



Distilled from ten years' research in documents and surveys of over 800 medieval churches, this is a short, well-illustrated and illuminating contribution to the current debate over the future of churches, intended for all those who cherish these churches and look after them.

'ABC of a medieval church' by Martin Renshaw is the first book to explain the functional, musical and liturgical reasons for features once found in all medieval churches.

Against the background of the NW European medieval Church, it is also the first book to explain how every one of the unique stock of over 8,000 surviving medieval churches in England and Wales exhibits a local response to universal requirements from the 10th to the 16th centuries:

- to support the daily musical liturgy at its eastern **Altars**,
- to fulfil the legitimate demands of the people who built and maintained their **Church, the ecclesia**, in the western parts of the building,
- to ensure the good functioning of these two apparently incompatible requirements by creating complex functional and symbolic **Barriers**, now mostly missing

This book suggests that this vital but forgotten division is more relevant than ever, with the **Church** now being returned to the successors of the community that built it, the **Altar** areas used again as they were intended, and imaginative **Barriers** created to make these different functions possible once more.

Also for the first time, the book shows how much more there is to discover about these church buildings, especially the significance of structures that are no longer clearly visible, inside and outside the buildings. It emphasises that archaeological signs of these need to be treated with care and understanding by all concerned with their use, protection and sustainability.

134 pages with 68 black and white illustrations and eight colour pages; price £8 plus £1-50 p&p

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