

Nottingham Catholic Cathedral: Drainage repairs (1 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded grants totalling £255,000 in March 2015 and July 2016

The need

Gutters around the cathedral were not large enough to cope with the heavy rainfall now being experienced, and drains and soakaways around the building were also inadequate. Water was penetrating the walls, causing damp problems, with discoloured and peeling paint in many places around the cathedral; this needed to be addressed before any internal conservation and refurbishment could take place.

Outcomes

The work has improved drainage around the building and reduced damp and water damage in the interior. The projects at the cathedral have encouraged it to improve its maintenance plan. They have also been a catalyst for further investment in the building and have developed the team's experience in applying for grants. The cathedral is currently discussing with the Heritage Lottery Fund a project involving archival research, paint analysis, and monitoring damp levels, coinciding with the 2019 175th anniversary of its consecration, to explore and better understand Pugin's design ideas to inform a project in the medium term to help restore and interpret lost and damaged features.

Social impact

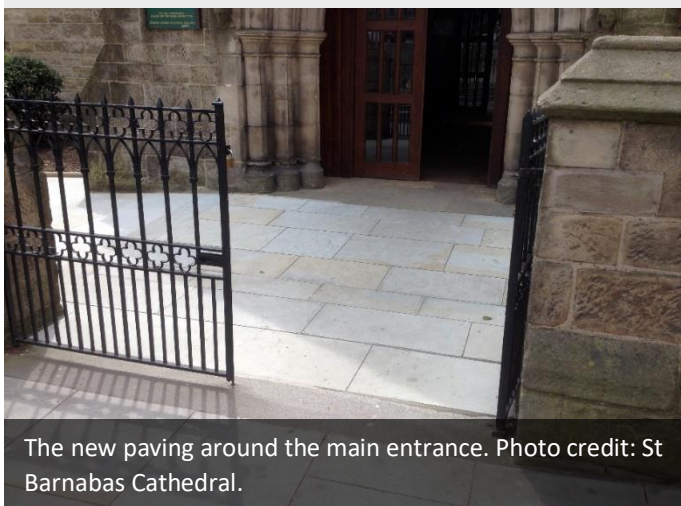
Improved paving has helped disabled access to the cathedral: people with disabilities or difficulty walking that came to the First World War commemorations were able to enter using the main entrance. Better drainage around the car park has also meant that there is more space for visitor parking. While re-laying the paving, the cathedral took the opportunity to install a new broadband cable. This means they can now live-stream so that people who are not able to get to the cathedral can watch services and events.

Works completed

The work consisted of improving above and below-ground drainage and surface water management around the cathedral by improving the drains and carrying out resurfacing works. Works to rainwater goods included installation of larger gutters and downpipes in cast iron, forming of a French drain to the west of the cathedral and other drainage works around the west front, provision of new drainage systems to replace existing soakaways, maintenance access to the north and south sides, and re-paving to the north and south sides. The second grant was to remedy defective drainage, surface water control and paving on the west side of the cathedral, further improving safety and access for visitors, and enabling the building to start to dry out and planning for internal refurbishment to the notable Pugin interior to commence.



The drainage works in progress. Photo credit: St Barnabas Cathedral.



The new paving around the main entrance. Photo credit: St Barnabas Cathedral.

The Cathedral

The Cathedral Church of St Barnabas was designed by AW Pugin and built between 1841 and 1844 in the Early English Plain Gothic style, although in contrast, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel was richly decorated. It was raised to cathedral status in 1852, becoming one of the first four Catholic cathedrals in England and Wales since the English Reformation.

Nottingham Catholic Cathedral: Lighting upgrade (2 of 2 projects funded)

Awarded £75,000 in November 2016

The need

There was an urgent need for a safety upgrade to the cathedral lighting. Most of it dated from c. 1994, although some fitting went back to the 1960s, notably the cold cathode tubes in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, which were so noisy they were no longer used. The main nave fittings were overheating and scorching the Pugin paintwork above, and other fittings were failing and hard to reach for maintenance. The control system was overheating and would cut out, plunging the cathedral into darkness mid-service.

Outcomes

There is no longer a risk of the lighting cutting out and disturbing services or events, and the lighting system no longer overheats or causes any damage. The old lighting system was expensive to run and maintain, costing around £1,000 a year: the savings can now be reallocated to future repair projects and working on the Cathedral Hall. The project has also been a catalyst for further investment in the building and has developed the team's experience in applying for grants. The cathedral is currently discussing with the Heritage Lottery Fund a project involving archival research, paint analysis, and monitoring damp levels, coinciding with the 2019 175th anniversary of its consecration, to explore and better understand Pugin's design ideas to inform a project in the medium term to help restore and interpret lost and damaged features.

Works completed

Work consisted of installing new lighting in the nave and aisles of the cathedral, and a new lighting control system.

The Cathedral

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Removing the old, scorched light fittings. Photo credit: St Barnabas Cathedral.



The new interior lighting. Photo credit: St Barnabas Cathedral.