

# SPEIRS MAJOR

Westminster Abbey, Quire and Nave,  
London, UK

# LIGHT ARCHITECTURE

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The re-lighting of the interior of Westminster Abbey celebrates the magnificent architecture and carefully balances its operation and image.

CLIENT  
Dean and Chapter of  
Westminster Abbey

DATE  
2015-2019

SURVEYOR TO THE  
FABRIC  
Ptolemy Dean

CLERK OF THE WORKS  
Ian Bartlett/ Jim  
Vincent (ret.)

ELECTRICAL  
ENGINEERING  
Deputy Clerk of the  
Works, Iain  
McDonald

INSTALLATION  
Westminster Abbey  
Clerk of the Works  
Department / DFB  
Electrical

PHOTOGRAPHER  
James Newton

PROJECT TEAM  
Mark Major, Philip  
Rose, Iain Ruxton



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Having completed a lighting strategy for the interior of Westminster Abbey in 2016, we completed the first phase of the re-lighting project with the Nave, Quire, North and South Transepts, Crossing and Sacrarium re-lit by a state-of-the-art LED installation operated by a largely wireless control system. The two major elements of the re-lighting project - the refurbishment of the sixteen existing Waterford crystal chandeliers, and the provision of spotlighting from high-level - required a substantive testing, mock-up and approvals process, before being designed in detail and implemented by the Abbey's works department in a phased process taking the best part of a year.



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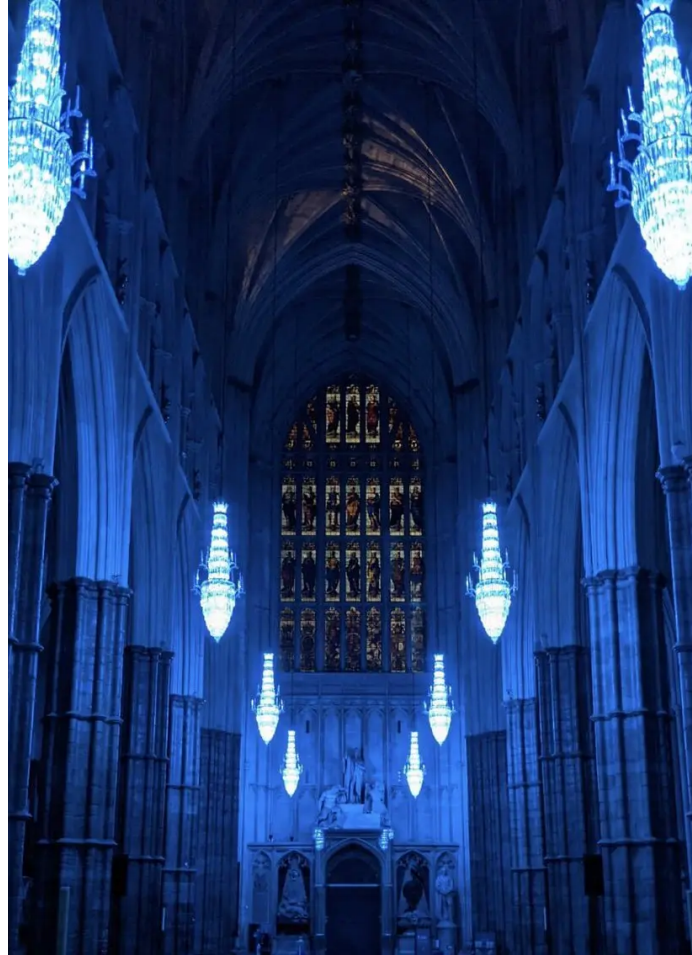


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For more than forty years, the Waterford lead crystal chandeliers provided the majority of the electric lighting to the main body of the Abbey, becoming ever brighter over the years to try to maximise the amount of light in the space. In replacing the light sources within the chandeliers with dimmable, colour temperature tuneable LED modules, their role has evolved into one of supplementing the newly provided functional lighting at high level. The LED modules enable the light from the chandeliers to adapt to complement changes in natural light throughout the day, while the reduced brightness overall makes the beauty of the crystal more readily appreciated.

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The tuneable LED modules are capable of a wide variety of colours - including blue as a tribute to NHS workers during the pandemic.