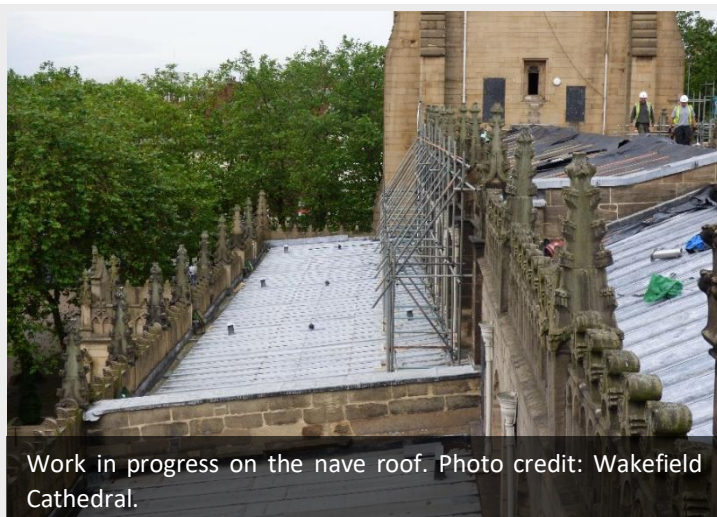


Wakefield Cathedral: Nave and Quire Roof Repairs (1 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £220,000 in November 2014

The need

The lead roofs of the nave and quire, installed around 1933, were leaking. The 2013 Quinquennial Inspection had highlighted a significant number of splits in the leadwork. Their condition worsened significantly over the winter of 2013-2014. Very cold weather before Christmas meant the leadwork became even more brittle and cracked further. This was then followed by the wettest period of weather over a 6- to 8-week period anybody could remember. The result was significant water penetration through the roof coverings, particularly the nave roof, necessitating buckets to collect drips within the nave, where new lighting, floor and redecoration had recently been carried out as part of a £3 million project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Emergency patching works with flashband were undertaken, during which far more splits in the lead were discovered than had been identified only a few months previously. The roof coverings needed urgent replacement if the mediaeval timber ceilings in the quire and roof bosses in the nave were not to be put at immediate risk of damage and loss. The failure of the roof coverings over such a short period of time was assessed as the most significant risk to the Cathedral's historic fabric at the time of application.



Work in progress on the nave roof. Photo credit: Wakefield Cathedral.

Outcomes

The mediaeval timber ceilings in the quire and roof bosses in the nave are no longer at risk. Water can no longer penetrate so the new lighting, flooring and decoration are no longer threatened. The projects have made the cathedral aware of the need to have good policies and procedures in place. They have also gained useful experience in dealing with contractors and project management.

Economic and social impact

This work supported a number of jobs in traditional leadwork and masonry. The architect and cathedral organised activities to engage the wider community, including lectures, filming and getting local schools involved. Before the old roof was removed the cathedral gave permission for a graffiti artist to decorate it to celebrate the city's role in the 2015 Tour de Yorkshire cycle race, which attracted much interest.

Works completed

The works involved the removal of existing lead and parapet gutters, repairs to timber cored rolls and boards and re-leading to fix leaks. It also involved repairing and reinstating ventilators and some associated urgent masonry repairs to the parapets of the nave and quire.



Work in progress on the nave roof. Photo credit: Wakefield Cathedral.

The Cathedral

Wakefield Cathedral dates from multiple periods, with elements surviving from the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. The church was rebuilt and enlarged in 1469 in the Perpendicular Gothic style. The spire, damaged in a violent gale, was renewed in 1823 (at 75m tall, it is the highest spire in Yorkshire). After years of neglect in the 18th century, restoration was carried out by Sir George Gilbert Scott and his son John Oldrid Scott between 1858 and 1874. It became a cathedral in 1888 and was extended eastwards in 1905.

Wakefield Cathedral: Stained Glass Repairs (2 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £72,000 in March 2015

The need

A 2007 specialist report highlighted that conservation and repair work was required to two important Victorian stained-glass windows at the east end of the cathedral, to remove harmful deposits from past industrial pollution. A further outstanding window by Hardman & Co (1867) required lead repairs, cleaning and protective glazing to stabilise the loss of painted detail. Without the work being carried out the windows would have started to leak, risking damage to the interior of the cathedral and risking public safety through falls of glass and masonry.

Outcomes

The future of the windows is now safeguarded. They are protected against further condensation and loss of fragile painting and detail. The interior is also brighter and lighter. As a result of this project, the cathedral leveraged a further £100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to undertake further work to windows in that part of the cathedral. The cathedral saved approximately £20,000 through the use of the same scaffolding as the simultaneous works and the architect's reduced fees, which enabled them to work on another window. The projects have made the cathedral aware of the need to have good policies and procedures in place. They have also gained useful experience in dealing with contractors and projects.

Economic and social impact

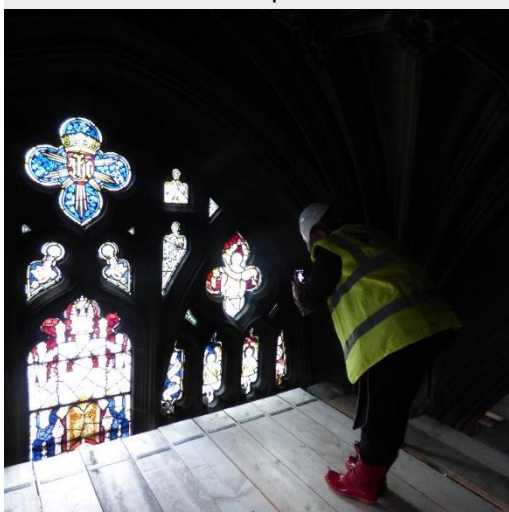
The project supported five jobs in traditional glazing work. As they are brighter and easier to see, visitors take much more notice of the windows and the stories of faith and heritage they represent. The cathedral has capitalised on this through education work with local schools. The architect and cathedral organised activities to engage the wider community, including lectures and filming.

Works completed

The conservation of the three 19th-century stained glass windows involved conservation cleaning by York Glaziers Trust to remove harmful deposits which were attacking the fired detail. There were also repairs to the glass and some stabilisation of painted detail. In addition, one of the windows required re-leading to some lights and the application of protective glazing.



The conservation of the stained-glass windows. Photo credit: Wakefield Cathedral.



Inspecting the stained-glass windows. Photo credit: Wakefield Cathedral.

The Cathedral

Wakefield Cathedral dates from multiple periods, with elements surviving from the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. The church was rebuilt and enlarged in 1469 in the Perpendicular Gothic style. The spire, damaged in a violent gale, was renewed in 1823 (at 75m tall, it is the highest spire in Yorkshire). After years of neglect in the 18th century, restoration was carried out by Sir George Gilbert Scott and his son John Oldrid Scott between 1858 and 1874. It became a cathedral in 1888 and was extended eastwards in 1905.

Wakefield Cathedral: Nave Window Repairs (3 of 3 projects funded)

Awarded £456,000 in July 2016

The need

Over the past five years, Heritage Lottery Fund-supported projects at Wakefield Cathedral, plus the grants from previous rounds of this Fund, had left it almost totally repaired and refurbished at a cost of £6.5 million. The only significant area of work left was the exceptional set of stained-glass windows from the studio of Charles Kempe in the nave. These were deteriorating rapidly and allowing water penetration, threatening the £3 million refurbishment of the nave as well as the condition of the windows themselves. In heavy rain water splashed the congregation, including on one occasion the Mayor at a civic service. The water penetration was also spoiling and staining the newly cleaned stone work.

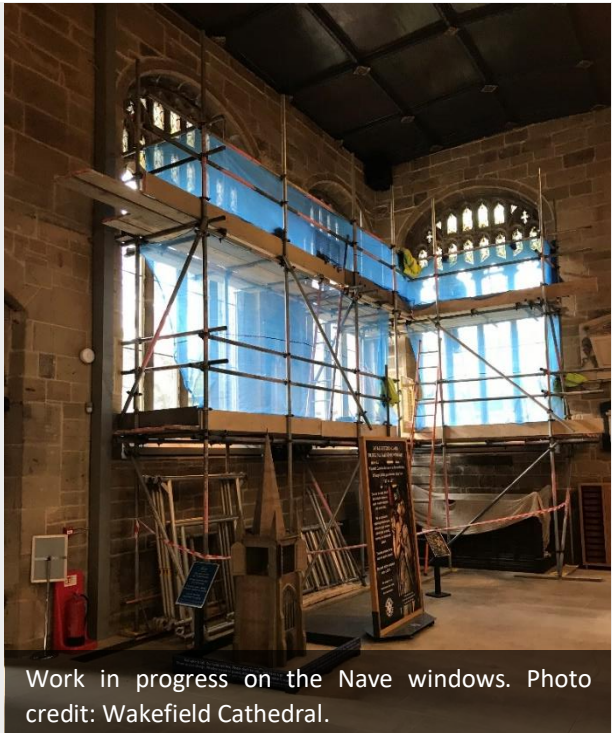
Outcomes

Water can no longer penetrate into the building through the windows and there is no risk of splashing the congregation or spoiling the newly cleaned stonework as there was previously. The building is drier and more comfortable as a result. The windows are no longer tired or dingy or have signs of atmospheric or climatic wear. The projects have made the cathedral aware of the need to have good policies and procedures in place. They have also gained useful experience in dealing with contractors and projects.

Works completed and timescale

The works consisted of the repair and conservation of the windows in the nave aisles and the western tower that were deteriorating rapidly and allowing water penetration. This involved re-leading, cleaning and the application of protective glazing.

Economic and social impact The project supported five jobs in traditional glazing work. Visitors are now able to appreciate the fine details of the windows, which have been carefully uncovered, and to enjoy Charles Kempe's artistry in what is one of the largest single collections of his work in stained glass. The cathedral has capitalised on this through education work with local schools. The architect and cathedral organised activities to engage the wider community, including lectures and filming.



Work in progress on the Nave windows. Photo credit: Wakefield Cathedral.



The completed Nave windows. Photo credit: Wakefield Cathedral.

Cathedral quote

Wakefield Cathedral has undergone a remarkable transformation in the last few years. Thanks to generous grants, we have been able to undertake perhaps the most thorough restoration programme of any cathedral in recent times, spending some £7.5 million to conserve and restore the building from top to bottom, end to end, while making it a warm, welcoming and 'fit for purpose' building in the 21st century. The First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund has played a significant part in helping us achieve this. (Tony Macpherson, Acting Dean, February 2018).

The Cathedral

See previous project summary.