

## CHAPTER 2

# WHAT IS NEEDED FOR CR PHOTOGRAPHY

### Camera



A good compact digital camera will do well. More sophisticated cameras, even better. See the criteria below:

- A digital camera capable of taking photographs of 5 megapixels or more. Now, even basic cameras are likely to have 10, or even 20, megapixel ability these days;
- A good zoom lens or a set of lenses to take at varying distances and widths. A single lens camera should have at least 10x *optical* zoom. Do not use *digital* zoom;
- Having a setting to take Aperture (A) priority photographs;
- On the base, a tripod female screw thread for fixing onto the head of a tripod (usually ¼");
- Either a computer compatible removeable memory card (eg SDC or SDHC) or a computer connection (wired or wireless).

Then, the desirables:

- A delay timer, or a socket for a remote cable shutter release (to eliminate shake);
- White balance settings on the camera if you are good at using them.

Details:

The quality of a picture depends upon the quality of the camera's array of sensors and its lens. Mid-range compact cameras, such as the Panasonic Lumix, are good. Except for temporary pictures to help Recorders, phones and i-pads are definitely not good enough. In them, poor lenses and sensors are compensated artificially. The image is often good looking, but not true to the standard we need.

It must be possible to download and process the photographs onto a computer.

A sufficiently good compact camera is likely to cost £200-£300.

### Tripod

The firm base of a good, rigid tripod is essential for nearly all photographs. Shake controls on a camera reduce the integrity of the image;

A mini-tripod or, for a light weight camera, a gorilla tripod, is very useful.

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### Light Tent or Box



Available for £30 -£40 a light tent or light box is essential for metalwork, other reflective objects and reflective glass fronted pictures. Some photographers make their own. Tents are easier to illuminate.

### Lights

In most circumstances, Aperture priority is better than artificial lighting. Flash is rarely good.

Most Artificial lights are now LED. These come in different colour 'temperatures'. Cool white 2,800 – 3,200K (Kelvin), neutral white about 4,000K and warm white 5,000-6,500K. Daylight standard is 5,600K. For accurate, as opposed to pretty, colour, aim for this when buying lights. Low K = too red, insufficient blue, high K – the opposite.



An **LED work-light** for shining across graffiti and shallow engravings.

Lighting is dealt with in detail in **Chapters 5, 6 and 9**.

### A computer with photograph processing software and a back-up facility

In some Groups, the photograph processing is performed by someone other than the photographer.

Some of those worth considering Adobe Photoshop Elements, Lightroom (especially for MACs), Corel Paintshop Pro, and Gimp (free). Widows 10 Microsoft Photos and latest Apple's Apple Photos apps can do basics. Some programs can be bought outright, others are subscription only. Not recommended – Picassa, now discontinued.

See **Chapter 8** for photograph processing.

### Other things which can be useful

- A white sheet, possibly on a frame, for diffusing or bouncing artificial lighting
- A matt surfaced board to use as background when taking such things as bench poppyheads
- Exposure meter
- Stepladder (a camera clamp to go with this is even better)
- A sponge, because some memorial slabs are clearer when dampened
- French chalk to emphasise difficult engravings
- Matt Frisket film for mirror surface brass memorials

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#### CHURCH RECORDING SOCIETY HANDBOOK & WEBSITE

A Photographer should obtain from the Group Leader a password for access to the Members area of the Church Recording Society website <https://churchrecordingsociety.org.uk> . On it are the Church Recording Handbook and other valuable resources.

The Church Recording Handbook describes how photography should be undertaken. It is essential that a photographer reads the 'Photography Information' in this. The Handbook, generally, gives valuable information about all aspects of Church Recording.

David Medcalf [themedcalfs@hotmail.com](mailto:themedcalfs@hotmail.com) will deal with queries on Church Recording photography and the digital delivery of Records.