

SPAB Faith in Maintenance

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Annual Review 2010

Introduction

In the summer of 2006, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £645,000 to run its Faith in Maintenance (FiM) training project for churchwardens and their equivalents in other faiths throughout England and Wales. The project focuses on the issue of maintenance – the routine work needed to keep the fabric of historic buildings in good condition – and encourages volunteers to clean their gutters, check their drains and repair slipped slates and tiles. Over the course of the five-year project, the project team expect to train around 5,000 volunteers and visit a wide variety of faith buildings. Most importantly, the Faith in Maintenance courses are free for volunteers to attend and places are available to anyone with responsibility for the care of an historic place of worship.

Project Team

The project has two fulltime members of staff. The Project Director is Sara Crofts, an architect and SPAB scholar. She is assisted by Kate Minnis, the Project Administrator, who is based at Spital Square. David John is the Technical Officer and answers the technical helpline in the FiM office on Fridays. *Photograph 1 (right)* shows the FiM team received the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award from Dr Lester Borley.



Course Programme

The course programme was devised at the beginning of 2007 and has not been modified this year apart from minor alterations to the content of the individual lectures. All the sessions are led by Sara Crofts with the exception of 'The pattern of ecclesiastical building'. This presentation is given by a local architect or historian suggested by the host organisation. The speaker is provided with a brief although there is plenty of scope to respond to particular local traditions and issues. We also engage a local architect, building surveyor or craftsperson to assist with the practical exercise in the afternoon and to form part of the 'panel' for the discussion session. This assistant is usually an SPAB Scholar or Fellow or sometimes a member of the Guardians Committee or one of the SPAB's lecturers.

Summary of Courses

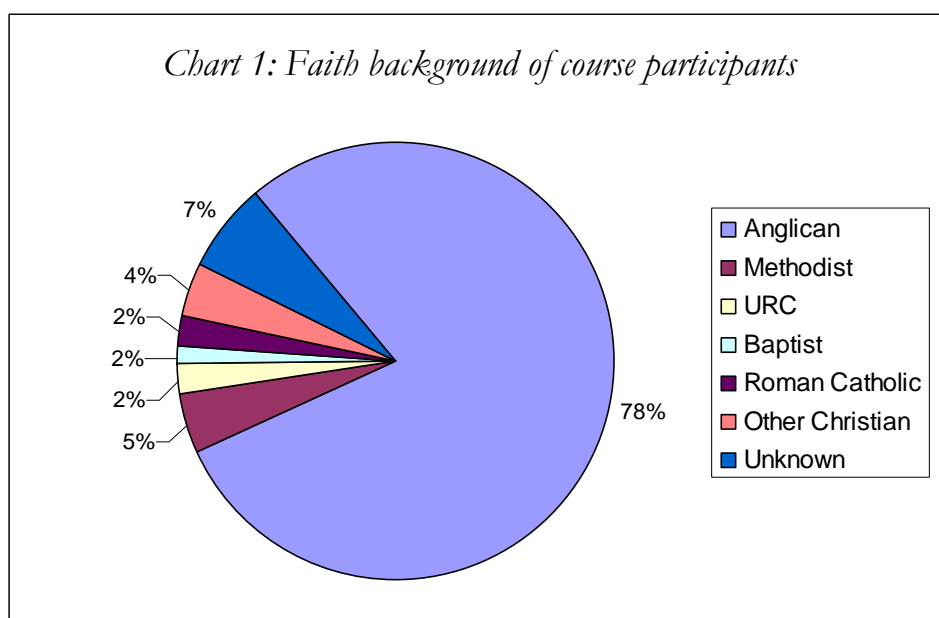
A summary of the courses held in 2010 is set out in the table below (*Table 2*). This shows that the project team ran 33 Faith in Maintenance training courses, which were attended by 926 volunteers. We were also invited to lecture at one training event run by the Churches Trust for Cumbria in December.

Table 1 shows a breakdown of the host denominations in 2010 and a map showing the geographical spread of all the Faith in Maintenance courses held to date can be accessed via the FiM website at www.spabfim.org.uk/pages/locations.html.

Table 1: Details of 2010 course hosts

Host Denomination or Group	Number of FiM Courses held
Church of England	20
Church in Wales	1
Nonconformist	4
Roman Catholic	1
Nondenominational	3
CCT Volunteers	4
TOTALS	33

Having started the project with the aim of attracting a target attendance of around 40-50 people to each training course we reviewed this decision in 2008 and concluded that aiming to attract around 35 delegates per course is a more appropriate number. The average attendance this year has turned out to be a little lower at around 28 delegates. If we look at the courses for Anglican dioceses separately, the average attendance rises to 33 delegates. For the courses run for non-Anglican groups there was an average attendance of 23 and for courses run for the Churches Conservation Trust it was 13. The lower numbers of attendees at non-Anglican courses may reflect the greater difficulties of publicising these events to potential delegates and the simple fact that the non-Anglican denominations often have fewer volunteers in any given geographical area. We are however pleased to note that our courses do attract volunteers from a broad range of Christian faiths as our analysis shows (*Chart 1*).



In contrast to last year's finding that the choice of a weekday or a weekend day had very little effect on attendance figures this year there was a marked difference. The average weekday attendance in 2010 was 30 and the average weekend attendance was 25.

Table 2 also shows that two courses were cancelled in 2010. One of these was a course for Churches Conservation Trust volunteers in North Yorkshire in late July, which proved unpopular because it was scheduled to take place near the beginning of the school holidays. The other was the course planned for the Diocese of Llandaff. In this case, the course was cancelled due to a low number of bookings. Investigation revealed that there had been a number of training courses held in the diocese in recent months, which may have led to a perceived ‘training overload’ for volunteers.



Photograph 2: Faith in Maintenance training course at Wesley’s Chapel, London (September 2010)

We are pleased to note that we have now run courses in all Anglican dioceses in England and Wales with the exception of Blackburn, Bradford and Winchester. Courses will be held in these dioceses in 2011. We also reached an encouraging number of Nonconformist groups in 2010 with four courses for groups that included Methodist, United Reformed Church, Welsh Presbyterian and Grace Baptist volunteers. Next year we hope to build on this success with further courses for Methodist and URC groups.



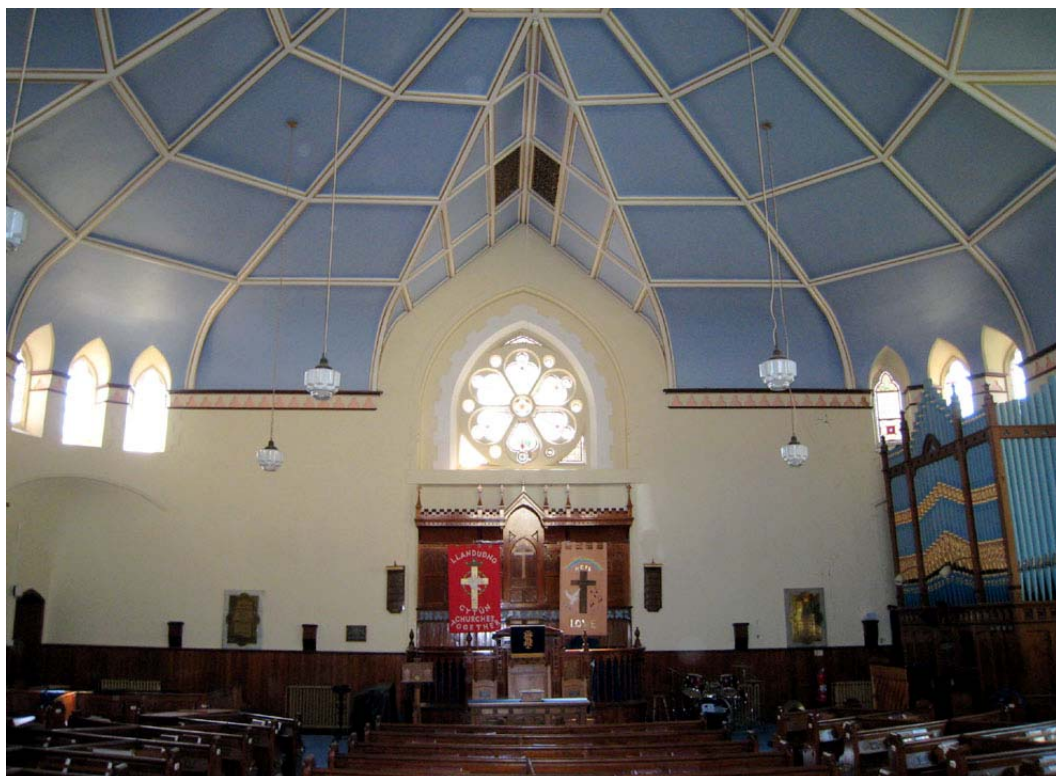
Photograph 3: Faith in Maintenance training course at Hinckley Holy Trinity (May 2010)

Table 2: Details of 2010 course dates and venues

Date	Attendance	Venue	Diocese/Faith Group/Host
Fri 16 April	35	The Old Deanery & Wells St Thomas	Diocese of Bath & Wells
Sat 17 April	14	Chippenham St Paul	Diocese of Bristol
Tues 20 April	39	Farnborough St Peter	Diocese of Guildford
<i>Sat 24 April</i>		<i>Cardiff (Radyr) Christ Church CANCELLED</i>	<i>Diocese of Llandaff CANCELLED</i>
Tues 27 April	24	Truro Methodist Church	Truro Methodist Circuit
Weds 28 April	14	Exeter St Martin	TCCT Southwest Region
Sat 8 May	28	Hinckley Holy Trinity	Diocese of Leicester
Weds 12 May	34	Keswick Methodist Church	Churches Trust for Cumbria
Sat 15 May	13	Stowmarket Baptist Church	Association of Grace Baptist Churches (East Anglia)
Tues 18 May	27	Leominster St Peter and St Paul	Diocese of Hereford
Sat 22 May	17	Newcastle St James URC	URC Northern Synod
Tues 25 May	36	Bicester St Edburg	Diocese of Oxford
Weds 2 June	47	Lindfield All Saints	Diocese of Chichester
Sat 5 June	21	Barnard Castle St Mary	Diocese of Durham
Sat 19 June	34	Attleborough Holy Trinity	Diocese of Coventry
Tues 22 June	35	Llandudno Gloddaeth United Church	URC Wales Synod
Weds 23 June	37	Wrexham St Giles	Diocese of St Asaph
Sat 26 June	25	North Luffenham St John the Baptist	Diocese of Peterborough
Tues 29 June	26	Southsea St Jude	Diocese of Portsmouth
Tues 13 July	19	Silkstone All Saints	Heritage Inspired
Weds 14 July	15	Yarburgh St John the Baptist	TCCT Northern Region
Sat 17 July	20	Alnwick St Michael & St Paul	Diocese of Newcastle
Weds 21 July	21	Bristol St Bonaventure	Clifton Diocese (RC)
Thurs 22 July	18	Northampton St Peter	TCCT Midlands Region
<i>Tues 27 July</i>		<i>Leyburn (Wensley) CANCELLED</i>	<i>TCCT Northern Region CANCELLED</i>
Weds 8 September	32	Market Lavington Hall & St Mary's Church	Diocese of Salisbury
Sat 11 September	23	London, Wesley's Chapel	Nondenominational
Sat 25 September	44	Albrighton St Mary	Diocese of Lichfield
Weds 29 September	39	Cookham Holy Trinity	Diocese of Oxford
Thurs 30 September	39	Blandford Parish Centre & St Peter and St Paul's Church	Diocese of Salisbury
Tues 5 October	48	Burton Joyce St Helen	Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham
Thu 7 October	41	The Old Palace & Lincoln St Peter	Diocese of Lincoln
Fri 8 October	6	Hartley Wintney St Mary	TCCT Southwest Region
Sat 9 October	31	Westerham St Mary the Virgin	Diocese of Rochester
Tues 12 October	24	Reydon St Margaret of Antioch	Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich
	926	TOTAL	



Of the three nondenominational events, the courses hosted by Heritage Inspired and the Churches Trust for Cumbria were particularly welcome as they provided an opportunity to reach a different audience. Furthermore, a contact made at the course held in Keswick has allowed us to arrange a course at the Friends Meeting House in Lancaster in 2011. We have also strengthened our links with the Churches Conservation Trust and ran four events for their volunteers during the year. Although these events attract a smaller number of participants, they are valuable because they allow us to reach a new audience and support volunteering in a broader sense.



Photograph 4: Faith in Maintenance training course at Gloddaeth URC, Llandudno (June 2010)

During 2010 we also carried out some research to try to identify a number of non-Christian places of worship whose volunteers might be interested in attending a Faith in Maintenance training course in 2011. Using various websites we have attempted to compile a list of historic buildings currently in use as mosques, gurdwaras or temples and we intend to send a copy of the *Faith in Maintenance DVD* and the *Good Maintenance Guide* to them along with an invitation to attend a course to be held at a venue in London. We were also delighted to make contact with the project officer for Islam in British Stone this year. IBS is an initiative that aims to promote Britain's most significant Muslim heritage sites and greatest Islamic influenced buildings and we hope that the project officer will be able to help us with the promotion of an event for volunteers from Muslim communities if there is a significant level of interest.

Accreditation

The question of the need or desirability for formal accreditation for the FiM courses has been discussed on a number of occasions by the Steering Group and there was a general view amongst staff and Steering Group members that offering formal accreditation would add little value to the project as the majority of participants are unlikely to have any interest in acquiring qualifications. However, it was accepted that participants value having some form of informal record of their learning so in March 2009 it was decided that we should offer a 'certificate of attendance' to participants. The certificate outlines what participants should have learned during the FiM training course and has proved to be very popular with delegates.

In 2010 we decided to consider the issue of formal accreditation in a little more depth and commissioned Dr Bruce Induni to investigate the potential for the FiM courses to become accredited. He delivered his report ‘*Should the SPAB course ‘Faith in Maintenance’ seek accreditation?*’ in August 2010. In his executive summary Dr Induni stated, “*Accreditation is found to be desirable in principle, but difficult and expensive to achieve in practice. Despite the difficulties, it is suggested that SPAB should accredit FiM as a level 3 NVQ, and that SPAB should become an ‘awarding body’ and a ‘training provider’ in order to do this. The dangers of dilution of SPAB philosophy are noted.*” As this conclusion has a much wider impact on the SPAB, its current organisational strategy and its broader education programme Dr Induni’s findings will be discussed by the SPAB’s Education Committee and by Trustees during the course of 2011.

Courses for Young People

As part of the FiM project, we are aiming to provide educational opportunities for young people in the 13-25 age group with a target of approximately ten events over the life of the project. Having recognised that the 13-25 age group can be difficult to reach we decided to seek advice from Dr Sharon Goddard who put forward the idea of getting involved with schools and colleges offering the relatively new Construction and the Built Environment Diploma (CBE). Although we started to pursue this suggestion in 2008, it has taken two years for the idea to bear fruit. Through Dr Goddard we made contact with twenty-four schools and further education colleges running the CBE Diploma programme.

From the initial 26 expressions of interest, we were able to agree to run nine workshops in 2010 as set out in *Table 3* below. *Photograph 5 (above)* shows the students from Sussex Downs College at Middle Street Synagogue in Brighton.



Table 3: Details of workshops for young people held in 2010

Date	Students	Venue	School or College
Fri 29 January	11	Bridgwater St Mary	Bridgwater College
Tues 23 March	15	Stoke Park Campus, Guildford	Guildford College
Weds 21 April	8	Middle Street Synagogue, Brighton	Sussex Downs College
Thurs 22 April	17	The Blandford School and Blandford SS Peter & Paul	The Blandford School
Wed 5 May	10	Cramlington St Nicholas	St Mary’s Catholic Comprehensive School, Newcastle
Weds 16 June	60	Attingham Park	Construction Skills ~ Heritage Skills Day
Thurs 9 September	10	Gloucestershire College & Gloucester Mariners’ Chapel	Gloucestershire College
Thurs 25 November	36	Bristol St Thomas the Martyr (TCCT)	City of Bristol College
	167		

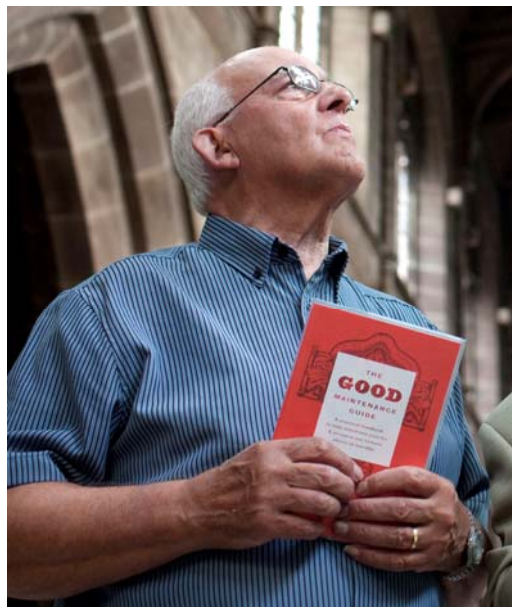
Most of the students attending the workshops have been between the ages of 14 and 16. Each workshop programme was tailored specifically for the group involved and to make best use of the resources available.

In some cases, the students spent the whole day in the chosen place of worship but on other occasions, the workshop was based in the school or college with a site visit to the place of worship in the morning. The workshops comprised various elements including PowerPoint lectures and the examination of 'hands-on' resources such as stone samples, timber samples, replica medieval encaustic tiles and geological maps. The students also carried out a fabric inspection of the case study building and presented their proposals for repairs to the rest of the group.

These workshops have been very successful and the feedback from the schoolteachers and lecturers had been extremely positive. Dr Goddard will examine this work in more detail in her evaluation report for the year.

Support Systems

Handbook: We continue to hand out copies of the *Good Maintenance Guide* (Photograph 6- right) freely to course delegates and we also give copies to faith organisations and other heritage bodies as way of promoting the FiM project and spreading the maintenance message to a wider audience. English Heritage continues to promote the *Good Maintenance Guide* through its *Inspired!* website (www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/places-of-worship/maintenance/) and the handbook is warmly recommended in the IHBC Technical Bibliography, which can be found on the IHBC website (www.ihbc.org.uk/tech_panel/).



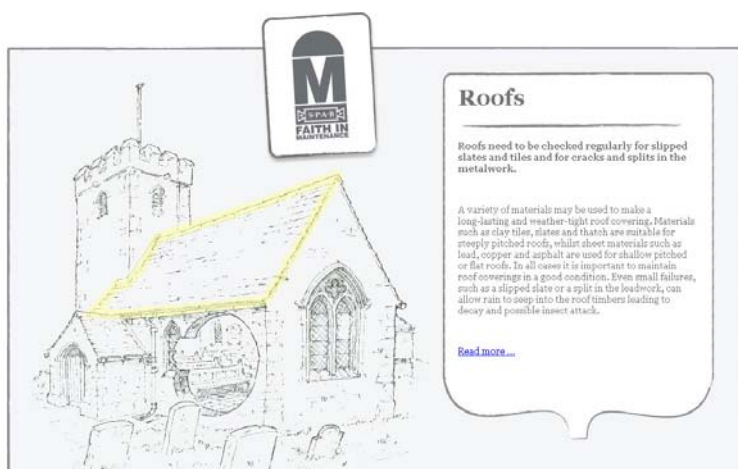
Calendar: We continue to distribute the laminated A3-sized maintenance calendar freely to course delegates and have received very positive feedback in response. Volunteers appreciate the handy visual reminder of some of the most important maintenance tasks they need to tackle.

The *Good Maintenance Guide* and calendar are available to purchase via the SPAB's online bookshop.

Technical Helpline: We started using the new technical enquiries database rather than a paper based recording system in early 2009 and since then all enquiries have been logged electronically. The scope and nature of the enquiries continues to be very broad but the majority tend to centre on issues of conservative repair. Common topics are damp, repointing and the question of how to find suitable contractors or professionals. Most enquiries are straightforward and can be answered during the initial telephone call but further advice is sometimes provided by email or letter. It is interesting to note that only 33 of the 418 telephone enquiries dealt with by David John in 2010 related to places of worship. We do not know the reason for the low take up of this service but it has been suggested that perhaps volunteers are finding the answers to their questions in the other support materials such as the website and handbook. They may also be making greater use of their own professional advisers or other local networks and therefore do not feel a need to use the helpline.

We have also continued to run our email based advice system (advice@spabfim.org.uk) first trialled in 2009. This remains a useful addition to the helpline service although it has not received a high volume of enquiries either. There were only 26 enquiries in 2010 covering a number of topics including the choice of paint and paint removal, heating, grants, cleaning, names of professionals and the care of fittings. David John also dealt with a small number technical enquiries relating to places of worship that had been sent to the SPAB's general email addresses.

Website: The FiM website was launched in May 2007 and runs on a content management system, which allows the project staff to easily update and amend pages as necessary. The website has proved to be an excellent resource and has continued to expand in terms of the breadth and depth of the topics covered. The ability to provide direct links to additional sources of information elsewhere on the internet is also very valuable as it also allows people to access specialist guidance from other heritage organisations very easily.



Each year we consider ways of improving the website and in 2010 we made a number of modifications. We added a new way of navigating through the 'building elements' section of the website (*Photograph 7 – left*) and we introduced 'tagging' to make it easier for users to search for particular topics. We also created a number of new advice pages using the material in the email bulletin archive.

A summary of the visitor statistics for the website is given below (*Table 4*). The statistics show that there has been a steady overall increase in the number of visitors to the website. We now know that a high proportion of our course participants are booking places on our courses online and this is perhaps why there are a greater number of visitors to the website in the early part of the year. As the course season finishes in October it is perhaps not surprising that the numbers drop a little towards the end of the year.

Table 4: Website statistics

Six month period	Visits	Unique Visitors	Total Page Views	Ave. Page Views	Ave. Time on Site
01 July 2007 to 31 December 2007	3,403	2,479	14,604	4.29	3:32
01 January 2008 to 30 June 2008	4,154	2,955	19,160	4.61	3:43
01 July 2008 to 31 December 2008	5,567	4,357	18,848	3.39	2:49
01 January 2009 to 30 June 2009	8,938	7,020	31,798	3.56	2:54
01 July 2009 to 31 December 2009	7,794	6,352	24,120	3.09	2:17
01 January 2010 to 30 June 2010	9,814	7,973	29,601	3.02	2:16
01 July 2010 to 31 December 2010	9,907	8,357	25,837	2.61	2:31

In 2010 80.4% of website visitors were new to the site and 19.6% were returning visitors. New visitors looked at an average of 2.52 pages and spent 1m 58s on the website. Returning visitors looked at an average of 4.0 pages and spent 4m 05s on the website. It is also interesting to note that the top five search terms that bring visitors to the FiM website are 'faith in maintenance', 'gully', 'why maintenance is important', 'harmful materials' and 'spab'.

We can also see a clear pattern of much greater traffic to the website on weekdays rather than weekends. In terms of the most popular website content, the table below (*Table 5*) shows the range of topics that users are most interested in. Unsurprisingly, some the most visited pages relate to our courses and booking a place on a course or viewing the course programme. This is mostly due to the fact that a large majority of participants book a place on a course online and are direct to view the course programme online when the joining instructions are sent to them by email. The most popular non-course related pages appear to cover a broad selection of our advice and guidance topics.

Table 5: Top website content

Page Title	Page Views
Courses	10,875
Faith in Maintenance Home	8,150
Gulleys and Drains	2,657
Advice & Guidance	1,683
Roofs	1,472
Course Programme	1,327
Event Signup	1,309
Understanding Why Buildings Decay	1,176
Resources	1,167
Windows	1,032
Understanding Why Maintenance is Important	877
Managing Maintenance	861
Working at Height	718
Understanding Traditional Materials	685
Walls	669
Building Elements	660
Current News	645
Understanding Building Legislation	642
Course Aims	579
Email Bulletin	572
Understanding Buildings	567
Search	511
Architects and Surveyors	488
Rainwater Goods	483
Maintenance DVD	478

Monthly Email Bulletin: We introduced a monthly e-bulletin service in January 2008 and have promoted this resource at all our training courses and on the home page of the FiM website.



The number of subscribers has grown from 179 at the end of 2008 to 498 at the end of 2010. Topics covered in e-bulletins this year have included winter weather checks; lead paint safety; setting a maintenance budget; gulleys and soakaways; engaging new volunteers; preparations for builders' work; choice of appropriate stone; researching buildings; green issues; heating; CDM Regulations and paint on timber surfaces (*Photograph 8 – right*). An archive of the most recent twelve e-bulletins is maintained on the FiM website at www.spabfim.org.uk/pages/current_bulletins.html.



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The older e-bulletins from 2008 and 2009 have now been removed from the website and their content reworked as a series of new webpages for the ‘advice and guidance’ section of the website.

Maintenance DVD: We have continued to send out individual copies of the DVD to the various contacts we make during the course of the project as a way of encouraging interest in our work. In 2010 we also sent boxes of DVDs to the Association of Grace Baptists (East Anglia), Inspired North East, the RC Diocese of Brentwood, the RC Diocese of Southwark and the RC Archdiocese of Birmingham for distribution through their local networks. As we were conscious that there had not been a strong take up of the DVDs across the Catholic dioceses we wrote to those which had not previously responded to our offer (Arundel & Brighton, East Anglia, Liverpool, Menevia, Plymouth, Salford, and Wrexham) in March. We made a further offer to send them boxes of DVDs but sadly did not receive any replies.

Steering Group and Volunteers

The project continues to be guided by its dedicated Steering Group. The fifteen members have a variety of backgrounds in faith and heritage organisations and are chaired by David Lodge, a SPAB Guardian. The project team continues to be extremely grateful for their invaluable guidance and ongoing support and encouragement. In particular we have had benefitted from the many informal opportunities to share and discuss ideas with our Steering Group members over the last 12 months.

In addition to the Steering Group, we have been able to call upon a number of volunteers who have given their time to the FiM project. Their contribution has included lecturing on FiM courses, publicising the project and helping with the running of FiM courses.

Awards

The Faith in Maintenance project was honoured with a European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Award in the Education, Training and Awareness-raising Category in 2010. The award (*Photograph 9 – right*) was presented at a ceremony that took place at the Aya Irini (Hagia Eirene), a sixth century Byzantine church in Istanbul, on 10th June. In giving the award the Jury made the following statement:

“The Jury has awarded this prize for the exemplary initiative of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in creating an inspection network for the maintenance of places of worship by volunteers, who have been specially trained on the free Faith in Maintenance courses, run by the SPAB. The monitoring and care for these buildings by committed volunteers plays a crucial role in the conservation of old places of worship and is an inspirational model for many similar projects where, for various reasons, it is not possible for maintenance to be conducted by professionals.”



A local award ceremony was held at St Sepulchre in London on 17th September at which the project was commended by Dr Lester Borley, the chair of Europa Nostra UK. The evening also provided an opportunity to invite the project Steering Group, our many course assistants and other colleagues in the heritage sector to celebrate the SPAB’s success.

The FiM project is featured on the Europa Nostra website at www.europanostra.org/projects/37/.

Publicity

We have continued to work hard to publicise the Faith in Maintenance project in 2010. Our primary tool is the Faith in Maintenance website, which provides details of all upcoming courses but we also make use of a tri-fold information leaflet, A4 printed fliers with an FAQ section on the reverse, a customisable poster designed by *The Letter g* and our exhibition banners. To supplement this material we decided to introduce a postcard in 2010. This features an eye-catching graphic outlining common maintenance problems on one side and a summary of maintenance ‘top tips’ as well as the FiM contact details on the reverse. These have been used in place of business cards and give out to people at events.

A record of some of the publicity generated in 2010 follows:

- A letter with a copy of the *Good Maintenance Guide* and the DVD was sent to all members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Historic Churches chaired by Frank Dobson MP.
- ‘*Church Wardens and Church Fabric*’, an article by Sara Crofts, was added to the Building Conservation Directory website in January 2010.
- In April SPAB sent out a news release about the European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award won by the Faith in Maintenance project.
- The European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award story was featured in a number of publications including the *Our Place Newsletter* (English Heritage); *Museums & Heritage Online*; *Industry Today*; *Heritage Update 183*; the first *National Churches Trust Magazine*; and the August edition of the *Northumbria Historic Churches Trust August 2010 Newsletter*.
- Sara Crofts was interviewed by Lamont Howie on BBC Radio Stoke’s *Sunday Breakfast Show* on 24th April 2010.
- The Faith in Maintenance project featured regularly in the monthly e-bulletin of the Churches Trust for Cumbria.
- Faith in Maintenance featured prominently in the materials produced by English Heritage as part of the Places of Worship at Risk campaign launched in July. Sara Crofts and Kate Minnis also exhibited Faith in Maintenance materials at the launch event at St John’s Church, Smith Square, London.
- SPAB sent out a press release in September to mark ‘*100 Courses, 3000 Trained Volunteers and a Major Award*’. This was reported on the IHBC website, in the Salvation Army’s ‘*War Cry*’ newspaper, and in *Heritage Update 193*.
- The 100th FiM course at Wesley’s Chapel in London was featured in an article in the *Methodist Recorder* on 4th November 2010.
- Both 2010 editions of the *Building Faith in our Future E-Bulletin* published by the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division included substantial features about the Faith in Maintenance project.

Financial Review

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant covers three quarters of the project costs, with the balance of funding coming from English Heritage, several other grant making bodies and the SPAB’s own reserves. The cost of the project after four full years of operation remains within the budget agreed at the outset with the Heritage Lottery Fund and we expect that the project will be completed at less than the anticipated cost.

Evidence continues to show that the decision to make the courses free for volunteers has not had a significant effect on the budget, while encouraging more people to take advantage of the training provided. This is largely due to the generosity of the various host organisations in providing venues and refreshments.

Assessment and Review

We have continued to issue all delegates attending FiM courses with a sheet that contains a pre-course questionnaire and a course feedback form. The responses are transcribed to spreadsheets and read by project staff. We look out for suggestions of ways in which to improve the training courses and also for ideas about how the project might develop in the future. We also address the small number of negative comments that arise. As in previous years, we have been delighted to receive numerous emails and letters from volunteers who have attended our courses and wished to share their enthusiasm for our work. These are just a few of the unsolicited comments that we received this year:

“As I mentioned at the time I thought it was extremely worthwhile and congratulate you for undertaking the project. I work with conservation architects and am about to be appointed a churchwarden next week and fully appreciate the importance of all you are doing. It gave us all a good opportunity to meet each other as well as enjoy the excellent programme you organised.” Liz White, Langridge (Wells)



“The FiM day at Truro was first class, several people have spoken to me since and said how much it was appreciated by them and others to whom they had spoken. Sara did a wonderful job, her visual materials were excellent.” Peter Facer (Truro)

“I found the day very informative and will use the knowledge gained to look at our buildings with new eyes. Many thanks for your help. I did enjoy the seminar and gained a good deal of useful ideas as to buildings maintenance and recognition of problems. I hope to put into practice some of these ideas.” Alistair Brown (Keswick)

“I much enjoyed the one-day training course held in Bicester on 25 May. It was very interesting and full of good ideas and I thought Sara Crofts was an excellent speaker. I feel very honoured to have been invited to such a good FREE course! I think you and SPAB should be congratulated for organizing such courses. I hope the forthcoming ones are all well attended and they achieve their aims.” Simon Haviland (Bicester)

Photograph 10: Faith in Maintenance training course at Market Lavington St Mary of the Assumption (June 2010)

“I found the morning to be both instructive and most interesting – I am now anxious to start, however late, a logbook for the Church, having always assumed that the Architect’s quinquennial report would be a sufficient record, without understanding that the report in itself was merely a record of what needed to be done not what was done! May I take this letter to express my thanks for your presentation: you turned a dry subject into a most fascinating piece of education.” Chris Hirst (Hinckley)

“Thank you for an excellent course yesterday at St Bonaventure’s Church, Bristol. I was particularly pleased that it was in ‘lay speak’. I left the course much more confident than when I arrived!” Terry Ward (Bristol)

“Thanks for the information and a most enlightening day at Alnwick – you were in my thoughts the following Monday as the vicar and I went to check the graveyard in torrential rain and we walked around the corner of the church and noticed leaking gutters.” Paulette Thompson (Alnwick)

“My colleague and I very much appreciated the recent Faith in Maintenance day. I think you would have been proud the following week to see us on a ladder with an improvised tool of a spoon sellotaped to a ruler, attending to our gutters!” Jo Buddle (Wesley’s Chapel, London)

In addition to our routine evaluation and assessment work, we commissioned a piece of impact research from Melita Armitage and Michèle Taylor. Their conclusions were reported in *'The Impact of Faith in Maintenance'* published in July 2010 and available on the FiM website at www.spabfim.org.uk/pages/evaluation.html. Their key findings were as follows:

Positive headlines ~ as a result of the course:

- The average number of hours spent each month inspecting each place of worship before the Faith in Maintenance course was 1.81 and the average number of hours spent each month inspecting each place of worship after the Faith in Maintenance course was 3.19.
- 52.33% of respondents say that, since the Faith in Maintenance course, they have required contractors they use to have more appropriate conservation experience.

Confidence levels ~ as a result of the course:

- 83.92% of respondents report felt more confident about identifying maintenance issues or problems at their place of worship.
- 73.83% of respondents report felt more confident about knowing what to do about maintenance problems when they find them.
- 56.15% of respondents report felt more confident about seeking advice from professional advisors such as architects or surveyors.
- 64.62% of 195 people who have had a quinquennial inspection since the course said they approached their inspection differently, as opposed to 35.38% who said they had not.



Photograph 11: Broken Gutter at Barnard Castle St Mary

Voluntary role ~ as a result of the course:

- 80.33% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the course increased their enjoyment of their voluntary role.
- 81.12% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the course made them more motivated to deliver their voluntary role.
- 84.54% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the course increased their sense that they are making a useful contribution.
- 32.86% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the course gave them skills that they can take to their 'day job'.

Use of logbooks ~ as a result of the course:

- 34.64% of respondents reported that they had changed the way they use their maintenance logbook, diary or file.
- 26.23% of respondents reported that their maintenance logbook, diary or file is being updated more regularly as a result of the course.

This impact research work was the first part of a larger research project to consider possible models that would allow Faith in Maintenance to continue in some form after the current project ends in February 2012. The consultants started work on this second stage of the work in the second half of the year and their final report is expected to be completed by the end of January 2011.

Conclusion

The Faith in Maintenance project is an excellent opportunity for the SPAB to support the work of volunteers. Through our training courses, website, technical helpline, printed materials and DVD we can provide the sensible and practical advice that volunteers need to help them look after their historic places of worship better. Having completed 109 training courses to date our main objective in 2011 will be to arrange at least 41 training courses to allow us to reach our target of 150 courses. This is will be a tough challenge as the logistics of fitting in this number of courses will be complicated but we are hopeful that we might succeed.

In January we will run our tenth workshop for young people, which will mean that we have met our target in this area. As we also have plans to run a further two events for young people next year we are pleased to say that will hope to exceed our target and reach an audience of over 200 young people.

Our second most important objective in 2011 will be exploring a future for the Faith in Maintenance project once the current funding comes to an end in February 2012. We already have a number of interesting ideas and contacts that we will be following up and we are optimistic that a positive outcome will be achieved.

Sara Crofts

Faith in Maintenance Project Director



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