

Invitation to Tender

Stained Glass design
and panel construction
1.28m x 1.28m
Up to £30,000 (Including VAT)



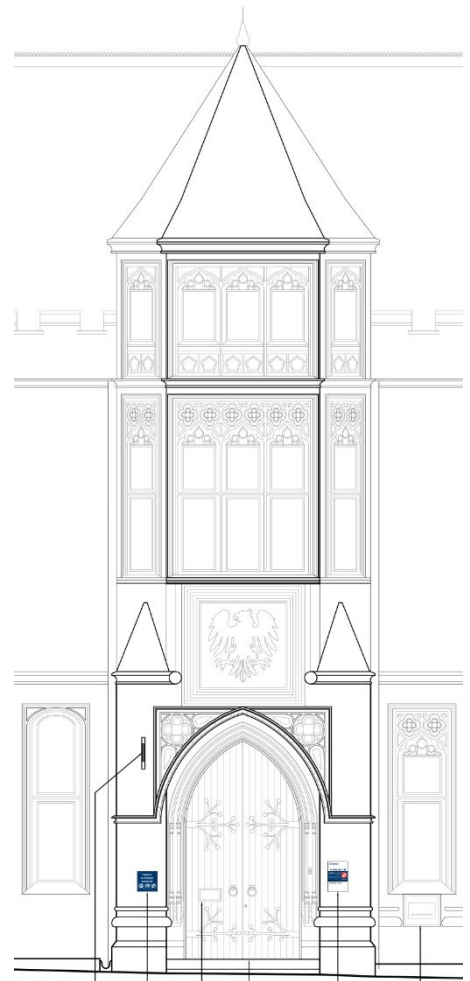
CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Background

30 St Werburgh Street Chester is a large Victorian building on the corner of the Chester Cathedral Estate constructed to house the King's School in the 1880s and has been housing the City Centre branch of Barclays Bank since 1960. This building has now been returned to Chester Cathedral and will be used to improve the facilities and offer the Cathedral is able to make to the local and visiting communities.

The main door leads onto St Werburgh Street and is proximate to the Cathedral's General Visitor Entrance and Great West Doors. It is anticipated that this door will become the principal door into the Cathedral's visitor interpretation space, box office and admissions area.

A recessed square niche sits above the door. This originally accommodated a statue of Henry VIII during the building's use by The King's School. The statue went with the school to their new site and was replaced by a large black eagle in the shape of Barclay's logo. The niche is once again empty and the Cathedral hopes to fill it with a backlit stained glass design.



Design Brief

The Dean and Chapter are hoping to commission a design made in stained glass to fit the recess. The Cathedral is open to approaches using conventional leaded construction as well as more contemporary approaches to glass design. The design should represent the spiritual purpose of the Cathedral but should not present a barrier to entry for people of all faiths and none. One of the aims the Cathedral has for its use of the former school building is to establish a confident church presence in the City Centre. Preference will be given to designs that are, in the interests of the assessors, contemporary, invitational, inspirational and eye-catching.

The design will be backlit throughout the day and night. Tenders may or may not include the means to provide backlighting as this can be commissioned separately. If artists would find it more convenient to construct a complete unit, this should use highly energy efficient lighting (such as LEDs) that automatically dims when the ambient light is dark. A 240V AC electricity

supply is available in the recess. Provision for access and maintenance should be included in designs that include lighting units.

Tendering details

Tenders are invited up to the value of £25,000 (including VAT) for unlit designs or £30,000 (including VAT) for units complete with lighting. This will be a competitive process. Price will be taken into account as well as the quality of design and construction.

The commission is made possible by a bequest from the late Lesley Pangburn. Lesley requested that the work would be of artistic merit, with its style being bold, bright and modern, and its mood uplifting. She said it should be designed on the basis of quality rather than quantity. Interpretation and acknowledgement of the commission will be included in Cathedral guidebooks and other literature. Designs will be assessed by representatives of the Cathedral and Lesley's family in February 2025.

Sketches and cost estimates are requested by Friday 7th February 2025 and should be addressed to:

The Very Reverend Dr Tim Stratford
Chester Cathedral
9 Abbey Square
Chester CH1 2HU
deansoffice@chestercathedral.com

A portfolio of other installations (which may be web based) should be submitted to support tenders as should a brief description of the proposed manner of construction and materials. Sketches may be provided electronically or in hard copy at any size.

An interview with shortlisted artists will be conducted in March 2025 after which one will be selected to develop a detailed design at which stage a fee may be charged by the artist. Permissions will be required from the ecclesiastical and civil planning authorities once the design is finalized. This may take several months. It is hoped that the work can be completed within six months of permissions being granted. Once approved then the manufacturing contract can start, with the balance being paid on completion and after installation.

If appointed, you will be expected to complete your own survey of the recess and take whatever measurements are required to ensure installation. A sketch of the relevant building elevation is supplied above and a photograph is attached.

7th November 2024