



The British Archaeological Association

All Saints Church, Shorthampton, Oxfordshire: Medieval Wall Paintings Study Day

Saturday, May 8th 2010

The small parish church of All Saints, Shorthampton, Oxfordshire, is remarkable for its wealth of medieval wall paintings spanning a period from the 13th century to the eve of the Reformation. Faithful to its dedication, its walls feature a variety of saints of local and universal importance, as well as biblical scenes, an intriguing palimpsest, and several elements which present interesting problems of identification. As well as being thus especially suitable for iconographic analysis, the Shorthampton scheme is also an interesting case study in wall painting conservation. Following the murals' discovery in 1903 they have been subject to detailed technical study as well as several carefully recorded campaigns of restoration. Because of the diminutive size of the church most of the images are at eye level making them ideal for close examination.

This study day will explore all aspects of the paintings: their iconography, the materials and techniques used to produce them, and the conservation methods employed to preserve them. The study day will be led by experts in the field: Mellie Naydenova-Slade on the iconography, Jane Spooner on the material aspects of the scheme, and Mark Perry and Richard Lithgow on the conservation of the murals, which they themselves carried out. In addition to listening to several short talks, participants will have a chance to work in small groups to examine the images at close quarters and to discuss some of the interesting questions that they raise.

The cost for the day, including a sandwich lunch, will be £25 for members.
The event is free for students.

Direct trains from London Paddington to the nearest station at Charlbury take 1h 20 mins.
Lifts will be available on the day from Charlbury to Shorthampton.

Places are limited to 25, of which 8 are reserved for students. In the case of a greater number of applications being received a ballot will be used to allocate places.

To apply please e-mail Mellie Naydenova-Slade (mellie.naydenova-slade@courtauld.ac.uk) by March 31st, stating if you are a student.

Successful candidates will be contacted by April 8th with further information.

Brief bibliography:

P. M. Johnston, 'Shorthampton Chapel and its Wall Paintings', *Archaeological Journal*, 62 (1905), 157-171

E. T. Long, 'The Wall paintings in Shorthampton Church', *Oxfordshire Archaeological Society*, no. 83, Report for the year 1937, 8-11 + plates

E. T. Long, 'Medieval Wall Paintings in Oxfordshire Churches', *Oxoniensia*, 37 (1972), 86-108