

ISSN: 0143 - 0661

The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain

archaeoLog



Archaeological Group

No 10 August 1979

Price 40 p



Redundant Churches

All over Britain churches large and small have ceased to be required for the purpose for which they were built. Some have been converted into halls, museums, garages or houses. A few will be conserved as Ancient Monuments. The rest lie derelict, a fruitful field for the photographer whether pictorialist or recorder of a disappearing heritage. Three readers involved in such church recording have sent prints for our 'churches' series.



Photograph T.E. Gray

St Mary's Chapel, Dounreay, Caithness

The last surviving intact example of a wooden bed used as a grave memorial, recorded in 1967 and removed in 1978 for restoration. A number of other graves still preserve the timbers of decayed beds.



Parish Church, Onsino, near Cuorgne,
Orco Valley.

Photograph Maurizio Rossi

The problem of redundant churches is not peculiar to Britain. The parish church at Onsino in the Italian Alps lies empty and cold, as does the little village of some 20 houses deserted by its inhabitants some 70 years ago in favour of a more comfortable life in the plains.



Elston Chapel, Notts.

Photograph C.J. Brooke.

A two-chambered Norman church
with later medieval alterations.