

# CHAPTER 4

## IN THE CHURCH

### Conditions

Inside, most churches are dark, the artificial lighting is awful for good colour photography and light coming through coloured windows has an effect as well. Some things are high up on walls, windows and arcades can be so tall as to distort when photographed. Reflecting surfaces act as mirrors. Sun streaming through windows creates stark contrast light and dark with which a camera cannot cope.

Church Recorders get in the way and must be protected from tripping over the photographer's equipment.

Church Recording photography requires different techniques from every day photography, both because of the challenging environment and the objective of a true presentation of the object rather than a pretty, artistic picture. All these challenges can be dealt with. This *Guidance* gives many ideas. All Church Recording photographers find that they learn on the job by 'try this, try that' and learn by success and failure. That is what makes it really interesting.

### A plan of action

The first thing Recorders should do is make a list of all the things in the church which they will Record. They should be able to give you a provisional list of the things to be photographed. It is all too easy to take a lot of photographs only to find that you cannot remember which is what. Work in a logical order using the lists received and noting as you do them.

Maybe start with the easier things such as Memorials, Woodwork and Stonework before tackling the more challenging Windows and Metalwork. There is advice upon techniques to try in subsequent chapters.

### Key points

- "The first thing I do when I go into a church is turn the lights off" quote from a Historic England Photography Manager.
- 'A', Aperture priority is best for at least 90% of the photographs. Tripod, essential.
- Before you start, check your camera's Megapixel, ISO, Aperture priority, f number and flash off settings. Taking 20 photographs on the wrong settings is very frustrating.
- Think about the time of day and the weather. The middle hours of a cloud covered bright day are best. Early morning and evening light has a red bias. Sunlight creates contrast and bright spots.
- There are times when it is better to have few, or no, Recorders working in the church interrupting you plan of working and turning on the lights.