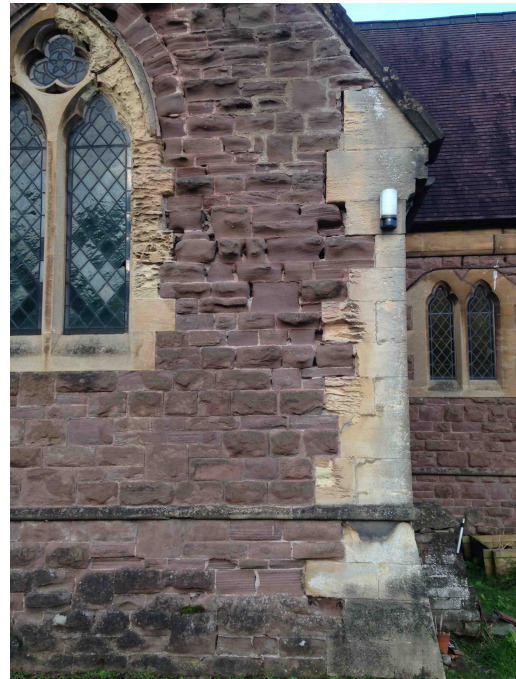


ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, REDBROOK, NP25 4LY

MASONRY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP 10th - 12th September 2021



South transept to be focus of activity



Detail showing extreme erosion

St Saviour's Church, Redbrook lies in a wonderfully picturesque setting in the Wye Valley just south of Monmouth. The church is listed Grade II, designed by J P Seddon and built in 1873. It has suffered from quite exceptional masonry decay and is on the Buildings at Risk Register. For some years we have been trying to organise a masonry conservation workshop and hoped to run it last year but Covid intervened; the plan now is to run it this year over this long weekend in September. The idea is to have fun over this three day period with works to the building being carried out in the day and presentations and other entertainments taking place in the evenings.

There are lots of strands to this project which give it particular value. The main focus would be on practical masonry conservation so those taking part will get their hands dirty and develop skills. It would also include associated activities to help understand what combination of agents have caused the masonry to decay so dramatically and there would also be another level of community engagement by those who offer practical help organising accommodation, refreshments and entertainment. Our hope is that the project will demonstrate that 'Heritage' can be a focus for the whole community.

The practical work this year would concentrate on mortar repairs and repointing so we can demonstrate a broad range of masonry conservation techniques. This would be aimed at keen amateurs as well as those involved in building, both professionals and craftsmen, who want to develop a better understanding of conservation principles and improve skills. Any repairs would be carefully supervised but the nature of the repairs is such that is unlikely that any harm would come to the building. The masonry conservation work would start the process of repairing the defective masonry and we expect this work will happen over several years so in future years we could turn our attention to stone carving and replacement as well.

There will be lectures and presentations on building conservation themes, including discussions about the mechanisms of decay which we see here, as well as how we choose particular conservation techniques and the making of mortars. Alongside there would be associated research focused on the causes of decay which is probably due to a combination of special circumstances including the particular industrial heritage of Redbrook. Research could be carried out at several levels, from

primary school children upwards, and this would cover not only local history but also the local landscape and geology and the chemical processes involved and would give people an insight into how the environment and buildings are interrelated. Lectures and presentations will take place to cover this research as part of this event and these will be pitched at a range of levels.

Whilst most of the trainees may have a basic knowledge, even if they are complete beginners they can develop skills and confidence on tasks such as raking out and mixing mortars and labouring. This will provide valuable training for the conservators as well as they learn to talk about what they do and share their skills. The work will be really beneficial in demonstrating what you can do with good mortar repairs. There will also be workshops on the analysis, making and use of lime mortars so trainees understand the process behind their specification. No doubt there are many other areas of interest which will be suggested as well.

We have aimed to keep the course fees as low as possible but there are costs for food and drink as well as for materials, tools and scaffolding which need to be covered. We plan for a total of 24 trainees. 12 of these will pay the full fee of £175.00 for the weekend and 4 students or retired people will pay a reduced fee of £125.00. In addition, 4 places will be offered at a more discounted rate to people from the village who are prepared to commit to do further work at the church in the future and there will be 4 free places for under 18s and those on low income. The lectures and presentations will be free.

If you would like to take part as a trainee, please email < lucyhayward30199@yahoo.co.uk > to reserve your place and confirm that you will pay the full fee or advise which of the concessional rates should apply. We will confirm your place as soon as possible. If you would like further information before committing to the course please email < toby@fgs.archi >. We would be grateful for any help to spread the word by forwarding this message to your friends and colleagues who might be interested. In addition we would be very pleased to hear from you if you might be involved in demonstrating particular skills or giving a talk about relevant aspects of your own work.

There will be four conservators who will supervise trainees and give demonstrations.

Graham O'Hare is an experienced architectural stonework conservator based in Gloucestershire. After a ten-year career as a field archaeologist in Italy he retrained at Bournemouth University in 1994. Since then he has worked on many fine limestone and sandstone buildings, often combining masonry and mortar repair techniques. His specialities are the assessment and repair of churchyard monuments, and using lime mortars to repair damaged sculptural stonework.

Paul Synan studied ancient history to MA level and spent long years working in administration before turning to stonemasonry as a vocation and is excited by the hands-on approach to history involved in working on historic buildings. He has been a stonemason for nearly ten years. Six and a half years of that time has been spent at Gloucester Cathedral where he completed the Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship foundation degree in Applied Historic Building Conservation and Repair. He is currently on the ICON accreditation Pathway.

Jesse Daybell has been working with stone buildings for 4 years and is concentrating on pointing, dry stone and mortared walls. He has worked on listed and historic buildings throughout the southwest of England alongside many experienced masons and conservators, previously of Nimbus Conservation.

Adam Daybell is a stonemason and conservator with over 30 years experience, primarily with Nimbus Conservation, as apprentice, manager and director. The 25 + years with Nimbus allowed the opportunity to work on many of the country's finest historic buildings, monuments and landscapes, with many of the best craftsmen/women and architects/surveyors. Lucky enough to have been involved in several projects on the Wye from Chepstow Castle, Lancaut, Llandogo, Hoarwithy, Holme Lacy, Goodrich Castle and Hereford Cathedral.