



Exploring the history of St Thomas Becket Church Recording Project

The British Decorative and Fine Arts Society of Hamburg e.V. (BRIDFAS) is planning to start a Church Record of the English Church of Hamburg in 2014. This will be a joint project with volunteers from within the church community and members of BRIDFAS.

NADFAS has been carrying out church recording for around 40 years in the UK and has catalogued in excess of 1600 churches. Volunteers work in small groups making a record of the church interior, including furnishings, memorials, metalwork, paintings, silver, windows and other articles. The work involves photography, research and producing a comprehensive inventory for posterity of the interior and fabric of the church. These records are then sent to the designated County Records Office, the Cathedral and Church Buildings Council and the Victoria and Albert Museum Art Library, to name a few. Volunteers, who report back to BRIDFAS periodically, run the project and because it is voluntary there is no time limit and people can be involved as and when they have time. No special skills or experience are required. We will need people to compile, research, record, photograph, lead small groups and get down on their hands and knees to investigate an inscription or engraving, to name a few tasks.

Some of the records in the UK have revealed valuable treasures, such as a King James I Bible and a valuable wardrobe of copes and vestments, hidden behind a 14th century wooden door. Insurance companies also welcome church recording as a catalogued record aids their task in the event of a theft.

In the first quarter of 2014, we hope volunteers will come forward for this project, which has the full blessing of Fr Matthew. It will take us some time to get the project off the ground and get the paperwork organised; then the record will not only raise awareness of the artistic heritage within the church but should also be a social and fun project for people to be involved in. Please contact Pat Pledger, Chair of BRIDFAS, if you would like more details (tel: 040 821858, email patpledger.bet@t-online.de) or speak to Erika Hori or Fr Matthew if you would like to join us in this project.

You can find out more about BRIDFAS at www.bridfas-hamburg.de.