



# future for religious heritage

Report 2010-2012



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## Administrative report

### Background to FRH

At a conference on the conservation of religious heritage in Montreal in 2009, it was felt among the European delegates that Europe lacked a platform for communication in this field. Attendees included representatives from the Churches Conservation Trust, the KA Association for Employers in the Church of Norway, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage Norway, English Heritage, the German Association for Christian Art, and Thomas Coomans from the Catholic University of Leuven.

This sparked the idea for a European forum event in Canterbury 2010, which was realised thanks to substantial time, effort and funding from the Churches Conservation Trust (Crispin Truman), Europa Nostra (John Sell), English Heritage, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage Norway, and the KA Association for Employers in the Church of Norway (Oddbjorn Sormoen), the North of England Civic Trust (Graham Bell) and the subsequent joining of the Förderkreis Alte Kirchen (Angus Fowler), Church of England (Rebecca Payne), the Church of Sweden (Henrik Lindblad), and the National Churches Trust (Michael Hoare). A special thank you is also due to Lucy Hockley, who volunteered invaluable hours towards organising the conference and setting up a website, with support from Laoise Bailey at the Churches Conservation Trust.

The Canterbury Forum Event brought together 57 delegates from 25 countries to discuss working together for historic places of worship across Europe. Three days of intensive work resulted in the agreement that we should set up a formal network and the appointment of an interim Council to oversee the first years. Participants also pledged to find some start-up funds from sources in their own countries so that the network could employ someone to help do the work.

### Registration

FRH was registered as an ASBL (Associacion Sans But Lucratif) in Belgium on 29 September 2011. Its governing document is the Statutes (available on the FRH website) approved by the Greffe du tribunal de commerce in Belgium on that same date.

## Aims

Article 3 of the statutes states that the aims of the Association are to promote, encourage and support the safeguard, maintenance, conservation, restoration, accessibility and the embellishment of places of worship, their contents and their history.

## Organisational structure

### The Council

The Council currently has five representatives of the wider membership. The Council meets twice per year.

Chairman	Olivier de Rohan
Secretary	Lilian Grootswagers
Treasurer	Michael Hoare
Members	Thomas Coomans de Brachène Giannalia Cogliandro Beyens

### The Networking Group

The Council is supported by the Networking Group, which meets twice per year in person and twice per year by phone conferences, to update on the work of their own organisations and bring FRH's work forward through the working groups. One of the roles of the Networking Group is to help the FRH attract and interact with all those active in the sector across Europe through personal contact and building FRH's reputation across Europe.

Chairman	Crispin Truman
Christopher Baker	Graham Bell
Angus Fowler	Joakim Hansson
Lucy Hockley	Henrik Lindblad
Oddbjorn Sormoen	Ruth Watkinson

All Council Members are also members of the Networking Group.

### **The office**

Following the Forum Event in Canterbury 2010, the organisation was run initially by volunteers with particular thanks to Lucy Hockley.

Leena Seim joined as a salaried Development Worker in June 2011, initially part-time, but full-time since September 2012. She has been based in London, thanks to the good offices of the Churches Conservation Trust, but has also spent time in the ASBL's registered office, which are rented from the European Landowners' Organization in Brussels.

Day-to-day work is still supported by volunteers and interns who help both with specific projects, such as event administration or collecting case-studies, and with on-going research for the newsletter.

### **Members**

At the end of 2012 FRH had attracted 28 Full Members and 39 Associate Members in 28 countries.

### **Administrative achievements**

- Official registration as an ASBL in Belgium
- Establishment of the Council, Networking Group and a working method for them
- Development of a work programme for 2012
- Appointment of a Development Worker
- Involvement of volunteers and interns
- Formalisation of membership
- Setting up of bank accounts



## Work report 2010-2012

### **Mission, aims and objectives**

Religious heritage is under threat across Europe. Shrinking congregations, financial constraints and lack of knowledge about conserving the buildings and treasures held within them, all contribute to this impending loss of a substantial collection of testaments to European history.

The FRH was formed to respond to the calls from the many European organisations that are working hard to mitigate the effects of this trend, and which need a unified voice. This network acts as a link between practitioners and policymakers and as a platform for communication across countries, cultures and religions, finding good-practice solutions to common problems. Our member organisations include charities, governmental, university and religious institutions from 24 countries.

#### **The FRH sets out to:**

- Promote Europe's rich religious heritage, which is a shared resource for cultural, social and economic development.
- Raise awareness of the threats facing Europe's religious heritage.
- Provide a communication platform for those working to protect Europe's religious heritage.
- Share expertise and experience on common challenges.
- Identify areas where a Europe-wide response is appropriate and influence policy-makers on behalf of our members.

#### **By:**

- Gathering news on projects, campaigns and events from across Europe on the website and in the monthly newsletter.
- Providing a database of case-studies, relevant literature, research and policy documents.
- Supporting and developing transnational exchange projects.
- Arranging conferences.
- Promoting and supporting regional and national organisations for the protection of religious heritage.

## Communication

Building an effective communication strategy using modern web-based technology is key to the FRH's future success. Achievements to date include:

- Creating a name and logo.
- Developing a website.
- Launching member communications including an interactive website forum and social networking with 239 followers on Twitter at the end of 2012.
- Issuing a monthly e-newsletter with 20 issues and 14 Featured Articles at the end of 2012, focusing on specific projects and issues in various European countries. The newsletter has 348 subscribers.
- Developing paper based marketing tools such as information leaflets
- Building a database of key contacts in all European countries.
- Building relationships with key organisations and individuals including EU Culture contact points, INTO, ICOMOS, ELO and Europa Nostra.

## Fundraising

FRH is currently funded through donations from membership organisations, as well as trusts and foundations. It is anticipated that finance will become available through various European Programmes in the longer-term, but the current challenge to the Association is to cover its core costs in the interim. An objective of raising €200k a year for three years - a total of €600k - has been set. Achievements to date include:

- Developing a fundraising strategy and learning about European funding opportunities and how to navigate them.
- Submitting three funding bids to three different EU programmes.
- Raising €67k in its first year of operation
- Obtaining promises of a further €200k over the next three years part conditional on its obtaining matching funding.
- Successfully funding of bursaries for the conferences in Canterbury and Venice.

The FRH is most grateful for the financial support it has received from:

The Church of Sweden

The Churches Conservation Trust, UK

English Heritage

Förderkreis Alte Kirchen Berlin-Brandenburg and Marburg, Germany

The Golden Bottle Trust, UK

The Gotland County Administrative Board, Sweden

The Headley Trust, UK

KA Association of Employees of the Church of Norway

The National Programme for Reuse and Redesign, The Dutch Heritage Institute,  
Netherlands

L'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

## Case-studies

FRH is collecting case studies of how religious buildings are managed differently in different European countries, and investigating the possibility of expanding the study, addressing the various opportunities and challenges to extended use.

## Exchanges

FRH has been involved with arranging several international exchanges, facilitating communication between members looking for contacts from a specific location and or with a specific experience, and helping to arrange a programme for visits.

- Thomas Coomans, Professor, University of Leuven, Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation, member of the Royal Commission for Monuments and Sites (Brussels Capital Region). and Luc Noppen and Lucy Morisset, both professors



at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) visited the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen in the Netherlands in 2011.

- A delegation from the National Museum of Denmark visited the Churches Conservation Trust in the United Kingdom and the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen in the Netherlands in 2012.
- Michael Hoare, Chairman of the National Churches Trust in the United Kingdom, visited the Museum Catherijneconvent and the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen in the Netherlands, and the Hungarian Renaissance Foundation (Magyar Reneszánsz Alapítvány) in 2012.
- Henrik Lindblad, Church of Sweden, visited the Museum Catherijneconvent in the Netherlands in 2012.
- Marc de Beyer, curator at Museum Catharijneconvent in Utrecht, the Netherlands, and project leader of the Guidelines on Ways of Dealing with Religious Objects, visited UQAM and Laval University in Québec in Canada.
- Lilian Grootswagers, of the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen worked together with the Kempens Landschap (Belgium) and the Churches Conservation Trust on a european program HERE (Heritage Recycled), in 2011-2012.
- Lilian Grootswagers of the Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen visited the CRKC (Centrum voor Religieuze Kunst en Cultuur) in 2012.
- Mr. Jan Jaspers of the CRKC (Belgium) visited several sights in the Netherlands intermediair Task Force Toekomst Kerkgebouwen.

## **Project Development and Partnerships**

### **Guidelines on Ways of Dealing with Religious Objects**

The Guidelines are a unique instrument. Never before has an aid been devised for dealing with 'surplus' religious objects. FRH worked in association with the Museum Catharijneconvent to find relevant contacts and to liaise between them in creating the international version of the Guidelines.

### **ALTERheritage**

Funding has been sought for the ALTERheritage project, which aims to make existing material for vocational learning on religious heritage conservation and management available to a larger proportion of the sector in Europe. Europe's religious heritage shares threats of under-use, but also problems with managing large numbers of tourists. The sector has much to gain from increased international and inter-sectorial exchange to find good-practice models for building the capacity of the practitioners. ALTERheritage will increase the capacity of vocational learning targeted at practicing specialists involved in conserving, managing, and regenerating religious heritage, benefitting from international and interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge and resources.

In partnership with:

Department of Conservation, University of Gothenburg, Sweden  
media k GmbH, Germany  
University of Leuven - RLICC, Belgium  
Churches Conservation Trust, UK  
Sociedad Regional de Cultura y Deporte, S. L., Spain  
Museum Catharijneconvent, the Netherlands

### **Embodied Spirits (mSPIRIT)**

The project proposed to develop a frame work for Physical, Personalised and Playful Experiences with Local Religious Heritage. Funding is being sought to carry on the project.

In partnership with:

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium  
GROEP T, Hogeschool Leuven, Belgium  
University of Gothenburg, Sweden  
Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Netherlands  
The Churches Conservation Trust, United Kingdom  
Deutsche Künstliche Intelligenz, Germany

### **Heritage Recycled (HERE)**

The project seeks to share experience and methods on reusing heritage buildings for 21st century uses, as well as developing a project methodology. FRH will have a role in the dissemination of project.

Associate partner with:

Kempens Landschap, Belgium

The Churches Conservation Trust, United Kingdom

Suffolk Mind, United Kingdom

### **Events**

FRH has organised two events: the inaugural Forum Event in Canterbury 2010, and the conference in Venice 2012, on the topic of “Extended Use of Religious Heritage”. The progress of the organisation is shown through the comparison of these two events. The former being the very first move towards an organised platform for this sector of heritage conservation, and the second beginning to reap the first fruit of its success. They have both been very successful in including a wide variety of nationalities and stakeholders in the delegates, thanks to the support from the Headley Trust towards bursaries.

#### **Canterbury 2010**

The Canterbury Forum Event brought together 57 delegates from 25 countries to discuss working together for historic places of worship across Europe. Three days of intensive work resulted in the agreement that we should set up a formal network and the appointment of an interim Council to oversee the first years. Participants also pledged to find some start-up funds from sources in their own countries so that the network could employ someone to help do the work.

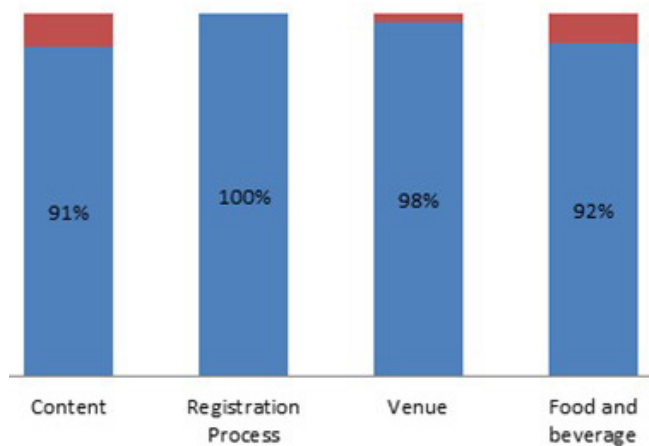
#### **Venice 2012**

The Europe-wide concern was clear to see at the FRH Conference titled “Extended use for religious heritage” last week, where 86 experts from 24 countries gathered in Venice to discuss the future for religious heritage in Europe. Pioneering the international discussion on ‘Extended use’, meaning finding community and cultural functions and uses that can co-exist with, or add significance to religious activities, the discussions covered topics

including authenticity of the heritage, interpretation, material impacts and the flexibility of different religions.

The speakers included Don Gianmatteo Caputo, Director of the Pastoral Tourism and Cultural Heritage for the Patriarchate of Venice and Director of Museo Diocesano d'Arte Sacra, Thomas Coomans, Professor at the University of Leuven, Department of Architecture and the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation in Belgium, and Lady Frances Clarke, Co-founder and President of Venice in Peril

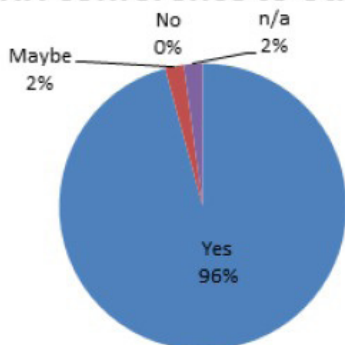
**Please indicate your overall satisfaction with this conference**



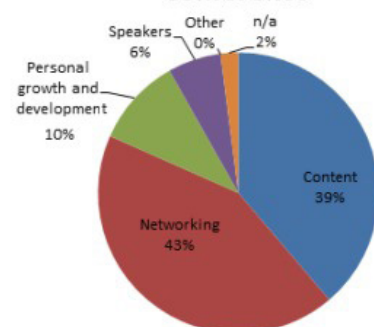
*“FRH is a young organisation with much energy and enthusiasm. I saw the delegates leave the event with a sense of excitement and determination to keep the discussions going in their home countries, which should be of great value to all of us.”*

Olivier de Rohan  
President of FRH and of the Sauvegarde de l'Art Français

**Would you recommend an FRH conference to others?**



**Please specify the main reason for attending this conference**





## Financial report 2012

### Expenditure

Wages and Salaries	£14.426,66
Office Costs	£4.027,03
Travel and subsistence	£2.149,38
Venice conference	£25.828,37
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£46.431,44</b>

### Income

Total grants and donations	£43.609,35
Total conference income	£29.651,50
Total income	£73.260,85
<b>Income and Expenditure surplus</b>	<b>£26.829,42</b>

### Cash balance

Brought forward	£10.651,64
Used	£26.829,42
Carried forward	£37.481,06

Accounts for 2013 will be presented in Euro, as agreed in the AGM in 2012.

The European network for historic places of worship



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