

Hereford Cathedral: Sound System (1 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £200,000 in July 2014

The need

At the time of application, replacing the cathedral's obsolete sound system was its greatest priority, as the sound desk frequently failed and there was no provision of a hearing loop system. This presented a hazard, as without a sound system safe evacuation of large events such as the planned First World War commemorations would not have been possible, and such events could not have been continued.

Outcomes

The repairs are considered to have been successful, with only routine maintenance currently required. The installed sound system is in daily use. In the absence of the repairs, the sound system would have failed and funds would have had to be reallocated away from other urgent repairs or areas of cathedral operation.

Economic and social impact

During the three funded repair projects undertaken at Hereford Cathedral, jobs in a range of traditional skills were supported, including an estimated three carpenters, three leadworkers, five masons, two glaziers and eight scaffolders.

As well as ensuring that the cathedral's duty of care with regard to emergency evacuation is fulfilled, the newly commissioned sound system has increased sound coverage and quality, thereby improving the quality of experience as well as safety for visitors, and has received positive feedback from the community. It has enabled the cathedral to continue operating large events, including First World War commemorations, and the 300th Anniversary Three Choirs Festival attended by 13,000 people. An additional benefit of the sound system is the incorporation of a recording facility. This allows particular services and events to be made available which increases accessibility for community members unable to attend in person. As a result of this facility, additional

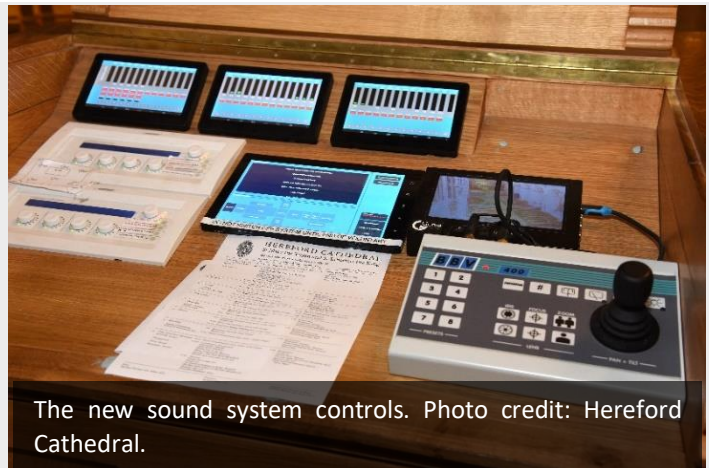
funding was obtained to allow Hereford Cathedral to undertake webcasting, and to redevelop the cathedral website which would not have been possible without the fund.

Works completed and timescale

Works were completed between June 2014 (award) to July 2015 (scheduled practical completion). This included installation of a new sound system and hearing loop, with updated controls and increased functionality. The majority of works were completed on time, with an extended snagging period to identify any problems.

The Cathedral

Hereford is a relatively small cathedral, with a 14th century heart in the form of its massive central tower. It displays the remarkable medieval Mappa Mundi and Chained Library. Over 250,000 people visit the cathedral each year; it is a focus for mission and ministry for the local community and for tourism from across the globe. Music is a central part of the cathedral's operations; it hosts the world-renowned Three Choirs Festival every three years.



The new sound system controls. Photo credit: Hereford Cathedral.



The new sound system. Photo credit: Hereford Cathedral.

Hereford Cathedral: Roof Repairs (2 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £300,000 in November 2014 towards a £401,000 project

The need

This project was to undertake work on the lead roofs and masonry of the Booth Porch and north quire aisle, and former choristers' vestry roof. Lead slippage and deterioration had occurred to the roofing, leading to water ingress, and excessive damp was also encouraging wood-boring beetle.

Outcomes

The repair of the leadwork to the roof has made the building more secure and has prevented further damage. The cathedral is considered safer and better able to operate as a result.



SPAB scholars learning lead-burning skills with plumber Robert Carey.
Photo credit: Robert Kilgour, architect.

Economic and social impact

During the three funded repair projects undertaken at Hereford Cathedral, jobs in a range of traditional skills were supported, including an estimated three carpenters, three leadworkers, five masons, two glaziers and eight scaffolders.

Alongside the funded repair works, educational and awareness-raising activities were conducted with young people and the wider community. This included events such as "Meet the craftsmen", demonstrations of traditional masonry techniques, leadwork displays, and "have a go" sessions.

As part of its wider activities, Hereford Cathedral hosts visits from around 4,000 school children per year. The repairs have enabled this work to continue. In addition, the repairs have improved conditions for office staff housed in the building, who previously had their workspace affected by water ingress.

Works completed and timescale

Works were completed between Sept 2014 (application) and November 2015 (scheduled practical completion). Multiple points of water ingress had developed, and in places, the timbers were starting to collapse. Works included leadwork, repairs to stone copings, and replacement of guttering and rainwater goods. The Booth Porch and north quire aisle form a continuous run of roof which created savings in terms of scaffolding, access and efficient use of resources.



Stonemason working on repairs. Photo credit: Hereford Cathedral.

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Hereford Cathedral: North Aisle Roof Repairs (3 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £420,000 in July 2016

The need

The 2011 Quinquennial Inspection had identified the work to the lead roofs and masonry of the north aisle as the highest priority of the roof repairs required at the cathedral, and further urgent repair needs were identified when the previous project was being undertaken (the cathedral had hoped to complete this work as part of the previous project, but the partial grant level did not permit this). There were serious defects to the leadwork, rainwater goods and masonry and a strong probability that many timbers beneath the lead would show signs of serious decay. The impact of the problems on the interior of the cathedral could be seen in the vaults of the ceiling, where water ingress had discoloured the plaster and caused flaking and efflorescence in a number of places in the north aisle, with fragments of plaster falling to the floor beneath. The first bay (of seven) at the west end showed damage to the stonework as well as to the vaulting where water had penetrated through the roof and ceiling due to damaged rainwater goods which had led to ineffective drainage and pooling.

Outcomes

The project has been successful in its objectives with the repair areas now requiring routine maintenance only. The new leadwork has made the building more secure and prevented further deterioration. Additionally, the contingency budget was initially unused and was able to cover additional leadwork repair needs which were discovered in the course of the work. This additional work prevented water damage to the cathedral organ, thus staving off a risk of £750,000-worth of repairs had this occurred.

Economic and social impact

During the three funded repair projects undertaken at Hereford Cathedral, jobs in a range of traditional skills were supported, including an estimated three carpenters, three leadworkers, five masons, two glaziers and eight scaffolders. This included engagement of apprentices and trainees through the contracted companies. Alongside the funded repair works, educational and awareness-raising activities were conducted with young people and the wider community. This included events such as “Meet the craftsmen”, demonstrations of traditional masonry techniques, leadwork displays, and “have a go” sessions. As part of its wider activities, Hereford Cathedral hosts visits from around 4,000 school children per year. The repairs have enabled this work to continue.

Works completed and timescale

Works were completed between Oct 2016 and Feb 2018 and included replacing the lead roof covering, repairing timber substrates and structure, and undertaking repairs to weathering masonry, gutters and outlets.



Scaffolding used to undertake repairs.
Photo credit: Hereford Cathedral.



Stone Mason working on repairs. Photo credit: Hereford Cathedral.

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