



The Minerva Newsletter

Spring 2009

This has indeed been a strange winter and spring and thankfully we have never been busier, with projects already taking us up to the winter of 2010. It was nice to be invited to Clarence House where HRH the Prince of Wales hosted a small reception to mark 40 years of the Churches Conservation Trust for whom we have worked on about 20 churches in their care.

Tyntesfield

This year Minerva will be working at Tyntesfield House near Bristol on behalf of the National Trust.

We worked hard to win the exterior subcontractor stonework conservation package after a very competitive tender and interview process. It was good to discover that our tender price was not the lowest and that as probably the smallest company tendering, all concerned recognized our approach to project planning, flexibility as well as our broad skills base and the training successes that we have had with our apprentices and other groups such as at risk adults and school leaving age children.

We look forward to working closely with the main contractor C.S.Williams of Taunton.



Scaffolding starting to obscure the private chapel

The extraordinary and atmospheric Victorian country house and private chapel is largely built of ochreous Bath stone with cheaper Draycott marble rubble walling to the servants areas. The main house was constructed between 1862 and 1864, its irregular and asymmetrical architecture emphasised by a muscular silhouette of chimney stacks, spires, pinnacles and uneven roof lines.

Tyntesfield is full of naturalistic carving, which we will be conserving and occasionally copy-carving new elements as well of miles of lime pointing and carving new moldings and other more standard architectural details and weatherings.

We have accurately matched the original stone with a Cotswold oolitic limestone from Veyzeys quarry nr Tetbury. As in previous summer projects we will be happy to meet interested parties on site and provide some personal insight, and even some hands on experience to the works, however

owing to the site constraints we would need to know about numbers with in the next couple of weeks.

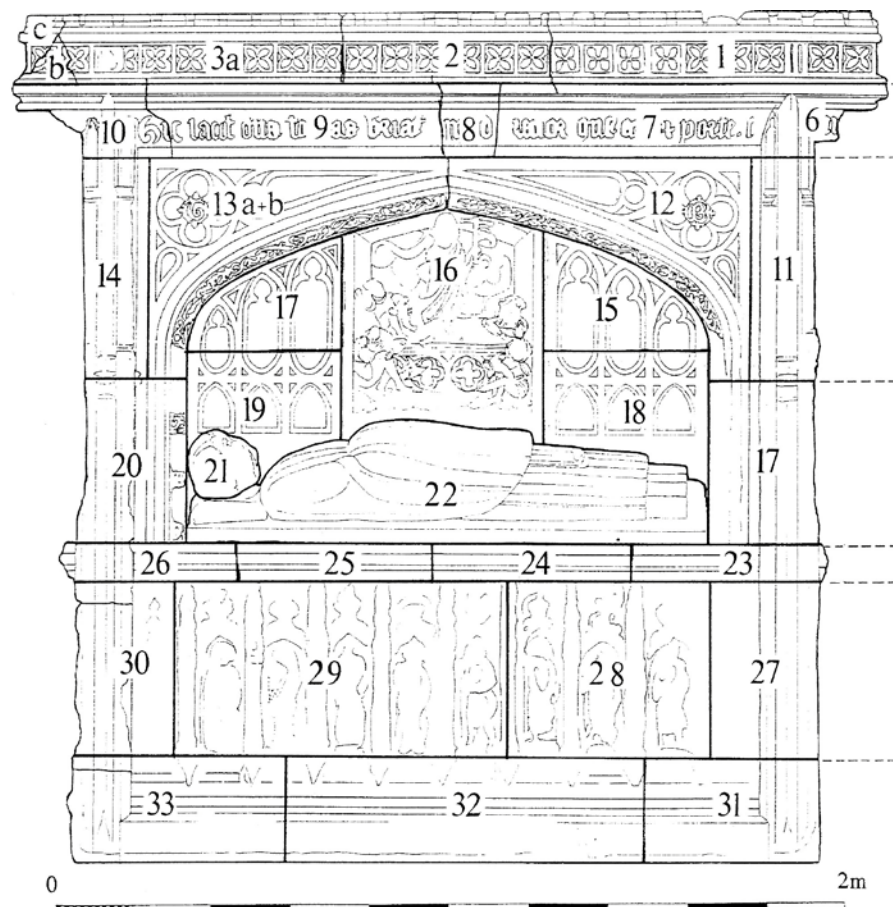
<http://minervaconservation.com/projects/tyntesfield.htm>

Church Monument Handbook

Many of you have responded to our little handbook that was sent out with the Victorian society and SPAB's Cornerstone magazines, we have been busy pricing

lots of monument conservation work on the back of this, here is a link for those of you unlucky enough not to have seen it;

http://www.minervaconservation.com/articles/monument_handbook.pdf



Projects.

Below, a box of Doultling spheres for finials that had been knocked off the porch gable on this semi redundant church hall in Pontypool, South Wales. Our Jos/Torc cleaning sensitively removed all pollution to the façade of this strange turn of the century interpretation of the arts and crafts.



Balls
for
the
top of
new
ball

finials.

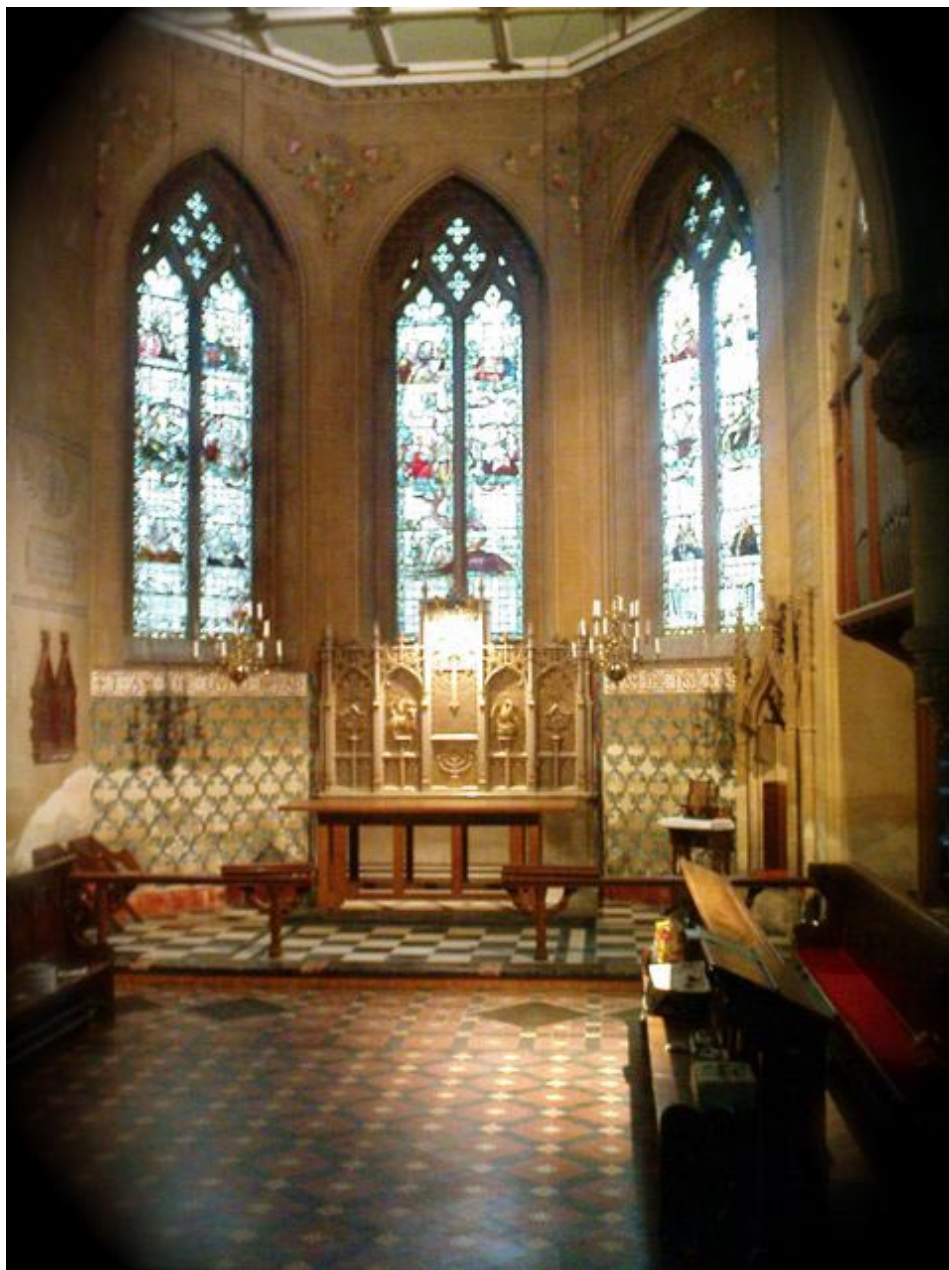


Before cleaning.

Church conservation warning



Sign from St Stephens Church Bath where we invisibly lifted and re-laid the bulk of the collapsing Minton tile floor (below)



More Bridgework.



Finished work at Newbridge in Oxfordshire, showing refixed vaulting ribs and completed repointing.



The formwork was erected off permanent scaffolding once the status of the resident bat population had been assessed.



MINERVA

Stonemasonry & Carving

Stone Façade Cleaning & Repair

Lime Pointing & Traditional Plastering

Traditional Building,

Roofing & leadwork Conservation.

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