

Southwark Cathedral: Roof repairs (1 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £325,000 in July 2014

The need

Problems with leaks over the north nave aisle occurred during the wet winter of 2013/14. Defective asphalt gutters needed to be replaced with lead. Similar works to the south aisle had been completed in 2013, partly funded by a Cathedral Fabric Repair Fund grant from The Wolfson Foundation and The Pilgrim Trust.

Outcomes

The building is watertight and more comfortable after experiencing leaks for many years. While the scaffolding was in place the cathedral appealed for funds to do additional work alongside, which helped the project scope grow, raising c. £70,000 for additional masonry work. The project encouraged the cathedral to step up its fundraising and thus was a catalyst for further investment in the building. It also instilled a sense of confidence in the Chapter that they can successfully take forward significant projects, which has built ambition for future programmes.

Economic and social impact

The project supported five jobs in traditional leadwork, lead roofing and repairs to the 19th-century timber structure. The projects at Southwark, along with those the architect worked on at Coventry Cathedral, enabled the architect to grow her practice. Formerly a sole practitioner, the security of the funded projects allowed her to employ others and she now has two permanent members of staff.

Works completed and timescale

The works were undertaken by Norman & Underwood and consisted of installing a new lead roof to the south slope of the nave, a new lead-lined gutter and leaf guards to the south side of the nave roof, new lead gutter linings to the south nave aisle roof as well as removal of cementitious over-pointing and selected indent repairs to damaged stone in the west wall of the tower. The works were completed in May 2015.



New lead roof to the south slope of the nave.
Photo credit: A&RME architects.



Repairs to the west wall of the tower. Photo credit: A&RME architects.

The Cathedral

Southwark Cathedral, just south of the Thames, is London's earliest Gothic church, and was created a cathedral in 1905. In the 1830s the old nave was declared unsafe and a Victorian replacement was completed in 1897, making this something of a composite building. The quire space is an excellent example of Early English. An extension on the north side, a £10 million Millennium project opened by Nelson Mandela in 2001, created a shop, toilets and a café, as well as meeting rooms. In recent year the cathedral has shared in the revival of the area along with Borough Market, Shakespeare's recreated Globe Theatre, Tate Modern, the Shard and London Bridge railway station, and provides much-needed quiet space in one of the busiest parts of London. It has historic connections to Shakespeare, Chaucer, Dickens and John Harvard, and its many fine monuments give an indication of what must have been lost in the City churches north of the river in the Great Fire of London. Southwark Cathedral was at the centre of the terrorist attack on London Bridge and Borough Market in June 2017, and has played a key part in the grieving, commemoration and recovery of the neighbourhood.

Southwark Cathedral: Rainwater disposal (2 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £12,765 in March 2015

The need

A new rainwater disposal system to protect the north wall of the Harvard Chapel, the archaeological chamber (where Roman remains are displayed to the public), and the surviving remains of the original Norman priory was urgently needed. In October 2014, a blockage to the single outlet had caused a serious overflow of rainwater which had cascaded down the north wall to the Harvard Chapel, and into the chamber itself. This highlighted the fundamental inadequacies and vulnerability of the existing arrangement: further serious leaks were expected as the volume and intensity of rainfall being experienced had increased in recent years.

Outcomes

The works have eliminated the flooding risk to the archaeological chamber and have created a system which is safe and easier to maintain. This project, in combination with the others at the cathedral, has encouraged the team step up their fundraising and has thus been a catalyst for further investment in the building. It also instilled a sense of confidence in the Chapter that they can successfully take forward significant projects, which has built ambition for future programmes.

Economic and social impact

This project supported two jobs in traditional lead and copper work. The projects at Southwark, along with those the architect worked on at Coventry Cathedral, enabled the architect to grow her practice. Formerly a sole practitioner, the security of the funded projects allowed her to employ others and she now has two permanent members of staff.



Works in progress: installation of the new copper rainwater pipe by Norman & Underwood. Photo credit: A&RME architects.



The new rainwater pipe discharges water directly to the outside. View from Humphrey's Yard. Photo credit: A&RME architects.

Works completed and timescale

Roofing contractor Norman & Underwood were responsible for installing a new copper rainwater pipe to the east end of the Lancelot Link. The previous pipe was re-routed to the outside of the building to eliminate the risk of overflow into the chamber. Museum of London Archaeology carried out the archaeological watching brief for the installation of the new below-ground drainage to connect the new pipework to the existing structure. The works were completed in October 2015.

The Cathedral

See previous project summary.

Southwark Cathedral: Quire roof and high-level repairs(3 of 3 projects funded)

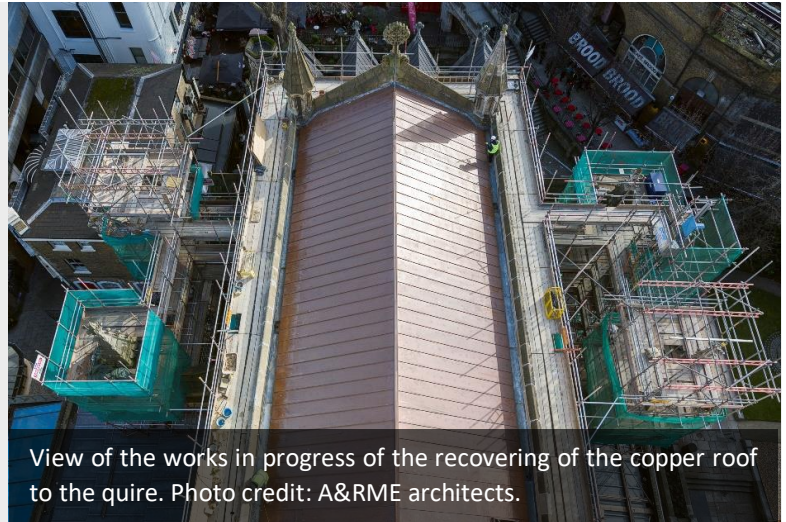
Awarded £500,000 in November 2016 and reallocated a further £40,000 in May 2018

The need

The quire roof sprang a major leak in 2016, which meant that work initially identified in the 2015 Quinquennial Inspection had become much more urgent. The water ingress had led to the spalling of high-level masonry inside the cathedral, with stone fragments dropping down to the quire floor below; netting was installed at clerestory level as a temporary measure to ensure public safety.

Outcomes

The copper roof coverings and lead-lined gutters are now watertight and the sumps have been deepened and new overflows introduced, to ensure that the rainwater disposal system can handle the more intense downpours now being experienced. The east window repair prevents access by pigeons and other insects, reducing the risk of damage. A new walkway within the roof void provides safe access for maintenance of the quire roof for the first time, reducing the cost and burden of this maintenance in the future. Due to these works, the cathedral team obtained additional funding of £65,000 from the Pilgrim Trust and private donors. The re-roofing of the quire contributed to the completion of the Cathedral's re-roofing programme, which started in 2009, and left only the north side of the nave roof to be repaired.



View of the works in progress of the recovering of the copper roof to the quire. Photo credit: A&RME architects.

Economic and social impact

The project supported nine jobs in traditional masonry and copper work. It also saw an extremely successful collaboration with the students of the Historic Carving Course from the City & Guilds of London Art School. The students and their tutors carved 43 new bosses for the stringcourse to the Choir. This presented a great opportunity for the students to experience working on a major church building and to learn 13th-century style carving skills. A benefit of the collaboration with the City and Guilds of London Art School was that members of the public could watch the work going forward, talk to the carvers, and learn a little about the ancient craft of stone carving. The event reached a wide audience when BBC London featured the project and filmed the students carving in the cathedral churchyard.

Works completed and timescale

The work was carried out by Warren & Neale Roofing and Conservation Ltd and commenced in September 2017. It involved replacement of the copper roof of the choir and improvements to rainwater disposal. The east window to the quire roof void was repaired and a permanent walkway was constructed within the void. There were also



extensive high-level masonry repairs, including the rebuild of pinnacles. The works were completed in March 2018. In May 2018 the fund's Expert Panel reallocated an additional £40,000 from underspend elsewhere towards additional masonry repairs to the retrochoir and east end, the need for which had been identified while carrying out the main project.

The Cathedral

See previous project summary.