The Parish Church Photographic Survey Annual Report 2019
Front cover: The 12th century font at Thorpe Salvin, Yorkshire West Riding.

Back cover: Stained glass of 1922 by M. E. Aldrich Rope in the east window at Far Headingley, Yorkshire West Riding.
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Director’s comment

Welcome to 2019’s Annual Report. This is really a double report because there was no Report for last year due to the limited number of fieldtrips being made.

As usual, the recording work has followed the standard pattern of previous years with full general photography of each church both externally and internally along with detailed photography of the architecture and the recording all interior furnishings and fittings up to, and sometimes slightly beyond, the cut-off date of 1900.

As mentioned, 2018 saw only a small number of churches completed.

This year started with visits to churches around the Bradford/Leeds area. Most of these are locked with no easy access for the general public, but with much effort they have, for the most part, been fully recorded. It is a great shame that these churches are locked; they may mostly be Victorian but some of them contain notable features that should be better known.

The majority of the year was spent in getting Lincolnshire close to complete. The county was started in 2003 when I was invited to make a visit by the late Rosemary Watts. Over the years there have been some additional visits but it has required a sustained and substantial push to approach complete coverage.

The fieldwork is beginning to reach its conclusion. The total number of “rural” parish churches is in the order of 10-11,000, and I have now visited just over 9000. The number completed (that is, where photographic coverage is complete for both the interior and exterior) is just over 8300, representing a completion rate of 89%. The goal is to achieve better than 95% coverage of “rural” churches and better than 75% of the total number of Church of England parish churches. The completion percentage will always be less than 100% because some very small basic churches which are locked, but where the interior can be seen through the windows, are judged to not be worth seeking a key for access.

The photographic archive now contains 508,000 images. This does not include the hundreds of thousands of images taken for photogrammetry.

Opposite: St Andrew, Burton-upon-Stather (Lincs). Mourning woman on the monument to Sir Charles Sheffield of 1776 by Fishers of York.

Above: St Andrew, Burton-upon-Stather (Lincs). Stained glass window of 1777 depicting Christ.
The same basic equipment is still being used. The lenses I carry are a 17mm TS-E, a 24 TS-E, a 24-70L, and a 100-400L along with two off-camera slave flashguns. This year, after 10 years of flawless performance, the Canon 1Ds III camera was retired and replaced with a 1Dx II. The setup is complemented by Panasonic Lumix GM1 and GM5 cameras for photogrammetry and situations which require a micro camera.

As in previous years the project has included some side projects. The main one is the Keyholder app which allows visitors to have some idea of the access state of parish churches as well as providing a lot of additional information. Further details can be found in the Keyholder section of this report.

Work continues on photography for proposed books; one on the sculptor Nicholas Stone which is being written by Dr. Adam White, and the two additional volumes for Dr. Toby Capwell’s *Armour of the English Knight*.

C B Newham BSc FSA
Baildon, December the 31st, 2019.

Below: St Peter & St Paul, Gosberton (Lincs). Elephant gargoyle.
Survey progress

The following maps and graphs show the progress that has been made by the survey so far.

The graphs above show overall progress.

At the top left is shown the number of churches visited (in red) and completed (in blue) since the project started in 1997. Churches are marked as completed once they have been photographed fully both externally and internally (including their contents).

The graph at top right shows the number of photographs in the database over the course of time. This doesn’t include those specially taken for photogrammetry.

The graph at bottom left shows the number of photographs taken each year.

The bottom right graph shows the percentage of completed churches compared to the total number visited. This has remained fairly stable at about 10% since the early 2000s when I became much more militant about getting inside locked buildings.
Below: Places visited in 2017. Note that the churches which remain to be visited also includes those outside the remit of the Project (e.g.: city churches).
Coverage to the end of December 2019

Total field trips: 1949
Total number of images: 508,038
Total Anglican churches visited: 9320
Total churches completed: 8311

The bar graphs below show the percentage of churches complete for each county (out of all churches, not just those within the remit of this project). The figures represent: Total visited / Total completed / Total churches.
Keyholder news

Keyholder was released to the Google Play Store on December the 21st 2012 and is now in its seventh year of operation. In 2017 it was released on the Apple store. It now has numerous users and contributors providing comments on the churches, star ratings, helpful information on gaining access to locked churches, and, of course, photographs.

In 2018 Church in Wales churchces were added to the database.

Keyholder users have now visited 12,221 churches and have made 17,392 comments as well as having taken 19,881 pictures. The app remains by far the most comprehensive place, both on and off the Internet, for general information about and photographs of churches in England and Wales.

Data from Keyholder can be seen below and on the next two pages. This year I’ve produced a graph showing the change in locking status for churches, comparing pre and post 2010 situations. Generally churches are becoming more accessible to visitors and that can only be a good thing.

Keyholder can be found at: https://www.parishchurches.org/keyholder-app

Statistics on current Keyholder coverage can be found at: https://daephotolibrary.com:4650/keyholderstats/stats

The statistics are updated every Monday at 0900 GMT.
Churches visited by Keyholder users. Blue dots indicate churches where users have left a locking status and optionally a comment. Grey dots are churches that no users have visited yet.
Churches photographed by Keyholder users. Blue dots indicate which churches users have photographed using the app. Grey dots are churches currently with no photographs.
All Saints, Norton (Nhants). Monument to Lady Elizabeth Knightly (Seymour) (d.1602)
Assumption of Our Lady, Ashow (Warks). Part of a Flemish triptych of c.1550 depicting the Crucifixion.
Holy Trinity, Meanwood (Yrk WR). West window by Frederick Preedy.
All Hallows, Almondbury (Yrk WR). Boss depicting the Moon in the nave roof made in 1522 by Geferay Daysten. It is one of the best mediaeval roofs in the county.
St Peter and St Paul, Aston, Birmingham. Chancel and apse by J. A. Chatwin, 1878-90.
Above: All Souls, Haley Hill (Yrk WR). A church by Sir George Gilbert Scott, 1856-9. Scott said of it “It is, on the whole, my best church”. It is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.


Opposite bottom: St Helen, Kirmington (Lincs). Capital on the early 14th century arcade. The capitals have various well-cut heads. This is Synagogue, blindfolded and with a broken staff.
Above: St Andrew, Asgarby near Sleaford (Lincs). A church with a Perpendicular exterior and Decorated interior. The tower is surmounted by a fine crocketed spire.


Next page right: Chapel, Merton College, Oxford. Bust on the monument to Sir Thomas Bodley (d.1613) by Nicholas Stone.
St Michael, Little Coates (Lincs). The chancel of the church by Sir Walter Tapper built in 1913-14 on the north side of the mediaeval church.
Kirkstead (Lincs). Remains of Kirkstead Abbey
St Andrew, Firsby (Lincs). Apse of the church built by G. E. Street, 1856.
Above: St Michael, Heydour (Lincs). Detail of the monument to Sir Michael Newton (d.1746) by Peter Scheemakers.

Opposite: Oxford Cathedral. Effigy of Elizabeth de Montford (d.1354).
Above: St Andrew, Firsby (Lincs). Tiled monument to Mary Alice Walls (d.1877).

Opposite top: St Milburga, Wixford (Warks). Brass on the tomb of Thomas de Cruwe (d.1418) and his wife Juliana (d.1411).
Above: St James & St John, Dorrington (Lincs). Sculpture of the Last Judgement (probably 14th century).

Opposite: St Laurance, Thornton Curtis (Lincs). 12th century Tournai marble font.
Above: St Oswald, Methley (Yrk WR). Effigies on the monument to Sir John Savile (d.1607), attributed by Dr. Adam White to the sculptor William Wright.

Opposite: St Paul, Toynton St Peter (Lincs). Portrait of former rector Thomas Wells (d.1747).
Opposite: Oxford Cathedral. Early 14th century glass depicting St Martin dividing his cloak for the beggar.

Below: St Michael & All Angels, Thornhill (Yrk WR). Achievement of George Savile (d.1695) in glass, attributed to the York stained glass artist Henry Gyles.

Next page left and right: St Oswald, Methley (Yrk WR). 15th century glass in the east window of the south chapel depicting, on the left, St Hieronymous and St Ambrose, and on the right, St John the Evangelist and St John the Baptist.
Here lieth the Body
of Marmaduke
their Son, who died
the 28 of March
1717 Aged 18 Months
And of Susanna their
Daughter Born the
22d of October 1716
& buried the 16th of
Novemb. following.

This life ye 25 of Nov' 1716 in ye 23 Year of her Age.

Townlye who departs
Previous page left: St Edmund, Riby (Lin). Ledger slab to Mary Tomline (d.1716) and two of her children.

Previous page right: Lightcliffe (Yrk WR). The tower of the old church.

Above: St Peter, Midville (Lin). One of the early 19th century fen chapels. Closed and in the process of being sold.


Next page left: St Mary, Wilsford (Lin). Perpendicular bench end poppyhead depicting a man using dog-tongs.

Next page right: St Mary, Holme-next-the-Sea (Norfolk). Royal arms dated 1779.
Previous page left: St Sebastian, Great Gonerby (Lincs). 15th century glass showing a hare riding a hound and blowing a hunting horn.

Previous page right: St Andrew, Kelby (Lincs). Roof boss in the south aisle.

Above: St John the Evangelist, Corby Glen (Lincs). 14th to 15th century wall paintings on the north wall of the north aisle.

Opposite: St Helen, Kirmington (Lincs). Glass in a north aisle window by Thomas Wilshurst (1806-80) who worked closely with the architect S. S. Teulon.
Opposite and below: All Saints, Ryther (Yrk WR). Alabaster monument to Sir William Ryther (d.1475)
Above: St James, Smisby (Derbs). A church of the 13th to 15th centuries.

Opposite: St Sebastian, Great Gonerby (Lincs). An early 14th century church with a Perpendicular west tower and spire.
Opposite and above: Effigies (above clockwise from top left, and opposite from top): Aldbury (Herts), Sir Robert Whittingham (k.1471, Tewkesbury); Aston (Birmingham), Sir William Harcourt (d.1482); Stanford-on-Teme (Worcs), Sir Humphrey Salwey (d.1493); Aston (Birmingham), Sir Thomas Erdington (d.1433, effigies c.1470).