

Sheffield Cathedral: Chapel Lighting (1 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £65,077 in March 2015

The need

The lighting and wiring in two chapels, the All Saints Chapel and the Chapel of the Holy Spirit (crypt chapel) had become unreliable, making them difficult to use for services and occasionally dangerous for visitors to enter. Components could no longer be obtained for the existing systems, which were in urgent need of attention: many fittings had failed through overheating or through faulty wiring. The crypt chapel was created in the 1930s as a First World War memorial, and the Dean observed *It is quite distressing at times that elderly mourners feel anxious about entering the chapel because it is so poorly lit.*

Outcomes

Now the lighting requires routine maintenance only. The All Saints Chapel is now a fitting memorial to those interred there from the York and Lancaster Regiment.

Economic and social impact

A local electrical contractor was used for the work. The spaces are once again safe and open, and can reliably be used for interment services. They are also being regularly used by staff and clients from the Archer Project, a provision within the cathedral complex for the homeless and vulnerable, for their weekly prayers. The Chapel of the Holy Spirit is regularly used by the Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust for their prayer meetings and in May 2016 was the setting for the observance of the 10 Days of Prayer.

Works completed

CASS Electrical were instructed to undertake the work. The contractor carried out the construction phase of the project with very little impact on the life of the cathedral. There were some supplier issues in obtaining the fittings, but otherwise the project ran smoothly. The new lighting sensitively lights the stonework so that the inscriptions on the memorial stones can be read. The brightness of the lighting can be modified to suit the use of the chapel.

The Cathedral

Sheffield cathedral is a medieval parish church which was elevated to cathedral status in 1913. Originally the creation of the new diocese saw ambitious plans for an entirely new nave, designed by Sir Charles Nicholson. The scheme was abandoned due to the advent of the Second World War and the existing church was extended instead, being re-hallowed in 1966. A 20th-century addition to the entrance porch houses the shop, and a recent regeneration project has opened up the precinct and created better access to the city centre.



Lack of lighting in the crypt chapel before the work.
Photo credit: Thomas Ford Architects.

Sheffield Cathedral: Nave, S and N aisle roofs (2 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £480,000 in July 2016

The need

Sheffield Cathedral had recently identified an urgent need for a comprehensive plan of roof renewal following the investigation of rainwater leaks in the nave. This had revealed an extensive problem with corrosion on the underside of the lead roofs in the nave and side aisles. The level of moisture under the lead was reaching saturation and beginning to cause a visible white layer of oxidization to appear on the beams inside the cathedral.



The works under way. Photo credit: Thomas Ford Architects.

Outcomes

The leaks in the nave through holes due to lead corrosion have been stopped and the risk of similar leaks occurring elsewhere has been addressed. The work safeguarded the significant investment by a major Heritage Lottery Fund-supported project to refurbish the interior which was carried out soon before the roof problem was discovered. The provision of new insulation is also expected to result in a notable reduction in the cathedral's energy consumption.

Economic Impact

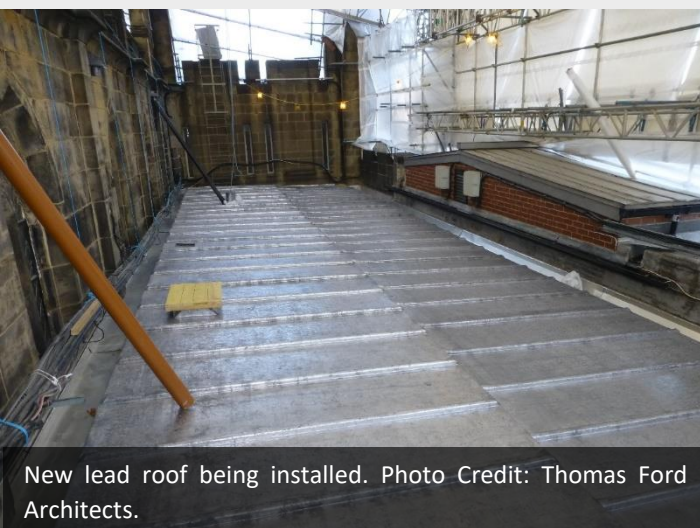
The project supported traditional leadworking skills. The Peterborough-based contractor employed staff from Yorkshire.

Works completed and timescale

The repairs works were contracted out to CEL Leadwork Contracts Ltd, and commenced in August 2017. The nave, south and north aisle roofs were replaced as phase one of a comprehensive plan of roof renewal. New joinery and masonry fittings were also installed where necessary. The works were completed in March 2018.

Cathedral quote

These works to our roof have resolved a major threat to the historic fabric of the cathedral, so securing the building which forms by far the most important medieval site in the city of Sheffield. (Christopher Burke, Vice-Dean, May 2016).



New lead roof being installed. Photo Credit: Thomas Ford Architects.

The Cathedral

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