

## **St Martin's Cathedral Leicester**

### **Application to Fabric Advisory Committee for consent to place two new plaques in St George's Chapel commemorating two former Commanding Officers of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment**

#### **Introduction**

This application seeks approval to introduce two new brass plaques into St George's Chapel, commemorating former Commanding Officers of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, adjacent to six existing plaques to former Commanding Officers on the wooden panelling to the North side of the Chapel.

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment was an infantry regiment, formed in 1688 that saw service for three centuries, in numerous wars and conflicts around the world, until it was merged into The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964. Since 1825 it was known by its famous nickname "The Tigers".

The Royal Tigers' Association is the Regiment's association for old comrades and St George's Chapel in Leicester Cathedral serves as the Regimental Chapel.

#### **Leicester Cathedral Listing Entry**

St Martin's Cathedral

Overview

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II\*

List Entry Number: 1183725

Date first listed: 05-Jan-1950

Statutory Address: ST MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL, GUILDHALL LANE

The building or site itself may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

District: City of Leicester (Unitary Authority)

National Grid Reference: SK 58498 04454

Details

GUILDHALL LANE 1. 5304 (South Side) SK 5804 SE 3/48 5.1.50 St Martin's Cathedral SK 5804 SW 2/48 GV 2.

Parish Church of St Martin until 1927 when it became the Cathedral. From C12 to C15 but much altered and restored in C19. Large church comprising nave, chancel, chancel chapels, north and south aisles, outer south aisle, west crossing tower and spire, north and south porches. Mid C13 north and south arcades, outer south arcade C13/14. C13 north doorway. C15 lengthening of nave. The crossing tower and tall spire in Early English style, of 1861 and 1867 by Raphael Brandon, replaces the medieval spire. North aisle restored 1882 by Street, south aisle in 1896 by Pearson. Chancel chapels rebuilt 1865. South porch 1897 by Bodley. North timber porch of 1862. Monuments: North aisle John Whatton and wives 1656 signed by Joshua Marshall. Chancel Gabriel Newton 1746 in Rococo style busts on large pedestal with relief carving. South chapel 1814 John Johnson, the architect of Assembly Rooms, Hotel Street, standing figure of Hope with anchor designed by Johnson, sculptor John Bacon the younger.

Nos 2 to 12 (even) St Martin's Cathedral and the Guildhall together with No 20 Loseby Lane form a group also St Martin's Cathedral forms a group with Nos 3 to 7 (odd) St Martin's East.

Listing NGR: SK5849804454

### **Drawing Identifying Areas of Proposed Works**

Please refer to appended drawing: Appendix 1

### **Statement of Significance**

The table 4.5 extract in Appendix 2 from the 2018 Conservation Plan Gazetteer produced by Heritage Collective identifies the Regimental Colours as being of artistic and communal interest.

The below additional relevant commentary is also taken from the 2018 Conservation Plan Gazetteer produced by Heritage Collective:

St George's Chapel began life in the south-west corner of the Great South Aisle as 'the Regimental Corner' to commemorate those who served with the Leicestershire Regiment. It became a dedicated Regimental Chapel in 1921. Historically the Great South Aisle was home to the Guild of St George, founded in the 15th century, and a life sized effigy of St George, mounted on a horse, was kept there. The historic medieval chapels and their altars and furnishings were removed from St Martin's during the reformation and it is likely that the guild chapel of St George also fell out of use at this time.

The creation of the more formal enclosed Regimental Chapel of St George followed a petition after the First World War to the Bishop of Peterborough, at the request of the Leicestershire Regiment, for a War Memorial in the south-west corner. Plans for the Regimental Chapel were drawn up by Messrs Temple Moore and Moore and were approved under a faculty signed on 2nd March 1921. It was dedicated on Armistice Day 11th November 1921. The works identified in the faculty for Regimental Chapel included moving the font, provision of gallery screen, paving the floor with red, white and black tiles and panelling the south wall below the string course with oak. The faculty also allowed for the relocation of an 18th century oak altar into the Chapel that had until recently been used as the high altar at the east end of the sanctuary, and furnishing the altar with brass and candlesticks.

St George's Chapel survives largely as originally designed by Temple Moore and the substantial works of enhancement elsewhere for the change to Cathedral status in the 1920s and '30s appears to have left it untouched. It has a very distinctive character within St Martin's and provides a quieter and more intimate corner in what has recently become a much busier cathedral, thanks to the attraction of the tomb of Richard III. The Chapel contains battle honours, flags and memorials to the men of the Regiment killed in the Crimea, South Africa and the two World Wars, while the tracery screens record the names and dates of the major battles fought by the Regiment between 1695 and 1902. Any changes here have been small, such as changes in seating, the addition of two further book stands on the west wall by Drew-Edwards Keene (1998) and new brackets for Regimental Colours on the north side (1999), also by Drew-Edwards Keene.

### **Description of Proposed Works, Necessity and Objectives**

Two brass plaques (30x20cm), to be introduced to the wooden panelling on the North side of St George's Chapel to match the existing adjacent six plaques in the chapel commemorating former Commanding Officers of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment. The plaques will be made by R.E. Bowers & Freeman Ltd who made the existing plaques, from brass, engraved and filled black, incorporating a surrounding brass border. The plaques would be fixed to the next two 'bays' of the wooden screen in each corner with brass covered screws in common with the existing plaques. This would leave four empty bays and Captain Ty Smith has indicated that he anticipates only a further two applications to be made for additional commemorations in due course. The Regiment is closing and holding a final service in the Cathedral on 16 June 2024 and it is hoped that . Further details with wording and pictures are outlined in the letter from Captain Ty Smith – see Appendix 2.

**Impact Summary**

The impact of introducing these plaques is considered positive. They will add to the history of the Regiment in the Chapel and the character of that part of the Chapel will be maintained as the design of the new plaques will be identical to those already there. Work is being undertaken to research the history and heritage of monuments in the Cathedral including those in St George's Chapel with a view to providing interpretation for visitors. This work will take some time and Chapter is content that these plaques be introduced into the Chapel at this point in time rather than wait for that considerable project to be completed.