

Bradford Cathedral: High level Repairs (1 of 4 projects funded)

Awarded £190,000 in July 2014

The need

An inspection in 2012-2013 identified that urgent repairs were needed to the cathedral roofs and high-level structures. Leaks through roofs and windows had been occurring over time and only tackled on a piecemeal basis, flat asphalt/felt roofs were at the end of their lives and there were areas of cracked stone slates requiring localised repair.

Outcomes

Those areas of the roofs and windows are now watertight and safe. For people working in the buildings it is much more comfortable as there is no water or air coming in through the windows.

This will also save energy and therefore reduce the heating bills at the cathedral. The First World War grant-aided projects at Bradford Cathedral have been a catalyst for the cathedral to raise around £130k in funds for other projects. This is in part due to increased belief in the staff's ability to manage such projects. The projects were helpful in improving internal processes and auditing skillsets, and this particular project was the driver for implementing a whole new system for managing invoices.

Economic and social impact

This project supported traditional building techniques such as stone masonry (pointing), joinery, metal work and gilding. The architect gave a public talk to over 100 people on some of the projects at Bradford Cathedral, covering the traditional techniques employed and celebrating the individual projects. The projects at Bradford, in conjunction with those at Liverpool Cathedral, helped the cathedral architect to grow her business, providing regular income and increasing her ability to plan ahead.

The Cathedral has around 4,000 casual visitors a year, with around 35,000 people attending one-off services and events. The First World War fund focussed the Cathedral's attention upon developing excellent First World War commemoration events.



The repaired roof. Photo credit: Ulrike Knox.



The rebuilt and gilded Lantern Cross. Photo credit: Ulrike Knox.

Works completed and timescale

The works in this project replaced the asphalt roofs with stainless steel, replaced broken slates, and renewed flashings and repair work around the windows. There were also decorative elements on the roof that were suffering from structural problems. The Lantern Cross and Weathervane were rebuilt and gilded and the flag pole supplemented with stainless steel. The timber structure inside the tower was investigated for rot and infestation and structural repairs to the ceiling of the tower space were undertaken. Historic Property Restoration were the main contractor for the majority of the works, which began in April 2015 and ended in July 2015.

The Cathedral

Bradford is a parish church cathedral which was elevated to cathedral status in 1919. Its tower is 15th century, and the early building is now flanked by 1950s-60s wings designed by Sir Edward Maufe, who also built Guildford Cathedral. In 2011 the cathedral was awarded eco congregation status and became the first cathedral to generate its own energy through solar panels on the south roof.

Bradford Cathedral: State Gate repairs (2 of 4 projects funded)

Awarded £349,479 in November 2014

The need

The State Gate had been an increasing concern since it was purchased by the cathedral in the early 2000s. The gate is the only way into the cathedral close from the city centre side and provides a vital link to the city. It is a late-19th century gothic revival-style structure which was in a poor state of repair with loose vaulting, unstable stonework and no handrail or lighting. The opinion of the cathedral architect was that, if nothing was done, the gate would have had to be closed to the public by 2016.

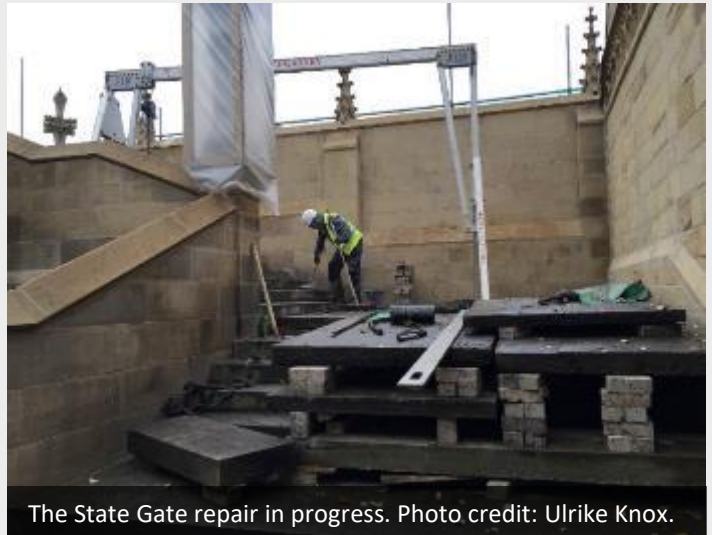
Outcomes

The State Gate is the main street-level access to the cathedral and it is now safe to use and structurally sound, with improved lighting and a handrail. This improved access has helped to increase visitor numbers to the cathedral. During the works some archaeological artefacts were found, which sparked media interest and the story was covered in a local newspaper. The projects at Bradford have been a catalyst for the cathedral to raise around £130,000 in funds for other projects. This is in part due to the belief in the staff ability to manage such projects afforded by this experience. The projects were helpful in improving internal processes and auditing skillsets, including the importance of project management skills. They have also been important in widening the fundraising strategy at the cathedral, encouraging the appointment of a bid writer.

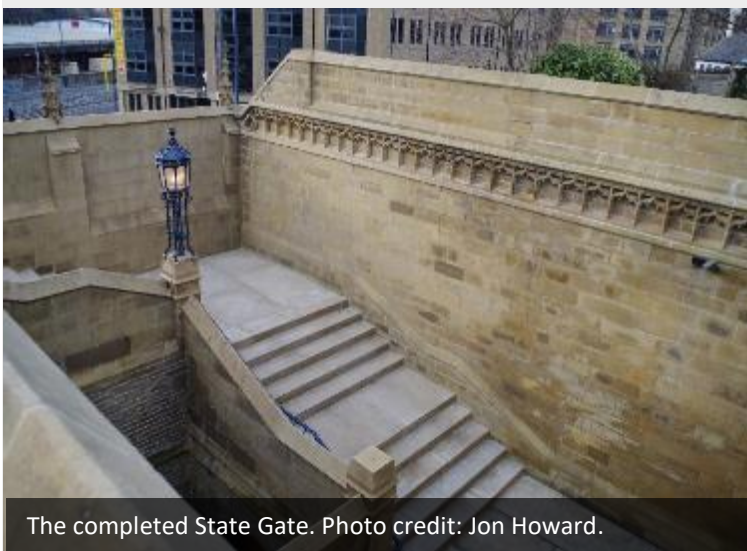
Economic and social impact

This project supported traditional building techniques such as stone masonry, structural engineering, pyro cabling, and blacksmithing (for the handmade handrail). Following the State Gate repairs there was a service of thanksgiving involving Cathedral staff, contractors and the local community which was covered by the local media.

The architect gave a public talk to over 100 people on some of the projects at Bradford Cathedral, covering the traditional techniques employed and celebrating the individual projects. The projects also focussed the Cathedral's attention upon developing excellent First World War centenary commemoration events. As noted previously, the projects at Bradford, in conjunction with those at Liverpool Cathedral, helped the cathedral architect to grow her business, providing regular income and increasing her ability to plan ahead.



The State Gate repair in progress. Photo credit: Ulrike Knox.



The completed State Gate. Photo credit: Jon Howard.

Works completed and timescale

William Anelay Ltd were appointed as the main contractor. Work started in July 2015 and ended in November 2015. The works in this project consisted of lifting the stone steps and landings to replace the corroded structural ties with stainless steel and to re-bed solidly on a mortar bed. All the walls were re-pointed, cleaned and where unstable, rebuilt. Lighting was installed to the undervault and a new steel handrail and gate were installed.

Bradford Cathedral: Heating system (3 of 4 projects funded)

Awarded £127,000 in July 2016

The need

The application was for urgent repairs to the heating system and the removal of asbestos. The need was identified during checks in April 2016, which resulted in the three gas boilers in the basement being switched off and isolated as the installation was in contravention of gas safety regulations. In consequence the cathedral had no functioning heating system. Total removal of asbestos and replacement of the boilers and broken pipework was needed for the cathedral to avoid closure during the winter months.

Outcomes

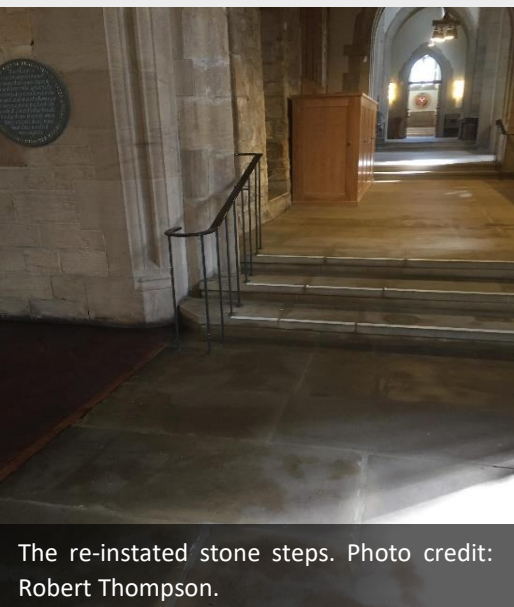
The heating system is now dependable and there is better zoning of heat within the building. The new system is more efficient which will save money on future heating bills. Since the project work has been completed, the cathedral's visitor book has been full of compliments about the warm and welcoming space. They appear to enjoy the experience more and therefore dwell time is longer.

As noted previously, the projects at Bradford have been a catalyst for the cathedral to raise around £130k in funds for other projects. This is in part due to increased belief in the staff ability to manage such projects as a result of their involvement. The projects were helpful in improving internal processes and auditing skillsets, including the importance of project management skills. They have also been important in widening the fundraising strategy at the cathedral and encouraging the appointment of a bid writer.

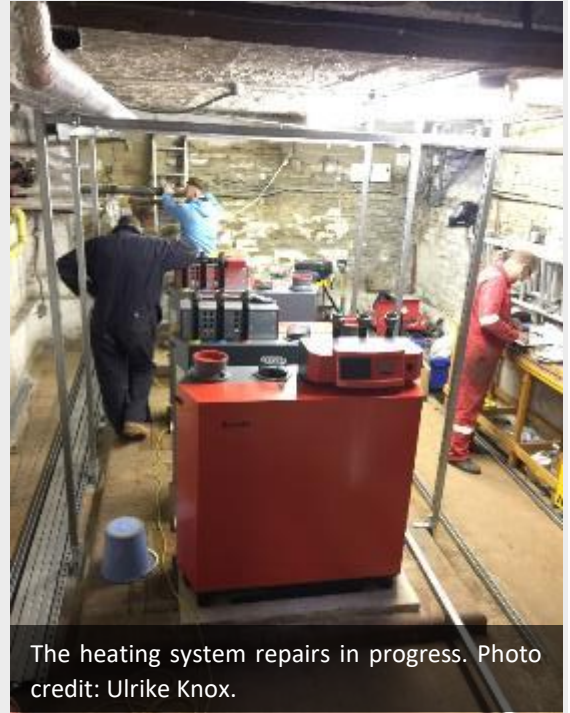
Economic and social impact

Works associated with this project supported traditional building techniques such as stonemasonry and leadwork. The architect gave a public talk to over 100 people on some of the projects at Bradford Cathedral, covering the traditional techniques employed and celebrating the individual projects. The projects also focussed the Cathedral's attention upon developing excellent First World War centenary events.

Commemorative activities over the winters of 2016 to 2018 could not have gone ahead without a functioning heating system in the cathedral. As noted previously, the projects at Bradford, in conjunction with those at Liverpool Cathedral, helped the cathedral architect to grow her business, providing regular income and increasing her ability to plan ahead.



The re-instated stone steps. Photo credit: Robert Thompson.



The heating system repairs in progress. Photo credit: Ulrike Knox.

Works completed and timescale

The works in this project consisted of undertaking an asbestos pre-refurbishment survey and the removal of asbestos, replacing the boilers, controls and upgrade flue and boiler room ventilation and repairing a leaking pipe. The works also required the removal of stone steps in order to access the leaking pipe and reinstating these steps post-works. LMB Mechanical were appointed to carry out the boiler works, EPIC were appointed to undertake the asbestos removal and R Thompson carried out the stonework and general building work. The works began in September 2016 and were completed in October 2016.

Bradford Cathedral: Repairs to the Bell Tower (4 of 4 projects funded)

Awarded £25,000 in November 2016 towards a £104,000 project

The need

The application was for £99,550 to carry out both essential fabric repairs to the tower and to refurbish the cathedral bells, 10 of which were installed in 1921 as a First World War memorial. An automated chiming system for the eight largest bells was being considered, as the cathedral did not have enough bellringers to ring them regularly. The bells work was determined to be beyond the remit of the First World War grant scheme, but £25,000 was awarded towards the tower repairs, and the fund's Expert Panel advised the cathedral that the bells proposals could form the basis of an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Outcomes

The repair work has directly enabled more people to visit the bell tower safely. Moreover the grant and the advice of the Panel encouraged the cathedral to apply to HLF for further project work. In August 2017 the cathedral was awarded £79,100 in HLF funding to repair and restore the bells and to develop an exhibition and training activities to help recruit new bell ringers and more volunteer guides. It also encouraged the cathedral to participate in their first Heritage Open Day event, which will now take place annually. This will further its work in connecting the diverse local community to the heritage surrounding the bells. The project also attracted media interest; BBC *Look North* commissioned three vignettes about the cathedral for the programme.



The work to the bell tower in progress. Photo credit: Ulrike Knox.



The repaired bell tower. Photo credit: Ulrike Knox.

Economic and social impact

This project supported traditional building techniques such as stone masonry and joinery. The architect gave a public talk to over 100 people on some of the projects at Bradford Cathedral, covering the traditional techniques employed and celebrating the individual projects. The projects also focussed the Cathedral's attention upon developing excellent First World War centenary events, particularly those connected with the memorial bells. As noted previously, the projects at Bradford, in conjunction with those at Liverpool Cathedral, helped the cathedral architect to grow her business, providing regular income and increasing her ability to plan ahead.

Works completed and timescale

The works funded by the First World War grant-aided element of this project consisted of fabric repairs to the Tower, including repairing the timber wall plate in the belfry and ringing chamber floor, and installing a handrail and improved lighting for both general and maintenance access.