**Parish Church Building and the English Economy c. 1180-1536**

Scholars have not entirely ignored the economic context of building work, but their research has largely been confined to cathedral or abbey churches where fabric accounts survive or to generalisations which associate unusually large buildings with recently acquired wealth. For the first time, my research offers a more nuanced account of the medieval economy, taking in trade and agricultural development, demographics, prices, wages and monetary developments, as it applies to parish church building of all sizes and across a broad range of economic conditions. This dissertation is an attempt to explicate how parishes were able to afford building work – how much of their resources it demanded, how patrons responded to changes in their economic environment and how the burden of funding, organising and planning was divided within the parish. By bridging the gap between economic and architectural history this project intends to restore the importance of the limitations of finance to the question of how communities were able to express their piety and devotion through building work. It is a study of who parish church patrons were, how they combined their wealth, how they decided what to construct and how their economic environment affected their ability to build.

I am also interested in how parish church history is communicated with a wider audience. I set up ChurchGuides.co.uk to provide free services for churches to use when writing a new guide, encouraging the use of imaginative approaches, new technology and collaborative approach to demonstrate to visitors from all backgrounds what makes history and architecture fascinating. Please see the website for more details.

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