

WEB PAGES

Church archaeology on the internet

This review must, of course, open with the Church Archaeology Society's own web page at: <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/socchurcharchaeol> that explains the aims and functions of the Society and its committee, provides news on forthcoming conferences and meetings, has information and a summary of this Journal, and supplies recent news items and useful links to other websites of related interest.

Of similar importance are the pages of the recently formed Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists at:

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/adca/who-we-are.html>, which gives details of the Association, explain the roles and duties of church and cathedral archaeological consultants, and has several useful links to cathedral, dioceses, and other church-related bodies.

National organizations are increasingly supplying information on parish churches and cathedrals, but disappointingly little is available on archaeological work; others provide basic statistics, and for this the Church of England's website at:

http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/frame_heritage.html has some useful information. The Institute of Field Archaeologists publishes details of the Church Archaeology and Human Remains Working Group at: <http://www.archaeologists.net/fullstory.php?linkno=39>

Following the tragic fire at Brancepeth church in County Durham in 1998, archaeological work has formed an integral part of the restoration project and a number of significant finds have been made, most especially a spectacular number of medieval cross slabs. A summary of the work is available at <http://www.brancepethchurch.org/> which includes a conjectural development of the building based on recent archaeological evidence.

In the Anglican dioceses, Southwell still has the lead in its innovative site at <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk>, a joint project between the Diocese and the University of Nottingham that aims to present information on every Nottinghamshire church, intact, ruined, and demolished. To date, 16 completed entries are available for viewing with a further 128 churches currently being researched by over 100 volunteer historians. These volunteers include Vernon Royle, a prominent local architect and member of the DAC,

now in his eighties, who built several new churches in the county during the 1950s and 1960s; this underlines the importance of recording 'modern' buildings whilst the information is still easily available. A paper record is also being completed that includes further details such as portable items, which would be a security risk to put on open web pages, as well as additional photographs and archival material.

There is an excellent summary of church archaeology in Wales, based on the Cadw booklet, *Caring for Church Archaeology*, at:

<http://www.cpat.org.uk/projects/longer/churches/churches.htm>, and this site also provides a link to the Welsh Historic Churches Survey database, an ongoing project that currently has entries just for Montgomeryshire but which aims to provide information for all counties in due course.

Southwark Diocese has a short entry on the archaeology at Southwark Cathedral at:

<http://www.dswark.org/cathedral/appeal/archaeology.htm>, Canterbury Cathedral is featured at:

<http://www.hillside.co.uk/arch/cathedral/cathedral.html> and also at:

<http://www.archaeology.co.uk/timeline/saxon/canterbury/canter.htm>, and there are short notes for Wells Cathedral at: <http://www.wellscathedral.org.uk/history/archaeology/thewells.shtml>.

For fittings and fixtures, the Church Monuments Society has a useful site at:

<http://www.churchmonumentsociety.org> that gives details of activities, membership, and publications, as well as the usual links to sites of related interest. One of these related sites, Phil Draper's church architecture page, <http://members.aol.com/PMDraper10/homepage.htm> is well worth visiting and has some good descriptions, and opinions, of churches throughout the country and beyond.

A page describing the defensible churches of the Anglo-Scottish border is available at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~tazsecjb/Borderchurches.html>, whilst further afield there are good summary references to the fortified churches of Thiérache at: <http://www.crpicardie.fr/uk/page.cfm?pageref=culture-patrimoine-fortifiees-fortifiees>.

Finally, there are now a large number of genealogical sites, aiming to assist with tracing family history. A few have good links to church information, for example:

<http://www.gendocs.demon.co.uk/churches.html> that lists all London's churches, of all denominations, with brief historical details. Of course, there is always the Ecclesiological Society's pages at

<http://www.ecclsoc.org/main.html> that have a large number of links to other church sites, and much related information (try their 'Site of the Month' at

<http://www.ecclsoc.org/siteofthemoth.html> for many further goodies).