with excavation, as well as scientific analysis of the glass. Magnetometry survey was undertaken at 19 sites on the Surrey/West Sussex border, with follow-up excavation taking place at three of these sites. The report presents the scientific analysis of over 200 samples of glass and glassworking waste, which demonstrates how a fairly consistent glassmaking 'recipe' was used across the industry, with the key difference being chronological; it confirms a technological transition in the 1560s, corresponding with the settlement of continental glass workers in the area.

Overall, this publication is a major contribution to our understanding of the Wealden industry and of medieval glassmaking more generally. The project has demonstrated how intensive survey can lead to detailed information about both the sites themselves and their products. Perhaps the most important outcome has been the refined understanding of the chronology of the industry and the ability to characterise the 'early' (pre-1560s) and 'later' (post-1560s) industries. The early period is characterised by the production of a potash-rich forest glass to a recipe, which is consistent between sites and over time, using quartz-rich crucibles; in contrast, the later industry used grog-tempered ceramics to produce high lime, low alkali glass, with the addition of cobalt to create a deep blue-green colour. The earlier sites are scarcer than the later ones and appear more focussed in the northern parishes of the study area. This important contribution to the study of medieval industry outlines several priorities for future research, including the use of LiDAR, targeted excavation and HER enhancement. In addition, I see this volume forming an essential resource for beginning to explore the relationships between the industries of this distinctive area, which is well known also both for iron and textile production.

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***50 Finds from Buckinghamshire. Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme.*** By Arwen Wood. 17 x 24 cm. 96 pp, 150 (unnumbered) colour pls and figs. Stroud: Amberley Press, 2021. ISBN 978-1-4456-9577-8; e-pub: 978-1-4456-9578-5. Price: £15.99 pb.

*50 Finds from Buckinghamshire* is a new guide-book focusing on the stand-out artefacts from the Portable Antiquities Scheme recovered within Buckinghamshire. Its author, Arwen Wood, one of the PAS Finds Liaison Officers, examines a full range of finds, from prehistoric lithics to post-medieval jewellery and clay pipes, broken up into seven short chapters, the most relevant here being the latter three covering the 'Early Medieval Period', the 'Medieval Period' and the 'Post-medieval to Modern Period'. Each chapter begins with a short introductory section, describing the periods with a national and county-level context for the finds concerned; then come concise but detailed summaries of each of the selected finds, their context and also their importance to the history (and archaeology) of Buckinghamshire. In many cases Wood also discusses related themes, such as pilgrimage or the local monastic economy. The text is complemented by high-quality colour images of the 50 finds in question, often shown from multiple angles and in fine detail. Highlights from the later chapters include a sixth-century square-headed brooch from Upper Winchendon, coin finds from the tenth- and eleventh-century Lenborough Hoard, and a fourteenth-/fifteenth-century lead ampulla for transporting holy water.

At less than one-hundred pages, this book is short, but nonetheless provides a great introduction to both the vital work of the PAS and the specific artefactual history of Buckinghamshire – and to the value of metal-detecting enthusiasts especially. Readers will certainly come away with some sense of the place, its people and their material culture, while also being able to dip in and out for periods of personal interest, or even simply leaf through for another look at the striking images.

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***English Local History. An Introduction (3rd Edition).*** By Kate Tiller. 17 x 24 cm. x + 307 pp, 155 b&w pls and figs. Woodbridge: The Boydell Press, 2020. ISBN 978-1-78327-524-3. Price: £19.99 pb.

This is a much expanded, and improved, edition of what soon established itself as perhaps the best introduction to English local history when first published in 1992. It has both breadth and depth, is rich in examples and illustrations, and is deeply informed. Such is hardly surprising, since for 40 years Kate Tiller was a mainstay of Oxford's Department of Continuing Education, developing and laying on all manner of courses and programmes in local history, and in 2019 being appointed OBE for services to the subject. However, what this is not – at least primarily – is a guide to sources or how to write local or parish history, although the medieval and later chapters include succinct sections on 'Sources and Methods' and there are useful endnotes. There's also a good index.

If we're honest, local history can be worthy but a bit dull (which, having spent years writing it for the VCH, I can say with a degree of impunity), with more than a whiff of pipe smoke and sensible brogues. Not so this book, and over its 300-odd pages we are given an extremely engaging and up-to-date synopsis of current understanding of how English society and landscape – the people as well as the places – evolved over the last millennium. General trends and movements are informed by case studies drawn from the academic literature and by extended captions to the illustrations. A few will be familiar, but most are fresh and include a good number of specially taken photographs.

After what is essentially a history of the subject, from the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* via Leland and the county historians to the VCH, comes the first of the broadly chronological chapters, this covering the period to 1066; it is a masterful account of how current understanding has been arrived at, using and explaining source materials and techniques. The successive sections on medieval rural society – on manors, lords, tenants,

government and the Church – provide a reminder (if needed) that villages and hamlets existed within many frameworks; these exerted differing levels of control, all of which changed and evolved through time. Cuxham, from the prairie lands of the Central Province, is used as an example, offering a valuable summary of the work of Paul Harvey (pp. 106–11); here, the eight villeins, each holding a half-virgate and owing onerous services and dues to the lord, lived on the south side of the village street; the thirteen cottars, on the other hand, who held no land in the open fields but had lesser obligations to the lord, lived on the north side and down-side turnings. Wharram Percy logically and inevitably appears, and about the only instance I noted of a piece of revisionism having been missed is the phasing of the church here, as given in *Wharram XIII* (2012). As a contrast, Bolton Priory's West Yorkshire estates are used to show how, in more upland areas, different landscapes and conditions necessitated different strategies and responses.

I close by noting how well written the book is, managing that rare trick of being accessible and, above all, interesting as well as authoritative. It's about as near to a page-turner as local history gets!

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***Going to Church in Medieval England.*** By Nicholas Orme. 16 x 24 cm. xi + 483 pp, 59 colour and b&w pls and figs. London & New York: Yale University Press, 2021. ISBN 978-0-300-25650-5. Price: £20.00 hb.

Books about the history and architecture of Christian churches are innumerable, but the title of this one is unlike any other, and so are the contents. The complexity of religious life in the Middle Ages, the long-abandoned rituals that it embraced and the obscure terminology accompanying them, are unfamiliar to the vast majority of people in Britain today. But medieval churches survive in their thousands and are much visited. In order to understand what one sees both within, and outside, a church it is essential to have at least a basic understanding of the liturgical practices and religious cycle in the average English parish. No-one is better qualified to provide that fundamental introduction than Nicholas Orme, and he has done so here, giving us the benefit of his encyclopaedic scholarship, expressed with great lucidity.

Chapter 1 introduces the origins of churches and parishes, beginning with the Augustinian mission, and explains the differences between the various types and their spheres of influence: monasteries, minsters, cathedrals, parochial churches and chapels. The proliferation of parishes, patronage, the operation of the tithe system, and payment obligations for the maintenance and repair of churches are all explained. The next chapter describes the staffing of churches, how that was funded, the duties of those involved and the vexed issue of clergy celibacy.

In Chapter 3 a clear and concise account of church buildings, their component parts, plans, seating and other major furnishings is provided, without discoursing deeply into architectural history; it also touches on the churchyard and secular activities that took place within it. This is followed by a discussion of the people who attended – or did not attend – daily and weekly church services and festivals, noting how the laity participated, codes of dress, behaviour and the treatment accorded to different ranks of society, and to children. In the fifth chapter, Professor Orme leads us gently into what, for many, is the bewildering world of medieval liturgy: the daily and weekly cycle, the format of services, the Divine Office, the celebration of mass, processions, communion, confession and sermons. That is followed by an account of the yearly cycle, relating to the seasons and the great festivals: Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

The human life-cycle and its associated sacraments is the subject of Chapter 7, beginning with birth and baptism, and the demeaning treatment of women in the process of 'churching' that followed. The author reminds us that the nomination of godparents – popularised since Victorian times – originated in the late Saxon period. The cycle then moves on to describe confirmation and the sacrament of marriage, together with the prescribed arrangements for weddings; finally, it turns to the rites offered by the Church for sickness, death and burial.

In the penultimate chapter Orme gives a succinct account of events in the first half of the sixteenth century, when almost every aspect of church life was rent asunder during the rapacious reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI. He explains how the Reformation attempted to expunge mystery and superstition from the liturgy and the fabric of the buildings, with English replacing Latin as the language of the English Church.

Many of the fine illustrations provided are of medieval stained glass and paintings, as well as architecture and ecclesiastical artefacts. The volume is well referenced throughout, with examples widely drawn from across the country, accompanied by a large and useful bibliography; equally valuable is the explanatory list of technical terms. As well as being highly instructive, this is an enjoyable volume to read, and should be on every church archaeologist's bookshelves.

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