
The Diocese Southwell & Nottingham
**CHURCH HISTORY
& OPEN CHURCHES
PROJECT**

NEWSLETTER No 19: April 2014



heritage learning welcome

Full history of 161 churches now online! Summary history online for every other church in the Diocese!

The Church History Project has successfully delivered beyond targets in all of the three key areas; Research, Tourism and Education. The website contains a quantity of historical research and photographs that is an outstanding permanent legacy. The attractive, professional range of Education materials are being used widely in churches and schools, and many more resources are on the website. The Open Churches weekends, Trail leaflets and individual church guides continue to be a significant step forward in encouraging people to visit and understand their church heritage. This has all been made possible through partnership, generous funding, and hard-working volunteers. In addition, special mention must be made of Heather Sirrel, who, as Project Coordinator, has worked very hard and to the highest standards to ensure that the project has exceeded all expectations.

Nick Harding
Project Manager

The lost medieval churches

When we started the project we knew there would be a handful of medieval churches that have been demolished and no longer exist apart from their churchyards, for example Thorpe in the Glebe, Habbleshorpe, and West Burton which appear on the website. We also knew that there would be some entirely 'lost' medieval churches and chapels where we have documentary evidence but no certain site, and these include five 'lost Domesday' churches, mentioned in 1086 but which have long since disappeared: Adbolton and Saxondale which are on the website, Danethorpe, which will appear shortly, and Newbold and Wansley, still under research. Intriguingly Domesday also lists ten churches in Newark and two in Hawton, these still need to be resolved! However, the scale of the lost churches has surprised us all.

To date we have documentary evidence for the existence of an additional 91 medieval churches and chapels in the county, which comprise 63 churches, 13 hospital chapels, 14 monastic churches (excluding Blyth and Worksop which are still in use), and 1 almshouse chapel. They range from the 'easy to find' to the 'problematic'. An example of the former is Wympton (now a deserted medieval village near Tuxford) where Archbishop Corbridge enquired in 1301 as to who was receiving the profits intended to support a chantry in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the next year also mentioned a cemetery there. An example of the latter is the chapel at Martin (Harworth parish), which is fleetingly described in a charter of Richard I dated 1189; its site is now utterly lost within modern forest plantation on what was formerly an airfield. Sometimes we have only tantalizing hints of the existence of a chapel, such as recently discovered at Ompton (shown, interestingly, as a separate parish prior to 1850), where a passing mid-C13th reference in the Rufford Charters mentions the altar light in the 'mother church' of Kneesall - implying the existence of a subsidiary chapel in Ompton (there is also a description of the 'Kirkrode' in the hamlet).

In addition to these known sites there are a further 29 deserted medieval villages that probably had a chapel at some point, places such as Hermeston, Knapthorpe, and Rayton; researching these will be a particular challenge!

If anyone is keen to have a go at researching the history of a lost medieval church, please let Janice know (contact details on p4). The editors will provide as much guidance as possible to help.

Dr Chris Brooke

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

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Special guest at Church History Project celebration

TV Presenter and cook, Loyd Grossman was the special guest speaker at a Church History Project event in the Minster on Saturday 25th January. It was to celebrate the work of CHP, and mark the end of five years of Heritage Lottery Funding. Along with Mr Grossman OBE, FSA and Chairman of the Churches Conservation Trust there were also appearances from a variety of others who had contributed to the project over the past 15 years. Church History Project Co-ordinator Heather Sirrel said: "It was great to have Loyd Grossman with us, and a good opportunity to say a huge thank you to all who have volunteered."

A new book containing a summary history of every church in the diocese was launched at Southwell Minster on the day. Published by the Diocese's Church History Project, the book has been endorsed by Loyd Grossman, for 'celebrating the heritage of our churches.'

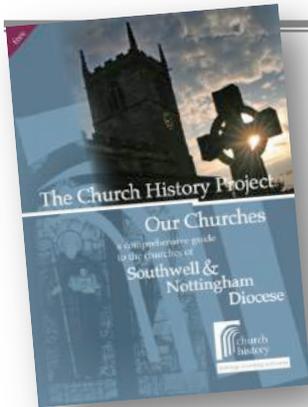
Bishop Paul Butler and Archdeacon Peter Hill also enthused about the book saying, "no other Diocese has done this depth of research," "this is unique to Southwell and Nottingham."

The book helps to conclude the five-year Heritage Lottery Funded part of the project, which has researched the history every church. The information is available at <http://southwellchurches.history.nottingham.ac.uk>

Copies of the full-colour, 300+ page book have been delivered to every church via clergy and are available, thanks to the Heritage Lottery funding, completely free of charge. Call in to your local church if you would like a copy.

Pictured below (L-R): The Revd Canon Keith Turner – Diocesan Advisory Committee Chairman ; John Ives and Amanda Turner – from the Heritage Lottery Fund ; Tony Brown – Stewardship Team Leader & Parishes Funding Consultant, Southwell & Nottingham Diocese ; Heather Sirrel – CHP Co-ordinator ; Janice Avery – CHP Research Manager ; Stephen Langford – retired DAC staff, he secured the HLF grant 5 years ago ; Nick Harding – CHP Manager ; Archdeacon Peter Hill ; Jonathan Pickett – DAC Secretary ; Revd Dr David Harper – CHP Webmaster ; Prof. John Beckett & Dr Chris Brooke – CHP Editors. Inset: Loyd Grossman.





“The Book”

Those who came to the Celebration Event on the 25th of January will have seen the marvellous 320+ page book containing a summary history of every church in the Diocese.

“The Church History Project – Our Churches” is available from every church, and all Notts libraries have a copy for loan and a copy for reference. There are also copies available from Tourist Information Centres. The book is completely free of charge.

Final Educational Resource

The final resource produced by the *learning* strand of the project is an interactive website where children can explore a church building inside and out. Primarily for Key Stage 2, it will also be useful for other ages and outside of school. Please take a look at

<http://www.nottsopechurches.org.uk/cfw>

Three final guide leaflets for individual churches have also been produced. They are for West Markham, Annesley and Wollaton churches and can be found at:

<http://www.nottsopechurches.org.uk/tourism-churchguides.php>



A few words from John Ives, our HLF monitor

It does not seem over five years ago that I was asked by the Heritage Lottery Fund to take over as the Associate Monitor for the Church History Project. On asking “why me?” I was told by the Grants Officer that, as an Architect, I would understand what they were talking about and anyway they might need a bit of “plain Yorkshire speaking”!

The role of a Monitor is to act as the eyes and ears of the Grants Officer to ensure the aims and objectives of the HLF funded portion of the work are delivered. Often at the beginning of a project the Monitor can be viewed with suspicion by some and perhaps regarded as a spy in the camp (this project was no different!), however the Monitor should be able to offer advice, assistance and, at times, encouragement. The best way to understand how a project is fairing is to attend the meetings, getting to know the individuals and see how they interact. This project certainly had individuals! Whilst I had to endure the good natured banter (or should it be envy) that I hailed from God’s own County of Yorkshire it was obvious the various teams worked well together. Nick Harding as the Project Manager leads the teams in a relaxed but encouraging way being kept on the straight and narrow by Heather Sirrel. When

problems occurred Nick and I were able to meet and discuss these, memorable amongst these was a meeting in Pickering over tea and bacon sandwiches whilst Nick was on Retreat and a lunchtime meeting in York during Synod! As an Architect I also appreciated the Research training days led by John and Chris.

At the start of my involvement the project appeared to be running behind schedule with the number of entries added to the website behind the targets. But from this slow start the number of researchers increased, the mood of the Research Team lightened and the view that the targets could be reached developed. The addition of a further year to the timescale certainly helped.

As the project progressed it was good to see how it developed with new “added value” elements being added; most notable of these being the wonderful guides to the Open Churches weekends, the cross slabs and bell frames research and the final book including every Church in the Diocese – surely a lasting legacy to the project. The teams also showed they were capable of being creative in dealing with the research element, the use of students last year

gave a real impetus to the number of entries on the website.

As with all projects the approach of their conclusion is met with mixed feelings, there is relief that the goals have been achieved but also sadness that the teams will not meet again. However it is good in this case that there is an intention to keep the volunteer research teams together with training days etc.

What has sometimes been seen as spin offs from the research element of the project, the educational and tourism work has been just as valuable. To

encourage people both young and old to visit the churches, to understand their history, purpose and to appreciate their continuing contribution to their communities must be good.

It has been good to be involved in this fascinating project, to meet some interesting characters, to appreciate the commitment and expertise of the volunteer researchers and to see the project come to fruition. The Celebration event in Southwell Minster was a fitting end.

I will miss having to check in my whippet and cloth cap at the border in Bawtry!

News from Heather

I've been really lucky and blessed to work with all of you over these past 4 years or so! Thank you all for being such ready and willing volunteers whether we have worked closely together or not.

Some of you might be wondering what I'll be up to now that the Heritage Lottery Funding has finished. It's a shame I can't stay on working for the CHP voluntarily but unfortunately I have rent to pay!

The Diocese have offered me an Administrative job on the Executive Team, which I have accepted, so from the 1st of April I'll be working with the Chief Executive and the Archdeacons here at Jubilee House.

I'm also getting married on the 10th of May so it's all change!

Thanks again for your support, I really have had a great time with this project.

Heather x

Introducing Jacky Bates

As many of you will already know, Janice Avery has been involved in the Church History Project since its very beginning in the late '90s. Janice oversees the progress of research and is your key contact if you have any queries.

We are very pleased to announce that Jacky Bates has joined the team to assist with admin. a couple of hours per week. Jacky is based at Jubilee House in Southwell and will be arranging future training days and newsletters.

****Date for your diary – Training Day!****

There will be future training days! We are in the process of arranging one for the 7th of June. More details will be emailed out in due course.

NEW CONTACTS

If you need to get in touch after April 2014 please contact

Administrators:

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Home phone: 0115 943 0346 (after 6pm)

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We are pleased to say that we will still be able to publish newsletters once or twice a year. They will mainly be sent out by email so please make sure you have let Janice Avery or Jacky Bates have your current email address!