

Lancaster Catholic Cathedral: Re-wiring works (1 of 1 projects funded)

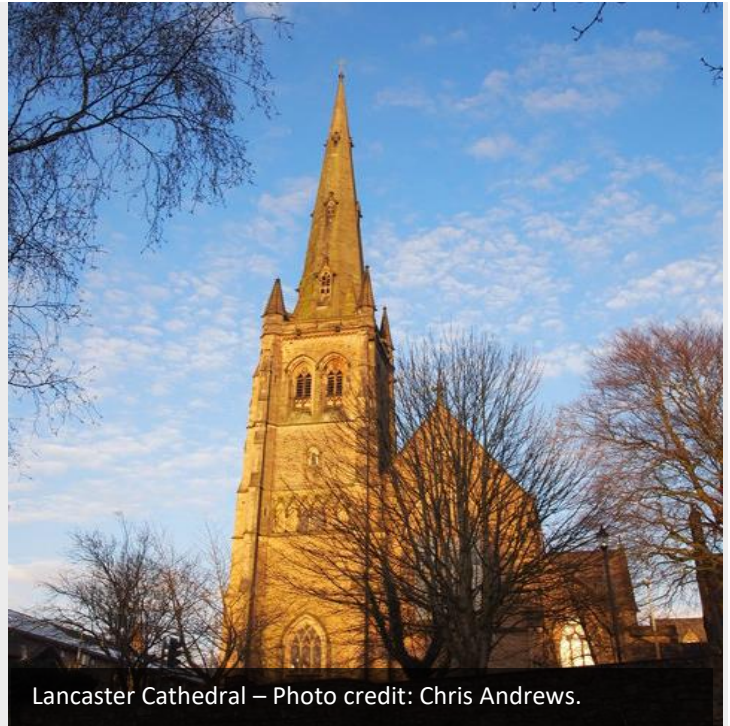
Awarded £15,000 in November 2014

The need

Defective electrical distribution boards were identified as needing urgent remedial work during the cathedral's 2014 electrical testing inspection. In 2013 the parish had undertaken a considerable fundraising campaign to replace the heating system in the cathedral, which had failed in mid-December 2012. Having so recently undertaken such a major infrastructure project it needed to raise external funding to carry out the required work on the electrical installation.

Outcomes, economic and social impact

The cathedral's electrical installation was put into a safe condition, enabling it to remain open and continue its activities, including First World War commemorations. In December 2014 it held a Carol Service for the Lancaster Military Heritage Group, the first time such an event had taken place. To co-ordinate with this service the cathedral's Inspire exhibition area was used to showcase one of Lancaster's own, the writer and poet Laurence Binyon, author of *For the Fallen*.



Lancaster Cathedral – Photo credit: Chris Andrews.

Works completed

The works involved scaffolding to reach high-level areas and included remedial work to the electrical installations such as re-wiring and replacing defective electrical distribution boards.

The Cathedral

The original church was designed in a neo-Gothic style by architect Edward Paley and built between 1857 and 1859. It celebrated its golden jubilee in 1909, and a number of alterations were made under the direction of Giles Gilbert Scott. In 1924 the Diocese of Lancaster was created and the church was elevated to the status of a cathedral. Outside, an impressive 240ft spire draws attention to this house of prayer. As mother church of the Diocese of Lancaster, it remains the seat of a large Catholic Diocese stretching from Ribble Valley to Carlisle.



Part of the original defective installation – Photo credit: grant application document.