

with its extensive estates and network of dependent parishes intact; however, Victorian reform brought more fundamental changes. The Ecclesiastical Commission Act of 1840 affected St George's, like cathedral chapters: canonries were reduced in number and estates transferred to the new Ecclesiastical Commissioners. At Windsor, the canonries were reduced from twelve to four, as canons retired or died, the total of four being reached in 1861. This brought changes to the fabric, with the sad loss in 1859 of Denton's Commons (a fine fifteenth-century building), and one of the houses. As the canons became fewer, the houses became larger, and occasionally lay tenants moved in. The alterations continued: lateral conversions, installation of mezzanine floors and new facilities brought the Canons' Cloister to a new pitch of complexity, all explained clearly here, with helpful plans and illustrations. Considerable renovation and repair was needed in the late nineteenth century, and it is good to see several of the beautiful coloured drawings produced by Alfred Young Nutt, surveyor to the dean and canons, and also clerk of works on the Royal Household's side of Windsor, in the later Victorian age.

In the 1950s the Canons' Cloister and other residential buildings were renovated by the architects Seely & Paget. The roofs were covered with verdigrised copper, which produced an odd effect and did not have a long life expectancy. By the millennium a combination of decaying roofs and redundant services meant that these remarkable buildings once again needed attention. A programme of major renovation and repair was carried out, supervised by the architect Martin Ashley, with Richard Swift as engineer and Graham Sharpe as project manager, all managed with admirable sensitivity. The book bears witness to the excellent quality of this work, in particular the new lead roofs and the finely finished rendered facades to the cloister. Dr Crook was present throughout the process, and, as a result of all this, these buildings are better understood, and probably in better condition, than they have ever been.

The work was largely funded by the Bray Fellowship, a group of long-term supporters of the chapel and college. Great credit should be given to them – and to the College of St George itself. With its estates confiscated in the nineteenth century and with no external sources of funding, the college has nevertheless continued to serve the Crown, to sustain a daily round of sung worship to the highest standards

of English choral music and to maintain its historic buildings and heritage. The college and the Bray Fellowship also supported the accompanying archaeological work, and its publication. In return, Dr Crook has done them proud with this excellent monograph, which will surely be the last word on the subject. It is fair to add that Oxbow Books have done Dr Crook and the college proud: the book is beautifully designed and produced, with good and abundant illustrations. It should certainly feature on the bookshelves of anyone with a serious interest in English collegiate foundations, or medieval English architecture or Windsor Castle.

STEVEN BRINDLE

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*The Medieval Stained Glass of Herefordshire & Shropshire.* By ROBERT WALKER. 260 mm. Pp xvi + 288, 197 figs. Logaston Press, Eardisley, 2023. ISBN 9781910839546. £25 (pbk).

Although the counties of Herefordshire and Shropshire – constituting the historic Welsh Marches – each have a wealth of surviving medieval stained glass, for some time it has not received the scholarly attention that it merits. Robert Walker's fine book is therefore doubly welcome, both as a meticulously researched regional survey and as an exemplary and innovative approach to the wider study of ancient glass.

The book begins with an historical and iconographic introduction to glass in the Diocese of Hereford (which encompasses over half of Shropshire as well as all Herefordshire). Walker usefully discusses materials and technique, including the multiple use of cartoons (eg at Dilwyn, where two angel figures of c 1320–30 are identical but 'flipped') and the introduction of silver stain in the early fourteenth century. Although there is little evidence of a locally-based school of glaziers, Walker suggests that William of Hereford – associated with royal glazing projects in the 1350s – was active in the county of his birth, and he convincingly identifies a number of fourteenth-century glaziers' workshops, characterised as the 'Madley Master', the 'Master of Archangels' and the 'Master of the Chinless Madonna', who all contributed significant work to churches in the diocese. Walker's discussion of patronage highlights the role of

the higher clergy, local aristocrats (such as the Mortimers, Bohuns and Talbots) and town guilds, while also noting that humbler donors sometimes stipulated the posthumous funding of windows in their wills.

The author's chronological survey of the region's glass, from the twelfth century to 1700, is a remarkably insightful analysis of stylistic and technical developments. What makes it especially valuable is Walker's detailed focus on the post-medieval 'after-life' of windows, a dimension all too often neglected by medievalists. For almost every extant medieval window has undergone interventions – by plumber-glaziers, Victorian restorers or more recent conservators – that have ensured its survival, albeit often in a fragmentary form. Walker makes a point of documenting these procedures wherever possible, using ecclesiastical records, local antiquarian sources and, particularly for the nineteenth century onwards, newspaper and other periodical reports. Although the various efforts to preserve medieval glazing have varied widely in their sensitivity to the original work, Walker commendably recognises that these are now just as much a part of their cumulative history – and, importantly, equally worthy of study – as successive repairs and alterations to a building's architectural fabric. This is perhaps especially pertinent to the region that is the book's focus, since the Shrewsbury-based firm of Betton & Evans was responsible for restoring many important local windows, notably at Ludlow and Shrewsbury, between the early 1800s and the 1870s.

Walker's comprehensive gazetteer of churches, divided into those in Hereford diocese and, as an appendix, those within north Shropshire, not only lists windows that can still be seen but also those recorded by antiquarians. For St Bartholomew's at Richards Castle, for example, his listing includes reports dating from the 1600s (by Silas Taylor and Thomas Blount) of fourteenth-century glass, almost all of it lost by the time Stephen Glynne visited the church in the 1850s. While Walker observes that antiquarian interest was often too narrowly concerned with recording only heraldic data, there were exceptions; where possible, he illustrates sketches from the 1600s and 1700s (made by Richard Symonds, Thomas Dingley, William Mytton and others) showing details of figures and background glazing in lost windows.

Among the locations of outstanding stained glass in the Welsh Marches, several are of undoubted national significance. The east

window of Madley church, in particular, has a magnificent array of panels, the earliest dating from c 1250. Walker comments that the latter, in their resemblance to 'the great programmes of medallions found in French and English cathedrals', are unique in any English parish church, suggesting that the commission was linked to the appointment of a Frenchman, Peter of Savoy, to the See of Hereford. The same window also contains three impressive figures from a fourteenth-century *Jesse Tree* by the 'Madley Master', whom Walker plausibly identifies as William of Hereford.

At Hampton Court Chapel in Hope under Dinmore, little of the important medieval glass remains *in situ*, most of it having been sold in the 1920s to museums and private collections in the UK and North America. Walker's extended essay on the 1420s–30s windows, reconstructing their original provenance – he suggests Leominster Priory – and documenting their subsequent dispersal is a masterly exposition of his detailed knowledge of the locality's history. Likewise, the book's account of the well-known windows at St Laurence, Ludlow, is a *tour de force* of careful research into their iconography, commissioning (principally by the town's Palmers' Guild), stylistic characteristics and successive restorations. Walker's holistic approach to the material is refreshing. While acknowledging that David Evans's 1832 restoration of the fifteenth-century east window was 'drastic', he has no hesitation in applauding the 'highly skilled copying of historical styles of drawing' that carefully preserved the imagery of the medieval original.

Walker writes with a lively, appreciative and sometimes lyrical eloquence that is all too rarely found in scholarly studies of medieval glass. Above all, his text and his many excellent illustrations focus primarily on the windows as exquisite works of art – not simply as visual 'documents'. The book will undoubtedly inspire its readers to seek out for themselves the many vitreous treasures of the Marches.

PETER CORMACK

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*Temlau Peintiedig: murluniau a chroglenni yn eglwysi Cymru, 1200–1800. Painted Temples: wallpaintings and rood-screens in Welsh churches, 1200–1800.* By RICHARD SUGGETT with ANTHONY J. PARKINSON and JANE RUTHERFOOD.