

RVT Group helps facilitate service as normal at Guildford Cathedral

March 2017

The facts

- Save Guildford Cathedral Appeal raised £6.9 million
- Refurbishment work scheduled to take 15 months
- 'The People's Cathedral' to remain open to the public throughout

The vision

Improve and upgrade the current facilities to create a cleaner, fresher environment for enriched learning, better accessibility, and greater appeal by 2020.

The challenge

During the refurbishment work it was necessary to switch off the Cathedral's permanent heating system. Therefore, the challenge to RVT Group was to provide an affordable heating solution to ensure the continuation of regular services, choir practices and visitor access, without any risk to health from cold temperatures. It was also necessary to maintain a suitable ambient temperature to preserve the existing furnishings which had to remain.

Effective temporary heating during essential refurbishment work

The Cathedral Church of the Holy Spirit – Guildford Cathedral – is impressively situated on Stag Hill in Guildford, making it visible for miles around. Taking years to be constructed due to wartime materials-and-funding constraints, it is now going through a major refurbishment programme thanks to the generosity of the local community and Heritage Lottery Funding.



Essential repairs to this iconic building include:

1. Removal of the acoustic plaster on the ceiling vaults as it contains asbestos
2. Improvements to the building, its roof and public facilities, including new sound and lighting systems
3. Renovation of the organ, parts of which date back to 1890

Building work started on the 4th April 2016 and is scheduled to take a total of 15 months to complete. It is vital that the Cathedral remain open to the public for normal services, choir practices and general visiting to continue.

Key benefits of RVT Solution

- Low electricity consumption
- Simple operation procedure
- No noise impact due to duct setup

“The standard of service from start to finish was amazing. The Sales rep was very helpful and knowledgeable on the products available to suit our needs at Guildford Cathedral. ... The heat that came out was amazing... you could stand under the pipe duct which was 10m above, but have to move after 5min as it was so warm. ... Overall performance very good and would definitely recommend RVT Group to anyone wanting a great service. Well done RVT.

- Lawrence Kirk,
Project Manager

Meeting the needs of the Diocese and the local community

Providing a dependable, affordable and effective heating solution

Guildford Cathedral is primarily a centre of Christian worship; however, it also hosts a great variety of cultural and educational activities, and civic and county events. For this reason, Guildford cathedral is known as ‘The People’s Cathedral – a place of welcome, beauty, engagement and inspiration’.

The desire to ensure its longevity was felt by all within the Diocese. But as with any project of this scale for such an institution, budget needed to stretch as far as possible to meet all the repair work required, as well as their 2020 vision.

The RVT Solution

Given there were two main areas to heat within the Cathedral – one of which was approximately 80 metres from the nearest entrance/exit – and noise needed to be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbing daily activities taking place, RVT Group was clear in its solution.

Specialist crew established a 200kW oil-fired heater with 80 metres of duct fed to the furthest area, and a 150kW oil-fired heater with 18 metres of duct running to the closer area, enabling warm air to be distributed in both spaces for business to continue as normal. This solution provided an approximate five degree rise in each area.

And crucially, this meant that RVT met the brief of providing a temporary heating solution that was affordable, continual and quiet.

