

The largest of its kind in England, this lectern was made for the cathedral between 1718 and 1720 by Jacob Sutton, a brass founder. In 1724 it was installed in the quire, the area of the cathedral where the clergy and choir sit, and stood in a specially designed enclosure.

One of the most important objects in the quire, it was used to support a Bible and provided a platform from which readings were made during services. Its position reflects how central the Bible is to Christian worship and it tells us about the nature of worship at the time it was made.

With the removal of the quire screen in 1860 and worship moving to the dome area, the enclosure became impractical, and the lectern was moved to the north side of the dome. It was brought into use in the quire once more for a performance by Paul Robeson in 1958.

EAGLE LECTERN

St Paul's Cathedral

