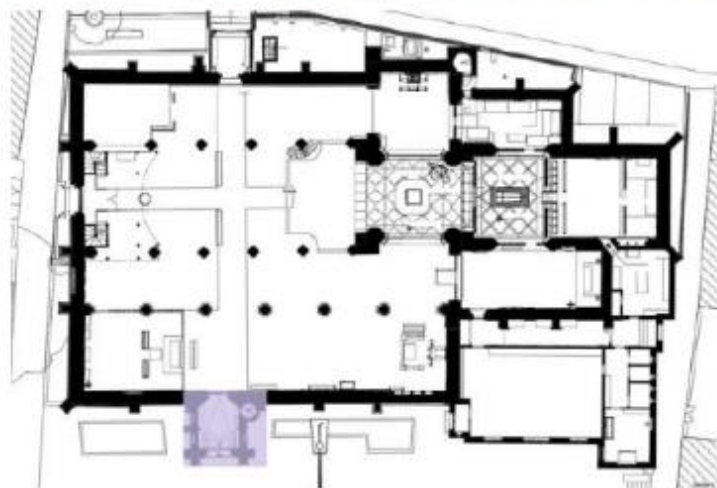


4.2 South (Vaughan) Porch and Doorway



Description and background

The south porch is a two storey addition completed in 1896-7. The porch was paid for by public subscription and was dedicated to the memory of the Revd Edward Vaughan, vicar between 1802-29, and his three sons Charles, Edward and David, successive vicars of St Martin's between 1841 and 1893.

Construction of the porch was completed by George Frederick Bodley (1827-1907) to designs by John Loughborough Pearson's, architect of Truro Cathedral. Bodley completed the porch after the death of Pearson in 1897. The list description mistakenly identifies Bodley as the originator of the design. However, it is clear from architectural drawings that the detailed designs for the porch originated from Pearson's office, as they are signed with his address of 13 Mansfield Street in London, dated 1897.

The Vaughan Porch was a grander replacement for a much simpler porch that once stood there, thought to have been removed in the mid-19th century. The earlier porch is shown in a depiction from 1792 within John Nichol's 'History and Antiquities of the County of Leicestershire, Vol 1, Part 2, 1815.

It is built in ashlar with nine statues in niches on the front, in a late 14th century style. A narrow newel stair inside leads to a chamber above the vaulting, which was



formerly used for the Cathedral's muniments (until they were moved to the Leicester Records Office). It was built around the existing south door, which has detailing consistent with the mid-13th century. It is difficult to date the south doors themselves and they may well be later replacements, possibly from the 19th century. They have more decorative tracery than either of the north or west doors, are crisply carved and have what may be machine worked elements such as flat panelling. The border of the outer frame on the outside face appears to copy the decorative foliage of the north door, but the carving is more clearly defined and may have been copied from the original doors.

Above the arched entrance to the Vaughan Porch are seven carved figures in Stamford limestone. The figures represent prominent men connected with Leicester's history and from left to right include:

- Guthlac c.673 - 714, a Lincolnshire hermit when Leicester was made a diocese. His advice was sought by the Bishop of Leicester.
- Hugh of Lincoln c.1134 - 1200, a Carthusian monk and Bishop of Lincoln, his diocese included Leicester.
- Robert Grosseteste c.1175 - 1253 was senior ecclesiastical officer and Archdeacon of Leicester who became Bishop of Lincoln.

4.2—the Vaughan Porch (continued)

- John Wydiffe c.1329 - 1384, priest and religious reformer whose last parish was in Lutterworth.
- Henry Hastings c.1535 - 1595, 3rd Earl of Leicester was a leading Tudor Puritan who lived at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, his Leicester house was in the High Street.
- William Chillingworth 1602 - 1644, was nephew of Archbishop Laud, was the Master of Wyggeston Hospital and Lecturer of Saint Martin's.
- William Connor Magee 1821 - 1891, Bishop of Peterborough who encouraged the building of many of Leicester's Victorian churches and schools.

The Vaughan Porch remains largely as built, except for the installation in 1991–92 of glazed draught doors set in a bronze shield with transom, with outer decorative wrought iron gates. The glazed gates and steel frame were designed by Drew-Edwards Keene, the Cathedral Architects, and the frame was fixed into mass-

concrete anchor blocks cast behind stone linings in the walls and floor, with locally cut indents into the stone benching to house the frame. The wrought iron gates were also designed by Drew-Edwards Keene in 1989 and were presented by the Friends of Leicester Cathedral. They are said to have made from salvaged ironwork from Sunderland Pier (Cotton, p.37). The gates do not function well as when the iron gates are open to signal welcome the glazed doors must also be open, thus not preventing draughts.

There is scope for improvement of the access with regard to provision of a functioning draught lobby or similar.



The Vaughan Porch



Vault within the Vaughan Porch and steel and glass frame for later doorway and screen.



Top—Detail of the crest on glazed gates frame.

Below— Vaughan commemorations within the porch.

Table 4.2—Elements of Value, the South (Vaughan) Porch

Feature	Date	Associations	Values	Significance
Exterior general, perpendicular architecture, statuettes, fine craftsmanship	1896-97	Deign J L Pearson, Dedicated to Rev. Edward Vaughan and sons. Bodley completed construction	Architectural Historic Artistic Townscape Communal	Considerable
Interior detailing, door surround, carved bosses,	1896-7		Architectural Artistic	Considerable
First floor room exposed oak roof	1896-7		Architectural Historic	Some Academically rigorous careful timber detailing in a traditional manner.
Statuettes		Leicester notables depicted as per list within text above.	Associative historic	Some
South doors, perpendicular style,	19th century		Architectural Artistic	Some
Floor—tiled arranged in diamond pattern	1896-7	Pearson and Bodley	Architectural Historic	Local
Internal glazed draught doors in steel frames, considered to function poorly	1991-92		None, a poorly considered remedial action.	Negative
Townscape Value of porch as primary entrance, focal point to southern elevation, feature within Cathedral Gardens.				Local