

GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL



Join the
STONEMASONS' CIRCLE

STEP INTO HISTORY
STONE BY STONE





Gloucester Cathedral, with its soaring fan-vaulted cloister and fantastical gargoyles, is more than an architectural marvel. It is a living monument to craftsmanship. Behind every carefully carved stone lies the hand of a skilled stonemason—guardians of a centuries-old tradition, working from the Cathedral's historic Workshop of St Peter.

Become a part of the Stonemasons' Circle and play a vital role in preserving our incredible heritage, safeguarding essential skills, and inspiring the next generation. As a member, you'll have the unique opportunity to build direct relationships with our expert stonemasons and get exclusive, behind-the-scenes insights into their fascinating work.



CRAFTING *the* FUTURE by HONOURING *the* PAST

Our expert stonemasons do more than repair stone – they breathe life into history. From intricate carvings to major structural conservation, their work ensures that Gloucester Cathedral stands proud, now and for centuries to come.

Why it Matters

A CENTURIES-OLD CRAFT

Stonemasonry is rare, precise, and under threat. Your support directly helps us safeguard this vital heritage skill.

A WORLD-RENOWNED SITE

Gloucester Cathedral is an architectural masterpiece, a living monument to centuries of craftsmanship, and a cherished part of our shared national heritage.

A LIVING TRADITION

Every project at the Cathedral sustains heritage skills and directly mentors new apprentices through the acclaimed Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship programme. Apprentices work side-by-side with expert masons while completing a Foundation Degree in Heritage Skills, ensuring these vital skills are passed on to the next generation.

A PERSONAL CONNECTION

You'll see the direct impact of your support as you become part of the ongoing story of this extraordinary place. Details on how to join the Stonemasons' Circle and make your donation are provided on page 15.

MEET *the* STONEMASONS: HANDS BEHIND *the* HERITAGE

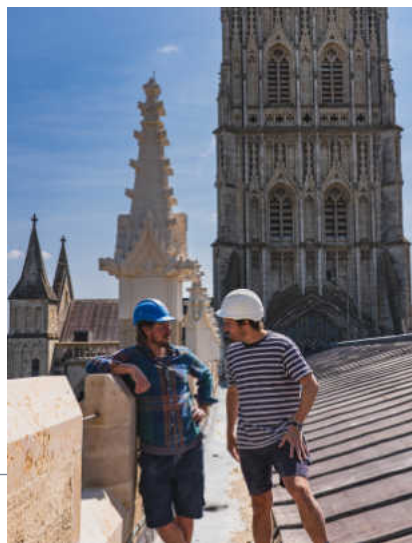


Pascal Mychalysin
Master Mason

Pascal has devoted over 30 years of his life to Gloucester Cathedral. For the past 13, he has led the team as Master Mason, a position recognised by the Worshipful Company of Masons, guiding both restoration work and the development of future stonemasons.

His legacy includes:

- Mentoring over 40 apprentices, many of whom now work across the UK heritage sector
- Spearheading the Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship (CWF) at Gloucester, a national training programme for stonemasonry skills
- Overseeing major restoration campaigns including Project Pilgrim Phase 1, using a blend of traditional techniques and modern conservation insight.





Paul Synan
Senior Stonemason

Paul brings a unique academic and practical approach to stonemasonry. With a Master's in Ancient History and a Foundation Degree in Heritage Skills, Paul combines a deep appreciation for historical context with hands-on expertise.

Highlights of Paul's work include:

- Conservation of the 15th-century Lady Chapel
- Carving new gargoyles for the Cathedral's exterior
- Mentoring three current apprentices
- Serving as a Journeyman Mason of The Worshipful Company of Masons



James Bayliss
Senior Stonemason

James's path into stonemasonry began in landscaping and construction, but his passion for heritage craftsmanship brought him to Gloucester Cathedral in 2012. Originally a one-year placement, James's appointment became permanent due to his exceptional skill and commitment.

Highlights of James' work include:

- North Ambulatory restoration, involving stone conservation, guttering work, and installing six new gargoyles
- Conservation of ancient memorials and monuments
- Playing a central role in the upcoming Cloister Project
- Serving as Module Leader for key CWF degree units



The CLOISTER PROJECT: *A once-in-a-Century* OPPORTUNITY

The Cloister Project is set to be the stonemasons' next major undertaking, a testament to their continuous commitment to preserving Gloucester Cathedral.

Built in the 14th century, the Great Cloister is more than just an architectural marvel; it's regarded as the first and finest example of fan vaulting in the world. It's also a cultural icon, featured prominently in the Harry Potter films. For our local community, this space is invaluable, serving as the backdrop for our education and outreach programmes and providing a unique and inspiring setting for learning and engagement throughout Gloucester.

Today, it faces serious structural risks, with decades of wear and poor historic repairs, and so we begin a bold, ten-year conservation effort. This vital undertaking directly relies on the expertise and dedication of our stonemasons, ensuring this iconic piece of heritage endures for generations to come.

Our aims are to:



1

Repair the Cloister's fragile stonework using historically accurate methods



2

Train a new generation of stonemasons through live, hands-on apprenticeships



3

Create public engagement opportunities through guided tours, open workshops, and family-friendly activities

This
monumental
work wouldn't
be possible
without *your*
support.



TRAINING *tomorrow's* MASTER MASONS



Heritage skills only survive when passed on. That's why mentoring is central to everything we do.

Each year, Gloucester Cathedral trains and mentors apprentices through its Cathedrals' Workshop Fellowship programme—supported by The Benefact Group. Apprentices work side-by-side with expert masons while completing a Foundation Degree in Heritage Skills.

With every stone laid, they build not just the Cathedral's future—but their own.







The WORKSHOP *of* ST PETER: WHERE CRAFT LIVES ON

Our stonemasons work from the Workshop of St Peter, off Pitt Street, Gloucester, one of just 13 Cathedral workshops in England. This historic yard is where centuries-old techniques are kept alive every day.

The team uses:

- Traditional tools like chisels, mallets, and tracing compasses
- Specialist limestones from France—Lavoux for carving and Beaunotte for weathering
- State-of-the-art equipment for modern conservation challenges

It is here that heritage is shaped—one block at a time.

BECOME *a* MEMBER *of the* STONEMASONS' CIRCLE

Join the Stonemasons' Circle with an annual gift of £2,000 and help safeguard this extraordinary place for generations to come.

In return for your generous support you will receive:



Exclusive Behind-the-Scenes Event:

An invitation to our special annual event, featuring a thank-you drinks reception at the historic stonemasons' yard. This is your unique chance to meet our expert stonemasons, gain exclusive insights into their work, and learn firsthand about specific projects.



Recognition:

Your name will be prominently listed on the Cathedral website's partner page and on a donor board within the Cathedral precinct, acknowledging your significant support.



Quarterly Updates:

Receive direct updates from our stonemasons on the progress of conservation work and key projects, keeping you informed of the direct impact of your contribution.



Signed Certificate of Membership:

A personal token of our gratitude, acknowledging your commitment to the Cathedral's legacy.



First Look at Projects:

Gain early access and insights into new and ongoing conservation projects before they are widely publicised.



(In Development) Hands-On Stone Carving Sessions:

We're developing opportunities for you to participate in hands-on stone carving sessions led by our expert team. These immersive sessions will be available for up to two participants, with the option of including additional guests at an extra cost.

YOUR LEGACY *in* STONE

It costs Gloucester Cathedral approximately £120,000 per year to maintain its team of stonemasons and apprentices. Without the support of donors like you, this vital work would not be possible.

Joining the Stonemasons' Circle is more than a donation—it's an investment into the craftsmanship, history, and future of this beautiful place.

Contact us to become a sponsor and help preserve Gloucester Cathedral's remarkable history and heritage.

*Support today. Shape tomorrow.
Be part of the Stonemason's Circle.*

To learn more about joining the Stonemasons' Circle and supporting our vital work, please visit
www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/.....

call us on

01452 528095

or email

development@gloucestercathedral.org.uk



GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL



Thank you



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