

ULEMHAS STUDY VISIT: SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2012



THE MEDIEVAL PARISH CHURCH IN OXFORDSHIRE

This ULEMHAS study day will visit four medieval parish churches in Oxfordshire - Ewelme, Iffley, Stanton Harcourt and Burford. Three of the four were at one time related to important medieval manor houses, elements of that at Stanton Harcourt still standing, while the fourth was the principal parish church of a prosperous market town. The idea is to examine primarily what it is that makes parish churches distinctive, both in terms of their architecture and the types of society they served, though looked at collectively, what is most striking about these particular buildings is the very varied way in which they developed. Ewelme was substantially remodelled in the 1430s so as to embrace an alms-house, school and provision for chantry masses. Iffley remained pretty much as originally built - and indeed now stands as the grandest late Romanesque church to survive in the middle Thames valley. Stanton Harcourt was extended in the first half of the 13th century, retaining one of the most exquisite chancels of parochial southern England - while Burford stands as a classic multi-phase town church.

The lecturer, John McNeill, lectures at Oxford University's Department of Continuing Education, and in addition to being a Vice-President of ULEMHAS is Hon. Secretary of the British Archaeological Association.

Travel will be by coach, which will leave from Victoria Embankment at 9.00 am. The morning will be spent at Ewelme and Iffley, after which the coach will take us into Oxford for an independent lunch. The afternoon will then be divided between Stanton Harcourt and Burford, returning to London so as to arrive back at Embankment around 7.00 pm.