

## REPORT FROM SUSSEX CHURCH RECORDERS AREA REPRESENTATIVE

### Church Recording in General

When a local Arts Society sponsors its own Church Recording Group it is probably the best way for that society as a charity to benefit the public. The finished record is an asset for the church in question, but it is also a national asset because by being placed in the East or West Sussex Record Office, and in national archives such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, it is readily available for research purposes.

Recording is to be recommended as a way of forming new friendships within a Group and giving them a sense of coherence and pride when their hours of work results finally in a high class record containing fantastic photographs of the items recorded. I encourage chairs to form a Group in their society. Those who have active groups are to be congratulated and warmly thanked.

There are at present seven active Groups of Church Recorders who are sponsored by nine Art Societies across Sussex

The current position with individual Church Recorders Groups is as follows:

#### 1. **Henfield** (formerly Adur Valley)

Unfortunately several members of this Group have indicated that they do not want to continue with the recording of St Margaret's Ditchling.

Some sections of the draft record have reached an advanced stage but others have not been tackled at all. The leader approached Jennifer and Keith Cross for assistance and they have generously agreed to help towards the completion of the record. Jennifer is taking on the compiling and Keith will be the group's photographer following the sad death of the group's previous photographer.

#### 2. **Arun**

The compiling of the record of St Mary Magdalene Church, Lyminster is at an advanced stage but the draft has yet to be checked. The Group is planning to start recording another church probably in the late autumn this year.

#### 3. **Chichester/ City of Chichester/ Lavant Valley**

The draft record of St Peter and St Mary, Fishbourne is at the checking stage. Pam Hilton, the longstanding leader of this prolific group, has moved away from the area but 2 joint leaders are succeeding her and the group will continue with some new members. They will shortly be starting to record St George's Church, Wyke, Chichester.

#### **4. Eastbourne**

The compiling of the record of St Peter and St John's Church, Piddinghoe is at an advanced stage, having been checked. Presentation of the final record to the church is planned for June 2019. The Group will then disband because up to date no one has offered to replace the leader and the compiler who are both retiring, having led the Group successfully for many years.

#### **5. East Grinstead**

The Group is continuing to progress steadily with the recording of St Mary's Church, Grinstead. Recording is complete and the compiler is working on the draft sections.

#### **6. Horsham**

This very experienced Group led by Wendy Woods completed the record of the church of All Saints Roffey and presented it to the church in October 2018. The Group is now recording St Peter's Church Newdigate, which is just over the Sussex border in Surrey. No group in East Surrey was available to record the church.

#### **7. Mid Sussex**

The record of St Mark's Staplefield was presented to the church on Sunday 14 October 2018. This was a considerable achievement for the Leader and a group which was beset with various problems including serious illness. The present Group has now disbanded, but it is hoped that a new group may emerge in due course.

#### **8. Turner's Hill**

Recording is progressing steadily and carefully at All Saints Highbrook and some sections have been checked and others are to be sent for checking. The Group has done well under a positive leader in overcoming illness amongst its members.

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