

## Angela Goedicke (1931-2024)

Angela Goedicke, who died on 24 July 2024, was a longstanding member of the BSMGP who, until quite recently, regularly attended our lectures and conferences. For many of us, Angela came to personify the Church Recorders of NADFAS (the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies), an organisation that she served with great energy and enthusiasm for nearly five decades.

NADFAS had been founded in 1968 as a federation of several existing societies devoted to the study of art and antiques. Angela was an early member and by the 1970s had become Chairman of the branch in her then home-town of Harrow. Within the wider NADFAS organisation, the Church Recorders had been established in 1973 as a body of dedicated volunteers whose task was to assist churches in researching and documenting the historic and contemporary artefacts, of all periods and in any medium, in their possession. It was a wholly laudable initiative, and Angela rapidly became a significant figure in the Church Recorders' work, which added substantially to the historical research carried out by the often under-resourced statutory heritage bodies. Working with a few colleagues, she created the first Church Recorders' Handbook, which was subsequently revised under her supervision in 2019. By 2020, some 2000 records of parish churches had been completed, with copies of each of these being deposited with the V&A Museum's National Art Library, Historic England and the Church Care organisation.

Finding that there was little available information about post-medieval stained glass, in particular, Angela made it her business to seek out expertise amongst the membership of the BSMGP while also expanding her own knowledge of the field. From the 1980s, she was in frequent correspondence with Martin Harrison FSA Hon FMGP and myself, with Angela becoming the principal conduit for queries about stained glass that were sent to her by Church Recorders from all over the country. The process was of mutual benefit, since the Recorders in most cases received either definite attributions or at least some informed data concerning the stained glass about which they were enquiring, whilst the 'experts' might on occasions profitably learn of hitherto-unknown windows, often in obscure locations. It should be remembered that this was in pre-computer days, so that written queries and accompanying photographs were sent back and forth by post (not by e-mail, as is invariably the practice today). Angela was always assiduous in passing on the thanks of Church Recorders who could finally put a designer's or maker's name to a window, whose iconographic or technical puzzles were solved, or whose further research was usefully guided. From the 1990s, the late Dr Michael Kerney FSA Hon FMGP and the late Dr Dennis Hadley joined the team of stained glass historians to whom Angela would send enquiries, making available their meticulous research into 19th-century glazing installations. Angela was also instrumental in organising a number of Study-Days and conferences for Church Recorders, including several focussed specifically on 19th- and 20th-century stained glass.

With her Irish accent and attractively forthright personality, Angela was recognised as a dynamic and cohesive force in the Church Recorders community

and it was natural that she should be asked to serve as National Chairman, from 1992 to 1995, and then as National Training Officer. Through her efforts, a number of Church Recorders – among them the late Pauline English and the late Pat Bonvoisin – chose to join the BSMGP and were warmly welcomed at our annual conferences and other events. An invaluable project to which Angela contributed significantly was the Church Recorders' *Stained Glass Marks and Monograms*, a pioneering compendium of information about stained glass artists and manufacturers originally compiled by Joyce Little. Angela and her friend Margaret Washbourn edited the book, which continues to be an important resource for scholars and enthusiasts. With Margaret Washbourn, Jean Kennedy and Wendy Woods, Angela also assisted the Museum of London in properly cataloguing their collection of stained glass designs by James Powell & Sons (Whitefriars), which had previously been in a disorganised state since being acquired (as a 'rescue' mission) in the 1970s.

After moving to Scotland with her husband, the distinguished musician Kurt Goedicke, Angela continued to correspond with historians and to coordinate church recording projects, bringing her long experience of the work to new generations of volunteers. Her contribution to the Scottish Stained Glass Symposium was particularly valued by its members. It must have been a considerable disappointment to her that NADFAS, which had become 'The Arts Society', chose to sever its connection with the Church Recorders in 2020. Many would agree that this was a misguided decision, but fortunately the organisation has continued as an autonomous body – the Church Recording Society – and its critically significant work is being carried on. In 2020, Angela had been given a well-deserved Lifetime Achievement Award from the Marsh Trust for her outstanding contribution to Church Recording.

Angela was a lively, good-humoured person whose work in church recording demonstrated the immensely useful contribution that 'amateur' researchers can make to the knowledge and preservation of our national heritage. She will be greatly missed by her friends in the stained glass community.

*Peter Cormack, with thanks to Margaret Washbourn  
and the Church Recording Society*