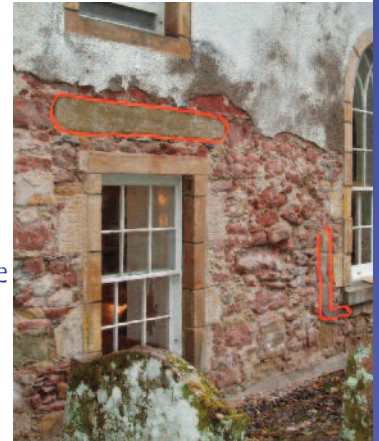




## Mud, drains and hammering

In spite of the rain, gales and snow drainage work around the base of the church is making good progress. All the foundation walls have been repointed, lime coated and an permeable membrane put between the wall and drainage pipes; and most of the channels are now being refilled with gravel and stones.



Removal of harling (an arm strengthening chipping away with chisel and hammer) has reached new heights, which has answered one or two questions – but raised a whole lot more. . .



At the right there is what looks like the line of a previous window – and the window on the left is known to have been a door – so is this the previous upper lintel? There is a similar stone above the old doorway at the east end.



This may have been a doorway – with the corner stones removed. Inside there are more definite edges, where chamfered stones angle inward. This lies above the long dressed stones found in the foundations.

These foundation stones are still causing much deliberation. One theory is that perhaps they cover a culvert, and so archaeological excavations – by John Wood and Benny Malone (pictured) – have been taking place inside the church above the possible culvert line.



*So far, there's no sign of water – but plenty of interesting finds.*

**Bones** found show that the church dates from pre-reformation as the protestant church ended this practice – some families will have got round this by using a vault. In the upper 60 plus centimetres all the bones are jumbled up – suggesting re-burials. Curiously there are some cattle and sheep teeth amongst the bones. Archaeologist, John Wood, commented that animal teeth had been found in some other churches too – but why remains a mystery.

**On a more homely note**, the top 10 cms or so contained many items that must have dropped by members of the congregation – a wooden ice cream scoop, thimble, beads, brass buttons, coins (including one of King George 3rd) and lots of pins. It seems very close to the surface for these to be shroud pins – did people take their sewing to church?

