

St Paul's Cathedral: Stone Gallery Repairs (1 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £200,000 in July 2016 towards a £640,000 project

The need

The need for repairs to the cathedral's Stone Gallery, which runs around the Dome, had been identified in Quinquennial Inspection reports as early as 1993. Cracked asphalting dating from around 1900 was allowing water ingress and salt damage to the stone and to internal wall paintings. It required repair to prevent further damage and significant costs in the future. If left untreated there was also a risk of corroding the iron radial tension ties to the Dome.

Outcomes

The Stone Gallery is now watertight. Addressing the problem now was an 'investing to save' approach, forestalling significant future costs and limiting liabilities by investing in a single phase of work and comprehensive repair. It has prevented further damage to the Thornhill paintings inside the Dome which would have cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to repair.

Without the fund, it would have taken some time to raise the necessary funding for the work and there would have been additional costs of further damage to highly significant historic fabric. Now that the works are complete they should last two generations without requiring major intervention. The balance was met by cathedral funds.

Economic and social impact

The main contractors and sub-contractors used for the work were very local and within the M25. The project has also delivered significant improvements to the visitor experience and addressed several other fabric and health and safety risks.

Works completed

The asphalt tanking was renewed in two phases of work which allowed visitor access to one half of the gallery to continue during most of the project. Improvements to the rainwater disposal systems, stairheads and access stairs were also carried out.



The asphalting of the Stone Gallery. Photo credit: Caroe Architecture Ltd.



Damage to the part of the Thornhill painting inside the cathedral dome. Photo credit: Caroe Architecture Ltd.

The Cathedral

The present building was design by Sir Christopher Wren after the Great Fire of London and consecrated in 1697, the building being completed in 1710 with the finishing of the dome. It is a masterpiece of space and light and a major focus for national events, with very significant repair and maintenance spending. It receives more than 1.5 million visitors each year.

St Paul's Cathedral: Repairs to roof above Model Aisle (2 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £80,000 in November 2016 towards a £215,000 project

The need

Improving the rainwater management system above the Model Aisle of the cathedral was the top priority of three urgent areas of roof repair set out in the application. Guttering defects and stormwater capacity limitations needed to be rectified to protect the highly significant collections housed in the Model Aisle, many objects of which chart the history and development of this internationally important building and its interiors. £80,000 was awarded for this element of the work.

Works completed and outcomes

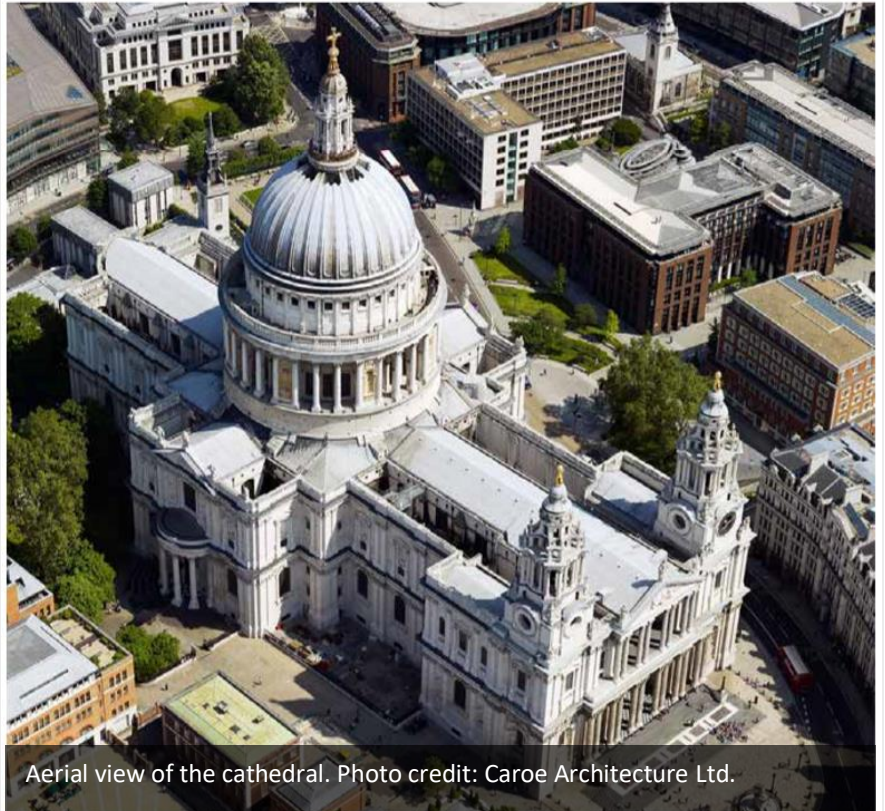
The works were completed within the timescales and changed the repair status of the area from “urgent” to “not requiring any further work for another two generations”. The cathedral is continuing to support with its own funds the remaining elements of the programme of roof repairs which was initiated by the First World War grant funding. As a package these will protect other significant areas and the library collection from similar risks of water damage, particularly during the more intense rainfall events now being experienced.

Economic impact

The roofing work was carried out by the cathedral's in-house works department. They have since taken on an apprentice to support future work, sustaining the future of the cathedral's in-house craft skills.

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Aerial view of the cathedral. Photo credit: Caroe Architecture Ltd.



The Model Aisle collections store. Photo credit: Caroe Architecture Ltd.