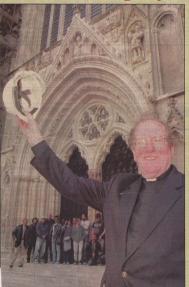
## Minster door glory restored



by Caroline Radford MASONS and carvers at York Minster today surveyed the fruit from what they called their project of a lifetime - the restoration of the Great West

Door. A skilled team had been work-

ing on the £1m project for three years, producing the intricate Biblical carvings and geometric designs which decorate the five orders arching from above the double doors to the recently-restored Great West Window Carver David Willett, who was

given the task of recreating the figures of Adam and Eve and Abraham and Isaac, as well as producing the ornamental canoples, said the detail of original carvings had been reproduced as far as possible but sometimes it had been necessary to fill in the

blanks. "In some cases there's not much of the original left and so you do have a bit of licence

"This has been a once-in-alifetime project - the chance to do work like this doesn't come along all that often, unfortunately.

Mason Ben Ungerechts agreed, saying part of the wages for the job was the feeling of pride and satisfaction at

seeing the carvings taken I don't know if I'll ever get the

opportunity to work on something as good as this again."

And it's wonderful to stand here and see the finished

For the Minster's Dean of Works, the Very Reverend

Raymond Furnell, the unveil ing of the doorway was a huge milestone on the way to the completion of the Minster's £4m restoration project, which is due to be completed by the

"It is a tremendous celebration of this part of the restoration of the Minster but equally importantly a acknowledgement of the incredible

craftsmanship of the Minster workshop's carvers and masons," he said.

Raymond Furnell with the stoneyard team outside the Great West Door Picture: David Harrison