

BAA Study Day: Abergavenny Priory

Saturday, 21st May 2016



Tomb of Richard Herbert, c.1510, image copyright: jinxxi1960

The church of St Mary in Abergavenny survives from a Benedictine Priory which was founded in the early 12th century as a cell to the abbey of St Vincent at Le Mans. It was spared destruction at the Reformation to become the parish church for its local community. It is home to a wealth of fascinating sculpture in wood and alabaster. Rightly famous are its numerous tomb sculptures and the well preserved choir stalls, both of which will be the focus of the study day. The effigies begin chronologically with the important 14th century wooden image of John Hastings, however the fame of the Priory's monuments are predominantly associated with the later alabasters of the Herbert family. The church also houses a fragment from what would have been a large Tree of Jesse. The woodwork of the choir stalls and the architecture of the Priory will be discussed by Dr James Cameron, and the sculpture will be addressed by Professor Phillip Lindley.

Provisional Programme:

10.30am Welcome and coffee

11 - 12:30am – Architecture & choir stalls, Dr James Cameron

12:30 - 1:30pm Lunch (Provided at the Priory)

2 - 4:30pm – Sculpture, Prof Phillip Lindley

4:30 - 5pm – Discussion and End

The cost of the day will be £25 for members. This fee includes tea, coffee and lunch at the Priory. The event is free for students, for whom travel grants (to a maximum of £50) are also available.

Places are limited to 20, of which up to 10 are reserved for students.

To apply please e-mail Lloyd de Beer ldebeer@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk – by Saturday 30th April.

Please state in the email whether you are a member of the BAA or a student. All names will be entered into a ballot for the study day and the successful applicants will be notified on the 4th of May.