

## S&E Regional Programme

### Christ Church and St Luke's Church - ERDF Gateways Grant Scheme project

#### Case Study

Funding was provided under the Sustainable Urban Development priority to enhance the attractiveness of the designated Gateways cities in the Region as places to live, work and invest in. A central aim was to support and complement efforts to ensure that the cities and towns maximised their potential.

Cork City Council received funding for works at Christchurch, South Main Street and for Saint Luke's Church, Summerhill. Christ Church was refurbished as a new concert gallery and cinema space for the city and is managed by Triskel Arts Centre.

Saint Luke's Church is situated on the north side of the city and was used by the Church of Ireland for regular Sunday service until March 2005. Essential conservation works were undertaken on the church to ensure the fabric and integrity of the building is

protected.



**Interior of Christchurch during refurbishment works. Image courtesy of Cork City Council.**

Damien O'Mahony, Cork County Council speaking about the Christchurch project said "the church was in a very, very poor state. There was very serious avian ingress into the building and the apse here had completely separated from the building itself. The funding we received combined with investment from the City Council helped us bring this back into full health. The European Regional Development Fund was instrumental in making this happen."

“The church organ which is considered one of the finest of its type in Europe and 12<sup>th</sup> century crypt was restored. The beautiful barrel ceiling was restored from scratch, and the original roof which had been badly damaged and the stain glass on apse was restored as well so from an architectural point of view this has really gotten a fantastic makeover”. Damien O’Mahony explained.

Under the 2014-2020 Regional programme funding packages are available for a number of urban centres in the S&E region. They are being used to revitalise, regenerate and improve the urban environment in the designated urban centres as part of integrated urban strategies.



The funding can also be used to support low carbon sustainable, multimodal urban mobility. The goal is to increase the number of integrated urban regeneration initiatives. Positive results will be seen in improvements to urban environment and revitalisation of urban areas and in actions to support low carbon sustainable, multimodal urban mobility in cities and towns in the S&E Region.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTaRUQ5R0Z8&t=3s>