



*"The junction of the nave and the chisel" in the south ambulatory.*

brought by water around the south coast and up the River Stour to Fordwich like the Caen stone. The marble shafts are used in the triforium all round the choir and transepts as well as the Trinity Chapel, and provide a link with the main arcades. They are also used in the piers of the crossing where they run the whole length of each pier. While they were introduced by the French master mason they obviously appealed to his successor, William the Englishman, who took his place in 1178. Another attractive feature of the new choir was the bosses or key stones which bound together the ribs in the stone vaulting both of the choir and the ambulatories. The finest of these is to be seen in the main crossing vault. It represents the Lamb and Flag, a symbol of the Resurrection, particularly appropriately placed at the centre of Christ Church Cathedral.

By Easter 1180 the choir of the monks was sufficiently complete for the community to hold its festival there, so we can assume that the vaulting was in position and perhaps some of the glass of the clerestory as well. Gervase has left us a detailed account of this great event in the life of the priory, and of the gradual rebuilding of the

OPPOSITE: *The vaulting of the Trinity Chapel.*