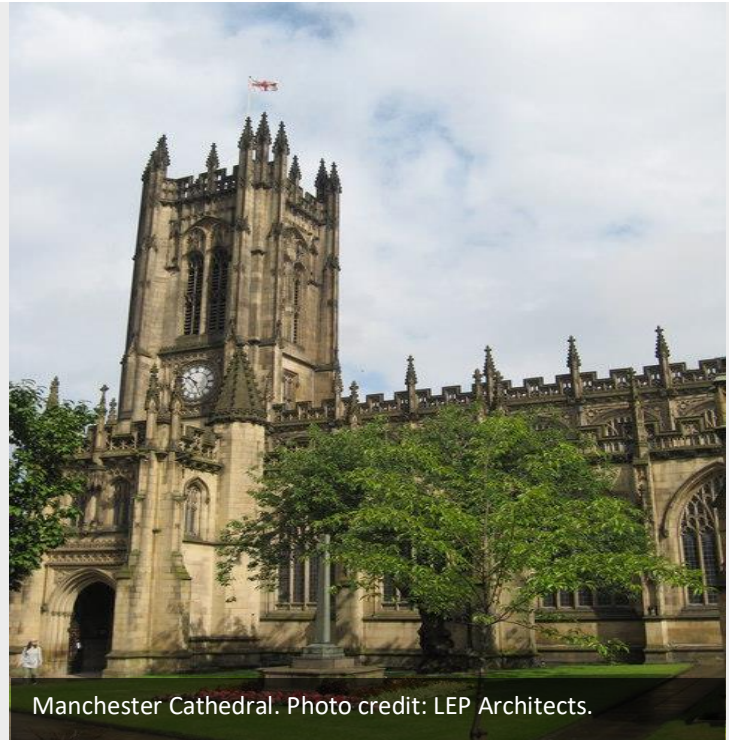


Manchester Cathedral: South Aisle and Chapel Roof Repairs (1 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £225,000 in November 2014

The need

Replacement roofing was needed on the south-east area of the cathedral. Numerous cracks in the lead roof to part of the south quire aisle, Jesus Chapel and Fraser Chapel had been observed, and the flat asphalt roof of the Chapter House, which had replaced an octagonal pyramid roof damaged by bombing in 1940 leaked and required replacing before it failed completely. The cathedral had wanted to re-instate the original pyramidal roof to the Chapter House. In assessing the grant, Expert Panel members were supportive of this aim in general, but given the demands on the fund for fundamental and urgent repairs elsewhere, the reinstatement element was not deemed as high a priority and a partial grant was given for replacing the flat roof. The cathedral had been fundraising for several other projects including the organ and work to the interior, and commented that raising money for such 'invisible' roof repairs was particularly difficult.



Manchester Cathedral. Photo credit: LEP Architects.

Outcomes

The repairs to the roof have ensured a warmer and drier interior with a reduced risk of further damage. The roofs are now repaired to the standard required to ensure the continued safety of the public who use the cathedral.

Economic and social impact

The project supported jobs in traditional carpentry and stonemasonry. More First World War commemorations were held, along with special services to remember the victims of the 1990s IRA bombings and the 2017 attack on Manchester Arena. A safe and open cathedral will encourage tourist visits, with a beneficial impact on the local economy including shops, restaurants and hotels. The roof repairs also mean that the cathedral can continue to keep bees – the symbol of the city of Manchester – on the roof and sustain bee-keeping courses through the its *Volition* programme for people who are long-term unemployed.

Works completed

The roofing works are complete, were on schedule and essential for the cathedral. They included carpentry, timber repairs, fast fixing, lead sheet covering and flashings, copper strips, sheet coverings and flashings repairs, and repair, renovating and conserving of masonry.



The Chapter House roof before repairs. Photo credit: LEP Architects.

The Cathedral

Manchester is one of the oldest of the 'new' cathedrals, having been made a cathedral in 1847. The building is 15th century and both the west end and choir screen are of this date. It was considerably altered in the 19th century, including addition of the western porch. All the Victorian stained glass was lost in the 1940 bombing, but has been replaced at both ends with notable modern glass.

Manchester Cathedral: Emergency Tower Repairs (2 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £500,000 in November 2016 towards a £749,000 project

The need

The 2013 Quinquennial Inspection reported serious defects to the masonry of the cathedral's west tower, and since then there had been falls of stone that required the entire tower to be covered in netting to protect the public and the building. In 2016 the Cathedral Architect had observed further deterioration and had manually removed significant quantities of masonry, including sections of louvres and a number of finials that were loose enough to pose a significant danger to pedestrians below.

Outcomes

The completed works remove the immediate risk of masonry falling onto public areas, ensuring that the cathedral remains a safe place of worship. The repairs will also enable greater accessibility of the cathedral's unique space, which will allow more local people to connect with the cathedral and their city's heritage, and the tower to be fully utilised as an educational resource.

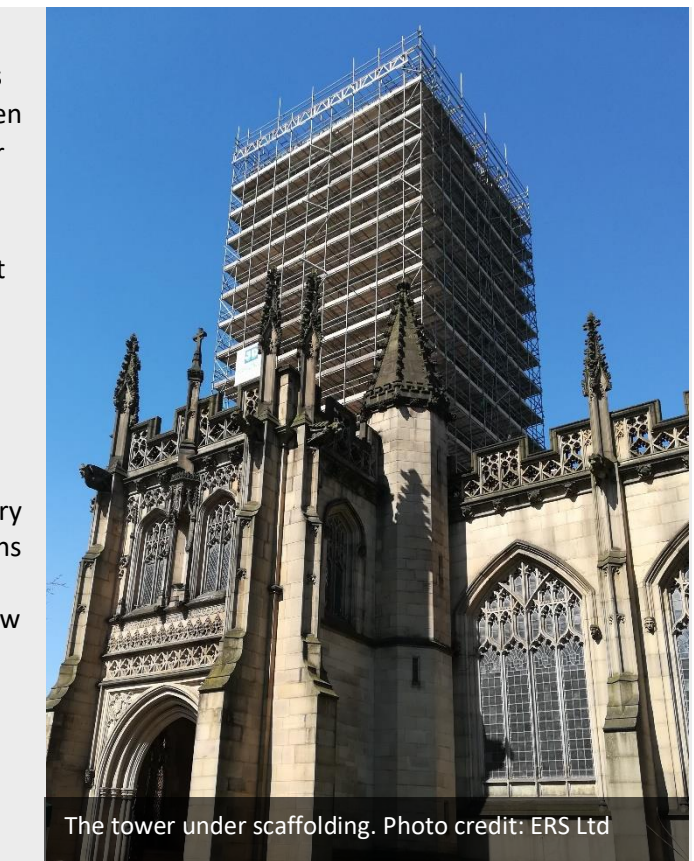
Economic and social impact

The repair works across the two projects at the cathedral helped to support seven full-time equivalent jobs, including an apprentice stonemason. The majority of works have been carried out by a local labour force based within 30 miles of the cathedral. Jobs have primarily been within traditional building methods including stonemasonry, joinery and leadwork.

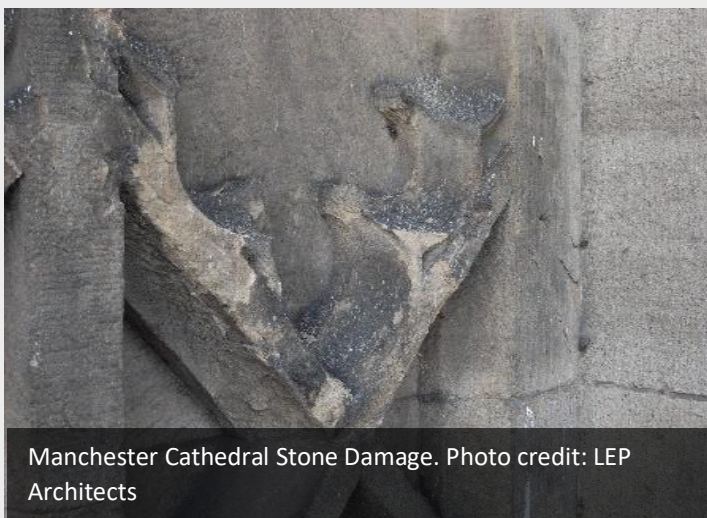
The works have increased community interest in the cathedral. They have also provided capacity for more services to be conducted, including First World War commemoration services. The cathedral has recently extended the services it hosts to contribute to the education and quality of life of the local community. Its 2026 strategic plan hopes to expand on this, and the repair works have helped to facilitate these aims.

Works completed and timescale

Work commenced in June 2017 and was still under way at the time of writing. The majority of the work is related to the repair and consolidation of the masonry works on the elevations of the tower, addressing the issues of loose stone, louvres replacement and the removal of vegetation from the tower. The tower roof is also being replaced.



The tower under scaffolding. Photo credit: ERS Ltd



Manchester Cathedral Stone Damage. Photo credit: LEP Architects

The Cathedral

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