

Ripon Cathedral: North Transept and East Elevation Repairs (1 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £354,617 in November 2014

The need

The last major conservation work on this quarter of the cathedral had been in 1935, and it now faced severe problems of external weathering and decay, with both aesthetic and serious structural implications. Stonework was badly suffering from erosion and loss of pointing, and a number of stones were beginning to lose their face. The public path passes right alongside these walls and the poor state of repair was easily visible and presented a safety hazard. The problems had been evident as far back as 1998, but even more urgent repairs needs such as work on the nave roof and tower had until now had to take priority.



Work in progress. Photo credit: Caroe Architecture.

Outcomes

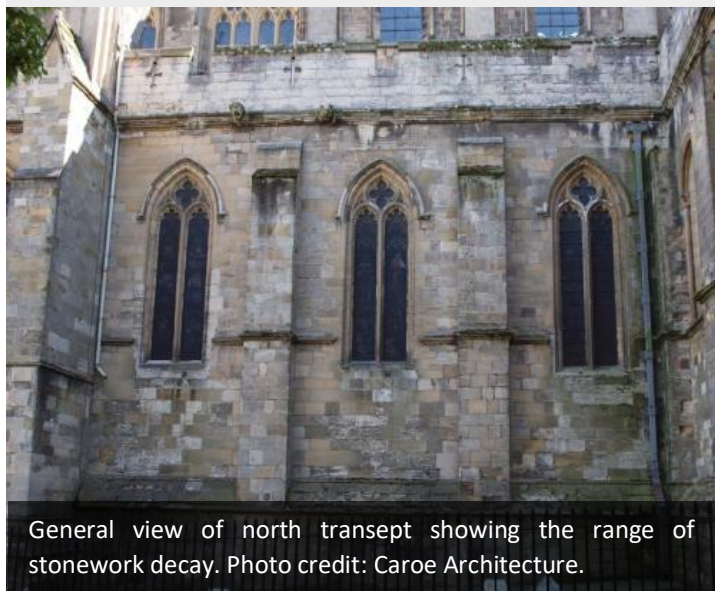
Apart from improvements to the state of repair of the building, the work has had other positive outcomes, including upskilling the masons involved in terms of health and safety planning. With the scaffolding in place they have also taken the opportunity to check previous repairs, generally survey the state of the building at high level and conduct asphalt renewal. They have invited stakeholders up to look at the repair works which has helped to develop relationships with donors.

Economic and social impact

The refurbishment to the cathedral means that it can market the use of the space to commercial clients and generate more income, assisting financial sustainability. The cathedral has also been able to take the opportunity to fundraise for other areas of repair now that this priority area has been addressed. The team feels that the major repair works have been a signal to the community that they are taking care of their heritage and that they would not have run their First World War commemorations had the project not taken place. They have placed a time capsule up at high level as another way of engaging the community.

Works completed and timescale

The work was carried out by in-house stonemasons. This saved time and money across this and the third project which involved work in the same area of the cathedral. The works are now successfully complete and will not need any further work for at least 25 years.



General view of north transept showing the range of stonework decay. Photo credit: Caroe Architecture.

The Cathedral

Ripon was a great collegiate church, one of the three mother churches of the great archdiocese of York, but was only made a cathedral in 1836. The church is mainly thirteenth and fourteenth century, with significant periods of rebuilding, including after the 1450 collapse of the central tower which was never fully rebuilt.

Ripon Cathedral: Glazing Repairs (2 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £19,208 in March 2015 and an additional £12,000 in March 2016

The need

This project focused on the urgent repair of glazing, and also allowed a more comprehensive survey of the cathedral's 150 windows. Steeplejack inspections of repair needs at the high levels of the cathedral had found many broken ties which were allowing the windows to distort and fail early.

Outcomes

The repairs mean that the windows concerned are now watertight and structurally stable, and no longer represent a risk to the public. The cathedral was also able to leverage a small amount of extra funding from the Yorkshire Churches Trust. The relatively modest amount of funding applied at this stage will have a lasting effect and allow the cathedral to concentrate on other priorities and developing a sustainable future.

Economic and social impact

The refurbishment to the cathedral through the series of project funded means that it can market the use of the space to commercial clients and generate more income, assisting financial sustainability. The cathedral has also been able to take the opportunity to fundraise for other areas of repair now that this priority area has been addressed. The team feels that the major repair works have been a signal to the community that they are taking care of their heritage and that they would not have run their First World War commemorations had the project not taken place.

Works completed

The funding enabled the cathedral to address the most urgent repair needs of some of their stained-glass windows. One of these, the highly significant nave west window was at risk of imminent collapse, as was a library window just above the Chapter House door, one of the busiest parts of the cathedral. Much of original £19,208 grant had to be directed to these windows, which turned out to be in much poorer condition than anticipated. As a result part of the original proposed work, to re-lead a window in the nave clerestory, was going to be omitted, but the fund's Expert Panel was able to re-allocate £12,000 from underspend elsewhere to reinstate it to the work programme.

The Cathedral

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One of the repaired windows. Photo Credit: Caroe Architecture.

Ripon Cathedral: Presbytery Stonework Repairs (3 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £398,000 in July 2016

The need

As a continuation of the earlier north transept project, essential work was needed to stabilise, repair and renew stonework at the upper levels of the north quire and north transept at the east (presbytery) end of the cathedral. The renewal of asphalt guttering, enhancements to the rainwater disposal system, and providing access for maintenance and the Fire Service at this high level of the building were other urgent requirements.



Ripon Cathedral. Photo Credit: Caroe Architecture Ltd.

Outcomes

Aside to the improvements in the building, the repair work has had a number of other benefits, including upskilling the masons involved in terms of health and safety planning. With the scaffolding in place they have also taken the opportunity to check previous repairs and generally survey the state of the building at high level and conduct asphalt renewal. The cathedral invited stakeholders up to look at the repair works, which has helped to develop relationships with donors.

Economic and social impact

The refurbishment to the cathedral means that it can market the use of the space to commercial clients and generate more income, assisting financial sustainability. As part of this project the Cathedral ran a schools' competition for the design of replacement stone gargoyles. They received over a thousand entries and displayed them as part of an exhibition in the cathedral. The winners were able to meet the carvers and help them to create their gargoyles. The team feels that the major repair works have been a signal to the community that they are taking care of their heritage and that they would not have run their First World War commemorations had the project not taken place.

Works completed and timescale

The work involved a programme of stonework stabilisation, repair and renewal to the walls and flying buttresses to the North Choir clerestory, as well as to pinnacles and window tracery. The Cathedral brought the stonemasons in-house which saved time and money across their two stonework projects in the same area of the Cathedral. The works are now successfully complete and will not need any further work for at least 25 years.



High-level parapet gargoyles before repairs. Photo credit: Caroe Architecture Ltd.

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