ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH - BRISTOL

Parapet and Buttress Strengthening

The present building of St John The Baptist Church in Bristol dates from 1350 - 1500 and possess two features of architectural note. Firstly it is a two-storey structure having a crypt extending above ground almost the whole length of the nave and chancel. Secondly it incorporates, below its tower, the only remaining City Gate of Bristol, the church itself located entirely within the old city wall.
In 2005 Cintec anchors were installed to secure the two roof level embattled parapet walls and also to strengthen the spire buttresses and secure their pinnacles.

The capping stones of the limestone parapets were removed and vertically core drilled by the installers Protectahome Ltd with 40mm diameter holes and 2150mm in length. The 16mm diameter stainless steel anchors were twin socked *(Fig 1)* in order they be post tensioned - a process of firstly inflating the lower sock while applying tension to the anchor with a metal plate screwed onto the exposed thread on the upper end on the anchor. One set the second sock is inflated and the tensioning plate removed. The capping stones were then replaced to conceal the anchors within *(fig 2)*. In all No.64 parapet anchors were installed and another No.8 deformed bar anchors were used to strengthen the medieval spire buttress as well as their ornate pinnacles *(Fig 3)*.

Fig 2.

Twin socked anchors designed to tension the upper parapet sections into the base of the parapet.

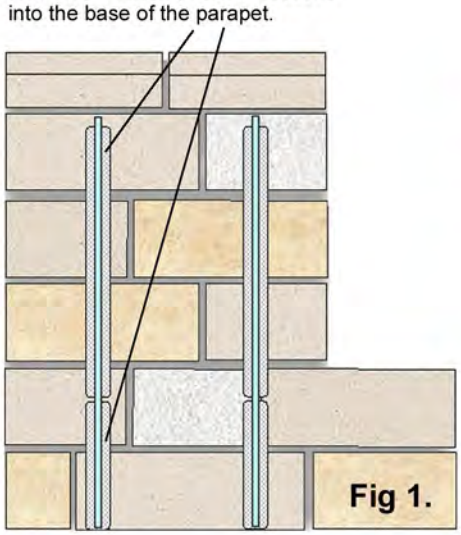

Fig 1.

Fig 3.