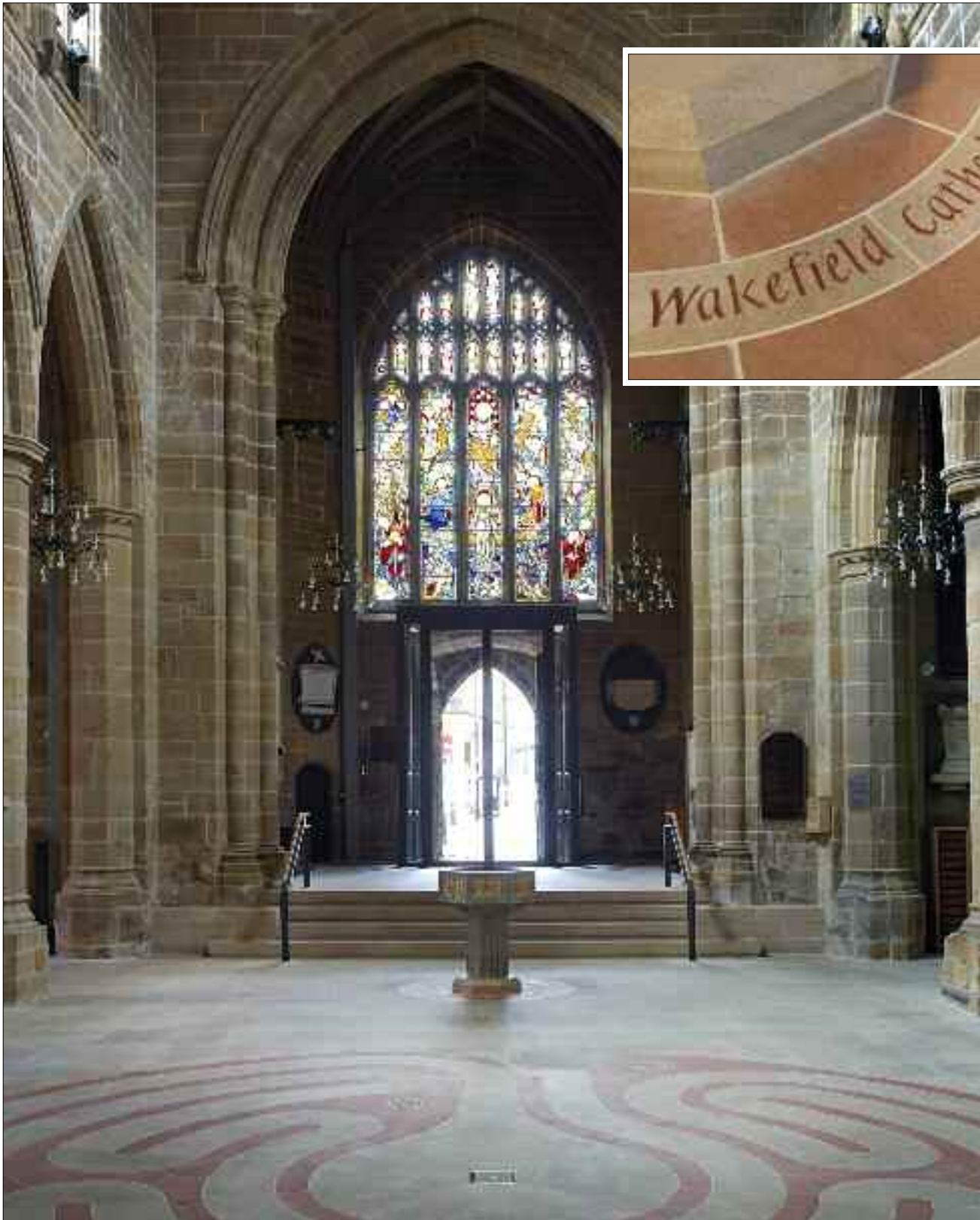


PROJECT



CATHEDRAL OF ALL SAINTS
WAKEFIELD

PROJECT TEAM

Client: The Dean & Chapter of the Cathedral Church of All Saints', Wakefield

Architects:
Thomas Ford & Partners

Quantity Surveyor:
The Richard Shaw Partnership

Structural Engineer:
The Morton Partnership Ltd

M & E Consultants:
Martin Thomas Associates

Lighting Designer:
Light Perceptions Limited

Archaeologist:
Wessex Archaeology

CDM Coordinator:
The Richard Shaw Partnership

Main Contractor:
William Anelay Ltd

The first of three phases in the ambitious redevelopment of one of Yorkshire's great churches, Thomas Ford & Partners' interior reordering and refurbishment of the Nave and West Tower of Wakefield Cathedral enhances the historic fabric and creates a flexible space for worship and community use.

The project is the first major intervention to Wakefield's Nave since George Gilbert Scott's reordering in the 1870s. Supported by significant funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, work on the recent reordering was completed in the spring of 2013, the 125th anniversary of the City of Wakefield and the founding of the diocese. The project is the first of three phases in the redevelopment of the cathedral. Subsequent projects will include the refurbishment of the Quire, East End and Crypt, and a new northern

extension for the music school.

The spire of the Cathedral of All Saints is a landmark that locates the church at the centre of Wakefield. In addition to strategic views from outside the city, features of exceptional significance at Wakefield include: medieval quire stalls, the 17th century carved timber chancel screen; the 20th century rood and loft by Sir Ninian Comper and the 18th century silver chalice and paten by Paul de Lamerie. Work completed in the recent contract includes



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cleaning the stone walls, removing 19th century pews, laying a new sandstone floor, moving the font to a central position in the nave, new lighting and liturgical furniture.

The story of the present building starts around 1150, when parts of the surviving nave north arcade were first built. Between 1409 and 1420, the magnificent western tower and spire were added to the church and, after 1440, the present nave clerestory was constructed. This contains finely carved capitals including one of a wild boar eating acorns. The eastern half of the medieval church also dates from the second half of the 15th century. The five bay Quire contains magnificent stalls with misericords and carved animals. There is a complete set of 15th century ceilings with carved bosses depicting a wide range of religious and secular themes. Other gems include the sundial added to the south porch in 1635, and the Quire screen, carved by Thomas Grundy of Leeds in 1636. The 1661 Font replaced that destroyed in the Commonwealth.

The cathedral we see today is the work of three men who were associated with Wakefield during the 19th century. The first was Sir George Gilbert Scott, who worked on the cathedral between 1857 and 1874. His involvement included re-casing the tower in 1859 and rebuilding the spire in 1860. This was followed by major external repairs, reordering of the Quire and, finally, the reordering of the nave that was completed in 1874. His son, John Oldrid Scott, added the organ chamber and northern vestries and completed part of the present reredos, which is considered one of the finest Victorian examples in England. Following the raising of the parish church to cathedral status in 1888, John Loughborough Pearson was engaged to design a new east end. These plans came to fruition between 1903-05, when his son, Frank, completed arguably the finest Pearson work on an English cathedral. This simple and elegant design makes a majestic addition to the Cathedral. Complementing this work is the Cathedral's collection of glass by the great Victorian artist, Charles Kempe. The 20th century saw important changes at Wakefield. The rood screen figures were designed by Sir Ninian Comper in 1938, but not completed until 1950.

By the new millennium, the existing stone paving, formed from salvaged ledger stones and laid as part of Scott's re-ordering, had become unacceptably worn and uneven, creating trip hazards. Re-use of this paving material was carefully considered, but proved impractical. The new Hillhouse Edge sandstone paving includes a labyrinth design in contrasting Plumpton Red Lazonby sandstone, inspired by the labyrinth in the Chapter House floor of Bayeux Cathedral. The new labyrinth is intended as an aid to prayerful meditation. The 1661 Font has been conserved and relocated. 19th century cast iron floor grills are re-used for the new trench heaters, which augment the heat output from the new underfloor heating. The new 50mm thick paving is laid on 25mm lime mortar on a 75mm thick limecrete screed incorporating underfloor heating, on a new structural slab. The new floor slab is constructed of limecrete over recycled foamglass aggregate filling to allow the existing building fabric to breathe; the screed and slab were the



WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL

largest single area of limecrete to be laid in the UK to date. The overall design of the new floor construction was designed to minimise the disturbance to existing human remains and other archaeological features below the slab; the few remains recovered during archaeological excavations were re-interred beneath the new floor. The sandstone interior walls and columns were cleaned, conserved and repointed. Re-ordering of the base of the west tower included new steps. Peter Marshall's 1980s internal west tower porch was replaced with a more generous glazed steel frame structure, providing views into the cathedral from the precinct. The charming medieval wall



painting of an angel above the quire arch has been cleaned and conserved.

New building services installations include heating, electrics, an aspirator fire detection and alarm system, PA and AV. Light Perceptions designed the new lighting system with aisle and clerestory uplighters, spotlights, and chandeliers based on a Ninian Comper design; all the new fittings use long life and low energy LED fittings, with programmable lighting scenes for different occasions. Following the success of this project, preparation for the next phase of work is already underway. ■

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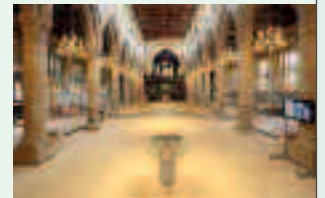
Martin Thomas Associates are delighted to have been appointed M&E Consultants in the Wakefield Cathedral Project.

Our involvement included underfloor heating incorporated into the new lime concrete floor, a new boiler installation, complete re-wiring, new fire & intruder alarms, a new PA/AV system and lighting installation in the nave.

Martin Thomas Associates is a consultancy practice specialising in M&E services for historic and new buildings within a cultural setting.

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