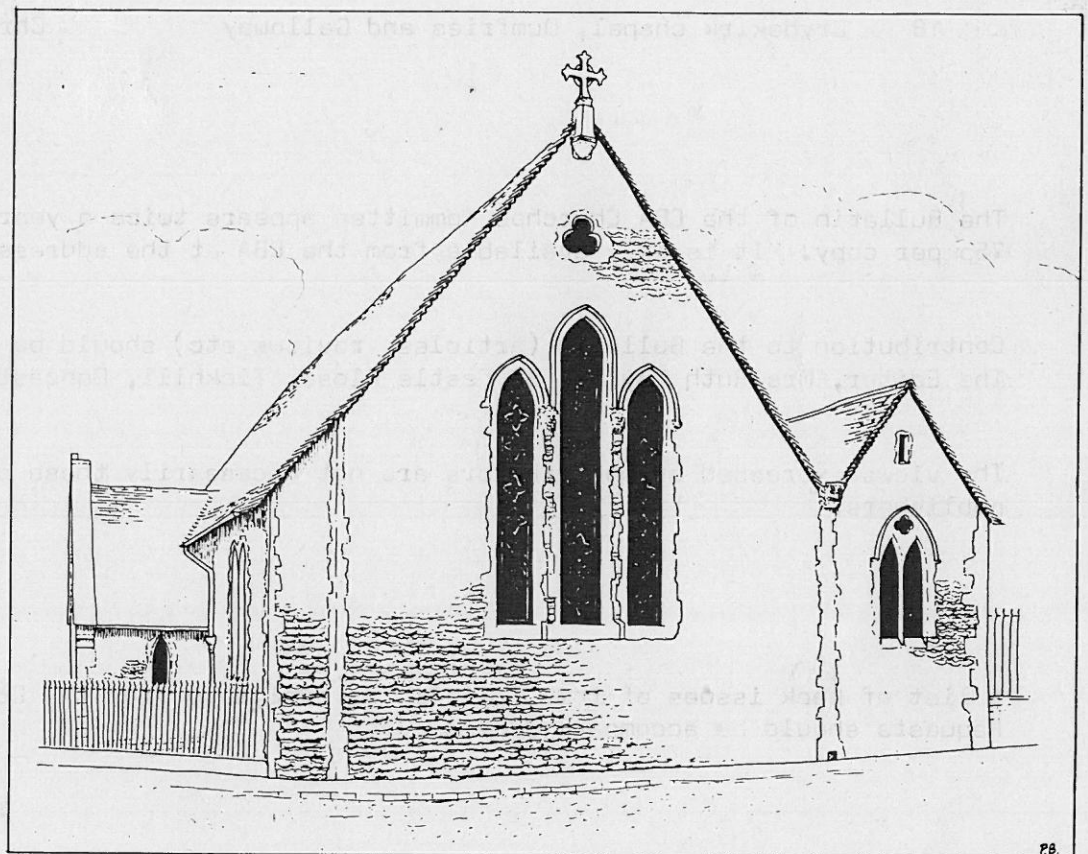


BULLETIN

of the CBA Churches Committee



St Mary Bredin, prior to the fire of 1866

Number 19

Winter 1983

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Contribution to the Bulletin (articles, reviews etc) should be sent to The Editor, Mrs Ruth Taylor, 30 Castle Close, Tickhill, Doncaster DN11 9QT.

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. Requests should be accompanied by an s.a.e.

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NOTES

Changes

- Chelmsford: Mr John Hedges has resigned as archaeological consultant following his appointment as West Yorkshire's County Archaeologist. Dr David Andrews has been nominated as his successor and has been appointed as a full member of Chelmsford Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- Hereford: Mr Michael Watson and Mr Jan Roberts, county archaeological officers for Shropshire and Hereford-Worcester respectively, have been appointed as archaeological consultants to the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- London: Martin Biddle has been nominated as archaeological consultant to the Diocese of London.

Working Party on Nonconformist Places of Worship

Formed in 1977, this Working Party is an offshoot of the CBA's influential Churches Committee.

Following a successful conference organized by the Working Party at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1979, a series of dayschools is in progress. Each meeting looks at aspects of nonconformist architectural history in a different town or region. Attendance is open to all, and admission charges are small. Details of the next dayschool are given below.

The Working Party stands ready to advise congregations on the historical significance of particular buildings and their contents. This 'advisory offer' is explained more fully in a leaflet, Can we help?, copies of which may be obtained from the CBA free of charge. The Working Party has volunteered its services in this way because the independent nature of many individual congregations means that there is no adequate internal system of consultation which would enable local proposals for change or redundancy to be considered in a wider context and with expert advice.

A future venture by the Working Party will be an illustrated booklet on the theme of recording chapels and meeting-houses. The booklet, now in preparation, is intended to stimulate active interest in this under-explored and increasingly vulnerable component of our national heritage.

A dayschool on 'Chapels and meeting-houses in Norwich' is to be held in Norwich on Saturday 16 June 1984 (note change of date). This is being organized by the Centre of East Anglian Studies of the University of East Anglia in association with the CBA's Working Party on Nonconformist Places of Worship. The programme will fall into two parts. In the morning session there will be talks on the growth of dissent and nonconformity in Norwich, the use of music in nonconformist chapels, and early Catholicism and its chapels. After lunch there will be a guided tour of selected buildings. Further information may be obtained from Malcolm Atkin, Centre of East Anglian Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

The Working Party's next meeting will be a residential conference from 21-23 September 1984 on the theme of 'Chapels and meeting-houses in Manchester and its region'. Contact Richard Morris, Department of Archaeology, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT for further information.

Seminar on setting standards for architectural photogrammetric surveys

A seminar on this subject is to be held at the Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1, on Wednesday, 11 April 1984, at 1.30pm. The chairman, John Fidler, and Ross Dallas of the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, York, write:

'During the last few years, the growth in the use of architectural photogrammetry and rectified photography techniques has been very considerable. While it is gratifying to see this increase in the use of techniques, this has also brought problems. On the one hand, users and their requirements have reached increased sophistication. On the other, the providers of the surveys are using a wider range of techniques to produce surveys. Photogrammetry can be quite a complicated technique to understand, and it has become evident from a number of sources that there is often a problem in communication between the users and providers of surveys. This seminar is therefore an attempt to bridge this gap, by providing a forum at which we hope architects, conservators and photogrammetrists can get together to air their views on the subject. The seminar is not aimed at providing basic knowledge of photogrammetry. A number of architects and photogrammetrists have already promised to give short critical presentations on their experiences of architectural photogrammetry. If you have used photogrammetry or rectified photography, or are considering it, we do hope that you will join us at the seminar.'

Telephone queries: 0904 52606

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PASTORAL MEASURE 1983

Richard Morris

Introduction

The Pastoral Measure 1968 came into operation on 1 April 1969. Pessimistic forecasts about the scale upon which churches might be declared redundant were among the factors which prompted the CBA to set up its Churches Committee three years later. Since that time the CBA has concentrated as much upon the archaeology of churches in use as upon the problems of redundancy. Nevertheless, redundant churches have not been forgotten and since 1976 the CBA has been operating a filter system whereby diocesan consultants receive reports upon churches where redundancy is being contemplated and have the opportunity to make archaeological recommendations at an early stage.

The Church of England has kept the working of the 1968 Measure under close review. As early as 1973 it was apparent that some modifications were needed to the original Measure. The process of revision has recently been completed by the coming into operation of the Pastoral (Amendment) Measure 1982 and the consolidated Pastoral Measure 1983. A new Code of Practice was commissioned by the Standing Committee of General Synod. The following abstracts are those which refer to archaeology, or which contain information about matters which may be of interest to diocesan consultants. The text is an edited version of a circular prepared by the Council for the Care of Churches in November 1983.

Abbreviations

AB	Advisory Board for Redundant Churches
CCC	Council for the Care of Churches
DAC	Diocesan Advisory Committee
DBF	Diocesan Board of Finance
DPC	Diocesan Pastoral Committee
DRCUC	Diocesan Redundant Churches Uses Committee
PCC	Parochial Church Council
RCF	Redundant Churches Fund

Council for the Care of Churches

Para 10

The Council is one of the permanent commissions of the General Synod and its terms of reference give it a wide sphere of responsibility in providing advice on the care and conservation of church fabrics and the treasures and furnishings which they contain. So far as the Council's functions under the Pastoral Measure are concerned, the DPC is required to notify the Council of any church or churches in respect of which the committee might decide to make a recommendation for a declaration of redundancy. This is with a view to obtaining from the Council a report about the historic and architectural qualities of such church or churches, the historic and aesthetic qualities of their contents, and any special features of any churchyard or burial ground annexed to any of them.

(Copies of these reports are circulated to diocesan consultants, for comment. At present the CCC has two archaeologists within the membership of its Executive Committee. Ed.)

Advisory Board for Redundant Churches

Para 11

The Board exists primarily to 'give information and advice to the Commissioners on or concerning the historic and archaeological interest and architectural quality of any church or part of a church..., its value as part of the landscape and its overall importance ... as respects which the question arises whether it ought to be declared redundant, or as respects which questions arise as to its use, demolition or preservation on or in the event of its being declared redundant'.

Redundant Churches Fund

Para 12

The Fund has as its objects 'the preservation, in the interests of the nation and the Church of England, of churches and parts of churches of historic and archaeological interest or architectural quality' (together with their contents) which have been vested in it by redundancy schemes under Part III of the Measure.

The Fund issues a free leaflet about its main functions and also sells a more detailed pamphlet Facts about the Fund.

Diocesan Pastoral Committee

Section A 1 (1) (ii)

Section 2(1) places upon the Committee the duty from time to time, as may be directed by the bishop or as the committee considers necessary, to review

the arrangements for pastoral supervision in the diocese or any part thereof (including those relating to the sharing of church buildings with other denominations) and in cases where it considers it desirable to make recommendations to the bishop.

Report from the Council for the Care of Churches
Section A2(3)

Before deciding to put forward proposals for the redundancy of a church, the DPC is under a duty to notify the CCC of the church and to obtain from it a copy of a report about the historic and architectural qualities of that church and other churches in the area, the historic and aesthetic qualities of their contents, and any special features of any churchyard or burial ground annexed to any of them. 'Where the state of repair of the church or churches in question is a relevant factor, or equally where the relative adaptability of a church or churches may affect their future either in use or following redundancy, then the report of the CCC may well be a useful document in the discussions about its future. The CCC has also from time to time been asked to supply a more "strategic" report on a group of churches (eg in an urban deanery) and it is believed that this has been useful to those concerned. The Council should be approached if a DPC feels that a wider report along these lines might be useful to it in a particular set of circumstances.'

Normally one of the staff of the Council will visit any church in respect of which the Council's views are sought.

Submission of proposals to the Commissioners
Section A3(7)

Responsibility for the procedure after proposals have been sent to the Commissioners rests with them. The procedure includes the preparation of a draft pastoral scheme or order, publication of the draft, consideration by the Commissioners of any representations received, completing any pastoral scheme and submitting it to Her Majesty in Council for confirmation and sealing any pastoral order and submitting it to the bishop for completion.

State of Repair of churches proposed for redundancy
Section A6(1) (v)

Whenever possible a copy of the most recent quinquennial report made under the Inspection of Churches Measure should accompany proposals which include provision for a declaration of redundancy. This report is especially helpful to the Commissioners in any case where they have to consider representations which relate to a declaration of redundancy. It is stressed that normal inspection under the Measure should not be suspended simply because proposals for a declaration of redundancy are under consideration.

Redundancy of part of a church
Section B8(3)

Before deciding to make a recommendation under the Measure for a declaration of redundancy in respect of only part of a church, the DPC should examine the project carefully in the light of expert advice. The views of the CCC on such a proposal will be specially valuable. The feasibility of such a proposal will depend very much on (a) whether the particular building lends itself to a satisfactory division both from a structural point of view and that of separate responsibilities for future maintenance; (b) whether there is a prospect of dealing with the redundant portion in a way which is compatible with the continuation of worship in the remainder of the building.

Provision by pastoral scheme for use of a redundant church

Section 88(4) (ii)

Where at the stage when a redundancy is proposed it is known that there is an acceptable alternative use, the pastoral scheme may declare the church redundant and go on to authorize the appropriation of the building to a use or uses.

Provision by pastoral scheme for direct transfer of a redundant church to the Redundant Churches Fund

Section 88(4) (iii)

In a few quite exceptional cases, the Commissioners may, after consultation with the AB and satisfying themselves that no suitable alternative use is likely to be forthcoming, decide that the church is of such outstanding interest and quality that it ought to be preserved as it is. In such an event it will be possible for the pastoral scheme declaring the church redundant also to provide for its transfer to the RCF for care and maintenance.

Demolition of a church under the Faculty Jurisdiction Measure 1964

Section 88(4) (v)

It is recommended that use of the powers contained in this Measure (permitting in certain circumstances the demolition or partial demolition of a church under the authority of a Faculty) should be confined to the case where a church has been made the subject of a Dangerous Structure Notice issued by the local authority (this may arise if the building becomes a danger to the public, eg after a fire or the sudden development of a structural fault). The diocesan registrar will need to consider whether, in the light of a Judgement given by the House of Lords in May 1975 (in the case of Attorney General v Howard United Reformed Church Trustees, Bradford), 'listed building consent' is required in appropriate cases.

'Section 46' cases

Provision by pastoral scheme for appropriation or demolition of redundant church to be replaced by new church

Section C1(1)

By virtue of Section 46 a pastoral scheme (as distinct from a redundancy scheme) may provide for the demolition of a church, or for its appropriation to another use, in special circumstances. The special requirements are that (a) a new church or 'place of worship' (defined in subsection (1)) is to be provided in the area of the same benefice to take the place of the church in question, (b) the scheme must declare the existing church redundant, and (c) one of four conditions is fulfilled. These four conditions are:

- (i) that the AB has advised that the old church is insufficiently important architecturally, historically or archaeologically, or in such a poor state of structural repair, that the Board would not object to its demolition on those grounds (sub-section (3));
- (ii) that the AB is satisfied with a proposal to preserve features of historic interest or architectural quality of the old church by their incorporation in the new church (or place of worship) or in some other building (sub-section (4));

- (iii) that the Commissioners, having considered the AB's advice, are satisfied (even if the Board advises against demolition) for reasons 'regarded by them as sufficient' that the demolition of the old church should be authorised (sub-section (5));
- (iv) that the Commissioners, having considered the AB's advice, are satisfied that a suitable use will be available for the old church when it is declared redundant (sub-section (6)).

Non-statutory public inquiries
Section C1(6)

The new provisions of Section 46 are designed to operate in conjunction with the arrangements introduced in 1979 between the Church of England and the Department of the Environment for the holding of non-statutory public inquiries in certain contested demolition cases, which was one of the pre-conditions for the introduction of State Aid for the repair of historic churches in use. The arrangements are that, if the Commissioners are minded to demolish a 'listed' church (or an 'unlisted' church in a conservation area) against the advice of the AB or the local planning authority or in certain other circumstances, they will pause before making a final decision and notify the Secretary of State for the Environment who may, if he wishes, hold a public inquiry. The Secretary of State, after considering his Inspector's report, would then make a recommendation to the Commissioners, but the final decision as to whether to proceed with a demolition scheme (under Section 46 or under Section 51) will still rest with the Commissioners.

Routine maintenance
Section C3(2) (ii)

The DBF should ensure that a redundant church is kept wind and waterproof while it is in their custody. The aim should be to prevent deterioration of the structure so that when a decision is made on the future of the building it is not pre-empted by the fact that the building has fallen into such a bad state of repair that on economic grounds alone it has to be demolished.

The DBF should also arrange with the incumbent and churchwardens of the parish, or an agent if appointed, for regular inspections of the fabric of the building both inside and out, and every effort should be made to prevent its acquiring a neglected appearance which acts as an open invitation to vandals. It should be remembered that, although the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955 has ceased to apply to it, the building continues to be subject to faculty jurisdiction during the 'waiting period'.

Financial resources for repairs during the 'waiting period'
Section C3(5)

If the church is of outstanding architectural or historic interest, it is also possible that the Historic Buildings Council may be prepared to give a grant towards the cost of emergency repairs. Grants will be drawn not from the moneys provided for aid to historic churches in use but from funds provided for secular buildings.

The role of diocesan redundant churches uses committees
Section C4 (i)

The Measure specifies that the only duty of a DRCUC is to make every endeavour to find a suitable alternative use for a redundant building - normally within a period of up to 3 years. If the committee concludes that no such use can

be found for the building, it is not concerned with the question or possibility of preservation by the RCF or demolition; this is a matter for decision by the Commissioners after consultation with the AB. On the other hand, if in such a case the committee has any relevant information, it would be helpful to the Commissioners for that information to be reported.

Appropriation of a redundant church to a suitable use
Section C5(1)

A redundancy scheme under the Measure may settle the future of a redundant building in one of four ways:

- (a) It can be appropriated to a suitable use 'specified or generally described' in the scheme;
- (b) It can be transferred to the RCF for care and maintenance;
- (c) It can be vested in the DBF and held on such terms as may be specified in the scheme;
- (d) It can be demolished.

Types of use
Section C5(2)

Of all the types of use found so far for redundant churches there can be little doubt that the best use must be by some other Christian body, even though this may not be the most financially rewarding. Next must come some use which will benefit the community, eg a social centre for the old or young, a concert hall or some other cultural or education purpose. A list of the main uses to which redundant churches have been appropriated by pastoral and redundancy schemes is set out below. This does not mean that uses not on the list will not be regarded as suitable, but where there is any doubt the Commissioners should be consulted at an early stage as they have to make the final decision as to suitability. It will, of course, be realized that not every use on the list will be suitable for every redundant church.

Worship by other Christian bodies	Light industrial/office
Civic, cultural or community purposes	School chapels
Monuments	Educational
Residential	Museums
Storage	Sports
Arts and crafts, music or drama centres	

Planning aspects
Section C5(8)

Any change of use of a redundant building - as well as any material alterations to it - will involve the need for planning permission and, where it is a listed building, the need for listed building consent also. Before considering the disposal of a redundant building the DRCUC will find it helpful to consult officials of the local planning authority, usually on an informal basis, to find out what change of use is likely to be acceptable. Their attention can usefully be drawn to the Department of the Environment's circulars - 23/77 and 12/81 - which stress the need for planning authorities to be flexible in considering new uses for old buildings. Where it appears that there may be difficulties over the planning aspects, the Commissioners should be consulted.

Care and disposal of contents of redundant churches
Section C6(1) General

Contents in the context of Sections 49 and 64 of the Measure may be defined as all the removable items contained within a redundant church which would normally be recorded in the inventory. The Church has a particular duty to ensure that the important artistic and historic items that have been entrusted to its care over many centuries are looked after and disposed of responsibly. In many cases contents may be more important artistically or historically than the church building itself. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that great care must be taken of these items during the 'waiting period', that hasty alienation should be avoided as this invariably prejudices future decisions, and that bishops should receive the best advice to enable them to give directions which will provide most satisfactorily for the contents' future.

Vesting and safekeeping
Section C6(2)

Following a declaration of redundancy and until a redundancy scheme comes into operation, the contents of the building are vested in the DBF which is responsible for their safekeeping, whether in the building or elsewhere, and for their insurance. The board should pay careful attention to the views of the AB which will have been conveyed by the Commissioners at the same time as the AB's preliminary advice about the future of the building.

Inventories
Section C6(3)

Although an official format exists for an inventory of church contents, and this should be the basis of any list of contents, an up to date list of all the contents should be prepared and agreed between the churchwardens and a representative of the DBF on a declaration of redundancy taking effect. This list should be supplemented by snapshot photographs of important items. Help in the preparation of inventories may be obtained from local church recording units, organized by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (c/o 38 Ebury Street, London SW1W 0LU).

Diocesan furnishings officers
Section C6(4)

The disposal of the contents of a redundant church, excluding the plate used for the purpose of Holy Communion, tombstones, monuments and memorials, is normally dealt with in accordance with the directions of the bishop who will generally act through diocesan officers. It will be essential for the officer(s) concerned to consult the DAC and to take account of any recommendations of the AB so as to ensure that appropriate methods of disposal or re-allocation of contents are employed and that items of value are not lost to the Church through negligence or indiscriminate dispersal. Bishops have appointed diocesan furnishings officers to carry out this important work and where they need advice at a national level they should consult the staff of the CCC, the AB, or the Commissioners.

Font, communion table, and plate
Section C6(9) (ii)

In cases where a redundancy scheme provides for the care and maintenance of a building by the RCF, it is customary for the scheme to provide for the contents also to vest in the Fund. There should be consultation with the

DAC and the RCF on whether the plate should vest in the Fund, or go to another church, the diocesan treasury (if any) or a local museum. The Commissioners should be informed of the outcome of this consultation as they will have to make the necessary provision in the draft scheme. When a redundancy scheme has come into operation, there should be a formal 'handover' of contents by the DBF to the Fund and a copy of the contents list, annotated to show any alienation of the contents, should be lodged with the CCC and two copies sent to the Commissioners (who will pass one to the AG).

Stained glass, bells, and organs
Section C6(11)

Expert advice on the disposal of stained glass, bells, and organs is readily available from the appropriate sub-committee of the CCC and guidance should be sought whenever necessary to ensure that proper provision is made for the disposal of these items.

Transfer of redundant churches of outstanding historic or architectural interest to the Department of the Environment
Section C10(1)

Section 66 (1) (a) empowers a DBF, with the approval of the bishop and the Commissioners, to transfer to the Secretary of State for the Environment a redundant building (or part of a redundant building) vested in the board by a pastoral or redundancy scheme.

Section C10(2)

The normal method of arranging for the preservation of redundant buildings of such historic or architectural interest that they ought to be preserved in the interests of the nation and the Church of England will be by vesting in the RCF under the power of a pastoral or redundancy scheme.

NOTE

Section 32 of the National Heritage Act 1983 provides for the establishment of a new body known as the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England: it is expected that the Commission (which will replace the existing Historic Buildings Council and Ancient Monuments Board) will come into being on 1 April 1984. Paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Act will amend Section 66 of the Pastoral Measure and will empower the new Commission to acquire a redundant church subject to the consent of the Secretary of State or to manage on his behalf such a building which has been acquired by him.

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Sussex represents an important resource for church archaeology by virtue of the exceptional quality and quantity of its surviving Anglo-Saxon and early post-Conquest remains, a survival rate which must surely reflect, in part, the fact that the agricultural wealth which in other parts of England led to the wholesale rebuilding of parish churches in the medieval period, did not have the same effect on the south coast. Medieval works in Sussex tended to be on a minor scale and were often in the form either of new churches and chapels built in remote parts of parishes or additions, such as aisles or towers, rather than wholesale reconstructions of existing buildings.

Thus medieval alterations were fairly restricted and a large number of early churches survived comparatively unscathed into the 18th and 19th centuries, when many were recorded by artists prior to Victorian 'restoration'. Illustrations survive to provide a wealth of architectural and historical information, as for example the late 18th century works of Samuel Hieronymus Grimm and James Lambert in the Burrell Collection (British Museum MS 5673-5578) and the watercolours, mainly by Henry Petrie, in the Sharpe Collection, recently acquired by the Sussex Archaeological Society (Smith 1980). R H Nibbs sketched a number of churches in the early 1850s and many of his drawings were published and the churches described by M A Lower (1872). One early church which survived virtually untouched into the late 19th century was Hunston, near Chichester. This was sketched by both Petrie and Nibbs, and Lower described it as

'a mean structure where no bones of heroes lie, the rude inelegance of poverty reigns here alone'.

Victorian restoration tended also to be fairly low key, although a few churches were entirely rebuilt. Hunston is an example of the latter. Designed by A W Blomfield in 1885, it has been dismissed by Ian Nairn and Nicolas Pevsner (1965, 249) in these words

'There are very few Sussex churches for which absolutely nothing can be said. Alas this is one of them.'

In view of this wealth of material, both in the form of surviving structures and later illustrations, one might, perhaps, have expected a great deal of activity in the field of church archaeology in Sussex during the past few decades, but this is not the case. Sussex is not an area where redundancy and conversion is a frequent occurrence and there are few threats to the archaeology of its historic churches. As a result large-scale excavations are seldom necessary and over the past thirty years only five sites have been 'totally' excavated - Ballsdean Chapel (Norris & Hockings 1953), Bargham (Barr-Hamilton 1961), Lullington (Barr-Hamilton 1970), Angmering (Bedwin 1975), and Old Erringham, near Shoreham (Holden 1980) - and these were all 'lost' churches or chapels whose remains were threatened by agricultural activity and development. One can add two sites where trial or partial excavations have been undertaken - Chilgrove Chapel, West Dean (Aldsworth 1979b), and Parham (Frøke 1980) - and several others where very minor excavations and observations have taken place. However, since 1981 marked the 1300th anniversary of the traditional date of the conversion of the South Saxons, with the founding of a church at Selsey by St Wilfrid in AD 681, it seems an opportune moment to review recent work and provide a bibliography of published works undertaken by that date.

It has long been suggested that St Wilfrid's church and cathedral at Selsey, which was the seat of the bishop until its removal to Chichester in 1075, lay on land subsequently destroyed by coastal erosion, but in two recent articles (Aldsworth 1979a; Aldsworth & Garnett 1981) evidence which includes an early 16th century wallpainting in Chichester Cathedral, four fragments of probable pre-Conquest cross shaft, and a will of 1382 is used to argue that the site may lie in the vicinity of the remains of the medieval parish church of Selsey, at Church Norton, which was partially demolished in 1855. Wilfrid was also given land at Pagham, where he may have erected a church, and when it was decided to replace the floor of the nave in the parish church of St Thomas a Becket it was clear that early deposits might be disturbed. Excavations were undertaken by the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit in 1976 (Freke 1980). The present church is essentially of the 12th and 13th centuries but it incorporates earlier work in the north wall of the chancel, and the footings of this earlier (possibly 11th century) building were revealed where the walls had been demolished to provide for the openings into the later aisles and transepts. The big surprise came when part of a smaller and earlier masonry building was revealed, together with part of the head of a pre-Conquest ring-headed stone cross, reused as fill in a grave.

The Field Unit's earlier excavations at Angmering in 1974 (Bedwin 1975) had revealed the site and plan of the 'lost' former parish church of St Nicholas, East Angmering, in which four construction phases were identified. The earliest building was a small late Saxon masonry church with an offset apsidal chancel. The church was enlarged in about AD1200 by lengthening the nave and replacing the apsidal chancel with a rectangular one. Later came the addition of a western porch and a chapel on the south side, probably in the 15th century. The church was demolished in the second half of the 16th century.

A detailed landscape survey of West Dean parish, on the South Downs north of Chichester, has led to the rediscovery of a 'lost' chapel and a 'lost' Domesday church (Aldsworth 1979b). The 'Chapel of Chelegrave' (Chilgrove) is first referred to in a covenant of about 1210 and is mentioned through until the beginning of the 17th century. It was taken down between 1618 and 1636. Following the evidence of a place-name, which survived only in the memory of local inhabitants, the site of the chapel was relocated by trial excavation in a small copse. It had been quite a large structure with rectangular nave and semicircular apse. It appears to have served a nearby, now deserted, village in a remote part of the parish, which was replaced by a single dwelling before 1608. The Domesday church at Binderton, West Dean, survived into the 17th century when the village had a sizeable population but it was taken down in about 1670 by the owner of the then recently erected and nearby Binderton House, Thomas Smyth, because, it is said, it obscured his view from the house. It was replaced by a surviving chapel which was never consecrated and the only person to be buried in it was Smyth, who died a few years after its completion. The probable site of the Domesday church has been located by excavation in the garden of the house, but there are no immediate plans to undertake a full excavation at present. It seems somewhat ironic that the large house which virtually led to the desertion of the village has recently been divided into ten flats, thereby increasing the population tenfold and repopulating the village.

At Old Erringham, near Shoreham, Eric Holden has revealed by excavation the plan of a church or chapel of which the chancel survives above ground level (Holden 1980). It was located within a ringwork of probable 11th century date but may itself be either of pre- or post-Conquest date.

At St Andrew's church, Chichester, limited excavations and observations maintained in 1976 during conversion following redundancy revealed evidence to date some of the surviving architectural features (Down 1981), and at St Botolph's, Hardham, trial excavations in 1978 have been followed by a detailed study of the external wall faces of this 11th century church, exposed during conservation works in 1981 (Aldsworth & Hadfield 1982).

Minor investigations have been undertaken at Lavant, St Mary; Singleton, St John; Sompting, St Mary; and Tortington, St Thomas.

Sompting church has also been the subject of recent investigations by Cecil Hewett, who has demonstrated that the Rhenish helm spire is probably pre-Conquest in date (Hewett 1978 and 1980). A proposal to reshingle the spire in the near future will provide an opportunity to study this structure in closer detail.

At Lavant, St Nicholas the 17th century family vault of the May family was encountered during restoration (Aldsworth 1982). Hugh May was Controller of the King's Works to Charles I and Charles II and was one of the architects responsible for rebuilding London after the Great Fire. Included in the contents of the vault was a life-size marble effigy of a Lady Mary May, produced during her lifetime by John Bushnell. This is, according to the Victoria and Albert Museum, an important discovery since few of Bushnell's works survive in this country.

Articles have recently appeared on medieval wallpainting at Clayton (Baker 1970), Battle (Rouse 1979), and Coombes (Rouse & Baker 1979) and a note has appeared on the west tower at Coombes (Park 1980).

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CASES

St Mary Bredin, Canterbury

Kevin and Paul Blockley and Marion Day

Introduction

Excavations on the Marlowe sites, which took place from 1978 to 1982 in advance of redevelopment (1), have thrown light on the early history of St Mary Bredin.

The site of the later medieval church of St Mary Bredin, which was destroyed on 1 June 1942 during an air raid, has always been known but the first Marlowe site to be excavated (in the back garden of 16 Watling Street and 30m west of the later church) during the summer of 1978 located the east end of a small structure which, as is argued below, is almost certainly the predecessor of the 13th century and later churches situated on Rose Lane and excavated in 1980. The church, therefore, appears to have been deliberately moved in the 13th century, which is most unusual (see Figure 1).

Early inhumations and possible evidence for an Anglo-Saxon chapel?

Area MI

Beneath the Norman church postulated below were a sequence of deposits which might tentatively be associated with an early chapel preceding the later parish church. The limited evidence is presented in this note to invite comment on the likelihood of an undocumented Anglo-Saxon chapel existing on this site. Extensive deposits of pre-Conquest stratigraphy were excavated over the entire area of the Marlowe car park and adjacent theatre during 1978-82. It is perhaps significant, however, that only in the area adjacent to the early Norman church have scattered human bones been located in 6th-10th century deposits. However, these remains are fragmentary and insubstantial and could well represent disturbed pagan sub-Roman burials similar to the family group from Stour Street (2). Obviously it would be of importance to recover radiocarbon determinations from these fragments in an attempt to clarify this point, although they cannot be considered ideal material for sampling because of the likelihood of contamination.

However, a more significant find perhaps was a group of assorted bones from the arm and leg of an adult male. These partly articulated bones of a single individual were recovered from the robber trench to a large Roman masonry building that was levelled in order to construct the early Norman parish church. Obviously these bones could not be earlier than mid-late Saxon. Given this, it is tempting to postulate an early chapel on the site before the establishment of the parish church in the 12th century. Certainly the marked concentration of 6th-8th century timber structures in this area of the city would suggest an early focus of Saxon settlement within this insula. It is tempting to cite St Martin's the nearby example of the tradition of reuse of extant Roman buildings for Saxon churches. However, it is unfortunate that the interior of the Roman building on MI was mainly unavailable for excavation. Evidence of three Saxon postholes was recovered from the limited area of the interior excavated - but these could be ascribed to any structure and it would be stretching the evidence to cite them as proof of a chapel.

The Norman parish church, Area MI

This structure, excavated in the spring of 1978 in the first phase of the Marlowe project, displayed three distinct constructional phases:

Phase I (dated stratigraphically to c 1150)

This phase was represented by two broad shallow trenches with sloping sides, which have been interpreted as the robber trenches to timber ground plates which would have supported the ecclesia lignea of the Christchurch rental discussed below. To the west of these trenches and aligned on the south wall were two parallel and adjacent graves. Subsequent collapse of the section several months after completion of the excavation indicated that further inhumations lay beyond the excavated area, thus indicating a burial area to the south and west of the timber church.

It is clear that the two excavated graves and postulated church are contemporary. The timber structure was constructed after the walls of the underlying Roman building were removed and the robber trench backfilled. Similarly the walls of the Roman building could not have been standing when the graves were dug since they project over the (initially) substantial foundations. The graves were sealed by a 10-20cm thick deposit of loam which built up outside the church walls. Subsequently the timber structure was dismantled and a new stone church was constructed.

Phase 2

The second phase church was represented by straight-sided, flat bottomed trenches between 1m and 1.20m wide and 50-60cm deep. An offset in the line of the trench is interpreted as the division of the nave and chancel. The foundation trench alongside the nave contained 30cm of rammed gravel footings overlain by a lens of grey/white silty chalk, which presumably represents the start of mortared wall footings. The chancel foundations were contained in a slightly deeper trench consisting of layers of crushed mortar and gravel pebbles alternating with layers of knapped flint. A disturbed inhumation lay just inside the south wall of this structure, below the floors which were truncated by 17th century landscaping. If a reconstruction of the plan is attempted, the chancel measures 6m x 3.5m internally and the nave, if extended to the line of the later parish boundary, would measure 5.5m x 7.5m. This would compare well with the size of the church at Wharram Percy in the 11th century (3). Bounded by the foundation trenches was a dump of building rubble, larger lumps of roughly knapped flint, and mortar, representing waste from the construction of the walls. This phase was contemporary with a lane of gravel pebbles, ragstone, chalk, and slag lumps which ran parallel to the axis of the church and sealed the Phase I burials.

Phase 3

The final phase of the church was represented by an east extension in timber. A flat-bottomed slot, presumably a timber sleeper-beam trench, was located running along the edge of the lane, extending the chancel for an unknown distance. A series of postholes cutting the final lane surface may represent either scaffold holes, for repairs to the structure, or a timber extension into the lane.

These structural phases are difficult to date, due to the scarcity of pottery, but sherds of 13th and 14th century pottery (up to c 1325) in the trench of the robbed stone wall and in the upper levels of the lane suggest that the structure might have been in use (though not necessarily as a church) or alternatively was demolished and the walls robbed in the early 14th century. A fragment of 13th century Thomas Becket ampulla mould found within the robber trench to the south-west wall of the stone church might suggest these souvenirs were manufactured in the building after it ceased its ecclesiastical function in the early 13th century.

Pottery from the fill of the robber trench of a Roman masonry wall, running beneath the church, has been dated to c 1080-1150, which would tie in well with an early 12th century foundation date for the timber St Mary Bredin church by William, son of Hamo, son of Vitalis (who came over with the Conqueror and is depicted on the Bayeux tapestry) (4). Both the name 'Bredin' (OE Board) and Christchurch rental 'X 2' (5) (c 1180), which states that the church was of wood (ecclesia lignea), and Christchurch rental F of c 1206 which states that it 'used to be made of wood' suggest a mid 12th century wooden church. The earliest stone church was, therefore, of the late 12th century (ie between c 1180 and 1206) (6) and would tie in well with the early stone building excavated on the site. Two pieces of a 12th century capital reused in the wall of the 13th century church located on the 1980 excavation might have come from this church.

The patronage of the church was probably given to St Sepulchre's nunnery by William, son of Hamo, in the mid 12th century. The nunnery church was also a parish church and survived as such until the Dissolution when the two parishes were combined, making St Mary Bredin a large parish which ran right out to the limits of the county borough.

The later medieval church, Area MIV

Some time during the 13th century the church was moved some 30m to the north-east, a position it was to occupy until 1942. The west end of this church was excavated in 1980.

The earliest traces of a church on this site consisted of a foundation trench 90cm wide with a base 1.60m below the contemporary ground surface. This trench, backfilled with clay and pebbles, survived beneath the west wall of the late 13th/early 14th century church. The latter wall was constructed over a foundation trench 70cm deep filled with chalk lumps and yellow mortar. The wall was of flint nodule and buff mortar construction with knapped-flint facing, undressed quoins of ragstone in the buttress, and a string course of dressed ragstone.

Two fragments of 12th century Romanesque capital (in Caen stone) had been reused in one of the buttresses. An additional buttress in the north part of the west wall was presumably for the tower or 'wooden pointed turret in which hang three bells' according to Hasted (7). This tower is also shown on the c 1640 map of Canterbury (see cover illustration) in the Cathedral Library (8). Internal floor levels had been removed by later brick vaults but fortunately a photograph of the east end of the church, taken before the 1867 rebuilding (and now in the Royal Museum, Canterbury) provides some above-ground details.

The earliest church on this new site is dated by pottery to the first half of the 13th century, possibly as late as 1250, which agrees with the lancet windows, etc, shown in the photograph, whilst the construction levels of its successor are dated to the early 14th century, a date supported by the presence of buttresses and stone quoins.

Part of the medieval and later graveyard, containing around ninety graves, was excavated around the north, west, and south-west sides of this church (9). During the 14th century a 3m square structure was constructed to the west of the churchyard. Its walls were shallow and only 30cm wide, suggesting a timber framework above. Its function remains obscure; it might have been built as a bell-tower. Whatever its function, it was to stand until its demolition around 1580-1610.

The 13th century rebuilding of the church on this site might have been carried out with money given by the Chiche family (who owned the nearby Dane John Manor). Thomas Chiche, who lived around the mid-late 13th century, had his arms and name in the west window and his arms in stone in the corner of the chancel (10). The Chiches were the most influential family in the parish until at least the 15th century. At the Dissolution in 1538 the patronage went to the Archbishop (who paid 3s a year to the vicar) and then in 1546 to the Hales, lords of the manor of the Dungeon (Dane John), who were buried there and may have been responsible for the construction of the brick vaults located in the west end of the church during the 1980 excavation (11). A tombstone of Joshua Webster, dated to 1696 and reused in the foundation of a pillar of the 1867 rebuild, probably came from the top of one of these vaults (12).

The pre-1867 church has been described in some detail by Hasted, Summerly, and Glynne (13) and can be seen from the east in the photograph already mentioned. Apart from the small bell-tower in the north-west corner, there appears to have been a medieval porch on the south side and a vestry on the north-east. The east end of the church contained a triple and a double lancet window, the latter with a quatrefoil above. A double lancet window was also situated in the south wall of the chancel. Renovations in 1850 included the construction of a bell gable and the filling of the triple lancet east window with stained glass.

On 22 May 1866 the medieval church was razed to the ground and rebuilt by July 1867. This church was in turn destroyed by an air raid on 1 June 1942. It was rebuilt after the war, in 1957, on a site outside the city walls in the Old Dover Road, almost opposite the site of the old nunnery church (Figure 1). The boundary of the mid 19th century parish of St Mary Bredin is shown on Figure 1. This is almost certainly identical with the earlier medieval parish boundaries, particularly within the city walls. Outside the city walls the parish is mainly the medieval parish of St Sepulchre's. Between the Riding Gate and Dane John the boundary was shown as a straight line on the 1873 OS map but it almost certainly would have followed the line of the city wall.

Notes

- 1 Areas MI to MIV were directed for the Canterbury Archaeological Trust by Kevin Blockley and Marion Day, whilst MT (the final area) was directed by Paul Blockley. See Archaeol Cantiana, 94 (1978), 273-5; 95 (1979), 267-70; 96 (1980), 402-5; and 98 (1982), 225-8; and The archaeology of Canterbury V (forthcoming).

- 2 Bennett, P, 1980 68-69A Stour Street, Archaeol Cantiana, 96 (1980), 406-10, fig.3
- 3 Medieval Archaeol, 17 (1973), fig 58
- 4 See S E Rigold's review of Urry, W, 1959, The Normans in Canterbury in Medieval Archaeol, 4 (1960), 175 and Urry, W, 1957, Canterbury under the Anglo-Saxon Kings, 1967, 52, note 7
- 5 Urry, W, 1967, op cit, 213, note 2
- 6 ibid, 213
- 7 Hasted, E, 1800, The history and topographical survey of the county of Kent XI, 237-41
- 8 C A L C Map 123
- 9 A new detached graveyard in Gravel Lane (Wark) was opened in 1807.
- 10 Somner, W, The antiquities of Canterbury (2edn, 1703, ed N Batteley, reprinted 1977) 169 and appendix 72
- 11 See Hasted, op cit, 237-41; Summerly, F, 1843, Handbook for Canterbury; Glynn, Sir Stephen, 1877, The churches of Kent; and later descriptions of the church before its destruction in 1866
- 12 It is mentioned in Hasted, op cit
- 13 See note 11

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Brydekirk chapel, Dumfries and Calloway

Chris Crowe

Nineteen eighty-three saw the second short excavation on this site (NY 17185712). This has revealed the foundations of a small, single-cell chapel building with an ovoid vallum of rubble. There are traces of another ruined building beneath the present structure which have not been explored yet.

The present chapel had the altar reset in 1495-1500 according to two pennies deposited under the present platform. Pottery and metalwork date from the 12th-16th centuries. A small fragment of Roman pottery came from the deepest levels beside the vallum. No cemetery has been found yet. There were no fragments of clay pipe on the site. We deduce it was abandoned after the Reformation.

An interim report and metalwork finds are in the museum at Dumfries.

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