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Southwell & Nottingham Diocese  
**CHURCH HISTORY  
& OPEN CHURCHES  
PROJECTS**

NEWSLETTER No 13: February 2011

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**Celebrating...the Story so Far!  
CHP Celebration Event - March 17<sup>th</sup> 2011**

The Church History Project reaches a number of milestones early this year, including:

- 100<sup>th</sup> full church history research going onto the website
- New Open Churches (Tourism and Education) sections of the website
- Two forthcoming Open Churches weekends
- New Primary Education Packs for churches to use

These are all exciting developments, so we are gathering to thank all those involved with the project who have made this possible. Everyone who has been involved in the Church History Project is invited to a celebration of the story so far, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 5pm at the Bishop's Manor Walled Garden and Great Hall, Southwell.



There will be short introductions on developments from key people including The Bishop of Southwell & Nottingham Rt Rev Paul Butler and Professor John Beckett. The Bishop's Manor Walled Garden will also be open, allowing CHP volunteers a rare opportunity to see the Archbishop's Palace remains from the inside. There will also be a chance to look at church history leaflets, browse the new website, see the Education Packs, and

meet other people who are working on the project including researchers and those who are involved in the Tourism and Education strands.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the past, present and future of the project while enjoying drinks and buffet food in an historical setting. We hope to see you there!

For more details please see your enclosed invitation.  
Please reply to Heather Sirrel, letting us know that you will be joining us.

<http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk>

CHP Newsletter February 2011

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Enclosed:

- Your formal invite to the celebration event
- Volunteers' timesheet

## Report on researchers' meeting at Dunham House, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Forty-nine people gathered at Dunham House on 30 October 2010 for the latest 'Training Day', even though we had inadvertently timetabled the event for the same day as the Nottinghamshire Local History Association's autumn meeting – a clash we will seek to avoid in future.

The main event was an excellent talk on dating your church from the evidence of the building itself, given by Dr Chris Brooke, which included not just the obligatory Powerpoint presentation but also a DVD presentation on how churches were built, extended and even contracted through time. The session covered church buildings from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Reformation.

Dr Brooke encouraged us all to 'have a go' at reading the building, but warned 'don't make wild guesses'. If you are unsure, he suggested, put in the text: 'could Chris B check?' A separate session on post-Reformation, including Victorian and twentieth-century churches will be scheduled for a later training day. The books Chris recommended included the Shire guide to parish churches, a short but helpful guide to churches.

Other sessions during the day included a presentation by Reverend Dr David Harper on the new website design he has been working on for several months. It looks brilliant! John Beckett introduced a discussion of the Briefing Paper as the team want this to be updated to go on the resources section of the web site, and to be made as useful as possible for new researchers. JB



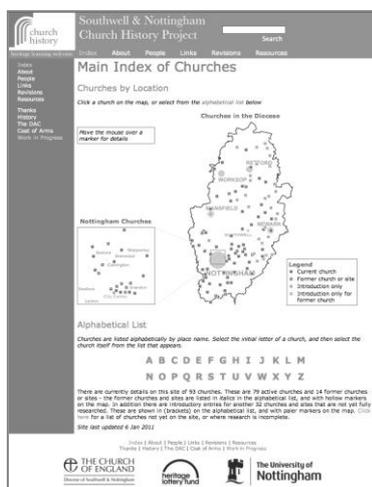
Following the demonstration of the church reconstruction videos at the last training day, several people asked what software had been used to create these.

Whilst we believe it was probably a commercial package such as 3D Studio, there is an open-source (ie. free) package available which will do the same thing. Not for the fainthearted, but it will work, the software called 'Blender' may be downloaded at:

<http://www.blender.org/>

CB

## The New Face of the Website!



Do take a look (if you haven't already) at the new Church History Project website, which remains at the same address: <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk>

We are very grateful to The Reverend Dr David Harper for all his hard work redesigning it and giving it a fresh look.



Complementary pages about our work in Tourism and Education can now be found by clicking on the logo at the top left hand corner, or by going straight to this address:

[www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk](http://www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk)

## Next Researchers' Training Day: 9th April 2011, Dunham House

Once again we are organizing a session at Dunham House, aimed at all researchers – whether new or seasoned, there will be something for everyone.

Please complete and return the reply slip at the end of this newsletter (or email us) by Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> of March at the latest, whether or not you intend to join this session.

<b>Draft Programme</b> (timings approximate)
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**9.30am: Coffee and biscuits**

**10.00am: Welcome – Canon Keith Turner**  
**CHP Project Update – Nick Harding**

**10.15am: How to read your church – Part 2 on post-medieval churches.**

**Session 1:** Dr Chris Brooke will lead a session using graphics and other materials to demonstrate how best to 'read' your church building. This session will follow on from last time (30/10/10) and look at post-1500 churches; both the chronology of change across time and at some of the architectural features of different periods and phases.

**11.00am: Break**

**11.15am: How to read your Church – Part 2**

**Session 2:** Professor John Beckett will lead a session on the example of Laxton St Michael in terms of its building and Victorian renovation.

**12.00pm: Report on recent progress with the website – Rev Dr David Harper**

**12.10pm: Questions & Answers**

**12.30pm: Buffet lunch; and an opportunity to discuss specific points with the Team.**

**1.15pm: Close**

Car parking will be available at the venue:  
Dunham House, 8 Westgate, Southwell, NG25 0JL

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## The Open Churches Project

As many of you will know, the Church History Project is not just about research. The research feeds our work in two other areas in an offshoot known as the Open Churches Project:



## Tourism

### 8 Church Guide Leaflets Now Available – and more to follow soon!

The primary aim of the tourism group is to produce various publications, including individual church guide leaflets using the completed research from the website. Since last summer we have published 8 new guide leaflets for churches who were in need of literature to help welcome in visitors. Thanks to the project's HLF funding we were able to produce these for the church completely free of charge.

The 8 churches are:

Edwinstowe, St Mary; Norwell, St Laurence; Ossington, Holy Rood; Caunton, St Andrew; Cromwell, St Giles; Halam, St Michael; Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Holy Trinity; and Blidworth, St Mary. These can be downloaded from our new website [www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk/tourism-churchguides](http://www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk/tourism-churchguides)

If this is something that your church would like to take advantage of please get in touch with Heather via email: [heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org) or phone: 07736286056

### Open Churches Weekends 2011

Following on from the success of 2010's pilot Open Churches Weekend in the northern and eastern districts of Nottinghamshire, this summer churches from the other half of the county are opening their doors to visitors on two consecutive Open Churches Weekends.



**9th and 10th July** for churches in the city & southern districts  
(City, Rushcliffe and Broxtowe)

**16th and 17th July** for churches in central and western districts  
(Ashfield, Mansfield and Gedling)

For more information and to order your free guide booklet, please contact Heather (details above).

### Trail leaflets

Our second 'Trail' leaflet – linking churches with a common theme as a suggested tourist route – will be launched at the Celebration Event. Our trail leaflets aim to cover a wide range of popular or specialist themes: Hence the first one was on churches with a reported link to the legends of Robin Hood; the second is churches with remaining medieval stained glass. More will follow throughout the coming months.

[www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk](http://www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk)

## Education

The third aspect of the Church History Project aims to develop educational material for churches to use with a wide variety of ages and groups, particularly schools and other education establishments, with the objective of providing quality materials for all churches across the Diocese, to make it possible for them to work with primary and secondary schools and voluntary activity groups.



So far materials for a Primary pack have been developed based in part on information from the website. Trials of the draft material have taken place in churches across the Diocese.

The pack includes topic sheets on the following subjects:



- Introduction to the Church for KS2, KS1, Pre-school / Foundation
- Fonts and Baptism
- At the Altar
- The Bible in Church Art
- Clues to the Past in a Graveyard
- Worship Traditions
- The Church in the Community at Easter, Harvest and Christmas
- Reading the Symbols in a Church
- Vestments and Colours in Church
- Church Architecture
- The Name of the Church
- The Church and its People



The next steps for this strand of the project are to get the packs professionally designed and make them available to all churches; also to begin developing Secondary level material.



For more information see

<http://www.nottsopenchurches.org.uk/education.html>

or contact Maureen Collins at the Diocese tel: 07828 808 398 email: [maureencsdo@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:maureencsdo@southwell.anglican.org)



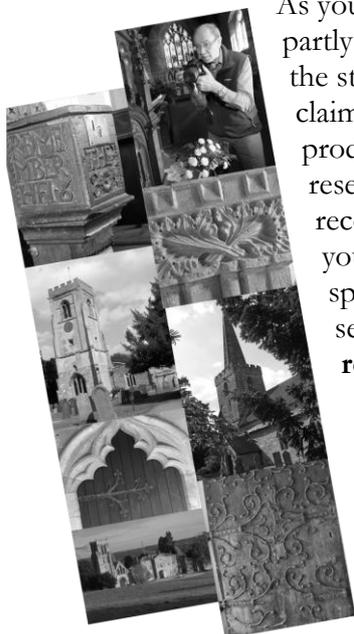
### Report on a visit:

St Mary's Wollaton Park welcomed 60 year 2 children from the local primary school. They found out about and named the main features of the building, then concentrated on two symbols: the fish and the cross. They looked round, listened, sang, filled in sheets, and made things. They had a brilliant time, so did the helpers and teachers! Using materials from the pack gave the church helpers confidence, and the school staff were pleased with the curriculum relevance.

MC

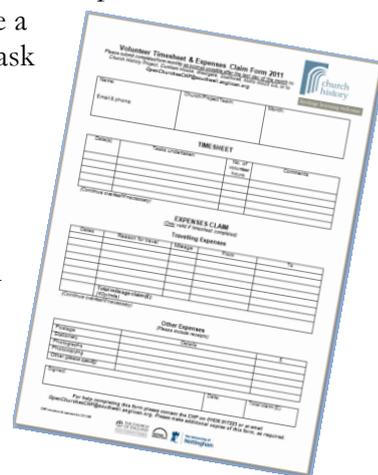


## We Couldn't do it Without You!



As you may know, the Heritage Lottery Fund calculates the success of the project partly in terms of the number of volunteer hours which are given to the work. Since the start of 2010 the time that volunteers have put into the Project will allow us to claim over £35,000. This money is used for things like the Open Churches Weekend, producing guide leaflets for churches, enabling training sessions to take place for researchers and welcomers, etc. It is therefore vital that we have a record of the hours that all our volunteers give; and we would ask you to help us by continuing to keep a note of the time you spend on your work, completing the monthly timesheets and sending them to Heather Sirrel on a regular basis. **We are really grateful for the time you give to the Project.**

Run out of timesheets? We have included a blank copy with this newsletter that you are welcome to use and to photocopy. Do contact Heather if you would like to have an electronic version of the timesheet to send back by email.



## “What is the Heritage Lottery Fund Money Spent on?”

In answer to this popular question, here is a summary from the ledger for Jan 2009 – August 2010.

Income over the 18 months ≈	£ 37590
Outgoings over the 18 months:	
Salaries, National Ins. + pension contributions totals	£ 21062
Mileage claims and other transport expenses (volunteers and staff) totals	£ 1336
Tourism publications (inc. Open Churches Weekend guidebooklets, Robin Hood leaflets, individual parish guide leaflets, Open Church banners) totals	£ 5232
Postage totals	£ 172
Stationery (inc. photocopying) totals	£ 665
Telephone totals	£ 26
Hospitality (inc. lunches at meetings / training days etc) totals	£ 332
Other expenses (this including Research Co-ordinator's honorarium; laptops; some design fees for Tourism items; and volunteer training resources) totals	£ 3207
So total expenditure so far	£ 32,034

Come to the Celebration Event to find out more...

## Ongoing Support for Researchers

We now have a network of support for our Church History Researchers in order to help you with what can sometimes be a daunting task.

Those of you who are working on an entry at the moment will probably have had at least one phone call in the last 6 months either from Heather or from Anita Maunsell, David Turner, Dee Ashton, Elizabeth Jones, Alan Butler or Sue Clayton, who have all kindly agreed to be on the team offering support to other researchers.

Some common problems we are addressing include:

- Helping researchers to ‘read’ their church building and learn how it has evolved by looking at the stonework and architecture
- Helping those who have trouble accessing the church for whatever reason
- Helping researchers access the Archives and offering ‘first-timers’ guidance on how to use them
- Helping those who need putting in touch with experts, for example, clock, bells or glass specialists
- Helping researchers who have collated sufficient information, but are daunted by how best to write and present their material



Remember to check your briefing document as a first port of call, but also remember that help is here if you need it – please don’t be silent if there is something you are stuck with.

For more information contact Heather Sirrel via email: [heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org) or phone: 07736286056



Reply slips

**CHURCH HISTORY & OPEN CHURCHES PROJECTS  
“THE STORY SO FAR...” CELEBRATION EVENT  
THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2011, 5pm  
GREAT HALL, BISHOP’S MANOR, SOUTHWELL**

Please complete and return this slip by **3<sup>rd</sup> of March** 2011 at the latest to Heather Sirrel, Southwell & Nottingham DAC, 8 Westgate, Southwell, Notts, NG25 0JL, or email [heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org), or telephone 07736 286 056 to let us know if you would like to come.

I will/will not [please delete as appropriate] be attending the CHP celebration event day on 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 at the Great Hall of the Bishop’s Manor, Southwell

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ tel no: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

This event will probably last about 2 hours. Please see your enclosed invitation for more details.

**RESEARCHERS’ TRAINING DAY  
SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011, 9:30am  
DUNHAM HOUSE, 8 WESTGATE, SOUTHWELL, NG25 0JL**

Please complete and return this slip by **31<sup>st</sup> of March** 2011 at the latest to Heather Sirrel, Southwell & Nottingham DAC, 8 Westgate, Southwell, Notts, NG25 0JL, or email [heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org), or telephone 07736 286 056.

I will/will not [please delete as appropriate] be attending the researchers’ training day on 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 at Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Office, Southwell

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ tel no: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/church site you are researching: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are part of a research group, number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. Date you expect to submit your research: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to research a further entry once your current research is complete?

Yes/no

Do you wish to continue to receive newsletters? Yes/no