

A visit to three Herefordshire churches, 4th September 2019

Report Angela Dyer

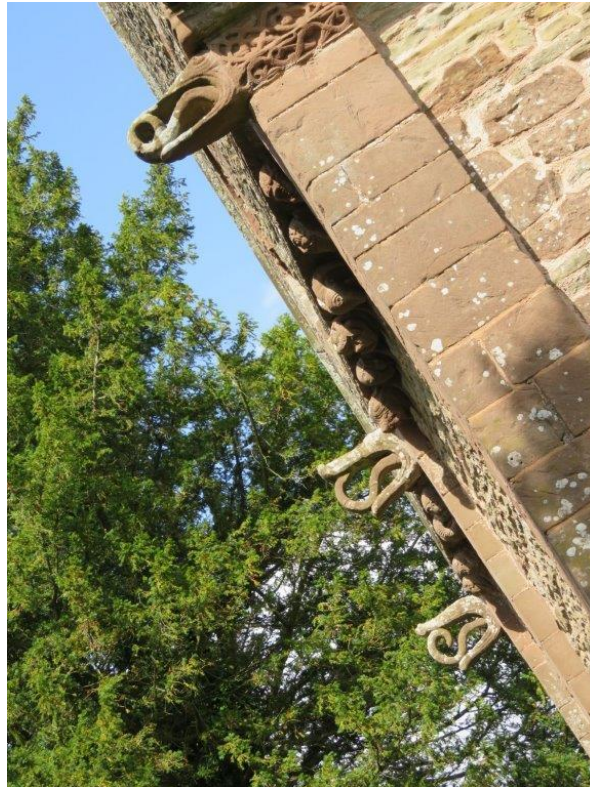
Photographs Will Pridie



We visited St Mary's, Abbey Dore to examine the building stones dating from the 12th century. The bedrock is mudstone whereas the original stone of the original building is Old Rd Sandstone which was probably quarried nearby.



We noted the colour variations in the stones, also variations in bedding. The roof was stone slates and there were river cobbles around the outside. Inside there was a memorial in dark grey limestone with brachiopods which is known as 'Snowdrop Marble'. We also saw an altar slab which appeared to be composed of Bishop's Frome Limestone.



At our next stop, Kilpeck Church we were able to study the intricate Romanesque carvings, suggesting a very high-quality sandstone was available which would probably have been quarried from a site next to the church.



The large font at Kilpeck (described in different sources as Norman or Saxon) and a grave slab were seen to be made from limestone conglomerate, that we were now

able to identify as Bishop's Frome Limestone. There were also a few blocks of this stone which we were able to see in the exterior walls.

The final church we visited was St David's church, Much Dewchurch. This had a lot of building stones showing features in common with the two other churches but also had an outstanding white alabaster monument to Walter Pye from Staffordshire and also streaked brown alabaster used by the Victorians to support the chancel railings. We also observed tufa used in the chancel arch and learned that the Bishop's Frome limestone overlying Raglan Mudstones is the site of a tufa formation.

