

AWARD

new build (load bearing stone)

Cathedral of St James

Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk



Owner/Client: *Dean and Chapter of St James Palace* | Architect/Designer: *Warwick Pethers, Gothic Design Practice* |
Main Contractor: *Bluestone Ltd* | Principal Stone Contractor: *Ketton Architectural Stone & Masonry* | Stone Suppliers:
1) *Clipsham Quarry* 2) *Castle Cement Ltd* 3) *Ketton Stone & Masonry* 4) *Ham & Doulling Stone Co Ltd* 5) *Hanson Bath & Portland* | Stone Used: 1) *Clipsham* 2) *Ketton* 3) *Barnack* 4) *Doulling* 5) *Hartham* |



The project

The works involved a new tower that was to be seated on top of the existing crossing of the north, south, east and west transepts, a new cloister, and a new transept and choir aisle, all in completely load-bearing masonry using lime mortar. By far the greater challenge was the new tower. The geometry was the most complex any masonry company could reasonably be expected to achieve. The placing of the 16 lower window arch stones was the final confirmation that Ketton's skills in draughtsmanship-masonry and, just as importantly, on-site fixing were of the highest level. Ketton's approach was to produce work that was not seen as an addition to a wonderful structure, but rather as part of it. It is no wonder that the work is considered by some to be the most significant ecclesiastical project in Great Britain of the past century.



Judges comments

“ The late Stephen Dykes Bower's original vision for the Cathedral Church of St James' in Bury St Edmunds has at last been realised. This is a remarkable conclusion to the architect's career made possible by Peter Bannister's traditional setting out which has produced stonework of great accuracy and alignment, resulting in a seamless completion of the cathedral. ”