

From the centre to the periphery and back again. Sustaining rural religious heritage in a time of change

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Context

- Church as the centre of life: spiritual and societal needs were met and society was shaped by a weekly rhythm
- Urbanisation: the silent revolution: erosion of commercial and social institutions (shops, pubs, clubs, etc.)
- Church is pushed from the centre to the periphery



Religious context

- Church membership and church attendance do not coincide: attendance is declining
- `Kasualfrommen`: church providing rites of passage, but here the church increasingly competes with other providers of life cycle celebrations



“It’s one way to boost the numbers.”

Globalization & Glocalization

- Globalization: the world as a global village: one global cultural system: McDonaldization
- Glocalization: the local will remain: the global will not eliminate all differences



Reality→ Virtual Reality→ Reality revisited

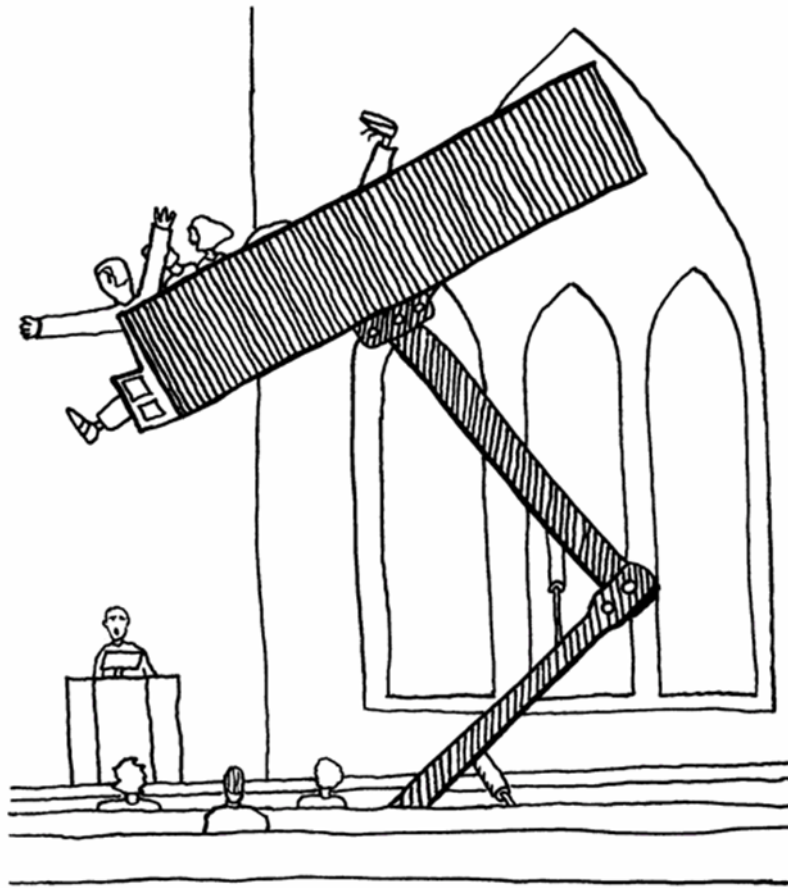


Escape Room: “Video games have long taken inspiration from other cultural phenomena, but now, thanks to several entrepreneurs, one is becoming a real-world trend. In a genre of play called "Real Escape Room," two or more people get locked in a decorated room and must solve puzzles to escape—before time runs out.”

A transformed but lasting spiritual need

- Religious buildings possess an intrinsic quality which does not equal other buildings, let alone virtual spaces
- They are places of worship in which the life stories of people are intertwined with their relationship to the transcendent and become materially manifest
- Religious buildings still function as places of awe and contemplation even if the people visiting the religious sites are tourists and no longer members of the religious community

New concepts



SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED
CHURCH TO BE MORE EXCITING

- Challenge and opportunity:
 - new concepts of church functions should integrate the religious dimension
 - churches could become meeting houses for everyone, not just for one group of a specific religious denomination

New concepts

- Multifunctionality in stead of monofunctionality
- For instance liturgical / spiritual use combined with:
 - Church pedagogy
 - City church
 - Columbarium
 - Artistic expressions
 - Functioning as a meeting house
 - Diverse contemplative leisure activities
 - Museum
 - Concerts
 - Diaconal functions