

# Report from the Cathedral Architect



*The Tower swelling in the 34° C heat of Tuesday 19th July 2016*

I am now at the end of my second year as the cathedral architect for Salisbury Cathedral. It has been another busy year at the cathedral. I have been involved in many small projects and areas of work at the cathedral, but I will concentrate here on the three main projects I have been involved with over the last year.

## **The Quinquennial Inspection**

My first quinquennial (five yearly) inspection of the cathedral was presented to Chapter in August last year. This is a substantial condition survey and forward plan which every cathedral in England must have under the Care of

Cathedrals Measure. The survey takes a long time, as every part of the cathedral must be inspected and assessed, and separate reports commissioned and their findings collated into the overall list of priorities. The report not only provides a detailed record of the condition of the building but forms a prioritised and costed strategy for future repair and maintenance. Urgent issues are already being tackled by the Works Department, and the more long-term needs of the cathedral are being considered for future projects once the Major Repair Programme is completed in 2020. A lot of the inspections were undertaken in a very warm summer period last year, so climbing over the roofs did have some advantages...

## **MRA 6**

As well as the quinquennial inspection, a large part of 2016 was taken-up with Major Repair Area (MRA) 6. This is the next phase in the ongoing Major Repair Programme to the external fabric of the cathedral, and covers the external faces of the Trinity Chapel at the east end of the cathedral, and the adjoining gables of the chapels of St Stephen and Martyrs on the south and St Paul and Apostles on the north. MRA 6 is the one of the last phases of the Major Repair Programme, and once MRA 6 and MRA 4 (the Presbytery gable) are completed the Major Repair Programme will draw to a close, as every accessible external face of the cathedral will have been addressed (although rope-access repairs are undertaken every year on the whole cathedral to ensure the condition of stonework is maintained).

The Trinity Chapel was originally known as the Lady Chapel, and was one of the first areas of the cathedral to be completed