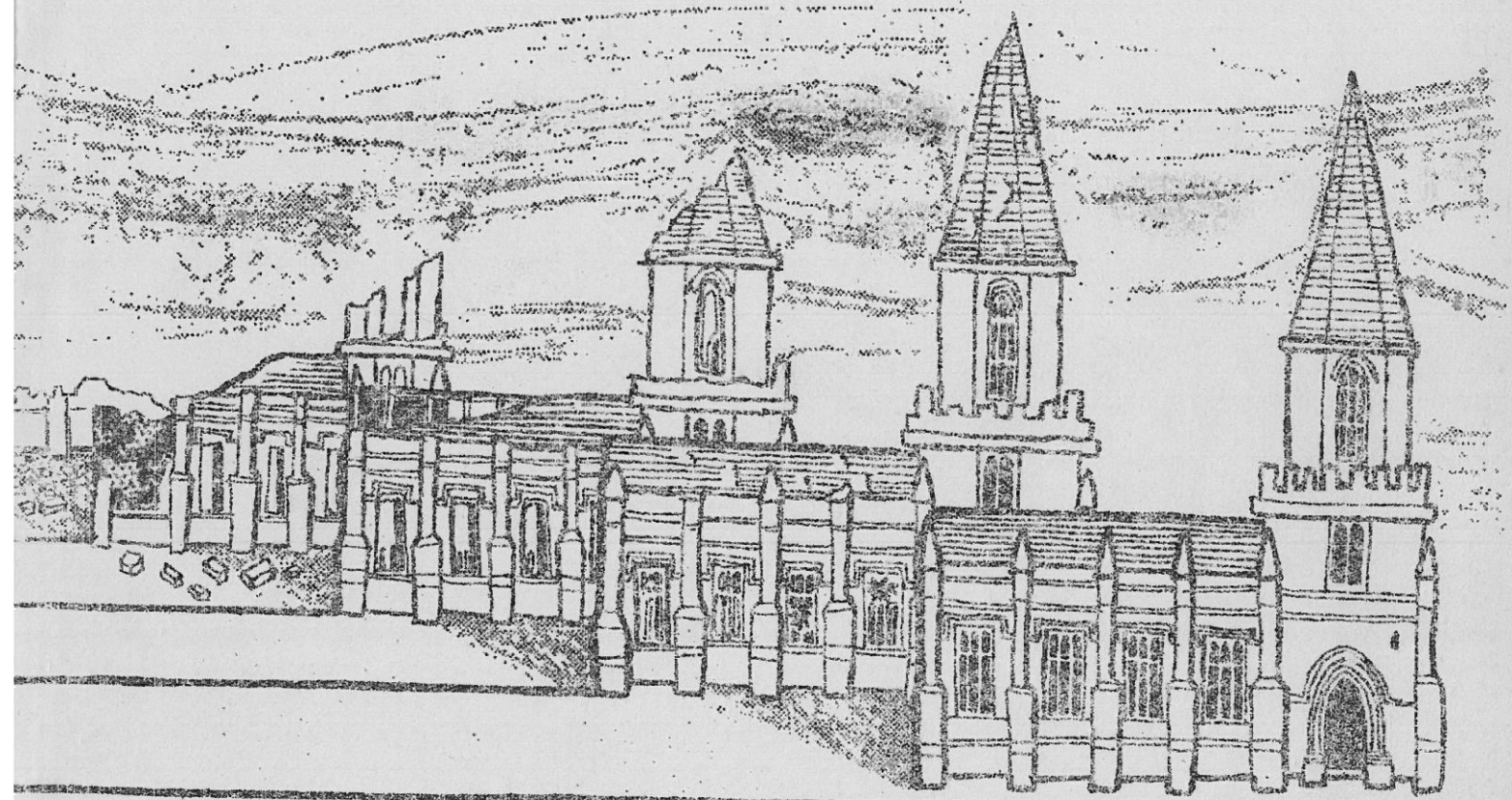


BULLETIN

of the CBA Churches Committee



Number 3 March 1976

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The Bulletin of the CBA Churches Committee appears three times a year. It is sent free of charge to all Diocesan Archaeological Consultants, and is available to others for the sum of 20p per copy or an annual subscription of 50p.

Contributions should be sent to the Secretary of the CBA Churches Committee at the Department of Archaeology, the University of Leeds, LS2 9JT; or to the Editor, Mrs Ruth Taylor, Department of Archaeology, City Museums and Art Gallery, Birmingham B3 3DH.

NOTES

Code of Practice

Work on the Code of Practice for Archaeological Work in Churches has continued during the winter and is now nearing completion. The Code is addressed as much to architects as to archaeologists, and the document will be introduced at the Spring Meeting of the Ecclesiastical Architects' and Surveyors' Association on 19 March. The Code will be available for use shortly afterwards, and copies will be circulated to all Consultants.

In order to ensure that the Code reaches as many architects as possible, the Secretary of the Churches Committee is compiling an index of all architects who regularly undertake church work. Late last year the Council for Places of Worship sent a letter to all DACs asking for the names of the architects on each diocesan panel to be made available to the CBA. All Consultants who sit as DAC members or who are in touch with their DAC Secretaries are asked to make sure that this is done. Not all DACs have yet responded.

Annual Conference of DAC Members

Consultants who are full members of their DACs are reminded that this year the Annual Conference will be held in Canterbury, from 7 to 10 September. The occasion makes a good opportunity for Consultants to foster an awareness of the problems and potentials of church archaeology; informal discussions held last year led to several new appointments:

Changes

Bradford: Mr John Hunter has been nominated as Consultant

Chichester: Mr Fred Aldsworth succeeds Mrs Margaret Rule

Lichfield: Mr Martin Carver has been recognized as Consultant by the DAC

Newcastle: Dr Richard Bailey succeeds Miss Barbara Harbottle

Birmingham: Mrs Ruth Taylor has been appointed as a full member of the DAC

Chester: Mr Patrick Greene has been appointed as a full member of the DAC

York: Mr Peter Addyman has been appointed as a full member of the DAC

State Aid for Historic Churches in Use

Between October and December 1975 the CBA was represented at three meetings of a sub-committee set up by the Joint Committee of Amenity Societies to consider means of administering the £1m which has been promised by the Government for the upkeep of churches in use. The recommendations of the sub-committee have now been submitted to the Working Party set up by the Government and the Church to advise on the administration of the fund.

The Chairman of the CBA Churches Committee has since submitted further suggestions to the Working Party in order to amplify the Report of the Joint Committee. These include recommendations that:

- 1 Applications for grant aid should only be considered if they are accompanied by a report which outlines the archaeological implications of the proposed scheme.
- 2 Schemes with archaeological implications which benefit from grant aid should be monitored by a practising archaeologist who should be a member of the staff of the body which administers the fund.
- 3 In cases where restoration necessitates exceptionally serious disturbance of the fabric or soil layers in a church of major historic importance, a proportion of the grant aid should be made available to ensure adequate examination of the evidence which is being destroyed.

WHY CHURCH SURVEYS ?

Warwick Rodwell & Richard Morris

Until recently the studies of architectural and ecclesiastical historians have tended to follow different paths, often totally isolated from one another, and rarely taking archaeology into account.

There are a number of reasons for this. In the past archaeologists have neglected churches as a class of monument, and so have failed to appreciate the vast potential of churches, and the information which they can contribute to medieval and earlier history. Churches have also tended to be regarded as inaccessible for investigation, and to a large extent they fall outside the provisions of planning legislation, Listed Building control, and the Ancient Monuments Acts. Finally, although archaeology exists as much above ground as it does below, churches are so commonplace that, like domestic buildings, they are frequently not viewed as archaeological sites at all.

Thus it is that at present we are unable to give answers to such basic questions as:

- 1 What is the archaeological potential of a given church or group of churches?
- 2 Is the archaeology safe? Was it destroyed in part or whole by 19th century restoration? Is it being destroyed now by restoration, vandalism, alteration, or neglect?
- 3 Who is doing what about it?

Hitherto churches have been regarded as archaeologically 'safe'. This is a fallacy. It is our view - based on first-hand observation - that destruction is taking place every day, mostly without even recognition, let alone action by archaeologists. Even minor jobs present a serious threat, for the archaeology of a church will be destroyed just as completely by half-a-dozen small operations spread over a number of years as by a single, major restoration. At a time when archaeologists are becoming increasingly conscious of the need to order their priorities and to organize their projects in a cost-effective way, it is disturbing that little attention has been given to the need to put the assessment of the archaeological potential of churches on to a systematic basis.

'Set piece' surveys are, of course, expensive, both to conduct and to publish. But the CBA Churches Committee is now preparing a volume dealing with the problems and potentials of church archaeology, and if one person in every diocese could manage to visit and report on, say, ten churches, this would quickly provide detailed information on the condition and potential of 430 buildings. This would be a valuable sample, and while it is well understood that in many cases the work involved would prove to be too great a burden over and above normal DAC work, it is hoped that as many Consultants as possible will feel sufficiently interested to participate.

This article is accompanied by a specimen survey form, which is a modified version of the recording sheet which was used by Warwick Rodwell in the course of his survey of the 220 churches in the Archdeaconry of Colchester. The survey (entitled Historic Churches - A Wasting Asset) is to be published later this year as CBA Research Report No. 19, and extracts from the Gazetteer are provided here as examples of assessments of churches which have been surveyed using the form.

It is important to stress that a completed form does not in itself comprise 'a survey' of any particular church; the form should rather be looked upon as a cover sheet for the thicker dossier which will be compiled for each church and site. Above all the form has been designed as an aid to personal observation. Study the fabric, fittings, monuments, and churchyard; record the present condition of everything and compare this with known condition in the past; look for embryonic faults in the structure which may lead to archaeological problems in the future. Assess past and present damage caused by restoration; examine plans and proposals for improvements, additions or repairs; scrutinize quinquennial surveys; consider if the

church has a future as a place of worship. Academic and practical assessments are necessary as the final stage of any survey. It is necessary to bring together and interpret the information which has been gathered in terms of the church building and graveyard, as well as in the wider context of the church in its historic landscape and ecclesiastical setting.

Much of the information requested in Sections 1 and 2 of the form is to be found in the diocesan yearbook and can, if necessary, be filled in by the Secretary at Leeds.

Some specimen assessments

ALPHAMSTONE, dedication unknown (125)

TL 8788 3545 Isolated at junction of several ancient routes; good position overlooking the Stow

RCHM iii, 3 (Sketch plan 1:576)

Saxon or Norman nave with Roman brick quoins; C14 chancel and S aisle; former west tower demolished. Walls all rendered inside and outside - very poor condition; chancel arch badly cracked and in danger of collapse; moderately damp, particularly in S aisle; C19 open drain on N side of nave and chancel. Churchyard stands as a platform above surrounding fields; has yielded Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery and a Roman villa; many sarsen stones have been gathered to the area and are distributed in and about the churchyard; one large sarsen projects from under the SW corner of the nave. The nave walls are 0.88 m thick and fairly certainly pre-Conquest, a prime site for an isolated minster. No archaeological investigation or recording has taken place and major opportunities must soon arise. As an archaeological complex, Alphamstone church and graveyard must rank amongst the most important in Essex, with a potential at least as great as Rivenhall.

Grading: BIb (listed B)

ALRESFORD, St Peter (55)

TM 0647 2066 Completely isolated

RCHM iii, 5 (sketch plan 1:576) Essex Countryside, xvii (1968), 35

Usually stated to have been built c. 1320, but much of the fabric is certainly a good deal earlier; nave has Roman brick quoins and walls 0.8½ m thick; late Saxon or Saxo-Norman. Gutted by fire, 1971; to be left as a ruin. An extremely valuable object lesson in the number of details which can be hidden by a thorough C19 restoration - remains of several blocked and fragmentary windows and doorways can be seen since the plaster fell away; worthy of a very thorough structural investigation before deterioration takes place or well meaning conservation causes damage; the walls have been crudely capped with cement. The ruin now comprises nave, chancel, and C19 S aisle (arcade demolished after fire). Laver reported that the church stood in a 'camp', S ditch of which was filled for churchyard extension: VCH iii (1963), 38.

Grading: BIa (listed B)

BRADWELL-juxta-COGGESHALL, Holy Trinity (112)

TL 8180 2214 Isolated with hall

RCHM iii, 12 (sketch plan 1:576)

Single-celled Norman building, the fabric of which survives in a remarkably complete state, although several C14 and C15 windows have been added. The church is of the utmost importance since it is the only substantial example of Norman brick-building in England. When the RCHM visited, the church was fully rendered, but upon the removal of cement all quoins and dressings to windows and doorways were found to be of Norman brick, of the type produced at the nearby Coggeshall Abbey. Although blocked, the original window positions can be seen at the E end and the whole architectural arrangement of this one-period church reconstructed (apart from the W windows). Full study and publication is urgently needed, which will involve some

revision of Gardner's pioneer work (Gardner, 1955). The church is damp and in a sad state; a shingle-filled drain was constructed around the walls in 1972; the upcast material was never carried away and undergrowth is again becoming established against the walls. Much careful pointing and stone repair are needed, with full archaeological recording first, since the traces of decorative banding in the walls may easily be disturbed by restoration; indeed the replacement of the W window some years ago has badly marred that elevation through careless workmanship. There have also been recent bodged attempts at repointing, and stone mouldings on the S side have been clumsily replaced; the repair of the priest's door is incompetent and unsightly. This very important building, which is effectively redundant, needs taking in hand. The church also contains notable monuments and fittings; but is rarely used and is permanently locked. The main archaeological potential is above ground, although excavation of the interior would be worthwhile to search for such details as altar, screen and font positions, which would, if found, complement the C12 shell with its contemporary liturgical layout.

Grading: A1b (listed A)

CHRISHALL, Holy Trinity (206)

TL 4514 3862 Isolated from village

RCHM i, 64 (sketch plan 1:576)

A large, aisled Perpendicular church in good order and in a striking position, but with no apparent *raison d'être*. There is a concrete-lined gutter around the walls and a moderate dampness problem inside; of greatest concern is the fine tomb recess, with effigy. The recess is both damp and daubed with limewash; it needs urgent attention. Should any work be done to combat the rising dampness, the opportunity should be taken to investigate the history of this church and discover from what it grew. The RCHM suggested that the chancel was a C15 rebuild around an earlier structure; this would have been roughly square and can hardly be later than C11 (cf. Steeple Bumpstead). Nothing is known of the archaeology of the site - at a guess, great potential. There is an outstanding brass in the church, a good medieval ladder to the tower, and the disused 'Romesse' stove is an industrial monument worth caring for.

Grading: BIIa (listed B)

HATFIELD PEVEREL, St Andrew (104A)

TL 7971 101 Isolated

RCHM ii, 122 (differentiated plan 1:300)

The present church basically comprises the Norman nave of the Benedictine priory church; the N aisle is C15 and S aisle C19. The remainder of the monastic church and the conventual buildings have long since been demolished and their plan is unknown. A new vicarage was built in 1974 and probably lies on the principal monastic cemetery, immediately E of the lost chancel; no archaeological investigation was undertaken and the area of the chancel, crossing, S transept, etc., was substantially churned by contractors - a major and unnecessary loss to a monument about which nothing is known archaeologically. Any future works in or near the church need careful archaeological appraisal. Present burial, in the large graveyard to the N, is well away from the church, but not necessarily clear of the monastic outbuildings.

Grading: B1a (listed B)

NOTLEY, WHITE, dedication unknown (now St Etheldreda) (109)

TL 7857 1825 On edge of village, with hall

RCHM ii, 252 (differentiated plan 1:300). Taylor, 1965, 475.

A very important church for several reasons. The chancel is the earliest surviving part and the arch, which is built of Roman brick, is arguably pre-Conquest; the foundations of an apsidal sanctuary were reported in the C19. In the S wall of the chancel are traces of a blocked arch, also of Roman brick, while in the N wall there

was formerly also a blocked arch, in the blocking of which was set a round-headed window of Norman or earlier date. The window itself, which is now reset in the vestry of 1885, is cut out of a single block of stone, a decorated pre-Conquest coffin lid. The archaeology of the chancel is thus of the greatest interest and there is every possibility that side-chapels or porticus once existed. A further point of interest is the fact that there is no offset between nave and chancel and the N and S walls appear to run on, although in the nave they are now replaced by C13 arcades. The N and S aisles are of similar date. Although an exact equation is unprovable, there is every possibility that the remnants of the early building date from the turn of the C11 and are to be associated with a will of 998. The wording of the will is precise and seems to indicate a foundation de novo; it also implies a minster or monastery, rather than simply a parish church. In the event of any disturbances to the floors, fabric, or ground around the church, archaeological investigation is of the utmost importance, since this is one of the very small number of Saxon churches in England with which a firm date can be associated (Taylor, 1972, 271). Unfortunately, a certain amount of damage has already been done, in the form of an old concrete-lined open drain which exists around the S side of the chancel; the interior still suffers from a moderate amount of dampness. The plaster, which is falling from the walls in the chancel, is of importance in its own right for the graffiti it bears. Careful recording is needed here immediately. There are wall paintings over the chancel arch, but these too are in poor condition. Finally, there is a proposal to remove some pews and to concrete small areas of flooring in the nave. Architecturally, the aisles are of some interest (rendering is falling from the N side and needs stripping; the fabric requires study, before repair, in case earlier work is present); and Hewett (1974, 176) makes much of the roof carpentry. There is a Roman villa adjacent to the church.

Grading: AATb (listed B)

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

CHURCHES SURVEY

1 IDENTIFICATION

NGR: SE 5302 2653
Cat. No.:
Diocese: YORK
Archdeaconary: YORK
Deanery: SELBY
Parish: BIRKIN [with HADDLESEY]
Dedication: ST MARY
Earlier dedication(s):
Date(s) visited: 29.1.76 & 3.3.76
Visited by: S.C. & R.K.M.

2 DATA

Est. Population:
No. on electoral roll: 16
~~Vicar~~/Rector: A.G. GREENHOUGH
Cur.-in-Charge: —
Year of incumbent's ordination: d. 1957
Year of incumbent's institution: 1963
Assistant clergy: —
Team ministry: —
Approx. seating capacity:
Inspecting architect:

2 LOCATION AND SETTING In flat land near bridge over R. Eye at S end of isolated hamlet. Hall site nearby at SE 5311 2655. Marsh to S.

3 REFERENCES

Short ref.: Pevsner, W. Riding; Green, Churches of Yorkshire

Local/County Journal:

VCH:

RCHM:

Historical account: Green, 1844, who postulates a connection with C12 Temple Preceptory at
Guidebook: Temple Hall. Original parish elongated, taking R. Eye as S boundary. Church on boundary.

Plan(s): In Green; see also Clapham, 1934, 103 [1:600].

4 STRUCTURAL HISTORY

Main architectural elements, principal materials and apparent dating: Unusually fine and complete C12 Norman church consisting of unbattered tower [orig. 2 stories], nave, chancel and apse. Magnesian limestone throughout, probably from Sheburn. C14 S aisle and Pop. upper stage to tower with embattled parapet and 3 pinnacles. Romanesque S door of 4 orders [3 enriched] reset in S aisle. Fine corbel table of grotesques. Apse is vaulted with rib.

Features omitted from discussion(s) in 4 (above), and points for elucidation:

A door reset in E face of tower, giving access to space above coffered ceiling. A second door exists in the corresponding position in E gable of nave, opening into space above chancel ceiling. Do these imply that flat ceilings were envisaged from the outset? Both doors are original to structure.

Is the plan in any way governed by a pre-Conquest scheme?

6 FURNISHINGS, FITTINGS AND CONTENTS OF HISTORIC QUALITY

Font dated 1663 on re-used chased base, itself set on a reworked pedestal [part of churchyard cross?].
C18 pulpit. Plate: chalice, paten, 2 flagons, plate: C17 & C18 [consult Yorkshire Church Plate, II, 37].
Lodds in tower may be medieval. Register survive from 1649.

7 CONDITION

(a) Exterior

Ground levels in relation to church: $\pm 2'0'' - 3'0''$ above construction level. Channel has been cut around base of walls. Ground highest on S side of church.

Gutters, downpipes & water disposal: Downpipes blocked. These appear to drain into an underground drain around base of walls.

Main walls: Generally good, but see [b], below.

Tower, spire or bell-cote: Sound.

Roofs: Tiles from apex and nave roofs are missing in 3 places. This is probably unreported storm damage [? 6-8 weeks old] and suggests neglect. Water leaking in threatens apex vault.

Parapets: Sound.

Pointing: Fair, except on S walls, where much work is needed.

Entrances: Norman door in S aisle suffering from erosion. [Porch is open sided].

Windows & tracery: Generally good, but decaying in places, esp. S aisle, where birds nest undisturbed behind protective grates.

(b) Interior

Roofs & ceilings: Damp affecting coffered ceilings and apex vault.

Walls: Mainly good, but some reported settlement cracks have re-opened.

Plaster: } Lined-out plaster preserved behind C18 monument in apex. Traces of colour survive on apex vault ribs and chancel arch.

Wallpaintings: }

Floors: Stone flags in nave; Victorian tiles in chancel. Nave floor probably pre-C19.

Tiles: Victorian glazed tiles in chancel.

Glass: Fragment of medieval glass in apex window and in E window of S aisle. Some panes broken.

Seating: Modern.

Heating system: None.

Galleries: —

Bells & frame: Three bells. [YAT 1902].

Monuments: Recumbent, cross-legged uncorbelled effigy in niche on N side of nave. Good condition.

8 CHURCHYARD

Shape and approx. area: ± 1 acre, rectangular.

Siting of church within yard: Central

Condition: Neglected, except for area of modern burial on N side

Exceptional monuments: C19 lithograph shows C18 chest tombs & stones concentrated on S side of yard. Majority have now gone.

Clearance: Nothing systematic, but chest tombs and headstones have been broken and moved.
Present burial: In use. Most recent burials are concentrated along N boundary wall.
Paths: Hollow on S. side.
Trees & hedges: About a dozen trees, mostly mature but some saplings.
Boundaries: Walls of stone and brick.
Earthworks: Levee in field S of yard.

9 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORD

Finds from within churchyard:

Finds from within 0.5 km: In 1899 a gneiss sarcophagus was found in a field [centred at SE 5445 2690] near village. The coffin was transferred to the churchyard, where it is now kept. It is almost certainly Roman.

10 RESTORATION & RECENT DISTURBANCE

The church has escaped major restoration, although in 1919 a door was cut on S side of chancel. The organ has been fitted into the ground storey of the tower.

11 THREATS

Installations: There is no heating system. If the church remains in use heating may be needed.
Stability of structure: Cracks in chancel, above and near. Severe renewed movement around E window.
Wall surfaces:
Alteration: Unlikely.
Damp: May prove a problem. Efflorescence has already destroyed stone around the N door.
Reordering: Unlikely.

12 PASTORAL OUTLOOK May be uncertain. The church at Haddley is Victorian, built of brick, and has 59 listed on the ER, as against only 16 at Birkton. Birkton is also suffering some neglect (see Sec 71) which, if not continued, could lead to more severe problems in future. Yet this church is basically a robust structure and would be simple to keep in good order provided that routine maintenance can be assured, and the congregation does not dwindle further.

13 ASSESSMENT

This is one of the finest Norman churches in Yorkshire, and present neglect gives cause for concern. The chief archaeological interest lies in the fact that the church is substantially unaltered and the floor appears to be undisturbed. It is possible that excavation could recover the original liturgical layout, and the fact that the building has been so little changed would be of great assistance in revealing the plan of any Anglo-Saxon predecessor which may have existed. The site of the church also suggests that this may be a building with hidden potential: the church is situated on the parish boundary, apart from the main form of the settlement it serves. There is a Roman cemetery in the vicinity. Any disturbance necessary to cure the damp problem or structural faults must go hand in hand with archaeological investigation. If the church falls redundant it must surely go to the RCF, or possibly into guardianship.

CASES

Excavations at the Church of SS Peter and Paul,

Healing : an interim note

Hal Bishop

The parish church of SS Peter and Paul, Healing, in the Diocese of Lincoln, lies about 4 miles west of Grimsby. In July 1975 it was learned that alterations to the building were intended, and an archaeological investigation was duly arranged in order to examine an area of ground on the south side of the church which was to be disturbed by the construction of an extension.

The excavation took place in September 1975 under the auspices of the Department of the Environment and directed by the author, who wishes to acknowledge the co-operation and assistance of the Rector and Parochial Church Council, the Lincoln Diocesan Advisory Committee and its archaeological consultant, and the firm of Sir Charles Nicholson and Rushton, the supervising architects.

The site: Healing church stands apart from the modern village, which has grown up beside the railway some three-quarters of a mile to the north. Traces of medieval settlement, of which the church, manor site, and adjacent moat are the major relics, are visible in fields on either side of the churchyard.

The church: Before the alterations of 1975-76 the church consisted of a 15th century tower built of Jurassic limestone, an 18th century nave, and chancel, all to some extent disguised by a restoration of 1874. The date of the chancel is uncertain; the south wall has been partly rebuilt but it seems possible that the fabric is late medieval, and it is likely that the footings are considerably earlier. The axis of the chancel is deflected to the north of the main body of the building. The tower arch appears to be 13th century work, and was presumably incorporated within the east face of the present tower. The way in which the arch stands in relation to the surrounding masonry is unclear, since the junction is concealed by plaster. In the early years of this century a vestry was added to the south wall of the tower.

The nave and chancel are now aisleless, but this was not always the case. A south aisle is known to have existed until 1774, when it was taken down, being in a ruinous condition: perhaps an indication of the extent to which the fortunes of the old village had by then declined. Following the removal of the aisle the nave was remodelled.

Structural evidence revealed by the excavation: Excavation revealed the footings of the aisle and exposed the substructures of the south walls of the nave and chancel.

The footings of the aisle were formed of the same type of stone as appeared in the footings to the body of the church. The aisle footings were composed of roughly dressed, coursed limestone blocks retaining a core of chalk chips and small stone lumps. No mortar was used, but the stones were bonded with boulder clay. It was seen that in plan the aisle had lapped round the east end of the nave, returning to meet the chancel ca. 1m east of the present nave gable. The remains of the aisle footings overlay the chancel footings at this point. No trace was found of a pier base (or bases) below the present south nave wall which might correspond to a former nave arcade, but there is a possibility that the existing wall does not conform to the original scheme at all, since it is aligned differently to the aisle, and the scar of an earlier roof-line on the east side of the tower suggests that the former nave was narrower than the structure which now stands.

The builders of the late-Victorian boiler-house and the modern vestry removed all stratified material from within the angle formed by the nave, aisle, and tower. However, there were signs of a south door at the west end of the surviving aisle footings. The eastern jamb of this entrance appeared below the level of the threshold and was found to continue downwards for the six courses which remained, there never having been a foundation beneath the threshold itself.

Pockets containing chalk chippings and boulder clay were encountered within the area of the old aisle. These may have been the traces of some more continuous feature, such as a trench, but in the time available it was not possible to carry out a full examination. The features could represent the position of an earlier nave or aisle wall; foundations for timber shuttering or reinforcement erected while the aisle was under construction; or foundation pads for monumental tombs within the aisle. Three such tombs, belonging to the manorial family, are known to have existed in the 16th century.

Graves: The area under investigation had been used intensively for burial, and since the work took place in advance of disturbance by earthmoving machinery it was possible to remove the skeletons with care. In all the bones of about 25 individuals were encountered. The remains are being stored in safety and will be reburied elsewhere in the churchyard in due course. Many of the graves interrupted the aisle foundations. Others were evidently much earlier and pre-dated the south aisle, since in the course of their work the builders of the aisle had disturbed the skeletons.

Dating: A small quantity of pottery was recovered during the excavation, of which some 20 sherds were usefully stratified. From the foundations of the aisle came early glazed fragments and one rouletted piece, all of a 'Lincoln type' (12th to 13th century). These, when considered together with a fragment of Purbeck Marble half-shaft, would suggest that the aisle was built in the 13th century, possibly at the same time as the tower arch. It follows that the footings of the chancel date from the 12th to early 13th century, or before. Pottery found with the chancel footings may be assigned to a period before the Conquest (8th to 10th century) and there are grounds for suspecting that the foundations of the present chancel originally formed part of an Anglo-Saxon building.

St Martin's Church, Allerton Mauleverer,

Lawrence Butler

North Yorks

Excavations within the chancel of the present church (SE 416 579) were undertaken at the invitation of the Redundant Churches Fund and of its architect, Mr Peter Hill, and preceded the relaying of the chancel floor on a concrete membrane to eradicate damp.

Allerton church was rebuilt probably in 1745 for Richard Arundell, first Secretary of the Treasury, to the designs of James Paine or John Vardy. It stands in the grounds of Allerton Park, near the Great North Road, 4 miles east of Knaresborough. The creation of the Park and the classical Summer House are the most significant landscape features of mid 18th century date. The house is predominantly neo-Gothic from the ownership of the Roman Catholic family of Lord Stourton, and this also accounts for the unaltered character of the church.

The earlier church had an aisled nave, chancel, and north chapel, a west tower with spire, and a south porch. It is illustrated on an estate map of 1734 and is probably depicted in stained glass in the east window. The only portions surviving from the earlier church are the four pillars of the south arcade and the adjacent wall, and a short length of walling at the east end of the north arcade. The position of the transepts may be influenced by this earlier work. The Mauleverer monuments have been moved from their original positions.

The new church has an aisled nave of four bays, north and south transepts, a central tower situated forward of the transepts and with flanking chambers, and a chancel. All the outer walls, the tower, the roofs, and the window openings are of ca. 1745, with the possible exception of the east window.

The excavation was directed by Dr L A S Butler and was conducted over five weekends in January and February 1976 by members of the Leeds University Union Archaeological Society led by Mr Bob Croft and by members of a York extra-mural class. The whole of the chancel (24 ft x 16½ ft) was cleared of paving but the western half was

occupied by four 18th century brick vaults and only the eastern part (the former sanctuary) was available for extensive excavation. The two outer vaults had received two burials at the time of their construction. The burials were in wooden coffins, but the bodies, presumably in lead sheeting, had subsequently been removed for burial elsewhere and only the coffins with attractive coffin plates remained in a dismantled state.

The east end showed two main periods of construction: the first (Period I) terminated in an apse, of radius 8 ft, with a foundation formed of water-worn pebbles set in a medium clay. No trace remained of the actual wall above the foundations but a 12th century date is likely. This may be associated with the Benedictine priory founded here by Richard Mauleverer in the early 12th century as a cell of Holy Trinity York, itself colonised from Marmoutier, until ca. 1415. This was replaced by a square-ended termination of similar overall dimensions, distinguished by the use of yellow sandstone blocks set on a thin mortar bed (Period II). The earlier foundations were in part strengthened by a footing of cobbles set in red-brown sandy soil or in a loose gravelly soil. The floor layers of the interior had been removed by the lowering of level associated with the construction of the 18th century church, but the churchyard outside showed a steady build-up of disturbed dark brown soil, with a little 14th century pottery, a bronze bell-mount, one fragment of window glass, and disturbed burials representing at least three individuals. A fourth burial was placed within a stone setting, east of the earlier chancel but partly cut through by the 18th century east end.

The 18th century building had been set on a base course of boulders upon which courses of roughly squared re-used sandstone and cobbles had been raised with liberal use of mortar. There was an external plinth and stringcourse at sill level, but the interior face was plain, originally plastered white. A part of the southern flanking chamber, recently a boiler house, was examined prior to repair work. The natural clay was found immediately below the 18th century wall foundations, which were 2 ft deep below pavement level.

Excavation and study of the fabric has been complemented by scrutiny of original papers, drawings and notes relating to the building. The study demonstrates once again the difficulties of assessing the architecture of a church without examining the available documentary material and without the assistance of archaeology. Pevsner, for example, judges the chancel 'a conversion job' and one south window medieval, and suggests that the roof is 17th century work.

St Mary's Castlegate, York : a watching brief

Richard Hall

A watching brief at St Mary's in Castlegate, York, has brought to light finds of exceptional interest, and has high-lighted once again the desirability of undertaking archaeological work in churches which are being converted to secular use, as well as in those being altered whilst still in ecclesiastical ownership.

St Mary's has had a complex building history, which even now is not fully understood. Its most striking feature is the Perpendicular west tower, crowned by a spire. The windows have undergone alterations at several periods, and include work in the Decorated and Early English styles. Inside, the capitals in the arcades attest enlargements in the mid-12th to early 13th centuries, whilst the chancel arch is Perpendicular.

The stonework at the east ends of the nave arcades is coarser than the rest of the masonry, and may perhaps have formed part of the wall of an earlier church. It is certain that there was a church here at about the time of the Norman conquest, since there is the unusual survival of a dedication-stone, bearing the names of the founders in a style of lettering which has been assigned to the mid-11th century.

A fragment of a wheel-headed cross was found in the last century, further evidence of a pre-conquest church on the site; this may or may not have been the one to which

the dedication stone refers. The earlier history of the site is not known, but a single tessera, a stone cube from a Roman pavement, supposedly found during the restoration work done in 1870, hints at a Roman building in the vicinity.

The church has been disused for over a decade and has been closed to the public. Meanwhile the fabric has slowly decayed. Recently, however, a plan to turn the building into an Architectural Heritage Centre won acceptance and substantial financial support (£131,000) from York Corporation. 1975 was Architectural Heritage Year, and in order to fit in with the schedule for opening the new centre during the year, the Trust was suddenly faced with the prospect of having to undertake an excavation here.

To fully understand the evolution of a building as complex as St Mary's would have required expensive, large-scale investigation, and the Trust, stretched to its financial limits and already committed to other major projects, viewed this prospect with some trepidation. Thankfully, the threat to the archaeological deposits appeared to be largely averted when the architects changed their original plan, which had involved a sunken display area, to one which incorporated a raised viewing platform. Consequently, the Trust decided not to excavate but to confine itself to a watching brief, the expenses of which York Corporation kindly offered to underwrite.

The restoration began with work on the roofs, on the external stonework, and also inside, with the stripping of modern plaster from the walls to reveal the masonry below. Even at this stage a fund of information about the church's development became available, with the uncovering of an earlier roof-line to the chancel and a blocked Romanesque window in the chancel's south wall.

As work continued, the time came to remove the 19th century floor, and when the workmen dug directly below the chancel arch they came upon a row of large stone blocks, apparently column drums. Trust staff spent an evening cleaning these for photography at first light, in case the renovation demanded their speedy removal, but a slight alteration to the order of work allowed two days for a rapid investigation of their immediate surroundings.

At the east end of the south aisle a stone setting was uncovered below disturbed soil, and has been provisionally interpreted as the footing for an arch into a south-east chapel. The footings of the walls through which the north and south chancel arcades had been pierced were also excavated below the westernmost bays of the chancel.

Excavation immediately north-east of the northern pier of the chancel arch revealed another column drum, and in contrast to those exposed earlier, it was in this case possible to record the associated stratification. The drum seems to have been incorporated in the chancel footings referred to above, and was covered by a spread of mortar which may have been deposited when the Norman church was built. The drums between the chancel piers could also belong to this phase of the church's evolution. However, there was also clear evidence that another drum, resting at a higher level, had been inserted at a later period, probably when the Perpendicular chancel arch was erected. Thus the drums seem to have been utilized at two distinct periods.

Some of the drums were clearly re-used Roman stones, as they had lewis holes for the insertion of lifting tackle in their bases. The form of some of the others, though, may indicate either a re-cutting of Roman stones or an origin in the Anglian or Anglo-Scandinavian period. The large recesses cut into some of the stones have been tentatively interpreted by some as sockets for pre-conquest crosses, although others contend that these too demonstrate a Roman origin, and were used to secure the individual drums together in a column.

Theory apart, there certainly were stone crosses in or around the pre-conquest church of St Mary's. One fragment found in the last century has already been mentioned, but during the removal of rubble from below the modern floor and below the drums between the chancel piers, several additional fragments came to light, as well as almost half

of a coped tomb slab.

The cross fragments are quite small, and are mostly decorated with simple abstract motifs such as cable or pellet borders. Two pieces belong to the wheel-headed cross mentioned above. A wheel-head is a cross whose arms are joined by arcs near their extremities: in the present case only the stubs of the arcs survive, but there seem to be traces of pellet decoration on them. The upper arm fragment found last century still gives the best indication of the cross-head's decorative scheme. One side has the remains of a dog-like animal modelled in high relief and viewed from directly above. The animal's head is missing, but both front and hind legs are shown, with what is presumably a tail arched over the beast's hind quarters. The animal is confined within a double border of cable and pellets. The two new fragments, representing the cross's lateral arms, confirm that a symmetrical disposition of motifs was employed, as W G Collingwood hypothesised nearly fifty years ago (Northumbrian Crosses, 1927, fig. 148).

The other face of this cross-head had a boss in the panels at the end of each arm, and a central roundel delimited by a cable border, encircling a simple interlaced-knot motif. The new fragments make it clear that whilst the end panels were similar in layout, they were not identical, for although the bosses incorporate ring, chevron, and pellet devices, each displays slight deviations from the others.

The cross-head has an additional interest in that it is the only one in the group upon which traces of pigment survive - in this case, red. Such colouring was probably commonly applied as an embellishment to sculpture of the period, but very few instances have survived to the present day, and it is hoped that careful conservation and analysis of the St Mary's example will provide an additional insight into the techniques employed by pre-conquest craftsmen.

The human figure occurs on only one cross-head, an incomplete sandstone piece now split into two, found below the drums under the chancel arch. The better preserved side bears a portrayal of the crucifixion within a plain border. No cross is depicted, but the stone cross-head itself serves as the background against which Christ's body is portrayed. On the surviving fragments, only Christ's torso and one arm can be seen, and virtually all the detailing of the body has been lost due to mutilation of the fragment. Nevertheless, there is a suggestion of drapery surviving between waist and knee level.

The carving survives best on the cross-arm, where Christ's arm is shown slightly bent at the elbow, His hand is clearly visible, palm out and thumb uppermost, but there is no indication of any nail or thong holding Christ to the cross. Above the forearm there are three pellets, possibly serving merely to fill up unused space as, for example, on a cross at Kirkdale. Below the arm writhes a serpentine animal, whose body, divided by a shallow medial groove, knots into a figure-of-eight near its centre and just above its lower extremity, which enlarges into a fish-like tail. The head, though mutilated, appears to have gaping jaws and two sharp teeth. The head of another different, animal can be seen on the other side of Christ's body.

Figure sculpture is also found on the reverse face, although here again mutilation is severe. A standing figure is portrayed in a central position, with the head and one foot missing. Vestigial traces of drapery may be recognised in a diagonal swathe crossing the body. It may be surmised that the figure represents Christ in Majesty, such an antithesis of crucifixion and glorius resurrection frequently occurring on approximately contemporary Irish crosses, although the device is not commonly found in England. Beyond the figure is a knot motif with a pellet in the open angle at the end, and another knot, this time a figure-of-eight with a roundel at the point of intersection, occurs on the end face of the arm.

A gritstone fragment, part of a cross-shaft, has on one side a bird-like beast portrayed in a sweeping S-profile with its neck curved and the head turned downwards. It has a pronounced forehead, a prominent circular eye, and a curved bill. The body is slightly swollen, and the whole figure is wound around by both two- and three-strand

interlacing tendrils. The border to this panel is composed of a cable motif and a simple moulding within.

The opposite face is fragmentary, and the scene portrayed has not been identified. The side faces bear running figure-of-eight knots within borders identical to those on the bird face.

In addition to the fragments of the various crosses, approximately half of a coped grave cover was also recovered. As its name implies, a slight ridge runs along the centre of the stone; the decoration is contained within a double cable border which gives a chevron effect. However, the basic subdivision of the field was achieved by a simple, narrow-armed cross, of which three arms and a small central boss survive. The arms are decorated with interlace patterns, that on the upper arm differing from that on both lateral arms. The panels are covered with a dense but orderly series of interlaced knots, the two roundels and their accompanying knots combining to produce a design which is virtually bilaterally symmetrical.

The group of sculptural fragments is profoundly important in the context of the development of St Mary's church. Furthermore, with the contemporary groups from St Mary Bishophill Senior, recovered during demolition on 1963 (and now, sadly, built into the fabric of the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Boroughbridge Road) and from below York Minster, now displayed in the Minster Undercroft, it will allow scholars the opportunity to re-assess sculptural tradition, influences and standards of achievement.

The sculptural fragments were not the only objects found - of later medieval date is a pewter chalice found in tiny fragments, disturbed from its true context, in a pile of rubble near the west end of the nave.

The Architectural Heritage Centre is now complete and it is unlikely that a further opportunity for archaeological investigation will arise for many years. The results of the Trust's recent work in St Mary's surely indicate the necessity of taking now the chances being offered by similar works in churches throughout Britain, since the newly recovered information has illuminated the early, shadowy phases of this fine church's development. The opportunity must not be lost elsewhere.

For permission to undertake this watching brief, and for help during its execution, the York Archaeological Trust is much indebted to the owners of the building, York Corporation; to the architects, G G Pace and Co.; and to the initial contractors, the Ebor Stone Company.

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EXCAVATIONS AT MEDIEVAL
PARISH CHURCHES -
A BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lawrence Butler

In the Report to the Norwich Conference (Jesson 1973) a select bibliography was provided (pp. 35-6), indicating some of the most significant recent work but not commenting upon the varying circumstances surrounding the excavations or the methods of recording. Similarly, in the same booklet, Figure 2 (p.15) gave a list of church excavations in England and Wales between 1956 and 1970, but did not comment on what proportion of these had been published: there had been 26 excavations at standing churches in use at 1940 and a further 67 excavations at ruined churches or at the sites of churches. Excavation has since been recorded at a further 17 churches or church sites in 1971-3, eight of these being churches still in use. Monastic sites present special problems and have not normally been included in this survey.

Excavation upon ruined churches out of use for many years has permitted an integrated study of the below-ground foundations of earlier structures and the surviving above-ground architecture of the latest churches, as at Wharrah Percy (Hurst in Addyman & Morris 1976) or at Stone-by-Faversham (Fletcher and Meates 1969). More frequently excavation has taken place upon the sites of churches as at Bargham (Barr-Hamilton 1961) often where these sites have been threatened by land redevelopment or by agricultural improvement that threatens so many other medieval sites. Where the improvement is extensive, excavation of the church can be part of a thorough excavation of a village site and put into context alongside the houses of the worshippers as a Seacourt (Biddle 1963) or at Broadfield (Klingelhöfer 1974).

The same range of circumstances is present in towns. Few excavations have taken place within existing ruined structures, as at Bristol (St Mary-le-Port), but many more in the course of site re-development, as at Oxford (St Budoc), York (St Helen-on-the-Walls), Winchester (Gunliffe 1964; Biddle 1970), and Norwich (Carter and Roberts 1973). The extensive excavations at the Anglo-Saxon town of Thetford have revealed the plan of four different churches (Knocker 1967). In many of these there is evidence both of the expansion of the fabric and of the adaption of the plan made desirable by ritual requirements being fitted to the limited area of the site.

Excavation upon churches still in use has normally been undertaken during the course of limited repair or extensive restoration. The former may curtail the extent of the area available to be examined and may also restrict quite severely the possible location of the trenches. The work at Huish (Thompson 1968) was limited but valuable, while that at Rivenhall in conjunction with external replastering showed quite dramatically the potentialities of such excavation and recording (Rodwell and Rodwell 1973). More extensive in area has been the work at Hadstock (Rodwell 1974), where the whole interior area of the nave and transepts was available for excavation, and that at All Saints, Oxford, where the entire interior was examined. Similar work has been undertaken on a number of churches still in use in London (Grimes 1968; Marsden 1968), but the most extensive recent example of church restoration has been the underpinning of large portions of York Minster (Hope-Taylor 1971; Phillips in Addyman & Morris 1976).

The third stimulus to excavation had been the pursuit of a programme of research directed to tackle specific problems of a single site, as at Wharrah Percy, or the architectural development of a group of churches closely associated in period. One such programme has been that initiated by Dr Jackson and Lord Fletcher (1961 - Brixworth: 1962 - Wing; 1968 - Lydd), another that looks into northern monasteries (Cramp 1969; Cramp in Addyman & Morris 1976), and a third has been the Research Project of the Society of Antiquaries at Deerhurst (Rahtz 1972; Rahtz in Addyman & Morris 1976) and the comparable work of excavation and structural analysis at Repton.

The excavation of cemeteries has usually been undertaken after the chance discovery of a forgotten graveyard (Wells 1968), but there have also been systematic programmes

of excavation in both urban and rural sites, as at York (St Helen-on-the-Walls), Wharram Percy, and Clopton. The continuing practice of interment in the churchyards immediately surrounding churches in use can very effectively destroy most traces of earlier structures such as former aisles, transepts, and chapels, as at Elstow or Healing.

Publication may take three forms with varying degrees of completeness. The final publication may appear shortly after a modest or limited piece of work (44 reports cited) or after a much longer interval when an extensive or prolonged examination has been necessary (6 reports cited). An interim publication will normally be provided where it is anticipated that a final publication will be delayed by the complexity of the site; 15 interim reports are cited, and both these and the short notes are an indication of the important recent work still under preparation or awaiting publication. However, there are more than 40 other excavations or structural investigations which have been reported upon briefly in Medieval Archaeology or in the Department of the Environment's Excavations in Britain for which no report or plan has yet been published.

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