The Fund aimed to keep England’s cathedrals safe and open to perform their crucial civic role, including First World War commemorations:

- £40 million funding for urgent repairs between 2014-2018;
- 144 grants awarded as part of 130 separate repair projects;
- 57 Anglican and Catholic cathedrals supported;
- Funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport;
- Administered by Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division, Church of England.

The Fund was successful in achieving its aims and met a funding need that could not be met elsewhere.
FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY CATHEDRAL REPAIRS FUND EVALUATION

Awards by Repair Type

- 6% Windows
- 12% Building systems (rewiring, heating, emergency lighting and sound)
- Tower/spire 10%
- Roof 33%
- Other high-level repairs 30%
- Ground level repairs and drainage 9%

Skills Supported

Delivery of the repair projects supported a range of traditional skills, including:

- Stonemasonry
- Leadwork
- Carpentry
- Conservation Research
- Glass Conservation
- Slating
- Concrete Repair
- Metalwork
- Archaeology
- Blacksmithing
- Electrics

Before and After Repairs

Repair status of the grant-assisted area

- Before repairs
- After repairs

No. of responses

- Urgent
- Needed within a few years
- Routine
Wider Outcomes

Repair projects safeguarded cathedral buildings and allowed existing activities to continue.

Leveraged additional funds  
Increased tourist visits  
Improved project management

Improved building condition

More First World War commemorations  
Freed-up resource for other projects

Increased skills development  
Increased publicity for the cathedral

Increased community interest  
More community events

Existing Activities Safeguarded

First World War Commemorations  
Civic Events  
Worship  
Schools Groups  
Community Outreach  
Tourism  
Care of Collections

100% of respondents still had outstanding repairs outside of the grant-funded areas. There remains a need for continued annual funding for cathedrals to undertake required repairs and maintenance.

This visual has been prepared by Mair Smith and Fran Haswell-Walls of ERS Ltd. (2018)