

St Martin's Cathedral Leicester

Application to FAC to discharge CFCE consent condition

Introduction

CFCE condition:

Removal of the pews from the West End Gallery - approved with the following condition:

That a new application under the Care of Cathedrals Measure is made to the FAC to determine details about the proposed plinth to display the memorial plaques from the removed pews.

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:

- 542-L-011 - Existing-First Floor Plan - Rev G - West End Gallery

Statement of Significance

The below table extract from the 2018 Conservation Plan Gazetteer produced by Heritage Collective identifies the gallery as being of local significance:

Table 4.4 – Elements of value, Nave Transepts and Aisles

Feature	Date	Associations	Values	Significance
Organ loft and choir gallery. Following the hallowing of the Cathedral, relocating organ from north transept.	1927 and 1930	Nicholson, Rev. MacNutt Messrs H Herbert and Sons (local joinery company) Communal links to choral groups and musical role of the Cathedral in the community.	Architectural Artistic Communal Historic	Local Aspects of the space created under the choir gallery detract from the significance of the west doorway and create a low value space.

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

At the western end of the Nave and north aisle are the choir gallery and organ (The history and appearance of these features are covered in detail within Cotton 2016, section 7). Both designed by Nicholson following the creation of the Cathedral. The previous organ dating to 1873 had been located in the north transept. It was merely repaired to serve the hallowing ceremony in 1927 and the new organ was built and installed by Harrisons of Durham in 1930, this work opening up the northern transept and enabling St Katherine's chapel to be better integrated to the rest of the Cathedral spaces. A local company, Herbert and Sons, were appointed to undertake the construction of the choir gallery, with the encouragement of Nicholson to MacNutt, who oversaw the process of St Martin's becoming a cathedral.

Also see attached appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Extract from Leicester Cathedral 2001 Inventory

Existing Condition

Assessed as satisfactory.



Photographs showing West End Gallery clear of pews (the memorial plaques have all been carefully removed and are in safe storage.)

Description of Proposed Works, Necessity and Objectives

11 no. memorial plaques previously attached to the pews to be fixed to a new oak plinth underneath the west window.

Plinth to comprise 18mm quarter-sawn solid oak 250cm long by 12cm high with chamfer to the edge, finished with Osmo Hard Wax Oil.

Plinth to be fixed with concealed stainless steel or non-ferrous fixings into the perpend of the cill stones.

Plaques to be fixed to the plinth with brass screws. Where not already pre-drilled (some plaques were previously glued to the pews) plaques to be carefully drilled to allow screw fixing. Plaques to be evenly spaced.



Annotated photograph showing proposed plinth location underneath the west window.

Impact Summary

The heritage of the cathedral will be enhanced by the new oak plinth that will display the memorial plaques previously fixed to the pews (now removed).

The impact of the works is considered positive in retaining the memory of those individuals the plaques are dedicated to.