

St Mary's Kempley: Roof Filmed

Written by Chris Bligh

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The [Kempley Tardis](#) lottery-funded project entered its production phase with the filming of the roof construction at C12th St Mary's Church Kempley, Glos.

Frustratingly for The Friends the roof space has remained inaccessible to visitors, hidden above the nave's C18th ceiling. Tree ring analysis of the trusses by English Heritage in 1999 proved it to be the oldest existing timber roof in NW Europe. The trees had been felled between AD1120 – 1150.

Now with the Kempley Tardis internet project we have resolved the increasing number of requests from academics and historians to view this important structure.

Through innovative use of digital and internet technologies, a 360 degree virtual tour on the KempleyTardis website will allow you to pan and zoom the camera around the chancel, nave and roof space of St Mary's.

An edited audiovisual tour will focus on the social and religious history of St Mary's as much as the architectural and historical aspects. Information hotspots showcasing the nave and chancel wall painting will be accompanied by audio interviews with experts exploring the significance of the churches' unique scheme of Norman wall paintings.

English Heritage (EH) the building's guardians are supporting The Friends' Heritage Lottery project with funding for the virtual tour, as well as producing a series of new visitor interpretation

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boards at St Mary's.

“The national perspective of the importance of this site, and the professional help English Heritage brings to our presentation is invaluable.’ says Chris Bligh The Friends’ project manager. “The wider social history project reveals 900 years of our social and landscape heritage. Internet users will be able to explore our ‘Archive Drive’ which will contain building and demographic data, linked to maps, census and tithe information that the team have collected over the last 5 years.”