Religious Architecture 2026

March 2026: Good Shepherd, Woodthorpe

The Church of the Good Shepherd is a Roman Catholic church in Woodthorpe, Nottinghamshire. The church was first opened on 23 July 1964 and is a Grade II* listed building.

The architect was Gerard Goalen who specialised in church architecture and was influenced by continental models and the Liturgical Movement. His modern design won an award from the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1966.

The Dalle de verre stained glass is by Patrick Reyntiens who was "the leading practitioner of stained glass in this country."

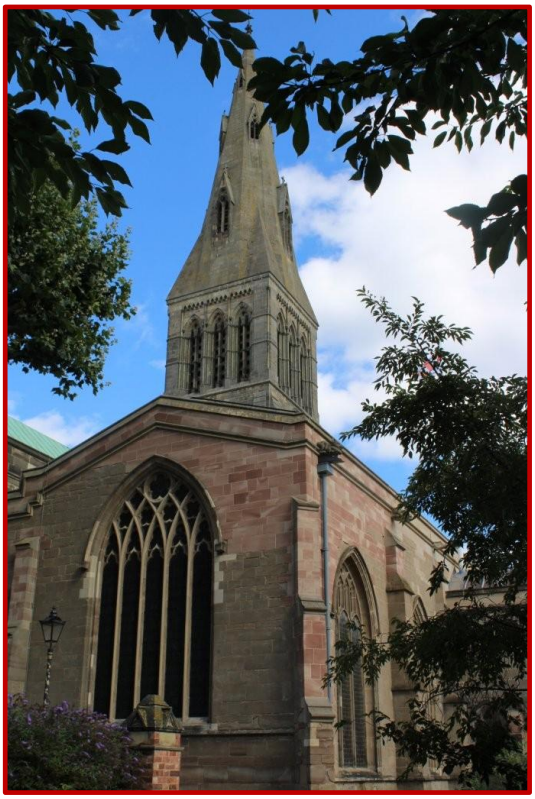
The church is particularly notable for its spatial qualities, for its delicate vaulting descending onto slender piers, and for its fine display of stained glass.

The Church had suffered with roof issues and was on the Historic England - Heritage at Risk Register, having been assessed as condition "Poor" and "Priority: A - Immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric". In 2012, the church was awarded £119,000 by English Heritage to resolve issues with concrete fatigue and reinforcement decay.



September 2026: Leicester Cathedral

The Religious Architecture group took a trip to Leicester in September for a guided tour of the Cathedral. The full title is the Cathedral Church of Saint Martin, Leicester.

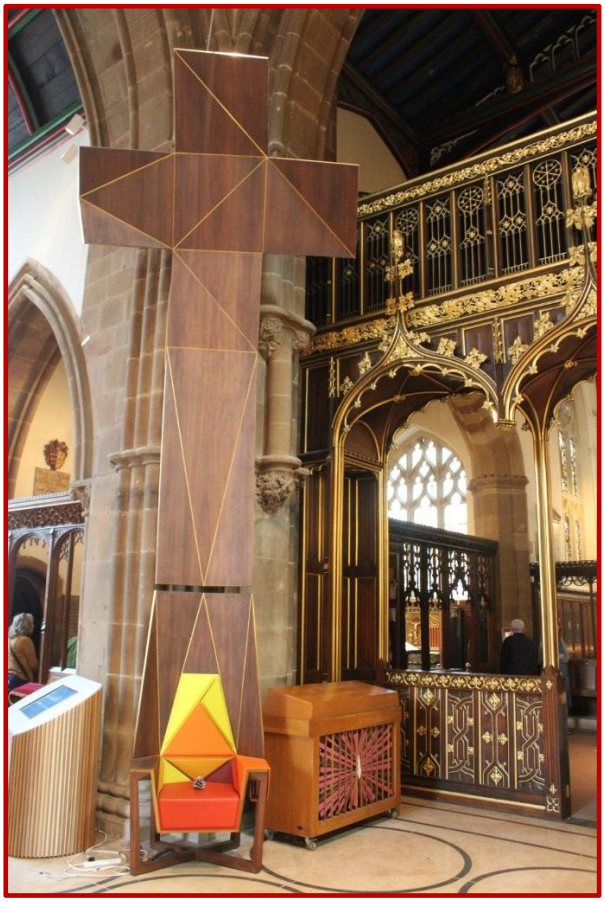


The building we were shown round started life as St Martin's church – one of five surviving medieval churches in the centre of the city. Building commenced in 1086 and has continued up to the present day. Much of the current building is Victorian. In 1927 it was made a Cathedral following the creation of the diocese of Leicester.

It is quite small for a cathedral so built on a modest scale. The High Altar has been brought forward to the front of the nave and is made from four types of stone.

The original Cathedra (Bishop's throne) is displayed. It is an impressively high carved wooden throne in gothic style dating from 1927. The current Cathedra is made from American Black Walnut with coloured leather seat.





There are several chapels at the east end containing arrange of modern stained glass windows. One window contains a small football marking Leicester City's winning the English Premier League in 2015-16.

Richard III was killed at Bosworth Field in 1485. His remains were roughly interred in the Greyfriars, close to St Martin's. In 2012 his grave was discovered and his remains exhumed. In 2015 he was re-interred in the Cathedral and his tomb is covered with a single piece of Swaledale fossil stone. Embedded in the plinth is his coat of arms in *pietra dura* formed of 350 individual stones.



The newest part of the Cathedral is the Heritage and Learning Centre open last year. This contains several artifacts including the pall which covered Richard's coffin while lying in state.

Andy Dixon

November 2026: St Helen's, Stapleford

This month we visited Saint Helen's Church in Stapleford. St. Helen's is a parish church in the Church of England in Stapleford, Nottinghamshire. The church is Grade II* listed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as it is a particularly significant building of more than local interest.

The churchyard contains a grade-I listed stone cross which dates from around AD1000. Pevsner said it to be "by far the most important pre-Conquest monument in Notts."

The cross may be the origin of the name 'Stapleford' which means a crossing near a post.

Sir T. G. Jackson designed the S E memorial Chapel in 1923, one of his last works.

Fittings include:

Font c.1300, re-sited 1976, tapered base and stem, irregular moulded conical bowl. Unusual spun copper cover with turned knob, late C17.

David Colyer

