

## Scientific Dating Team

### THE CHURCH OF ST MARY, THE STREET, FRITTENDEN, KENT: INTERIM STATEMENT ON THE DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

#### Assessment

The timbers of the roofs to the nave, south aisle and north chapel were assessed for dendrochronological potential, as were timbers in the tower. The assessment concluded that the accessible timbers did not have enough rings for reliable dating purposes. However access did subsequently become available to a limited number of nave roof timbers from a scaffold tower. Following discussions it was decided to undertake some sampling of those accessible nave roof timbers, as well as a single sample from the south aisle roof, in order to confirm the overall assessment.

#### Sampling and Analysis

Four timbers were sampled in the nave roof, two curved principal rafters on the east side, and the east wallplate at either end (Table 1). In addition a sample was taken from the west truss in the south aisle roof (Table 1). None of the timbers had as many as 50 rings and further analysis was therefore deemed inappropriate as it was highly unlikely to produce reliable dating evidence.

*Table 1: Details of the samples taken from the Church of St Mary, The Street, Frittenden, Kent*

| Sample           | Location                                             | No rings | Sapwood |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Nave roof        |                                                      |          |         |
| frit01           | NE corner, lowest section of curved principal rafter | 32       | -       |
| frit02           | Wall plate in NE corner                              | 25       | -       |
| frit03           | SE corner, lowest section of curved principal rafter | 46       | -       |
| frit04           | Wall plate in SE corner                              | 29       | -       |
| South Aisle roof |                                                      |          |         |
| frit05           | South principal rafter of west truss                 | 20       | -       |

INTERIM