



CHICHESTER STONEWORKS

STONEWORK, RESTORATION, CONSERVATION

St George, Ivychurch

Client | The PCC of St George

Location | Ivychurch, Romney Marsh

Architect | Robert George Architects

Package Value | £76k

Due to its size and space, St George's is known as the 'Cathedral of Romney Marsh' dating back to the 14th Century and boasting a seven bay arcade.

The church is mainly constructed of Kentish Ragstone, but some Caen stone from the earlier church structure can be found as can many wave-rolled flints, which are a reminder of the close proximity of the English Channel.

Our works comprised of the re-building of the west elevation tracery window, opening up and reinstating internal window reveals with associated leaded light glazing and lime washing.

Working closely with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust a masonry record survey was undertaken and drawings were updated when it became clear that none of the original stone could be salvaged or re-used. The new stone was to include the full replacement of the cill, reveals, mullions, tracery and hood moulds.

To match the original, Kent Ragstone was provided by Gallagher Hermitage Quarry in Kent. Extensively used in the area and throughout history, Kent Rag has more recently been seen as a difficult stone to work with, limiting its application; however, with the correct approach, the introduction of a little modern technology and patience, the potential for this wonderful material can be fully realised.

At our workshops in Chichester, we employed a mix of the most advanced stone processing technology and the traditional hand craft skills of our masons. Our draughtsmen created 3D files for the CNC work centre and prepared templates for our masons who undertook the hand-working and installation.

Existing stonework was carefully adjusted to accommodate the new construction and the new stone was lifted and fitted piece by piece. A sympathetic lime mortar was used to create in-obtrusive jointing and once the tracery pieces were fitted, the stone adjusting and finishing were carried out by hand.

