

# Case Study

## St Andrew's Church, Aller, Somerset



Craftsmen in the  
Conservation of  
Historic Buildings

**Trades –** *Masonry, Stone cleaning and Conservation, Gold Leafing/Gilding*

### **History of the Building**

The Church of St Andrew stands on a low hill, which was once a small island in the wetlands and was the original location of the settlement of Aller. It is probable that the first church was established on this site in 878 to mark the place where King Alfred the Great stood sponsor for the baptism of his former enemy, Guthrum, leader of the Danes in Wessex and 29 of his Oels (senior officers). People have worshipped here since that time.

The Saxon church, probably built of wattle and daub, with its altar placed on the baptismal site, was replaced about 1166 by a stone building in the Norman style. It is a traditional belief in the village that some timbers from the first Saxon church were incorporated in later reconstructions. However, this is very unlikely as the roof of the present church is Victorian, and the tower was built in the beginning of the 15th century.



**Before work  
commenced**



## Description of work completed by Ellis & Co

Ellis & Co. undertook the essential works to the external masonry of St. Andrew's church tower during the summer of 2012. The scope of works involved the dismantling and rebuilding of the dressed Ham stone to the parapet walls, gravity grouting to the rubble walls of the parapet, stone cleaning of the dressed Ham stone masonry, extensive repointing of both the rubble stone and dressed masonry along with the replacement of areas of dressed stone to all four elevations of the tower.

During the contract Ellis and Co also carried out extensive conservation repairs to the dressed stones including the belfry openings and gargoyles and structural repairs to the parapet walls.

During this phase of the works the contract was extended to include for the conservation and restoration of



<b>Client</b>	PCC of St Andrew's Aller
<b>Architect</b>	Beech Tyldsley
<b>Total Contract Value</b>	£79,928.00