

Peterborough Cathedral: Re-leading Windows (1 of 5 projects funded)

Awarded £14,500 in July 2014

The need

In the most recent Quinquennial Inspection three windows had been identified as needing re-leading to ensure weatherproofing: the north window of the Old Baptistry, the southern window in the West Sacristy wall, and the North Presbytery window. This re-leading was needed to address lead fatigue and ensure the glass, which is in a fair condition, remained safely in place. The repairs were small-scale in relation to the cathedral's overall repair needs, but the only ones which was ready to go ahead in the tight timescale of the first round of funding applications.

Outcomes

The re-leading of the windows contributed to making the cathedral appear more welcoming to visitors as well as keeping the building warmer, wind-proof and weather-tight.

Economic and social impact

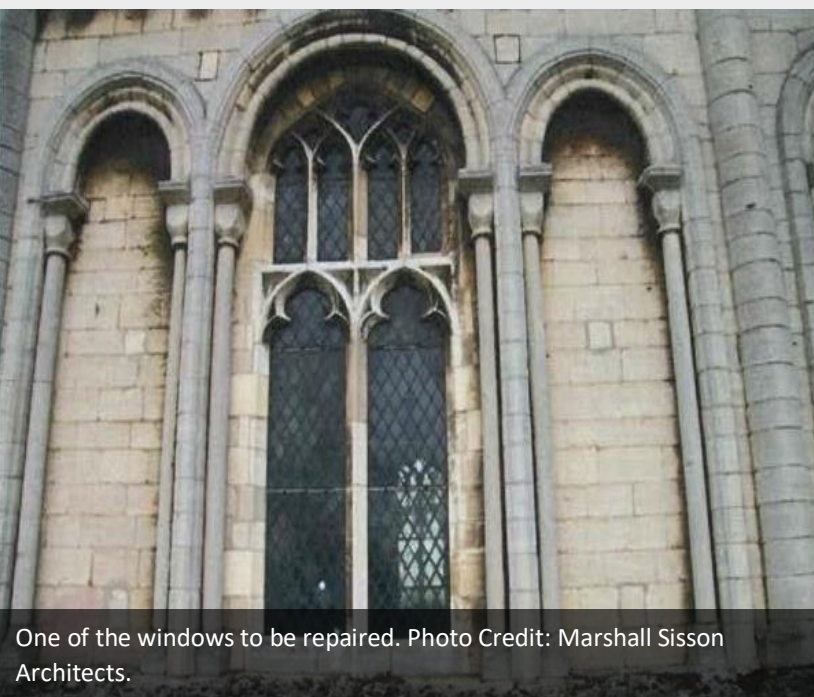
The works across all the projects funded helped to support a number of jobs, including apprenticeship schemes in traditional building methods such as stonemasonry and window repairs. The repairs helped ensure that the cathedral was in good condition for its 900th anniversary in 2018. By making the cathedral more welcoming and enabling it to run more events, the repairs made the cathedral more accessible to new visitors, not only physically, but intellectually and culturally, effectively attracting more visitors and generating income.

Works completed and timescale

The works included re-leading, timber repairs and stonemasonry. An underspend of c. £4,000 was returned to the fund for re-allocation by the Expert Panel.



Peterborough Cathedral. Photo credit: David Iliff.



One of the windows to be repaired. Photo Credit: Marshall Sisson Architects.

The Cathedral

Peterborough is one of the least altered of the great Norman churches. It has a remarkable wooden nave ceiling with early 13th century paintings, and a dramatic west front with high, deep arches. The retrochoir, known as the 'New Building', is from around 1500. The Peterborough 900 Development Campaign aims to raise £10 million for the cathedral and the communities it serves. It secured £2.46 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2013, towards converting buildings including the 13th-century Knights' Chamber into the Cathedral Visitor and Learning Centre, which opened in September 2016, and significant improvements to interpretation.

Peterborough Cathedral: Old Baptistry Gable Repairs (2 of 5 projects funded)

Awarded £88,433 in November 2014

The need

The outer wall of the Old Baptistry at the north end of the western transept needed extensive repair, including some stone replacement. It is exposed to the northerly and north-westerly winds and repairs are likely to have been frequent. The latest repair needs had been identified in the 2011 Quinquennial Inspection report. Without repair the stone would have continued to degrade and there was a risk of stone falling, meaning the area immediately around it would have to be closed to the public. There was also a risk of water leaking into the cathedral. Again, the project was fairly small-scale in relation to the cathedral's overall repair needs, but plans were constrained by the tight timescale of the fund.

Outcomes

The Old Baptistry Gable repairs helped to improve the overall safety of the cathedral by addressing the risk of stone falling, as well as preventing further deterioration of the building.

Economic and social impact

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Peterborough Cathedral. Photo credit: David Iliff.

Works completed

John Lucas (Peterborough) Ltd. carried out the removal of hard cement and frass (loose and damaged material), pointing, stone replacements, lead capping, cleaning and pinning.

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The Old Baptistry Gable under repair. Photo credit: John Lucas (Peterborough) Ltd.

Peterborough Cathedral: Tesserae Floor Repairs (3 of 5 projects funded)

Awarded £200,000 in March 2015 and a further £24,000 in May 2016

The need

The great tesserae (mosaic) floor occupies the area east of the crossing leading all the way to the High Altar. As the small tiles or tesserae were becoming detached from their bedding the floor needed significant repairs. Large areas of tesserae were missing and up to 21,000 tiles require resetting. Because to the state of the floor and the potential for further damage, the use of the space for services had become severely limited and the public have no access at all, with the area being roped off. The floor was created in the late 19th century by JL Pearson, and is a significant part of the interior, associated with the restoration of the cathedral by a nationally important architect. The 2011 Quinquennial Inspection report identified the tesserae floor as in a very poor state and in urgent need of renewal.



Repairs in progress. Photo credit: Peterborough Cathedral Trust.

Outcomes

The floor repairs have allowed the cathedral to make full use of the whole of its space, making a part that was previously inaccessible freely accessible to visitors, and conserved conserve a central part of JL Pearson's wider 19th-century scheme.

Economic and social impact

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Works completed and timescale

The works by Cliveden Conservation included removal/refacing of defective stone, stone cutting; reinstatement of tiles, pointing, and mortar cutting with hand tools rather than an angling grinder to avoid damage to flooring. The works began in May 2015 and were completed in March 2016. The fund's Expert Panel made an additional allocation of grant of £24,000 in May 2016 from underspend elsewhere, towards significant extra costs of sourcing specific stones to match the existing tesserae. The balance was met by fundraising by the Peterborough Cathedral Trust.

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The tesserae floor from above. Photo credit: Oliver Architecture Ltd.

Peterborough Cathedral: Window Repairs (4 of 5 projects funded)

Awarded £15,000 in July 2016

The need

Four windows had been identified in the 2015 Quinquennial Inspection as requiring repair: the east windows of the north and south aisles on the Tribune level of the Presbytery; the east window of the South Transept Clerestory and; the South-West Transept roof void window. The windows in question had medieval surrounds of various periods with what appeared to be mainly 19th century glazing schemes, unaltered since installation. The clear leaded light glazing contributes to the Romanesque quality of the cathedral interior; the Abbey's medieval glass was destroyed during the English Civil War and only limited numbers of coloured stained glass windows have been installed since. The repairs were needed to secure the glass and ensure the weather-proofing of the cathedral.

Outcomes

The window repairs made the cathedral appear more welcoming to visitors as well as keeping the building warm, wind-proof and weather-tight.

Economic and social impact

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Works completed and timescale

The works included the re-leading and partial re-glazing of four cathedral windows. An underspend of c. £3,000 was returned to the fund for re-allocation by the Expert Panel.



Peterborough Cathedral. Photo credits: David Iliff.



Internal View of Head



The Cathedral

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Peterborough Cathedral: Tower Fire Safety Glazing (5 of 5 projects funded)

Awarded £400,000 in November 2016

The need

The cathedral's insurers required a programme of high-level fire safety and access works. These included the installation of fire-resistant glazing inside the upper part of the Crossing Tower windows, improving handrails and kick boards to the walkways within the roof voids to improve safety for workers and the risk of injury from dropped tools and other objects, and installing additional handrails at Clerestory level. The insurer's report required the work to be completed in order that insurance cover was not prejudiced. Because of lack of funds the cathedral had already had to request an extension to the timescale for these works, but they needed to be completed without delay.

Outcomes

Peterborough Cathedral has been made much safer and more secure for those working there and its visitors.



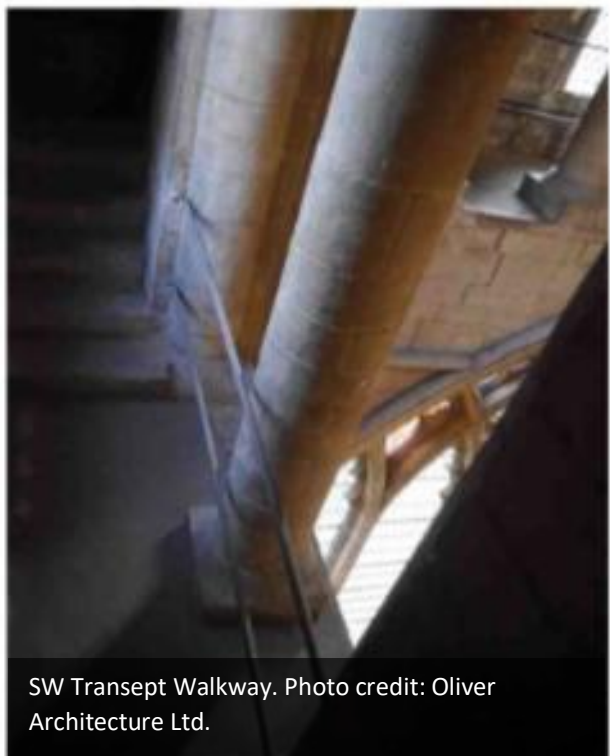
Peterborough Cathedral. Photo credit: David Iliff.

Economic and social Impact

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Works completed and timescale

The works were carried out by Stone Edge and included the installation of fire glazing, improving handrails, kickboards and installing more handrails in the tower.



SW Transept Walkway. Photo credit: Oliver Architecture Ltd.

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