

GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL

PROJECT PILGRIM

connect



engage



restore



A Vision for Social, Economic, Environmental and Spiritual Regeneration

PROJECT PILGRIM

*Project Pilgrim at Gloucester Cathedral is an ambitious ten-year programme of activity and capital development that supports the 21st Century mission to be ‘**In tune with heaven, in touch with daily life**’. It aims to bring the Cathedral’s heritage and religious purpose to life so that all people, whatever their age, background or faith, are provided with engaging opportunities to learn about and respond to it in ways which are personal to them.*



WHY?

The magnificent Cathedral at Gloucester stands on a site of Christian worship that stretches back fifteen hundred years. Its heritage and historic importance in the story of England is unquestionable; but this story could be told and celebrated better - and the lessons from the stories revealed, to inform the present and future.

It is a truly inspiring building and the most loved of all in the city. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people of faith, and of no faith, visit to enjoy its splendour, history, events and quietness. For some it’s a place of worship, for others it’s a source of local pride; many others visit just to experience tranquility and a sense of place. Here, the spiritual and secular worlds join to share a common purpose in line with the Cathedral’s mission - *In tune with heaven, in touch with daily life*.

It is a place where interesting conversations take place on the role of cathedrals, heritage and the arts in the 21st century; it is committed to sustainability and seeks to lessen its environmental impact, whilst increasing its contribution to wellbeing, both spiritual and social.

Project Pilgrim at Gloucester Cathedral has the capacity to act as the tipping point in the heritage-based regeneration of the city. Improvements to the fabric, setting and interpretation will provide a focal and rallying point for the whole city.

Paul James,
Leader of Gloucester City Council

The Cathedral is open to anyone and has made great progress in reaching out, breaking down barriers and being welcoming. It has innovated; linking the spiritual with the arts through the amazingly successful *Crucible* contemporary sculpture exhibitions and celebrated music programmes. In a world where cathedrals are increasingly asking the public to pay for admission, the Gloucester response is to hold firm to 'no charge'. Nevertheless, there are many who, although aware of the Cathedral, have yet to experience its wonders and power; there is a pressing need to reach out, to connect and engage with the communities of Gloucester, the county and beyond.



Gloucester is a city with a proud history and heritage that reaches back to the Roman period. It is a city with a mixed and complex identity and with a diverse population, but it has also suffered from periods of inappropriate and unsympathetic development. In recent years investment to encourage regeneration has focussed upon sites of heritage importance, such as Gloucester Docks. Gradually, the rich and deep heritage of the city is being revealed and connections made between these hubs. Yet, the enormous potential for heritage-centred economic and cultural regeneration has yet to be realized. *At the heart of the city's heritage is the Cathedral.*

WHAT?

Over three phases of development, Project Pilgrim will:

Connect

- with the people of the city and county of Gloucester and many beyond: through outreach programmes, events and by providing an improved welcome
- with the cityscape: by creating a physical heritage core within the city including the creation of the new and much needed open, public gathering and events space in the Cathedral Close



College Green, outside the Cathedral

Existing



Artist's impression

Engage

- by improving access for all within the Cathedral
- through deepening the knowledge and understanding of all visitors to the Cathedral about its heritage and purpose through improved interpretation and visitor facilities
- by expanding audiences through increased crossover activity, e.g. through the arts, heritage-based activity and events and conversations
- encouraging increased participation in the life of the Cathedral by Gloucester communities (and vice versa through outreach activities) and through the expansion of volunteering opportunities for all

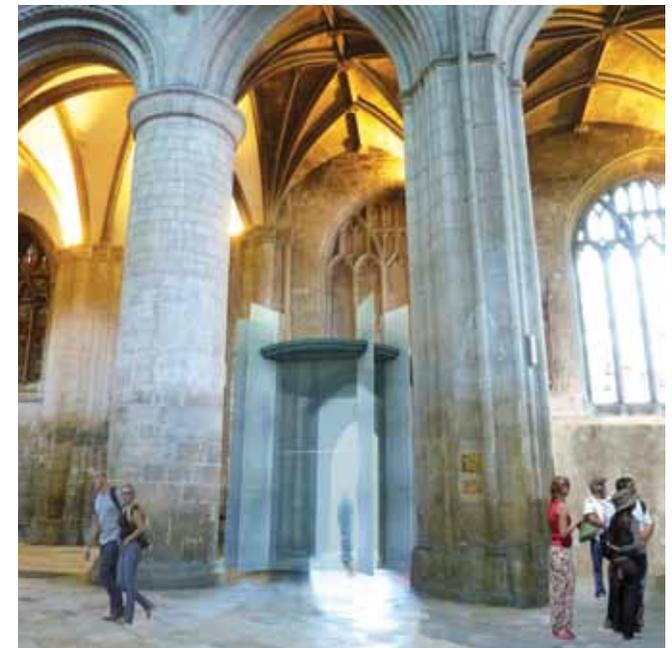
“ Project Pilgrim will build upon this love of, and pride in, the building, its stories and surroundings, taking forward the mission in practical, sustainable and innovative ways. ”

The Very Reverend Stephen Lake, Dean of Gloucester



Entrance to the Cathedral

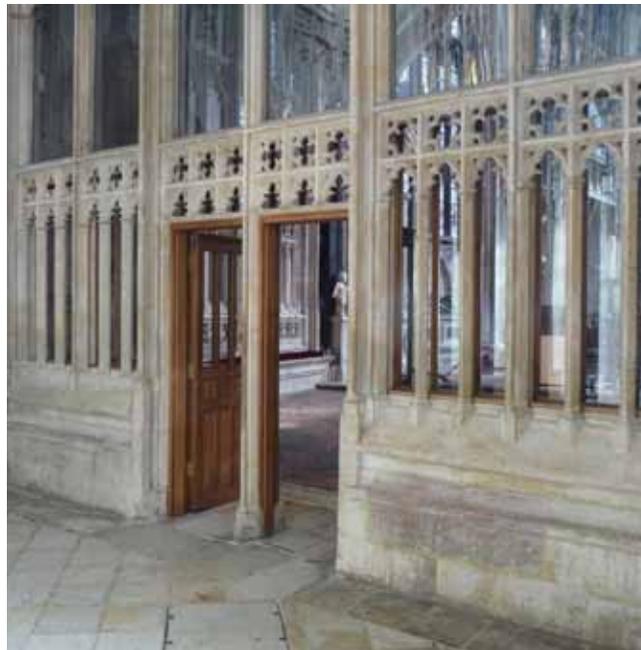
Existing



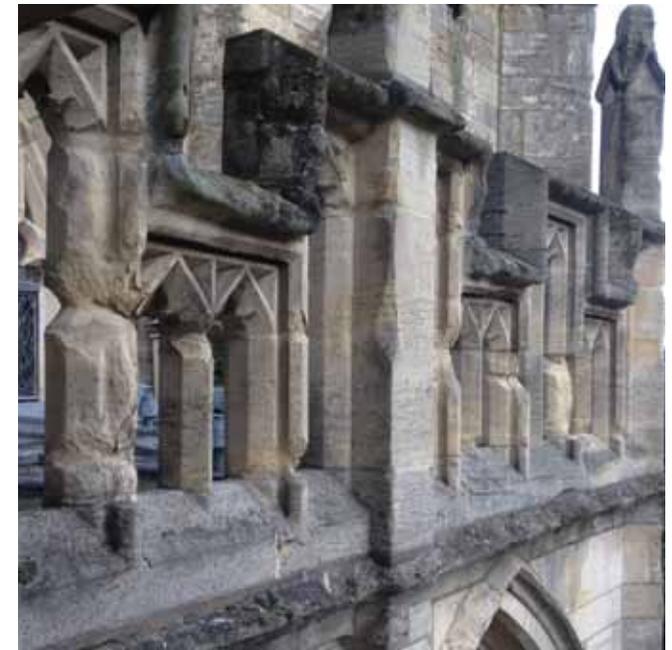
Artist's impression

Restore and sustain

- by conserving, revealing and bringing into active use nationally important heritage assets within the Cathedral, in particular the Lady Chapel, Whispering Gallery, Parliament Rooms, Crypt and Library
- through playing a leading role in the heritage-led development and regeneration of the city
- leading by example in the adoption of green technologies and improvements for biodiversity within the built heritage sector
- improving the sustainability of the Cathedral and its operations - economically, socially and environmentally



Currently very limited access into the Lady Chapel



Stonework requires urgent conservation inside and out

“ Project Pilgrim will increase the number and diversity of people visiting and engaging with the Cathedral, its heritage and its work. ”

Richard Graham,
MP for Gloucester

THE THREE PHASES



We are keen to progress as quickly as possible with our ambitious plans for Project Pilgrim. Nevertheless, we are realistic over the need to maintain the vital operation of the Cathedral without too much disruption, to manage our fundraising targets in a time of economic hardship and to develop our project management capacity in a sustainable way. Dividing Project Pilgrim into three manageable but overlapping phases, we believe, provides the most cost effective and sustainable way forward.

Phase 1: Project Pilgrim: The Heart of Gloucester (2014-2017)

Creating a new public space in the Cathedral Close; restoring the 15th Century Lady Chapel and its superb stained glass; providing a welcoming entrance and improving access through the main Cathedral, in particular to the Lady Chapel and Whispering Gallery; improving the quality of interpretation and storytelling in the main Cathedral and Cloisters; improving the environmental sustainability of the Cathedral; and connecting with the city in new and exciting ways. Estimated cost: £5,950,000.

Phase 2: Project Pilgrim: Reveal - Sustain (2018-2020)

Building upon the success of Phase 1, in Phase 2 the focus will shift to the western quarter: restoring the remarkable medieval Parliament Rooms and adjacent buildings; creating a new Learning Centre and exhibition space; and redeveloping the restaurant and shop.

Phase 3: Project Pilgrim: High and Low - Access all areas (2020-2022)

Our ambition for the final phase is to open up areas currently inaccessible to many - the stunning medieval Library and Crypt. The challenge of providing full physical access will be explored through earlier phases.

WHY NOW?

Planning for Pilgrim has been happening for many years - we know what we want to do, and have overwhelming support for our plans. Good management means that Gloucester is a well maintained Cathedral, but even so, restoration of key parts of the building is long overdue and our visitors have told us how they would like their experience to be improved - there is now a restoration and learning imperative. Gloucester as a city has already received substantial injections of funds to help regenerate and build economic and social cohesion, but we believe, as do many others in the city and beyond, that the time is right for the Cathedral to play a significant role in this regeneration - indeed, to be a tipping point that puts the heart back into Gloucester.



The Olympic torch at Gloucester Cathedral

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

PROJECT PILGRIM

www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk
pilgrim@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

01452 874963

Gloucester Cathedral is a charity
by Act of Parliament;
HMRC reference no. X9493/1