



Portsmouth Cathedral: Tower and Chancel repair project

Client: The Dean and Chapter of Portsmouth Cathedral

The work involved removal of extensive cement pointing and careful identification of decayed stonework to the 12th century Chapel of St Thomas, including the repointing and repair of the south aisle. The project required agreement with CFCE, the undertaking of mortar analysis, mortar biscuit and pointing samples and the selection of stones for the repair work. The chancel project included repair to the stained glass lancet centre window. The decay to the 1690's timber belfry and corrosion of key twentieth century steel beams put the Tower at serious risk. The project was very challenging due to the restricted working area in the belfry, made worse by the temporary props to support over 16 tonnes of structure. Extensive timber repairs with scarfing-in of new timbers and new oak wall plates plus new steelwork was undertaken, also the re-leading of the dome and new lead commemorative rainwater hoppers and downpipes. The Golden Barque weathervane was gilded and the clock face decorated. Tours of the site work for members of the congregation, community and Chapter members.

Awards & Publications: Shortlisted for RICS award 2017, featured in Church Building and Heritage Review July/August 2017, Friends of Portsmouth Cathedral yearbook 2016, Friends of Old Portsmouth 2016.