1.50

Also of interest for those involved in recording buildings and the planning process might be Recording old houses: a guide by R W McDowall, price £1.95 which includes informative line drawings and Historic buildings and planning policies by David Peace, price £1.60.

All these publications are available from the Council for British Archaeology, 112 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE post free, but we would appreciate payment with your order if possible please.

