

Derby Cathedral: infrastructure repairs (1 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £546,000 in July 2014 towards a £690,000 project for rewiring, heating and safety

The need

The cathedral's electrical system was built in the 1960s or 70s and the heating was very inefficient. Potentially dangerous and obsolete wiring had been highlighted in two Quinquennial inspections. If this work had not been done the insurers had indicated that they would soon be unable to re-insure, due to the liability. The cathedral had recently received a legacy of almost £225,000 for 'the beautification of the cathedral' which funded new light fittings and redecoration, but this could not cover the essential infrastructure upgrades to go with it. Such repairs are often difficult to raise money for.



The re-lit Georgian interior. Photo credit: Matthew Jones Photography, commissioned by James Morse.

Outcomes

Following the repairs, the wiring should not require further attention for at least 20 years. Further, as a result of the re-wiring, energy costs have gone down. In the absence of the funded repairs, the electrical and heating system would have needed a series of ongoing 'patches'. The cathedral estimates that it would have taken 20 years to fundraise for the full scale of necessary repairs.

Due to the funding, the cathedral was able to reallocate internal funds towards redecoration work, which is an additional outcome of the repairs. Following the works, unanticipated roof repair needs were discovered, see Derby Project Summary 3.

Economic and social impact

During the three funded repair projects undertaken at Derby Cathedral, a range of traditional skills were supported, including an estimated four carpenters, four leadworkers, two stonemasons and eight scaffolders.

Overall visibility in the cathedral is much improved: previously, on a grey day, congregation members would struggle to read the Order of Service. The experience of visiting is said to be much more pleasant, bright, and warm. As a result, Derby Cathedral is holding more events, such as concerts, as well as providing a much warmer space for the homeless to sleep one night per week. The repairs are said to have "revitalised the life and use" of the building.

Works completed and timescale

Works were completed between May 2014 and August 2015. They included re-wiring the building, replacing the aluminium sheathed cables with copper, replacing heat exchangers, and making the whole safe. The application also covered lighting cabling replacement, to be done alongside the electrical works, with new light fittings introduced. The boiler and heating system were also replaced.

The Cathedral

Derby is a parish church cathedral and was an important medieval collegiate church. All that remains of this is the very fine 1530s tower. The nave was completed by James Gibbs in 1723, a symbol of Derby's place in the Enlightenment at the start of the Industrial Revolution, and the spectacular retrochoir in the 1970s. Local smith Robert Bakewell's gilded wrought iron screen, dating from 1730, runs the whole width of the building. Derby Cathedral is unusual in having a white-painted interior, giving a great sense of light and space. It contains a memorial to Bess of Hardwick, and some other magnificent monuments, including some by Nollekens and Rysbrack. It became a cathedral in 1927.

Derby Cathedral: Song School Roof Repairs (2 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £124,181 in March 2015; claimed £97,039

The need

This package of works focused on repairs and replacement to the early 1970s flat roofs at the east end of the cathedral, which were failing, threatening stonework damage, and allowing water ingress. These roofs covered the 20th century Comper extension with its Song School, used by the cathedral choir. Built to enable the original parish church to function as a cathedral, it also houses the kitchen, offices, meeting room, vestries and lavatories. The roofs were at imminent risk of falling at the time of application, with 5 by 3-metre rain-catchers installed to catch the leaks.



The junction with the Ceri Richards' window showing the fall away from the window to reduce the likelihood of water ingress. Photo credit: Robert Kilgour, architect.

Outcomes

Following the repairs, the roofs should not require further attention for at least 20 years. The works have been successful in halting water ingress which prevents further damage to the building, and in particular a stained glass window at risk due to the leaks. In the absence of the funded repairs, the roof would have needed a series of ongoing 'patches'. The cathedral estimates that it would have taken 20 years to fundraise for the full scale of necessary repairs. Following the works, unanticipated repair needs were discovered, which are detailed in Derby Project Summary 3.

Economic and social impact

As previously noted, the three funded repair projects undertaken at Derby Cathedral supported a range of traditional skills, including an estimated four carpenters, four leadworkers, two stonemasons and eight scaffolders.

Without the repairs the cathedral would have been unable to offer as full a programme in terms of services and special events, such as outreach with homeless people and scheduled exhibitions and commemorations.

Works completed and timescale

The flat roofs were repaired by Midland Stone Masonry between August to September 2015. Repairs involved roof repairs, leadwork, and masonry to secure the structural integrity of the roof, repair existing damage and halt / prevent water ingress. Rigid cell insulation was incorporated to improved thermal performance. There was an underspend compared to the original forecasted cost. This was reallocated by the Fund's Expert Panel to other urgent works.



The new roof light installed over the entrance corridor. Photo credit: Robert Kilgour, architect.

The Cathedral

See previous project summary.

Derby Cathedral: Nave Roof Repair (3 of 3 funded projects)

Awarded £750,000 in July 2016

The need

The poor condition of the roof was not known about until high-level access for works facilitated by the previous grants, when it was discovered that Derby Cathedral's lead roof was not properly laid 50 years ago. Funding was sought for an emergency scheme of work to re-cast and re-lay the roof, preventing water ingress, preserving the newly-restored interior and the electrical and heating works funded under phase one of this scheme, and keeping the cathedral safe and open. Costs included the necessary provision of a temporary roof whilst works were going on.



Scaffolders sheeting up the temporary roof.
Photo credit: Robert Kilgour, architect.

Outcomes

Following completion of the repairs, the roofs should not require further attention for at least 20 years. The cathedral estimates it would have taken 20 years to fundraise for the full scale of necessary repairs. Allowing the cathedral to be safe and watertight means it is better able to concentrate on its core operations.

Economic and social impact

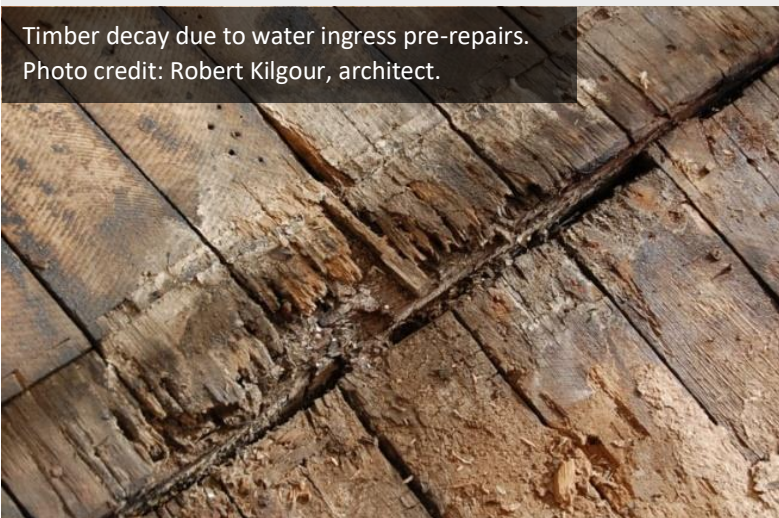
As previously noted, the three funded repair projects undertaken at Derby Cathedral supported a range of traditional skills, including an estimated four carpenters, four leadworkers, two stonemasons and eight scaffolders. As part of the repairs to the Nave Roof, a walkway was also built inside the roof. This has allowed construction students to be taken up to the roof which was previously inaccessible. The walkway allows students to view old timber works and construction.

Without the repairs the cathedral would have been unable to offer as full a programme in terms of services and special events, such as the ongoing outreach with homeless people and scheduled exhibitions and commemorations.

Works completed and timescale

The scheduled timeline for works ran from May 2016 to August 2017. Repairs included a new lead roof as well as stonework, coping stone and balustrade repairs, and provision of overflows. Two roof access hatches were installed to improve access, so that the verger team no longer have to squeeze through a window and down a ladder to gain access to the parapet gutters for maintenance.

Timber decay due to water ingress pre-repairs.
Photo credit: Robert Kilgour, architect.



The Cathedral

See previous project summary.