

# Birmingham Cathedral: interior and lighting (1 project funded)

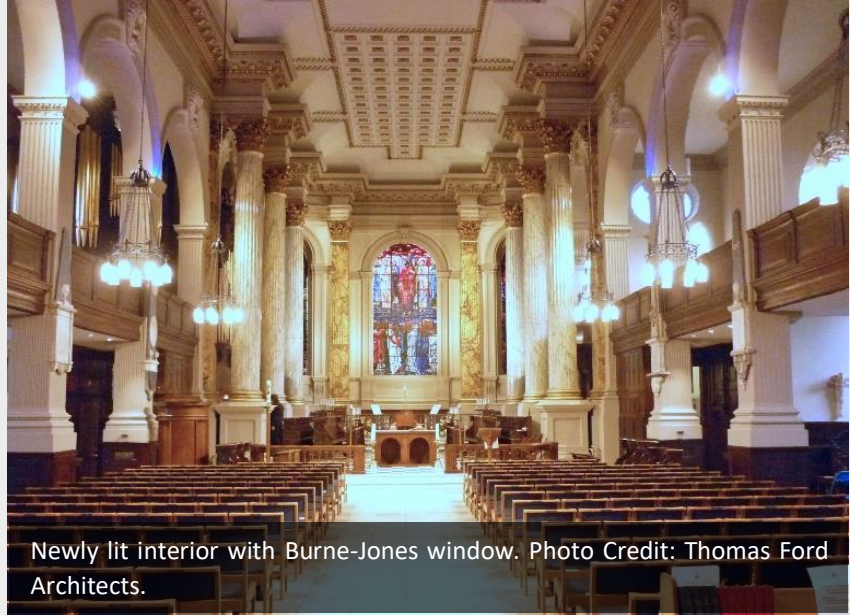
*Awarded £500,000 in March 2015 towards a £960,000 project*

## The need

As part of its 2015 anniversary celebrations, the cathedral was already undertaking a programme of external cleaning and re-lighting, linked to improved signage and interpretation. This application was for internal re-wiring, lighting and redecoration of the cathedral, as well as cleaning and conservation work. The lighting system was largely non-operational with an obsolete control system and fittings.

## Outcomes

The completion of this project alongside the exterior works means that the cathedral is completely transformed. It is now safe for visitors and much more appealing to the public. New LED lamps have been installed throughout, reducing energy use and the cathedral's running costs. Now that the interior is better lit, the celebrated stained glass windows by the leading Pre-Raphaelite artist and designer Sir Edward Burne-Jones create an impressive 'jewel box' effect when viewed from the outside at night.



Newly lit interior with Burne-Jones window. Photo Credit: Thomas Ford Architects.

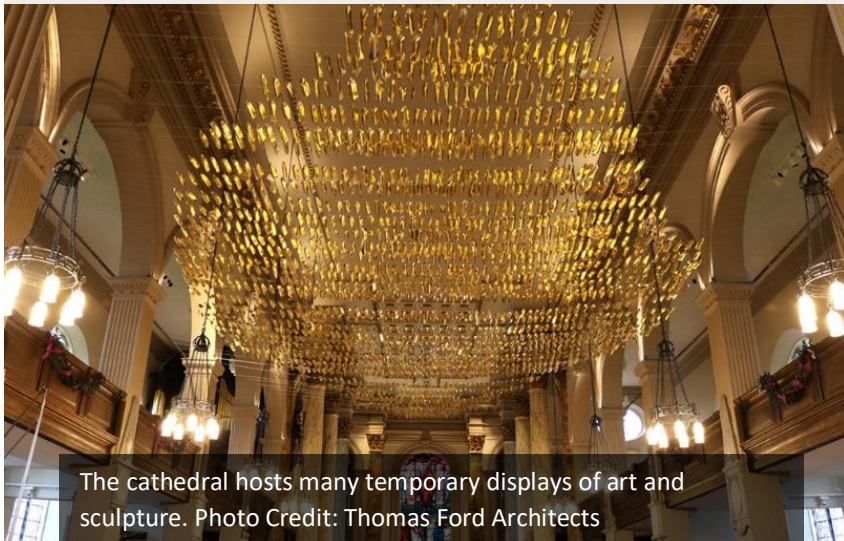
## Economic and social impact

Set in the only substantial green space in the centre of Birmingham, the cathedral welcomes nearly 100,000 visitors each year, for prayer, worship, celebration, remembrance and education, and some 20,000 pass through the cathedral's square outside each day. Many members of the public have commented on the positive changes.

The refurbishment means that the cathedral can market the use of its space to commercial clients and generate more income, ensuring financial sustainability. The project supported craftspeople employing traditional decoration techniques.

## Works completed and timescale

The work started in May 2015 and was completed in December 2015 and included the renewal of lighting installations, redecoration, repairs to joinery and refinishing of the porch roof among others.



The cathedral hosts many temporary displays of art and sculpture. Photo Credit: Thomas Ford Architects

## The Cathedral

Built in 1715 as the new parish church "on the hill", Birmingham Cathedral celebrated its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, although it only became a cathedral in 1905 when the new diocese was created. One of England's smallest cathedrals, it was designed in the baroque style by distinguished local architect Thomas Archer.