

Case Study

St. Paul's Church Clifton



Craftsmen in the
Conservation of
Historic Buildings

Re-roofing of a Grade II listed church on the Heritage at Risk register.

Ellis and Co completed a major programme of roof repairs to St Paul's Church in Clifton, Bristol. This Grade II listed 1860's church holds windows and mosaics of national importance. The church was on the Heritage at Risk Register due to the poor state of its pitched slate roofs and was awarded an English Heritage Grant for improvements. With Ferguson Mann Architects, Ellis and Co completed a programme of slate, lead and timber repairs. We installed a new rainwater collection system and restored the iconic pitched slate roofs enabling the church to safeguard its collections and better serve its community. The church remained open to the public throughout the work.



Slate roof tiles were removed, assessed, repaired where possible, and replaced alongside modern additions. New Welsh Penryn Blue Slates were chosen to blend with existing tiles in colour, size and texture. An alternative and cost effective Spanish Slate was used in less visible areas. Decorative ridge tiles which once adorned the roof crest were recovered, repaired and replaced thus restoring a classical Victorian feature.



Our joiners repaired the roof timbers, removed flammable horsehair materials and laid a new breathable roof membrane. Our skilled lead workers replaced flashings and gutters. The original gutters, pipes, brackets and hoppers were removed for cleaning and restoration. New lead soakers, cast iron downpipes and decorative hoppers were commissioned and fitted. Asbestos cement drains were removed safely. Underground drainage pipes were cleared and new access points incorporated for ease of future cleaning. Access to the tower was improved by inserting steel ladder fixings.

Limestone dressings were gently cleaned and repointed with a tailored lime mortar. Windows of the North and South clerestory were repaired. Stone inserts were pieced in and where necessary new coping stones were designed by Ellis and Co stonemasons. Internally, walls that had suffered water damage walls were repaired and painted.

"The Ellis & Co team at St Paul's were amongst most dedicated and skilled craftsmen we have had the privilege and pleasure to work with" Corinne Fitzpatrick, Fergus Mann Architects.