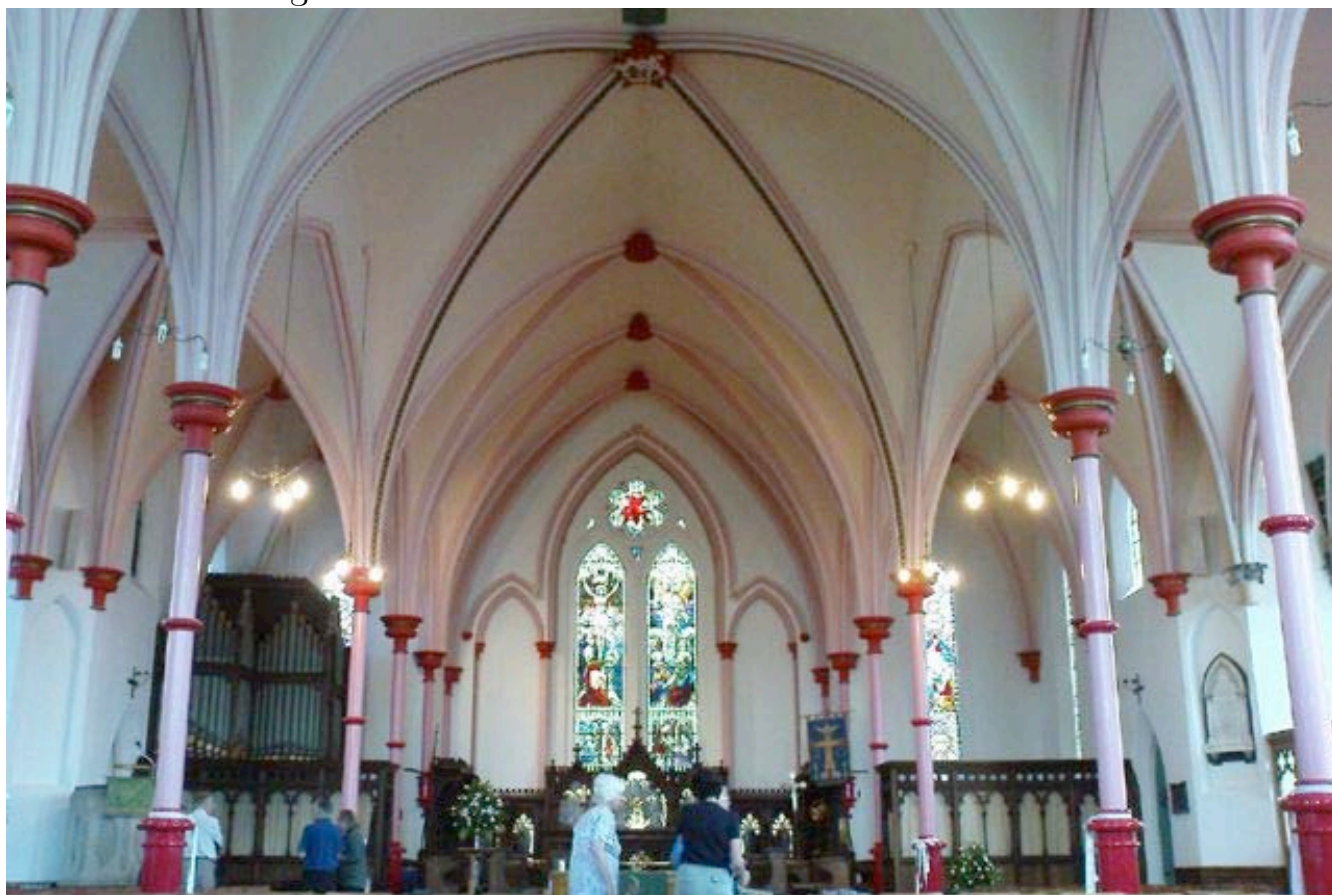




# The Minerva Newsletter

Autumn 2009.

These days its not often that I am stopped in my tracks, but stepping into Holy Trinity Church In Trowbridge, I felt a little overwhelmed by the success of the redecorating that we have been doing over the last few months. Pevsner despairs of this place, which he described as having “really a very ugly interior” and acknowledged that the design had “needed courage.”



We certainly needed courage in dealing with the plaster vaulting where these load-sharing capitals were found to be stuffed with woodshavings!

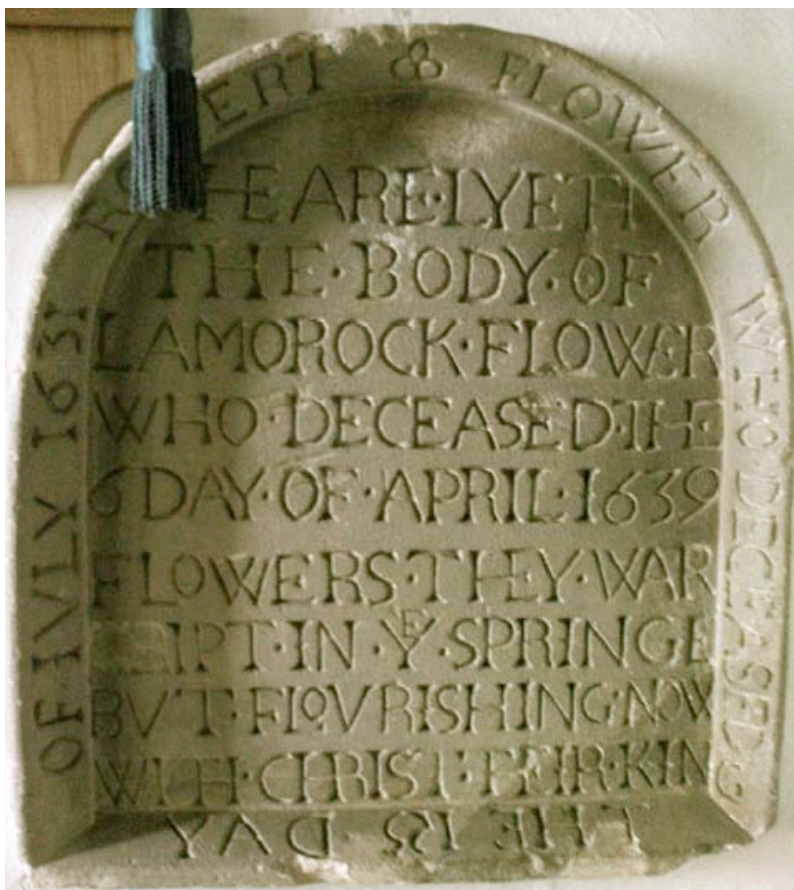


These huge corbelled capitals were repaired when possible or recast as new and re-fixed. We also re-secured loose ribs and resin-grouted voids where the original timber had rotted out (these capitals took over 50 litres of grout).



## St Mary's Saltford,

We have been repairing the tower stone and lead work at this charming church for a few weeks now. Andy and I worked with our team in taking down and re-fixing this pinnacle. The church has many nice little details such as the vent cover pictured below.



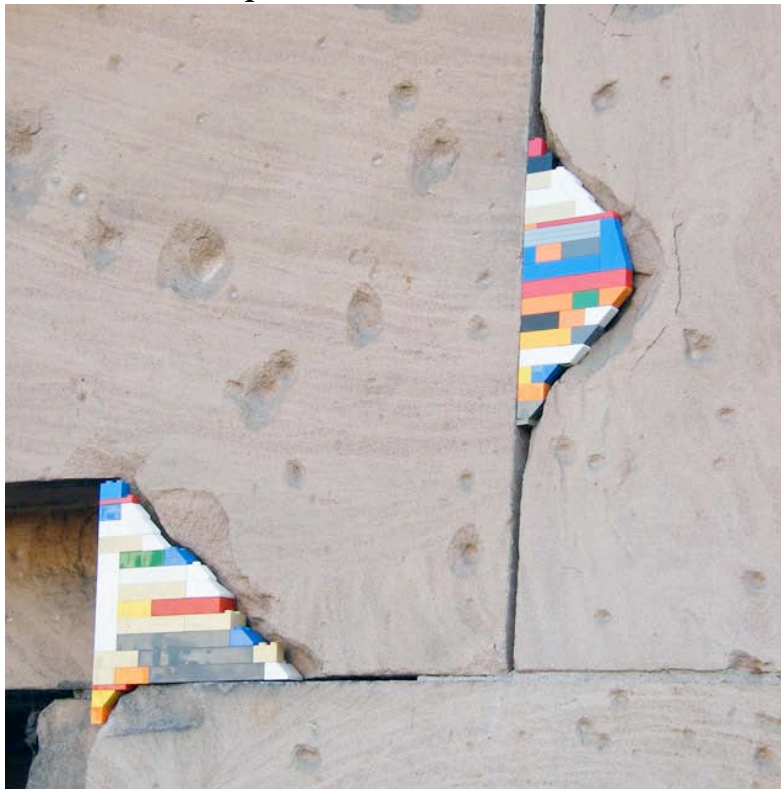
This is a fine monument to Lamrock Flower. It seems that all went well with the lettercutting until the bottom edge was reached. Realising that the wording must read in sequence, the mason cut the letters backwards.

## Tyntesfield

We are now into the next second phase here, with more ultra-conservative internal work and large scale chimney rebuilding. Most excitingly we will be undertaking some copy carving of missing grotesques (under the watchful gaze of the public). We have been sourcing replacement stone for these very tired and edge-bedded balustrades (below) and will be using stone from the original Copes quarry in the Forest of Dean.



We have also perfected some near invisible repair methods.





Pictured left is the giant crane used in scaffold erection at Tyntesfield.

Apparently it is the largest freestanding scaffolding in Europe at the moment.

Some small stone elements ready for fixing.





Part of the next phase of works



We are currently working at the Roman Baths in Bath where we are conserving and rearranging and many Roman stone artefacts within the galleries (including re-fixing and conserving the famous gorgon pediment, above). And the Flavian ladies head, left.



**MINERVA**

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Lime Pointing & Traditional Plastering

Traditional Building,

Roofing & leadwork Conservation.

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