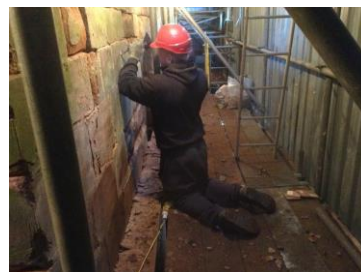




St. Mary's is built of sandstone which weathers and wears away quite dramatically in places. This week Architect made an inspection of the work so far. He made decisions, based on his own experience and listening to the stonemason's advice, about which stones should be

replaced. They were then marked with a chalk cross. Fortunately not too many stones need to be replaced, which will hopefully maintain the overall look of great age and beauty of the Vestries currently being worked on.

Our stonemasons Paul, Simon and Marcus, who is now the site manager, work tirelessly behind the scenes, out of sight, and often on their knees, as they skilfully bring the old stones back to life. It is craftsmanship of the highest order, and all will be revealed in April, by which time the work should be completed .



Phase 6 Project Manager at Lambert Walker is Michael Goulding , who has been involved with all the work undertaken at St. Mary's by his firm of stonemasons in recent years. He and Roger have come to know each other well, which makes for a good working relationship, as seen in this selfie.



St Mary's in the Marketplace



PHASE 6 (Week 6)

Week 6 (on site) – the team having been away for Christmas and New Year but back now to continue the work(s).



Marcus is now in charge of the site and he is seen here advising the Architect, John Prichard , who is asking how the old chapel roof had been made, and how the stones were set, and most important of all, how were they going to stop water getting into the

building ever again!
And so the work goes on!

The Victorian boiler house chimney is a huge structure imposed on this venerable old building in the early 1880s, when the Choir Vestry was created. The choir must have been very pleased with their new accommodation, right above the boiler house. The contractors have a machine on site for hovering up all the dust, which has accumulated over the centuries. It will all be clean and tidy again one day!





The roof over the Rector's Vestry was held up by the timbers seen here, which have been ring dated as having been cut down in 1623, implying that the building was re-roofed in

that century. However there are stone channels and holes for a Main beam and roof timbers in the north wall, clearly indicating the pitch of the original roof. It is hoped that those with the skill to do so will one day create an artist's impression of what this building may have looked like centuries ago, and how it was used.

The little medieval looking window high up on the east wall of the Rector's Vestry is all that it seems and more. Inside it is deeply splayed and had a



domed, gently curved roof. It is bricked up on the inside, and there is a groove around the window, suggesting that it once had glass in it. We think it lit an upper room.



The little chapel attached to the Rector's Vestry has a stone roof, seen in the photo, which has now been dismantled, and which be rebuilt in a way that will allow water to escape more satisfactorily than before. It is interesting to see it at close quarters, and to admire the craftsmanship of bygone years. Having said that, this part of the building has been rebuilt a number of times, most recently in the Victorian era.

