

**Section 9 of Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011
Notice of Decision of Cathedrals Fabric Commission**

TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St Peter of Exeter applied on 14 June 2023 for approval of the following proposal:

Targeted and reversible interventions to the first floor of the Pearson building to enable the control of an environment in which sensitive outstanding items can be displayed.

Summary of the application

- Mechanical services – including heating, cooling and ventilation
- Lighting and electrical services – including automatic door control and lighting
- The construction of a ‘Special Exhibition Area’, in which to display sensitive outstanding items
- Installation of automatic doors
- Light reduction measures
- Collection Management Plan for the display of outstanding items
- Specification of display cases

Representations

Representations in writing in respect of the above proposal were received from:

- *Historic England*, 7 July 2023 – expressing concerns.
- *Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings*, 5 July 2023 – no comment.
- *Victorian Society*, 4 July 2023 – no comment.

Decision

At a meeting of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission held on 13 July 2023 the above proposal and representations were considered and the Commission decided to approve the application subject to the following conditions:

1. That further environmental monitoring will be undertaken for twelve months following installation of the exhibition; which, together with pre- and post-display condition reports for items displayed during that time, will be submitted to the CFCE’s Head of Conservation & Collections Policy and then to the FAC for comment; and, if necessary, the environmental management of the spaces shall be reviewed in light of their recommendations.
2. That the removed nineteenth-century door from the Pearson building (with necessary information regarding its storage location, etc) shall be recorded on the cathedral inventory within three months of its removal, and the FAC shall be informed when this has happened.
3. That, before any exhibits are installed in the new exhibition space, Chapter will ensure that there is a good fire detection system and disaster recovery plan in place for the exhibition space (particularly taking into account the risk of fire presented by the plant in the roof space); the details of which shall be submitted to the FAC and if necessary reviewed in light of their recommendations.

The reasons for the conditions being (1) to ensure the suitability of the environmental conditions in the new exhibition space; (2) to ensure the preservation of original building fabric; (3) to ensure that there is a fire detection system and disaster recovery plan in place for the exhibition space.

Signed:



**Thomas Ashley
Deputy Secretary of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission**

Dated: 28 July 2023

NOTE:

Within 7 days of receipt of this Notice the administrator of the Cathedral Church is to display a copy of it inside and outside the cathedral where it will be readily visible to the public for a period of not less than 28 days.

Section 9 of Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011

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TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Blessed Mary the Virgin and St Cuthbert of Durham applied on 14th June 2023 for approval of the following proposal:

The Proposal

To conserve the manuscript Durham Cathedral MS B.IV.16.

Summary of the application

MS B.IV.16 is an important part of the history of learning at Durham Cathedral and has been part of our collections since it was written in the 12th century. Continuing interest in its contents is demonstrated in annotations by later Priory monks, notably Thomas Swalwell, who organised and listed the contents of many Priory manuscripts, and the chronicler Symeon of Durham.

The manuscript contains several works, of which the oldest is Bede's 'Commentary on the Apocalypse'. This forms an important link to a beloved North-eastern saint, encounters with whose life, ideas and material legacy are important elements in liturgy and visitor engagement at the Cathedral. As an item with great visual impact, MS B.IV.16 enables the cathedral to tell stories about Bede and his ideas and explore how his work was received by our medieval predecessors. The binding of this manuscript is particularly significant. Most of the cathedral's medieval manuscripts have 19th-century bindings by Tuckett, but this was bound by a local craftsman, Waghorn, in 1727.

During a recent conservation survey, the cathedral's consultant conservator, Liz Branigan, noted damage to this binding: the front board is detached, and the spine broken. This damage makes the manuscript susceptible to splitting and potential separation of the text block. The volume therefore cannot be used until this is remedied. The cathedral requests approval of conservation which will solve these problems.

The proposal will ensure the manuscript's survival in good condition and make it possible for researchers to gain new insights from examining the original volume. Ms Branigan is expert in the conservation of manuscripts and has worked with Durham Cathedral collections for over ten years. She is ICON-accredited and fully insured.

The work is being generously funded by the Friends of Durham Cathedral in memory of a former Cathedral Librarian. The proposal therefore helps celebrate and cement the cathedral's relationship with key supporters.

Representations

Representations in writing in respect of the above proposal were received from:

- FAC (extract from FAC meeting minutes 23rd March 2023) supporting the proposal

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Decision

At a meeting of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission held on **13th July 2023** the above proposal was considered and the Commission decided to **approve** the application.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'A'.

Thomas Ashley

Deputy Secretary of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission

Dated: 21st July 2023

NOTES:

1. A copy of this Notice is to be sent or delivered to the bodies or persons specified in rule 7(9), as applicable.
2. Within 7 days of receipt of this Notice the administrator of the Cathedral Church is to display a copy of it inside and outside the cathedral where it will be readily visible to the public for a period of not less than 28 days.