
Southwell & Nottingham Diocese
**CHURCH HISTORY
PROJECT**

NEWSLETTER No 12: September 2010



heritage learning welcome

**RESEARCHERS' TRAINING DAY
SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 2010, 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 see the attached programme for further information. Please complete and return the cut-off slip (or email) by Wednesday 20 October at the latest, whether or not you intend to join this session. The Briefing Document has undergone some further minor revisions, and the latest version will be available at the event.

Top Ten Churches on the Website!

Several people attending the training day at Southwell last November asked us to recommend 'top' entries on the website as good examples to follow. Here are a few suggestions of entries which are on the site and which are particularly recommended in terms of the material they contain for certain sections. We thought it would be invidious to offer a simple top ten, so we have had a look through the site, and here are our recommendations:

Nottingham St Peter, and Warsop St Peter and St Paul for particularly lucid accounts of the **history** of the church using a range of sources. The authors have not had a chance to consult everything that might be available, and yet these entries show what can be done by researchers with limited time and resources.



St Peter's church, Nottingham



St Michael's church, Halam

Halam St Michael, Car Colston St Mary, and Haughton Chapel for full general accounts of the **archaeology** of churches, where it is complicated because of the different phases through which the building passed over time.

Gotham St Lawrence, Hyson Green St Stephen and Attenborough St Mary for good, clear coverage of the **fixtures and fittings**, without giving too much information which might obscure rather than enlighten.

Please do not think that these are the only good entries. There are plenty more, but we were asked for some exemplars, and here they are.



Pillar capital at St Mary's church, Attenborough

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

Introducing – Heather Sirrel and Nick Harding

Heather Sirrel has been with the Project since September 2009, working one day a week on the Open Churches Project – encouraging and facilitating churches in welcoming visitors. She has now been appointed to a full-time position, and has taken on some of the responsibilities of Tracey Akehurst, who was Project Manager until recently, and who left in May.

Heather is now the main point of contact for the Project at the Diocese and, as such, is very keen to help and support you in any way that she can. Aged 23 and from Beeston, she has previously worked for Christ Church in Chilwell, for Tearfund, and as a maker and repairer of stained glass windows. These days when she is not working for the Project she can often be found waterskiing on the Trent!

To contact Heather about any aspect of the Project with which you need advice or assistance, email heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org or phone 07736 286 056.



Nick Harding has worked for the Diocese since 2001 in his role as Children's Ministry Adviser, before which he organised and ran the Time Travelling Project at Southwell Minster. Nick initially became involved with the Church History Project developing the Education plans, and he has now become Project Manager. His role is to oversee the work of the three groups, chair the Management Group, and line-manage the Project Co-ordinator. He is answerable to the Diocese, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other partner organisations in ensuring that the targets are met and the project is successful.

Volunteer Support Network and Photographers

Volunteer Support Network – Now that the Project has over 100 volunteers, it is increasingly difficult for the Research Team to keep in regular touch with researchers in order to have an idea of progress. To help with this, we have set up a group of volunteers who have kindly agreed to contact other researchers on a quarterly basis. This involves telephoning the researchers, asking a few simple questions, and reporting the updates to the DAC. Broken down into a group of monitors, it is not a huge task – but for one or two people to try to do all the work, it is like trying to paint the Forth Bridge! We already have a small group who have kindly agreed to be monitors, but we are seeking more volunteers.

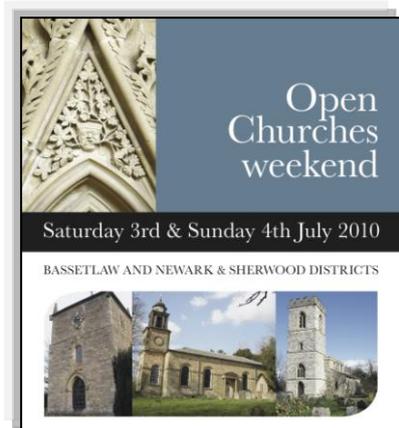
Have you recently completed your research or are coming towards the end of it? Do you still wish to be associated with the Project, but would like to branch out into something different? If so, this might be just the job for you!

Expenses will be paid via the timesheets. For more information please contact Heather Sirrel at heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org

Photographers – We have several people who have taken on the work of photographing churches of particular archaeological interest; and once they have done these, we will be waving a further list at them! We do realise that the number of photographs we ask for is a large undertaking, and we are hoping to add to our current pool of photographers. Do you, or someone you know, have good photographic skills? If so, would you be willing to assist us? Details of what we require are contained in the Briefing Document. If you are interested – or you know someone who is – or you would like more information, please contact Janice Avery at janaver1@yahoo.co.uk

About – Tourism and the Open Churches Project

The tourism off-shoot of the Church History Project is called the Open Churches Project. The Open Churches' debut event took place at the beginning of July in the form of an open weekend involving seventy churches across the Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood districts of Nottinghamshire – all opening their doors to provide a welcome to visitors. The weekend was, on the whole, a great success, helping to draw as many as 150 visitors to one parish alone!

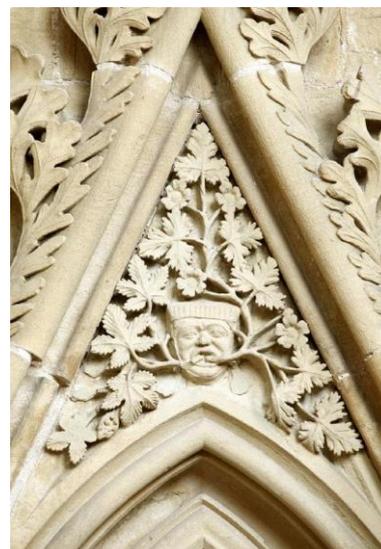


The Open Churches Weekend 2011 is now in the initial stages of planning, though it has not yet been decided which districts to cover – so ‘stay tuned’ for dates and more information!

Along with organizing these annual open weekends, the other primary aim of the Tourism Team is to produce various publications, including individual church guides, using the completed research from the website. This, in turn, raises the awareness of the local heritage value of these buildings, and encourages partnerships between church communities and a wider audience. This is being fed by all of *your* work – so our continued thanks for all the time and effort you are putting in with your research! For more information please contact Heather Sirrel, Open Churches Project Officer, on 07736 286 056 or heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org

About – Education

The education aspect of the Church History Project is relatively new, having been formed in June 2009, but using some basic information from a previous Diocesan project (Schools in Local Churches). The aim is 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. Currently, trials of the material are taking place in churches across the Diocese, welcoming schools to their buildings. Future highlights include an Education DVD, which is being developed to help schools understand the historical and current contexts of the life of their local church.



BBC Four's Churches: How to Read Them



We thought you might be interested to know (if you didn't already) that BBC Four is currently running a series of six programs entitled Churches: How to Read Them, in which author Richard Taylor examines how the imagery, symbols and architecture of English parish churches have inspired, moved and enraged people through the centuries. The programs can be watched anytime on the BBC iPlayer <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00tnp8f>

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 this year alone 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 at the DAC on a regular basis. We are really grateful for the time you give to the Project.

Run out of timesheets? Do contact Heather if you could use more copies or if you would like to have an electronic version of the timesheet to send back by email.



Hold the date! Celebration Event - March 17th 2011

With 90 complete entries now on the Church History Project website we are edging ever closer to the golden 100th! We think this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate and to show our appreciation for all of the hard work you have done over the years.



The evening of March 17th 2011, therefore, is the planned date for this celebration event, which will take place in the Great Hall and walled garden of the Bishop's Manor. We will be joined by Bishop Paul. There will also be food, brief talks and if the weather is good the opportunity to spill outside and enjoy the unique garden setting.

Everyone who has been involved in the Church History Project is invited, including researchers and those who are involved in the Tourism and Education strands – so it will be a great chance to hear about the past, present and future of the project.

Resources Section on the Website

By popular request, we have added a Resources Section to the Website, accessible from a button at the bottom of all the "top-level" pages, such as the churches index. This currently consists of indexes for the following:

- the Southwell Diocesan Magazine (1889-1940)
- the notes of Sir Stephen Glynne
- faculties recorded in the Faculty Books for the Diocese of Lincoln (1839-1888)

Check out these resources, and if you haven't got a copy of Glynne's notes already and you find that they exist for your church, contact Heather Sirrel, who will send you a photocopy.

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

RESEARCHERS' TRAINING DAY
SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 2010
DUNHAM HOUSE, 8 WESTGATE, SOUTHWELL, NG25 0JL

PROGRAMME

9.30am: Coffee and biscuits

10.00am:

Welcome – Canon Keith Turner

Outline of the CHP Project – Nick Harding

Introduction to Heather Sirrel

10.10am: How to read your Church – Part One

Professor John Beckett and Dr Chris Brooke will lead a session using graphics and other materials to demonstrate how best to 'read' your church building. Researchers will be aware that the briefing paper emphasizes the importance of using the church building as a source in the period prior to written records; and in this session will look at both the chronology of change across time and at some of the architectural features of different periods and phases. This first part will be the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.

11.10-11.30am: Break

11.30am: How to read your Church – Part Two

Prof John Beckett/Dr Chris Brooke on post-medieval churches.

12.15: Preparing to submit your entry – Rev Dr David Harper:

How to put the entry together; pitfalls to avoid.

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)

**Would you please complete and return the reply slip below,
whether or not you intend to join this training session**

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Please complete and return this slip by 20 October 2010 at the latest to Heather Sirrel, Southwell & Nottingham DAC, 8 Westgate, Southwell, Notts, NG25 0JL, email heather.sirrel@southwell.anglican.org, or telephone 07736 286 056.

I will/will not be attending the researchers' training day on 30 October 2010 at SOUTHWELL & NOTTINGHAM DAC, 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
