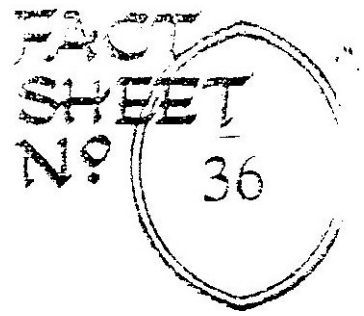


SOUTHWELL MINSTER
*The Cathedral & Parish Church
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
GUILD of STEWARDS



Exterior Carvings

This Training Session was to have been given by Mr Hall but he is indisposed, so that the GREEN MAN must wait again. I propose to lead a walk around the Minster with particular reference to the carvings. Binoculars are of course a great help in reading the carvings. I am indebted to Mr. Kall for some of the detail which follows.

The general approach to the restoration of stonework in the Minster has been to cut back the decayed stone to depth of about 4" and insert a piece of the same or matching stone. This is obviously not possible when dealing with carvings on crockets or finials, and in many cases complete replacement has been necessary although even then attention has been paid to whatever remained and to contiguous examples.

The West Front was possibly the last piece of work on the original building, mainly of Norman work including the West Doorway with its 6 orders carrying a variety of simple mouldings, including billet and chevron. There is also Transitional work and the emergence of the pointed arch can be seen. **The West Window** is a fine example of the **Perpendicular** style. The spires, of the late 19C, are replacements for the medieval ones which were declared unsafe earlier that century and are of the same pattern. The corbel table on both towers carry 12C carvings, including kings queens and at least one devil mask.

Going in clockwise direction, the **North Wall of the Nave** shows the only original Norman window. All the others are replacements of 15C windows which themselves replaced the original Norman windows. Some of the 15C nave windows survive. •

The exterior of the **Parvis Chamber** carries Devil masks on the drip mouldings. The second from the right shows a head in the mouth of the Devil, and is a portrayal of Satan swallowing Judas Iscariot. (There is a similar carving in the South Nave Aisle, and amongst other examples is a misericord at Carlisle. (The story derives from Dante.) One of the pinnacles is a chimney for the fireplace within the chamber.

There are round windows in the clerestory of the **Nave**, and the scallop decoration at the eaves both of the nave and the aisles, is unusual. There is a string course of chevron which was supplemented when the Perpendicular windows were inserted in the 15C.

The **North Gable of the Transept** carries bail and chevron ornament.

The **North face of the Pilgrim's Chapel** is an example of replacement. At the top are 4 subjects copied in the 1950s - a Bishop, a King and two angels

In 1956 David Hardy, a professional sculptor was commissioned to portray some people associated with the Minster and here to replace 4 badly worn heads are:

Clulow (Clock minder)

Ted Wragg (Head Verger)

Malcolm Fisher (a 9yr.old chorister)

Paling (the last dog whipper)