

MEMBERS BOOKLET



FUTURE FOR RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

The European network for historic
places of worship.

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BELGIUM

Cercle Royal Archéologique d'Enghien (CRAE)

MISSION

The Royal Archaeological Circle of Enghien (CRAE) is a network of archaeologists and heritage experts located in Belgium. Its mission includes the study of the political, religious, artistic, cultural and scientific history of Enghien and the communes of the former seigneurie of this name; the management of a museum and library in Enghien; the encouragement of historical and archaeological studies, and the development of culture in the Enghien region; the defence of the heritage sites of the former seigneurie of this name.

ACTIVITIES

- **LIBRARY**

The organisation operates a library that mainly consists of: annals and reviews of historical and archaeological societies covering the whole of Belgium and certain French regions; works of art, history and folklore; some newspapers of the 19th and 21st centuries; posters and local archives from the Middle Ages to the present day. The library is open to those interested in regional and local history, from members of academia to professionals working for tourist offices.

- **MUSEUM**

The organisation also operates a museum which houses several notable artefacts and pieces of cultural heritage. The museum is also available online as a virtual museum where its many artefacts can be viewed in 3D.

- **EXCURSIONS**

The organisation offers several excursions throughout the year to important cultural heritage sites in Belgium and abroad.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Het Orgel in Vlaanderen (The Organ in Flanders)

MISSION

The association “The Organ in Flanders” was founded in 1990 to promote the cultural heritage associated with this ancient instrument. Its main goal is to introduce people of all ages to the by promoting, revaluing, and making organ heritage accessible and known to the general public. They cover the entire range of organ culture, from the instruments to the players.

Their activities involve spreading awareness of organ culture, facilitating opportunities for young organists, and ultimately keeping organ culture alive in Flanders. They are very active in organising public events around organ culture and keeping people up to date on the latest news and information. “The Organ in Flanders” is a partner of Herita, Interpret Europe, the Flanders Music Council and the also members of FRH Parcum and Open Churches.

ACTIVITIES

- **MEDIA**

In 2005, The Organ in Flanders launched its website www.orgelinvlaanderen.be. It also operates a quarterly information sheet on Flemish organ culture in close collaboration with the department of Heritage of the Flemish Government.

- **FLEMISH ORGAN DAYS**

One of the most important achievements of the non-profit organisation is the organisation of the Day of the Organ, with free organ concerts, the distribution of postcards with photos of Flemish historical instruments, and the publication of a membership magazine. They also operate the organ on Open Monument Day, the biennial organisation of the Flemish Organ Days, which includes a competition for non-professional organists, various concerts, and courses.

- **CD-LABEL**

Since 2004 it has maintained its CD label with the name Vision-Air, in which the series “Flemish Organ Treasures” is released in collaboration with KLARA, a local Flemish radio station.

- **LOCAL SUPPORT**

The non-profit organisation also provides advice and support to local projects through their activities. For example, they contributed to the opening up of the organ in the Elzenveld Congress Centre, now the Botanic Sanctuary of Antwerpen. In addition to this, an operation was started in 2015 in collaboration with Orgelkids in the Netherlands, whereby a mobile organ travels through Flanders to bring children into contact with traditional organs. Also, educational study days for organ teachers are organised annually in collaboration with the Educational Association of Cities and Municipalities in Flanders (OVSG).

[Click here](#) for more information.

Open Churches

MISSION

Open Churches is a network of more than 500 open and welcoming churches in the heart of Europe. Open Churches believes that churches are of the public domain, and should be open for visitors. They are not just for religious purposes, but as village centres, a representation of social life, a cultural space, and a touristic site. The organisation's main goals are to empower religious heritage sites and make them accessible to the local population, create a welcoming environment that will help visitors appreciate the richness of our religious heritage, and organise social activities such as concerts and exhibitions to bring people closer to religious heritage and involve them in its safeguarding.

ACTIVITIES

- **NETWORK**

Open churches operates a network of over 500 churches in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg. They extend their network to other European countries as well. The organisation gathers information on them such as opening times, addresses, etc. to ensure that they are accessible to everyone. It also gathers information about their events which are advertised on their website.

- **DATABASE**

Open churches also maintains a detailed database of information about churches. On their website, one can find an interactive map that shows all of the churches in their network with information about each and their events. Finally, Open Churches has a list of circuits that can be walked, biked, or driven so that people can tour local religious heritage at their own pace.

- **OPEN CHURCHES DAYS**

Open churches celebrates every June the Open Churches Days, a weekend of cultural activities from guided tours to concerts and exhibitions in the churches that are part of the network. This event is organised jointly with the local, regional and provincial authorities, tourism and cultural players, church buildings and parishes.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation

MISSION

The Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC) offers an international and multidisciplinary advanced master's training in heritage conservation at the University of Leuven (Belgium). It is hosted in the beautiful Arenberg Castle at the Heverlee Campus of KU Leuven. Its "Master of Science in Conservation of Monuments and Sites" aims at educating young professionals in the preservation and restoration of built cultural heritage (buildings, structures and sites), both by introducing them to the tradition of the discipline and new scientific methods.

In an educational and research environment, the Centre cherishes interdisciplinary collaboration and intercultural dialogue. Graduates of the advanced master's programme are passionate about addressing heritage preservation challenges in an interdisciplinary manner at a national and international level. As a proud host of a UNESCO chair, the Centre and its more than 800 alumni from 70 countries, collaborate in a vast network with international and local actors.

ACTIVITIES

- **EDUCATION**

They offer an international environment in which the students are taught in small groups and are in close contact with the professors. Students obtain knowledge through a variety of lectures, site visits and project works.

- **RESEARCH**

Research at the RLICC has an international scope and outreach. Similar to educational activities, research activities study heritage protection and management from an interdisciplinary, international and integrated perspective, to improve heritage protection, preservation, valorisation and (re)integration in society based on needs identified by the international community. Actual themes in the heritage field are tackled and the RLICC's ambition is to be ready to respond to the need for heritage practice in the near and far future.

- **UNESCO PRECOM³OS CHAIR**

Since the establishment of the UNESCO chair on Preventive Conservation, Monitoring and Maintenance of Monuments and Sites (PRECOM³OS) a large part of the research deals with preventive conservation concepts, strategies and tools. This research is supported by the Janssen Pharmaceutical Fund on Preventive conservation established at KU Leuven.

[Click here](#) for more information.

PARCUM

MISSION

PARCUM is the museum and expertise Centre for religious art and culture in Flanders (Belgium). They provide religious heritage with a meaningful future through participation trajectories, feasibility studies, etc. Their main activity is based on their permanent exhibition. The museum features a religious heritage collection and temporary theme exhibitions at the intersection of religion, art and culture, often based around never-before-seen heritage from churches, abbeys and monasteries.

PARCUM also addresses issues of identity and creates new forms and contents to alleviate social tensions, for instance, by focusing on questions about inter-religiousness and interculturalism, citizenship, and personal development. Their advisors help local authorities and heritage owners of different religions to manage their religious heritage and give it a meaningful future.

ACTIVITIES

- **MUSEUM AND EXHIBITIONS**

They have a collection of over 1,200 paintings and other works of art. Their exceptionally rich print cabinet lists around 3,000 items.

- **OPEN SPACE FOR DIALOGUE**

The museum positions itself as an open meeting place for critical and creative thinking, wonderment, development, reflection, and dialogue. As a museum for dialogue, PARCUM deliberately focuses on the interaction between contemporary (global) themes and religious heritage, between believers and non-believers, different denominations and philosophies, and young people and the elderly, with this approach, PARCUM desires to stimulate engagement in visitors of various philosophical and cultural backgrounds.

- **HERITAGE ADVICE**

PARCUM offers professional advice to owners and managers of public and private heritage from the recognised religions in Flanders and Brussels. Its fields of competence cover a wide range of areas, such as accessibility, inventory of objects, security and maintenance and repurposing.

[Click here](#) for more information

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Commission to preserve national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina

MISSION

The commission to preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a local institution which declares and registers the country's national monuments, sites, and other places as immovable or movable heritage of historical and cultural importance to the country. Members of the commission are chosen based on their ethnicity, rather than their political affiliation, to ensure the equal representation of the ethnic groups of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Serbs, Croats, Bosniaks).

The main goal of the commission is to incorporate cultural heritage into the process of reconciliation and rebuilding civil trust. The Commission has been crucially important in building sustainable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It carries out different activities, such as training, education and public engagement. The commission was awarded the European Heritage award in 2010 for its activities in campaigning for the preservation of cultural sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ACTIVITIES

- **SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME**

The commission operates a summer school focused on learning about conservation and vernacular culture. In this summer school, students learn both innovative and traditional conservation techniques. This mainly focuses on traditional methods of working with stonework and on local UNESCO sites.

- **COLLABORATIONS**

The commission frequently collaborates with other organisations in order to preserve cultural sites. This can range from small local organisations to larger organisations like UNESCO.

- **DATABASE**

The commission operates a database of national historic sites. This database maps out the locations of all of these sites. In addition to this, they have a virtual exhibition, that can be found on their website of national sites throughout the country.

[Click here](#) for more information.

BULGARIA

Bulgarian Old Catholic Church

MISSION

The Bulgarian Old Catholic Church is self-governed. The Church's mission is to carry out the message of God's love and the grace of His sacraments to all. They aim to help people who are mistreated, shunned, and abandoned (amongst others). Their mission is to work with marginalised groups of children and migrants, as well as with expat communities in Sofia. The Bulgarian Old Catholic Church also strives to work together with other churches to fulfil the prayer of Christ.

ACTIVITIES

- **CONGRESSES**

The Bulgarian Old Church sends delegations of its organisation to congresses for Old Catholic Churches. By doing this, they try to participate in modern discussions about the Catholic faith.

[Click here](#) for more information.

CANADA

Ville de Montréal

MISSION

The municipality of Montreal, through its Heritage Council, advises and informs on issues related to the protection and enhancement of the city's cultural heritage sites. It contributes to the development and implementation of the City's Heritage Policy as well as the development of citizen awareness activities.

ACTIVITIES

- **PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS HERITAGE**

The municipality develops various activities aimed at guaranteeing the sustainability of historic places of worship. A key part of its activities involves assessing the condition of buildings and guiding the search for new uses for those that are no longer used for religious services.

- **HERITAGE POLICY**

The municipality set up an Advisory Group for the Heritage Policy in 2003. The principles of the Heritage Policy include preserving and enhancing Montreal's heritage, making heritage sites accessible to citizens and visitors, and ensuring that this heritage is passed on to future generations.

[Click here](#) for more information.

CYPRUS

FILOKALIA

MISSION

FILOKALIA is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation located in Nicosia, Cyprus. “FILOKALIA” in ancient Greek means the love of the beautiful, the good; as such the scope of FILOKALIA is to support and educate children, young people and adults to participate in activities that promote the principles of the common good within Europe. Due to its connection with the Orthodox Church of Cyprus and thus through more than 150 parishes, has access to a national, well-organised network of volunteers, mainly young people, who assist in activities to fight poverty and unemployment in order to enhance people’s quality of life.

ACTIVITIES

- **BOOSTING EMPLOYABILITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

The project started in December 2018 to develop a “Learning and Co-Creativity Product Package” for students of Primary and Secondary Education and to design and establish Learning and Co-Creativity Centres. Based on a creative and innovative methodology, L2CP aims at developing children’s personal and social skills and at using knowledge and innovation in everyday life.

- **RECUIT**

Under this project, the Archbishopric of Cyprus set the goal to digitise part of the material and intangible heritage of the Nicosia region. The project ultimately aims to facilitate the creation of a religious tourism plan to promote Cypriot monasteries and temples as well as to foster collaboration in the cross-border region of Cyprus and Greece. The project started in October 2018.

- **DIGITAL UNSEALING OF AGIONI ISLANDS**

As part of this project, the Holy Metropolis of Limassol created digital laboratories to document the ecclesiastical cultural heritage of its region. The project started in September 2018 and was completed in 2021.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Center for Social Innovation

MISSION

The Center for Social Innovation specialises in developing disruptive solutions to systemic social, educational and market challenges. Among these challenges, cultural heritage represents an important area of work. The organisation promotes the potential of cultural heritage as a tool for peacebuilding, encouraging coexistence and collaboration among people with different backgrounds, and empowering local communities through respect and acceptance. The organisations also supports and contributes to policy making in the field of cultural heritage.

ACTIVITIES

- **PROSECUW**

The PROSECUW (Protection and Security for Places of Worship) project aims to enhance the protection and security of places of worship in European countries, by setting up cooperation between public authorities, religious leaders, civil society actors, and the local communities and by promoting respect and diversity among different religions.

- **EUROPEAN PROJECTS**

The CULTUR'ACT project aims to empower vulnerable adults and young people through artistic and cultural activities. This is to be done by working on their global competencies to help them face an interconnected world. Special attention is given to developing trust, establishing social bonds and creating community.

- **ONLINE COURSES**

The organisation puts a strong emphasis on developing courses in response to the new lifelong learning needs of the 21st century. Its courses focus on the areas of entrepreneurship, social innovation, peace and reconciliation, soft skills, environment and climate change, social work and gender and diversity.

[Click here](#) for more information.

CZECHIA

Archbishopric of Prague

MISSION

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Prague is a metropolitan Catholic Archdiocese of the Latin Rite in the Czech Republic. Founded on the 30th of April, 1344, it is the oldest diocese in Czechia. It includes the dioceses of České Budějovice, Hradec Králové, Litoměřice and Plzeň. The Archbishop of Prague is also the formal head of the Catholic Church in Czechia. The seat of the archdiocese is St Vitus Cathedral, situated inside the Prague Castle complex.

In addition to performing traditional religious duties, the archdiocese is very active in the preservation of Czechia's religious heritage and in developing social projects throughout the country. Lastly, they offer several education opportunities in the field of theology.

ACTIVITIES

- **PILGRIMAGE SITES**

The church oversees the maintenance of 16 pilgrimage sites throughout the country: The Metropolitan Cathedral of Saints Vitus (Prague), the Church of Our Lady of Victories and the Infant Jesus of Prague, the Holy Mountain Basilica (Svata Hora), the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Stará Boleslav), the Basilica of St Wenceslas (Stará Boleslav), the church of St Prokop (Sázava-Černé Budy), the church of St Ludmila (Tetín), the church of St Catherine of Alexandria (Tetín), the kostel sv. Jana Nepomuckeho (Tetín), the church of St Anna (Sudejov), the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary On Strahov (Prague-Strahov), the Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary (Petrovice u Rakovníka), the Church of the Nativity of St John the Baptist (Saint John under the Rock), the church of St Matous (Hrádek), the church of St Peter and Paul (Budeč), and the church of St Klementa (Levý Hradec).

- **DIOCESAN CONSERVATION CENTRE**

The main focus of the Diocesan Conservation Centre is to take care of the mostly moveable objects of cultural significance in the church's possession. Many of these objects go out on loan to various museums, exhibitions, and galleries around the world. The conservation centre is also responsible for many immovable objects such as frescoes and the archbishop's palace.

- **FOREST SERVICE**

A large part of the archdiocese's activities includes the maintenance of the natural forests of Czechia. They work in close cooperation with forest owners to ensure that many of the country's forests are protected and open to the public in a sustainable way.

[Click here](#) for more information.

DENMARK

The National Museum of Denmark

MISSION

The National Museum of Denmark (Nationalmuseet) in Copenhagen is Denmark's largest museum of cultural history, comprising the histories of both Danish and foreign cultures alike. The museum's main building is located just a short distance away from Strøget in the centre of Copenhagen. The museum is a time machine with exhibits including artefacts from the Vikings, Egyptian mummies, and even a hash stall from Christiania.

ACTIVITIES

- **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

The museum also includes a children's museum. Here, children of all ages can come face to face with world-famous Vikings who took trips to the most remote parts of the world. They can also see the treasures brought by explorers from their wild adventures and curiosities from unknown places.

- **TEACHING AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM**

With its exhibitions and unique objects, the National Museum opens up a different learning space. Students can feel the weight of a medieval sword, let their fingers slip over an ancient stone axe, or be adorned with a cross. Classes at the National Museum are organised for kindergartens, primary schools, secondary education, and language schools.

- **CONSERVATION**

The museum also has a renowned Conservation Department which conducts many restoration and conservation projects relating to both the museum's own collections and external ones. Work is carried out in close collaboration with the clients, from the planning stages to carrying out the work itself, in order to satisfy the customer's particular needs and ensure the optimal result.

[Click here](#) for more information.

FRANCE

La Sauvegarde de L'Art Français

MISSION

Commonly called "the Safeguarding", the organization was founded in 1921 by Edouard Mortier, Duke of Treviso, to rescue religious heritage, mainly churches and rural chapels, threatened with abandonment and destruction throughout France. It has become one of the national leading organisations to be concerned with heritage conservation.

The Foundation for the Safeguarding of French Art brings to the owners of buildings in danger, public or private, the help of recognised expertise and financial assistance. They also promote scientific research and the publication of specialised works. In 2013 they launched the national campaign "The Greatest Museum in France (Le Plus Grand Musée de France)" to find sponsorship to restore the works of art of French municipalities and make them known to the public.

ACTIVITIES

- **SAVE BUILDINGS IN DANGER**

Each year, the foundation allocates on average 1 million euros for the restoration of nearly a hundred buildings, responding to the request of their owners, most of them municipalities, or associations mandated by them.

- **SAVE ENDANGERED WORKS OF ART**

The Safeguarding action in favour of movable heritage is the object of its campaign "The Greatest Museum in France, the treasures of our towns", for the benefit of paintings, sculptures, tapestries, fabrics, and other works of art.

- **PROMOTE AND LOVE THE WONDERS OF FRANCE AND ITS REGIONS**

All the action of the Safeguarding of French Art in favour of heritage rests primarily on the voluntary aid from which it benefits, throughout all of France. It is that of its local correspondents, watchmen who alert to threats and try to face them. It is also that of all those who are in favour of the action of the preservation and of all those who make donations to it: friends and patrons. They are represented on its board of directors.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Fondation Avenir du Patrimoine à Paris

MISSION

Fondation Avenir du Patrimoine à Paris was created in 2014 to preserve the historic churches of Paris and their art pieces to transfer this heritage to future generations. It has a network of 150 associations, that help them by giving them support and financing their social projects. In collaboration with the city of Paris, the foundation collects private funds that complement the public funding allocated by the city of Paris. Fondation Avenir du Patrimoine à Paris is under the auspices of the Fondation Notre-Dame, established as a public interest.

ACTIVITIES

- **SAFEGUARDING**

The Foundation acts for the safeguarding, restoration and promotion of historic Parisian churches, classified or registered as historic monuments, as well as the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral. Thanks to the generosity of its donors, the Foundation finances restoration projects, either in abundance or in full. The Foundation also coordinates the actors of the restoration projects that it supports, until the project is completed, alongside the public authorities.

- **EDUCATION**

During the restoration, the foundation takes care to make sure that the stakeholders of the project and the public are well informed of the significance and importance of the church, in addition to the logistics of the project.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Abbayes de Normandie

MISSION

Norman Abbeys-Historical Route is an association that groups together 41 abbeys in Normandy as well as 13 related sites in the surrounding area. The historic route of Norman Abbeys was created in 2002 to turn these major touristic sites in Normandy into an appealing destination for visitors. The actions of the association focus on two main areas: cultural enhancement of the sites of their network and promotion of the Norman Abbeys.

ACTIVITIES

- **DISCOVER GUIDE TO NORMAN ABBEYS BROCHURE**

Each year, the Norman Abbeys association publishes the brochure “Discover Guide to Norman Abbeys” for the general public with 33,000 copies, in French and English, distributed throughout Normandy through tourist offices and other tourism partners. It can also be consulted on the website.

- **INTERACTIVE MAP AND UPDATED INFORMATION**

The website of the Norman Abbeys association provides an interactive map on which numerous abbeys from all over Normandy can be found. Each of the abbeys is well documented with touristic information. Furthermore, information about the organisation and each of its abbeys can be found in its monthly newsletter.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Observatoire du Patrimoine Religieux

MISSION

Founded in 2006, the Observatoire du Patrimoine Religieux has over 250 members throughout France. This organisation is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of France's Religious Heritage, which consists of over 90,000 sites. Their mission includes three goals: taking inventory of religious heritage, raising awareness of religious heritage, and advising policymakers about religious heritage.

They maintain an index of 72,800 religious buildings of all religions and denominations that is open to the public. They also maintain a watch list which monitors restoration projects and the destruction and alterations of buildings. The Religious Heritage Observatory also advises elected officials in France, responsible for nearly 42,000 religious buildings.

ACTIVITIES

- **RELIGIOUS HERITAGE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

The organisation frequently participates in the protection of religious heritage sites. An example of one of their projects is that of the former church of Dreuil Hamel in the village of Airaines. The organisation acquired this church that was in a poor condition and restored it.

- **"MY STONE IN THE BUILDING" CONTEST**

"Ma Pierre à l'Edifice" was a competition aimed at the detailed study and three-dimensional modelling of monumental buildings of French heritage. It raised the awareness of middle and high school students in their knowledge of heritage, encourages scientific and technological vocations and promotes the discovery of new collaborative computer modelling practices.

- **HERITAGE PILGRIM GRAND PRIZE**

For more than 25 years, the Grand Prix Pèlerin du Patrimoine has rewarded young artisans and restoration work on buildings, religious or not, objects, furniture, organs, etc. The Observatoire du Patrimoine Religieux participates in its annual jury. The observatory is associated with the projects of hundreds of candidates each year who wish to work in the service of small heritage and is delighted to reward the most exemplary.

[Click here](#) for more information.

GERMANY

Kloster Bronnbach

MISSION

The owner of Bronnbach Abbey is the district administration Main-Tauber-Kreis. In 1986, the Main Tauber-Kreis bought Bronnbach Abbey from the former owner, the house of Lords Löwenstein Wertheim-Rosenberg. Since then, the district administration has endeavoured to fill the complex with life. It offers comprehensive cultural programmes in the former Cistercian Abbey of Bronnbach which include concerts, lectures, workshops and more. In addition, the monastery is also used as a conference, education and seminar venue. Lastly, various tours are offered in Bronnbach. The marketing and coordination of the cultural programme and the guided tours are among the tasks of the Kulturamt Main-Tauber-Kreis.

ACTIVITIES

- **HOTEL AND RESTAURANT**

The Bursariat, formerly the seat of the monastery administration, has been converted into a comfortable hotel with 17 rooms for 41 guests. The also renovated Orangerie is operated as a public restaurant and Klostercafe.

- **CULTURAL PROGRAMMES**

Bronnbach offers guided tours and cultural programmes, for people that are involved and interested in the religious heritage field. These programmes include concerts, art exhibitions, workshops on traditional monastic products and thematic tours such as "In the roofs of Bronnbach", "Carriage ride: in the heart of the monastery landscape" and "Of knights, abbots and kings: tombs in the Bronnbach Monastery".

[Click here](#) for more information.

Förderkreis Alte Kirchen e.V. (Friends of the Old Churches Berlin-Brandenburg)

MISSION

The Förderkreis Alte Kirchen Berlin-Brandenburg eV (FAK) promotes the maintenance, repair and use of church buildings. It was founded in 1990 as a non-profit and voluntary association. It is independent of the church and focuses solely on preservation. The group finances its work from donations, membership fees, the sale of its own publications, and the proceeds from its own events.

The FAK has over 633 members (427 personal members, 129 associations, 69 church congregations or circles and 8 companies). They work together with the approximately 300 local funding associations in Brandenburg, as well as with parishes and with both church and state authorities. They advise, network, establish contacts with monument preservation institutions, ministries, sponsors, foundations etc., moderate planning talks, finance damage reports and arrange benefit concerts.

ACTIVITIES

- **FINANCING**

Since its foundation, the FAK has been able to provide around 1.7 million euros in direct project grants. In 2018, they were able to pass on project grants and earmark donations for more than 130,000 euros, which in the vast majority of cases enabled co-financing to raise additional funds. In addition, the FAK was able to acquire or broker significant funds through its regional advisors, which were passed on directly to church congregations or support associations.

- **OPEN CHURCHES**

The project “Open Churches” has been a focus of the association's work since 1999. Its basic idea is that village churches need the attention and support of more tourists from the cities. The churches can become a meeting point where the hosts present their efforts for the church and the guests learn that the village church is part of their history. Interested communities are provided with information signs with the logo shown on the left.

- **BOOKLET**

The booklet “Open Churches: Explore the Mark Brandenburg”, in addition to the addresses of the approximately 1000 participating churches, contains numerous articles on history, art history, monument preservation, and the problems and opportunities in maintaining village churches. The booklet has a circulation of almost 10,000 copies and is distributed through numerous churches, parish offices, bookstores, and tourist centres in Berlin and Brandenburg.

- **EVENTS**

FAK offers excursions and lectures in order to keep in touch with its members and friends. Guests are also welcomed at these events. They often focus on the local churches in the regions of Brandenburg and Saxony and at the same time contribute to their promotion.

[Click Here](#) for more information

Kriegsheimkehrer mahnen! e.V. (War Returnees Memorial)

MISSION

The association Kriegsheimkehrer mahnen! e.V. focuses on securing the preservation of the memorial site of the “Church of Gratitude of the War Returnees” (Heimkehrer-Dankes-Kirche) in Bochum-Weitmar and its crypt (which today houses a museum), preserving the memory of the events and aftermath after the Second World War and those who came back from the war after long periods of captivity, promoting dialogue among all church institutions, as well as business, science, culture and society actors to ensure the continuity of the memorial site.

In addition to the national significance of this site, the association places its remembrance culture in a wider European and international context. Through its international activities, the association promotes intercultural cooperation and understanding. The museum's work is particularly aimed at keeping the memory of the common German and European history alive, as well as reducing historical prejudices and strengthening the European spirit.

ACTIVITIES

- **WAR RETURNEES GRATITUDE CHURCH**

The church was built in 1959 on the initiative of Pastor August Halbe, who was imprisoned in a prisoner-of-war camp in the Urals for five years.

- **CRYPT MUSEUM**

The museum exhibits items donated by war returnees over decades, as well as numerous other artefacts. Most of these items were created by prisoners of war camps, and reflect their everyday life and their hopes to return home. The renovation and redesign of the crypt of the “Church of Gratitude of the War Returnees” to transform it into a museum and memorial site were accomplished thanks to numerous donations in the period 2016-2017.

- **EDUCATION**

The association organises tours of the church and the crypt as well as special tours for students and young people all year around. They also organise special exhibitions, commemorative events and cultural and musical events.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Klosterland e.V.

MISSION

Klosterland is a non-profit organisation created in 2013 to establish cross-border cooperation among abbeys and promote the preservation and revitalisation of monastic heritage. The member organisations are mainly located in Germany and northwest Poland. As a monastic network, they organise meetings for monasteries within German-speaking countries and provide stakeholders with the opportunity to get to know each other, enabling professional exchange and mutual inspiration to create projects in collaboration. They have experts with an abundance of knowledge, experience and case studies at their disposal that can support member organisations with guidance and consultations. Members also have the possibility of presenting their cultural offerings as well as their products.

ACTIVITIES

- **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING OF MONASTIC PRODUCTS**

To generate income and not be completely dependent on grants and donations, the organisation helps its members to develop monastery products. These products range from beer to crafts and publications. With them, member organisations generate income to finance cultural work. They also develop activities and educative offers for its members with a focus on promoting the monastic culture.

- **EUROPETOUR**

The European project Europetour, in which KLOSTERLAND was a partner, brought together a diverse range of rural areas in Europe to enhance local cultural tourism. It did this by setting up and providing a relevant training scheme pinpointed at the lack of skills and qualification needs of those people active in rural cultural tourism all over Europe. The used methodology was in its essence bottom-up and based on the input of the complete partnership and its stakeholders.

- **WORKSHOPS AND SYMPOSIUMS**

In addition to the cultural events of the member monasteries, the association offers workshops and specialised lectures on various topics for both general and expert audiences.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Kloster Zscheiplitz

MISSION

In 1985, the monastery church in Zscheiplitz was in a very dilapidated and decaying state. Despite the lack of funds, the monks decided to dedicate themselves to the restoration of the monastery. Thanks to their hard work, the monastery was opened again on the 13th of November 1994. Today the monastery is alive and very active in its community. The monastery offers tourism opportunities and religious services and frequently holds concerts in its monastery church of St Boniface.

ACTIVITIES

- **CONCERTS**

After the restoration of the church of St Boniface, several concerts started to take place in the monastery. Today, many concerts of all kinds can be enjoyed in the chapel. Often live performances take advantage of the wonderful acoustics that can be found inside the monastery church. The music played here is mostly classical, but musicians of all genres are welcome.

- **GUIDED TOURS**

The monastery is a site of great historical importance and represents a rich religious heritage. It offers guided tours of the church grounds for visitors of all ages and backgrounds. These guided tours are a great educational opportunity for locals and visitors alike to learn about the history and significance of this monastery.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Museum im Zisterzienserkloster Lehnin

MISSION

The museum of the Cistercian monastery of Lehnin lies on the monastery grounds between the cities of Potsdam and Berlin in Germany. Its permanent exhibition features numerous historical and current documents and objects that illustrate the Cistercians' life in the rhythm of "ora et labora", of "praying and working", and its connection to the present of the monastery which has preserved this legacy over the centuries. In addition to its main role as a museum, the organisation works hard to maintain its monastery as an active part of the community as well as keeping the religious heritage sites under its care.

ACTIVITIES

- **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN MICHELSDORF TO DEVELOP LOCAL GUIDELINES FOR STRUCTURAL DESIGN**

In September 2018, the municipality of Kloster Lehnin engaged its residents actively in a participatory process to develop and shape their municipality and the district of Michelsdorf. Over the course of 12 weeks and with much participation, residents discussed and formulated their ideas for the further development and design of their village in a series of "village talks". This initiative was supported by the Ministry of Infrastructure and State Planning and the Brandenburg Chamber of Architects.

- **LOCAL WALKS**

In each of the 14 districts, guided walks are carried out with residents of the municipality of Kloster Lehnin and interested guests. These are prepared individually by the respective districts. On these walks, residents are asked to be observant of their cultural landscape. A simple questionnaire is completed at the end of the walks, the results of which are incorporated into the tourism concept of the municipality of Kloster Lehnin.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe

MISSION

The Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe (State Art Gallery of Karlsruhe) is one of the most important art museums in Germany. Its permanent collection exhibits more than 3,500 works of art that date from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. It has its origin in the extensive art collection of the Baden Princely House. This one consisted primarily of the acquisitions of the marquise Karoline Luise between 1723 and 1783, which included mainly paintings by Dutch and French masters.

The main building of the museum was completed in 1846. It is one of the oldest in Germany that still looks the same as when it was constructed, though renovation works are expected in 2022. The Orangery and the Young Art Hall are the other two buildings that belong to the museum. These exhibit mainly contemporary art.

ACTIVITIES

- **PERMANENT COLLECTION AND EXHIBITIONS**

The museum's permanent collection spans more than 800 years of history, making it one of the most important fine art collections in Germany. The museum continues to expand its collection with new acquisitions. It has a wide network of partners with whom it collaborates on touring exhibitions. It also houses exhibitions especially designed for children and young people.

- **DIGITAL COLLECTION**

The vast collection of fine art is also accessible on the Staatliche Kunsthalle's website, where users can find information about each artwork including its author, year of creation, description of what it represents and other interesting facts.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Vereinigte Domstifter (Combined Cathedral Chapter)

MISSION

Vereinigte Domstifter is a non-profit foundation under public law in Saxony-Anhalt for the preservation and promotion of the German Protestant churches it owns as well as church-owned cultural assets.

The origins of the organisation go back to the Middle Ages, when the first cathedral chapters were established in Central Germany: the cathedral chapter of Merseburg in 968, the cathedral chapter of Naumburg in 1028, and the collegiate chapter of Zeitz in 1028. In 1935, the chapters were unified under a new single legal form, which is the current foundation.

The Combined Cathedral Chapter consists of nine Deans, who are the supervisory body of the organisation and represent it. They meet several times a year to monitor the administration of the Chapter and discuss current matters.

ACTIVITIES

- **ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

The historical archives and libraries of the Combined Cathedral Chapter preserve a precious treasure of written records from over 1,500 years. With their numerous documents, records and maps, the cathedral archives are the memory of an important central German cultural landscape. The medieval book collections of the bishops and canons are among the most outstanding libraries of the Middle Ages in Germany.

- **EDUCATION AND MEDIATION**

Communicating the historical, artistic and cultural dimension of the churches and cultural assets belonging to the Chapter is one of the most important tasks of the Combined Cathedral Chapter. The aim is to pass on understanding, solidarity and enthusiasm for the cultural heritage. In addition to exhibitions, lectures and conferences, the Combined Cathedral Chapter make use of the creative activities offered by the KinderDomBauhütte at Naumburg Cathedral and the KinderDomusMerseburg at Merseburg Cathedral. Both facilities are a haven of cultural education for children, young people and adults.

- **EXHIBITION: THE NAUMBURG MASTER'S CAREER AND WORKS**

An exhibition on the upstairs floor of the west cloister allows visitors to the cathedral complex to relive the journey taken by the Naumburg Master from France to Germany. It reveals astounding insights into the work and career of one of the most extraordinary sculptural architects of the 13th century. Priceless originals, artfully-created copies of the Bamberg Knight or the west choir screen in Mainz, model churches, capitals and manuscripts as well as 3D animations of colour reconstructions take you through particular features of the Naumburg Master's work and his roots in French cathedral art.

- **THE NAUMBURG CATHEDRAL TREASURY VAULT**

The Cathedral Treasury Vault showcases the Naumburg cathedral's sacral treasures. Visitors will find the extraordinary expressive power of the Naumburg Pietà (14th century) is spellbinding. It

is not for nothing that this lamentation of Christ is considered one of Europe's most significant works of art.

- **THEMATIC AND SEASONAL TOURS AT NAUMBURG CATHEDRAL**

Numerous thematic and seasonal special tours, such as guided tours of the cathedral, tower tours at dusk, guided tours for children, romantic flashlight tours or atmospheric Advent tours are offered throughout the year at Naumburg Cathedral they can always be found in our [calendar](#).

[Click here](#) for more information.

GREECE

Synodical Office of Pilgrimage Tours & Development of Religious Tourism

MISSION

The Synodical Office of Pilgrimage Tours & Development of Religious Tourism is responsible for the promotion of the religious heritage sites and pilgrimages of the Church of Greece.

ACTIVITIES

- **HERITAGE PROMOTION**

The main activities of the office include establishing new partnership with tourism organisations as well as local and national administrations to guarantee the best experience for pilgrims and visitors.

[Click here](#) for more information.

IRELAND

The Spirituality Institute for Research and Education (SpIRE)

MISSION

The Spirituality Institute for Research and Education (SpIRE) was established in 2015 to serve the spiritual seeking of people. Its main goal is the promotion of spirituality by providing research, education, and community services for the public benefit. Since 2016, the SpIRE offers a MA in Applied Spirituality that prepares students for international leadership roles.

ACTIVITIES

- **RESEARCH, PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND EDUCATION**

The members of the SpIRE team are involved in research and development in a wide range of areas such as spirituality and health, spirituality and social concern, spiritual autobiography, spirituality and childhood, spirituality as an academic discipline, contemplative education, and spiritual tourism.

- **LAUNCH OF SpIRE LIBRARY**

Following his inaugural lecture on 'Journeying with Psyche and Soul in Spirituality', Dr Larry Culliford launched the SpIRE Library, a specialist library for applied spirituality studies in Dublin on 5 March 2020. Larry Culliford is a UK author, a co-founder of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Spirituality and Psychiatry Special Interest Group, and a former Chair of the Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

[Click here](#) for more information.

ITALY

Associazione CRAFT - Spazio Kor

MISSION

Spazio Kor is one of the most important projects of the CRAFT Association. This project began in 2016 when the association transformed and restored the closed church of San Giuseppe di Asti to transform it into a multidisciplinary space called Spazio Kor. Over the years Spazio Kor has become a model of good practices for the reuse of the Religious Heritage space. The new space hosts theatrical performances, figurative arts, events, meetings and cultural experiences of all kinds. Spazio Kor is the perfect place to show or present a new cultural and accessible experience that can become a reference point for researchers and innovators.

Their main goal is to engage a new kind of public in the contemporary vision of the theatre, where the religious architecture of the building creates dialogues with the identity of the community and contemporary creativity. Among the main activities and events hosted by the Spazio are plays, concerts and courses related to the theatre industry.

ACTIVITIES

- **CULTURAL SPACE**

Spazio Kor is an extraordinary theatrical staging in which CRAFT proposes a new and contemporary idea of theatre. In 2017 they organized two artist residences called "Call Signals" to give a strong identity to the space. The result, by the young artists Jacopo Valsania and Chiara Poletti, consisted of four large rotating lenses placed in the theater garden. In addition to the theatrical season, Spazio Kor hosts the interactive museum "The Machine of Illusions", consisting of interactive installations to discover the theatrical machine.

- **ACCESIBILITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Spazio Kor engaged a young audience by involving them through active participation actions and the creation of a young boards. In recent years, it has developed experiments and actions to make the cultural offer accessible to people with disabilities, even by changing the interior spaces of the entrance and foyer.

- **MUSEUM**

Spazio Kor offers various courses related to the world of theatre for different ages and types of users. These courses are aimed at young people and anyone interested in learning the mechanisms of theatre production. The courses cover a wide range of topics: the nature-space relationship, the scenography, the theatrical machine, etc.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Centro Studi Cherubino Ghirardacci

MISSION

Funded as an ONG (Social Promotion Association) on May, 30th, 2008, and based in the Augustinian Convent of San Giacomo Maggiore in Bologna, the Centro Studi Cherubino Ghirardacci (CSCG) was created to promote interdisciplinary dialogue and research, to offer a meeting point for people and knowledge. The organization is focused on three main goals: first, to foster free and positive cultural exchanges to elaborate on social, cultural, and scientific phenomena; the second, is to promote cultural initiatives and activities that may contribute to a better understanding of complex social phenomena through an exchange of knowledge and point of view; and the third, to promote publications with a rigorous scientific nature, collaborating with national and international research, study and cultural bodies.

ACTIVITIES

● CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Every year the Centro Studi Cherubino Ghirardacci organizes one or more international scientific meetings, accessible by calls for papers, in collaboration with other accredited partners and institutions, renowned for their scientific and cultural activities and research.

In the events it supports, the CSCG upholds the theme of confrontation and debate as complex but precise and detailed phenomena, a consequence of the behavior of individuals or societies in our time. During the symposia the Centro Studi organizes, these phenomena are put at the center of an interdisciplinary investigation, under the supervision of a qualified scientific committee.

In general, the Centro Studi has focused on the following research themes in recent years: the study of changes in the use and in the production, planning and design of cities; changes in the role and in the use of public spaces; the relationship between urban contexts and lay and religious rites; the relationship between city of the dead and city of the living; the spaces for the rite in the contemporary city, with particular attention to churches and processes of their transformation.

In 2016, the CSCG organized in Bologna the international conference "The Future of Churches", one of the first conferences in Italy on the future of places for worship, whose proceedings have been published on [IN BO. Ricerche e progetti per il territorio, la città, l'architettura](#).

● CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Centro Studi Cherubino Ghirardacci promotes and collaborates in university summer schools, intensive programs and intensive didactic proposals of several days for students and researchers. In 2019, alongside the Department of Architecture of the University of Bologna, the CSCG promoted the Summer school "New Scenarios for dismissed monastic heritages" in the city of Lucca, hosting young students and researchers for a week to study valorization pathways for Monastery in decommissioning, considering as a case study and design opportunity the former monastery of Sant'Agostino in Vicopelago (LU).

In 2022, as part of the European project [LED2LEAP](#), The Centro SCG supported and collaborated on the cultural design and realization of the Intensive Program "STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE REUSE AND SOCIAL VALORIZATION OF DISMISSED CULTURAL HERITAGE OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES", which hosted 40 students from 5 different European universities.

● SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL

Since 2020, through an agreement with the Department of Architecture and the Flaminia Foundation, the Centro Studi Cherubino Ghiardacci manages the open-access scientific journal [*IN BO. Ricerche e progetti per il territorio, la città, l'architettura*](#). This journal has collected the proceedings of the initiatives and conferences the CSCG promoted, publishing according to a blind peer review process. Today the journal is registered in SCOPUS and is recognized among the most prestigious scientific journals (classified as a 'class A' publication) regarding urban planning and studies, architecture, and history of architecture by the Italian National Agency for the evaluation of University and Research.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Chorus Venezia

MISSION

The goal of Chorus Venezia is to contribute to the safeguarding, conserving, restoring and glorifying of the architectural and artistic heritage of Venetian churches. In order to do this, it provides adequate care and supervision and equips them with everything they need to promote understanding of the churches by visitors and worshippers. Chorus Venezia also intends to contribute to the development of studying the history of the churches, involving all those who care about its safeguarding. Finally, Chorus Venezia intends to inform, with maximum transparency, those who help the association on how the funds collected are used.

ACTIVITIES

- **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

“Chorus Venezia” was created to promote the cultural aspect of the Chorus Association. Through this programme, the organisation promotes keynotes, conferences, debates, and a series of initiatives to raise awareness and knowledge on an interdisciplinary and multilevel. Chorus Venezia has become a reference point for all those with an active intellectual curiosity who want to accompany this growth process.

- **RESTORATION**

Chorus Venezia invests in the maintenance and restoration to render the participating churches perfectly usable and open to the public. Substantial investments have been made not only to ease and encourage visits to the churches but also for ordinary and extraordinary maintenance operations that have involved investments of several hundred thousand euros over five years.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Parrocchia S. Fermo Maggiore di Verona

MISSION

This Romanesque church on the banks of the Adige River is one of the main churches in the historical centre of Verona. It is dedicated to Saint Fermo, who together with Saint Rusticus, was martyred in this town in 304 AD. Since 755, the relics of these two saints have rested in an altar dedicated to them. The church is part of the Diocese of Verona, which comprises 4 churches: The Basilica of San Zeno, Verona Cathedral, The Basilica of Saint Anastasia and the Church of Saint Fermo.

ACTIVITIES

- **GUIDED TOURS**

The parish offers guided tours to learn about the building and its history. What makes this church so particular is that it has two levels. The lower church was built to keep the relics of the Saints and the upper church was destined to hold ceremonies. Other chapels and altars were added in the following centuries.

- **RESTORATION**

The church is involved in the restoration of religious works of art through the organisation Chiese Vive. This non-profit organization valorises and safeguards the ecclesiastical assets in the churches of the diocese of Verona.

[Click here](#) for more information.

LITHUANIA

Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims

MISSION

Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims is a voluntary, non-profit and non-governmental organisation established in 2004. The aims of the organization are to consolidate Christian pilgrims in Lithuania, to take care of the natural and cultural heritage of the sacred sites of Lithuania and to organize pilgrim journeys. The main three project areas of the Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims include pilgrimage and religious tourism (different projects, preparation of the pilgrimage routes), cultural heritage (especially of religious buildings) and knowledge exchange on pilgrimage, and religious and cultural heritage.

ACTIVITIES

- **HERITAGE PROMOTION**

The Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims organizes various projects associated with pilgrimage and sacred places of Lithuania and publishes various publications for pilgrims. The most significant projects include organization of woodcarver contest-exhibition "Saints and pilgrims" (4 events had been held since 2009), and various publications such as the monograph of D. Liutikas "Pilgrimage. Manifestation of Values and Identity in the Journeys" (2009), the four-disc album "Prayers and Hymns of Vilnius Verkiai Calvary" (2010), documentary "Pilgrimage sites in Lithuania" (2012), map guide "Pilgrim Routes in Lithuania" (2014) and religious tourism route "The Way of Grace" (2021).

- **THE BENEDICTINE ROAD IN LITHUANIA**

In 2014 the Lithuanian Pilgrims Association implemented the project "Benedictine Road in Lithuania", which resulted in a series of seven documentary programs under the title "ORA ET LABORA. The Benedictine Way in Lithuania". The creation of the shows was supported by the Press, Radio and Television Support Fund.

- **ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS TOURISM AND PILGRIMAGE CONFERENCE (IRTP)**

The Community of Lithuanian Pilgrims was the main organizer of the 13th Annual International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference (IRTP) in Vilnius, Lithuania on 29 June-2 July 2022. The aim of the conference was to provide both empirical and personal insights into the changing nature of religion in society and to further the debate for both policy-makers and academics to consider these evolving challenges within the future development of faith tourism and pilgrimage. The conference was attended by leading researchers in religious tourism and pilgrimage from around the world. Researchers from the United Kingdom, Canada, Israel, Ireland, Portugal, Poland, Latvia, Japan, the United States, Australia, Italy, Slovakia and other countries delivered speeches at the Conference in person. More speakers connected virtually. More than 40 participants from around the world took part in total, more than 30 papers were delivered during the conference.

[Click here](#) for more information.

MALTA

Din l-Art Helwa (National Trust of Malta)

MISSION

Din l-Art Helwa is an organisation that safeguards the historic, artistic, and natural heritage of Malta. Since its foundation, Din l-Art Helwa has restored and managed numerous cultural sites of immense historic and environmental importance. It promotes the preservation and protection of historic buildings and monuments, the character of Maltese towns and villages, and places of natural beauty and importance, especially concerning the problems arising from modern urban development. It also stimulates the enforcement of existing laws and the enactment of new ones for the protection of the country's natural and built heritage.

ACTIVITIES

- **HERITAGE PROMOTION**

Din l-Art Helwa promotes interest in the preservation of Malta's cultural and natural heritage and works to highlight the dangers to the environment brought about by climate change. It does this through awareness campaigns and educational activities. Its main focus is to educate citizens against the dangers that urban development has on Malta's cultural heritage and about the value of heritage and the cultural landscape.

- **ADVOCACY**

Din l-Art Helwa stimulates the enforcement and creation of laws that protect the cultural heritage of Malta. It works with policymakers in order to ensure that laws are both created and enforced. It also advocates for the protection of individual sites and for ensuring their designation as national heritage sites that cannot be destroyed.

- **MANAGEMENT OF SITES**

Din l-Art Helwa is a voluntary organisation founded in 1965. Since then it has restored some 41 national sites and looks after 19 of them in guardianship or trust. Din l-Art Helwa believes that by demonstrating how to properly manage historic places, it is possible to educate the public on their importance both to the national collective history but also to the economy through tourism.

[Click here](#) for more information.

THE NETHERLANDS

Alde Fryske Tsjerken

MISSION

Alde Fryske Tsjerken is a Dutch NGO created in the 1970s. Its main operation area is in the province of Friesland in the north of The Netherlands. At the moment, they have around 300 volunteers and 10 part-time staff working at their offices. The goal of Alde Fryske Tsjerken is to prevent churches from disappearing across the Frisian landscape. It achieves this goal by taking over ownership of monumental churches. They also encourage their local committees to organise all kinds of events in their churches.

ACTIVITIES

- **MANAGEMENT OF SITES**

The organisation owns 55 churches across Friesland as well as 7 graveyards. Their ultimate goal is not to own more cultural sites, but rather to keep them from becoming abandoned. The organisation takes over the management of increasingly emptying churches and graveyards, which are managed through the aid of volunteers.

- **PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS HERITAGE**

To promote their sites and keep them in use, the organisation frequently organises concerts, lectures, exhibitions and other cultural activities that are held in their churches. Through the organisation of these events, they are able to encourage the reuse of these cultural sites.

- **SLEEPING IN FRISIAN CHURCHES**

Since 2018, the organisation invites pilgrims to stay overnight at a historic church. Fifteen churches are part of this year-round initiative.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Centre for Religion and Heritage – Groningen University

MISSION

The Centre for Religion and Heritage of the University of Groningen was established to promote scholarly exchange, train future professionals, advise external stakeholders, and engage in public outreach work in this topical and highly contested field. Its projects and events provide a resource for scholars and students, heritage organisations, and governments, as well as anyone interested in the connection between religion and heritage.

The CRH is the successor of the Institute for Christian Cultural Heritage, which has contributed to heritage work in the Netherlands for many years. Building on a long-term engagement with Christian heritage, the Centre draws on the research strengths of affiliated staff in ancient, Islamic, Jewish and Buddhist religious history as well as in theoretical investigations of secularism and the post-secular.

ACTIVITIES

- **RESEARCH**

As a research centre, it develops several research activities and publications related to religious heritage, art, architecture and culture, including the *Bloomsbury Handbook for Religion and Heritage in Contemporary Europe*. These publications can be found on their website.

CONFERENCES

The CRH also organises workshops, speeches and conferences throughout the year, gathering religious heritage experts from all over Europe, to share knowledge and insights related to the field.

- **PROJECTS**

The CRH works with Dutch and European partners to bring knowledge of religious heritage to a wider public. Projects have included Rebelah, an Erasmus Plus collaboration between Spanish, Dutch, French, and Hungarian adult education and creative associations, and the Dutch Network Religion and Heritage, sponsored by the Agency for Cultural Heritage.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Kerken voor kerken

MISSION

Kerken voor kerken is an organisation that operates in the Netherlands to support Christian churches looking for a vacant church building to move into. The organisation helps them in the search and purchase process. In The Netherlands 1,500 churches have already been sold and there are more than a million migrant Christians looking for church space throughout the country.

The work of kerken voor kerken is in line with the 'Church vision' initiative, launched by the Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency, which brought together the religious community, local governments, policy makers and civil society to find a sustainable and effective solution to the growing number of disused churches.

ACTIVITIES

- **HERITAGE ADVISE**

Church congregations and organizations can approach Kerken voor Kerken to find a suitable, vacant church building for their community. Municipalities can also approach to the organisation for help. Kerken voor Kerken helps municipalities develop their own “church vision” for an effective and sustainable use of their religious buildings in need for support.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Municipality of 's-Hertogenbosch

MISSION

's-Hertogenbosch is an ancient city in the south of The Netherlands. The centre is filled with historic alleys and buildings. Together with different heritage organisations, the municipality of 's-Hertogenbosch tries to preserve these gems of their cultural heritage.

ACTIVITIES

- **TOURISM WEBSITE**

The city has provided a website for visitors with, among other things, the most complete entertainment agenda, shopping tips from locals, and the most hospitable places. Organisations from the leisure sector (accommodation, culture, heritage, events), catering and retail also link to this website with their means of communication. They cordially invite entrepreneurs to register their organisation and offer (exhibitions, workshops, concerts, guided tours, etc.) digitally via the website.

- **VISITOR COUNTER**

The oldest brick house in the Netherlands, De Moriaan, on the Markt is now being adapted to the requirements of the time. An information desk will be temporarily set up in the former Coach House on the forecourt of Het Noordbrabants Museum.

- **EUREGA**

Gastronomy is part of the European cultural heritage. EUREGA aims to develop a policy whereby gastronomy in a broad sense makes a greater contribution to regional (tourist) development. The method that EUREGA uses is that of international knowledge exchange, using each other's networks and knowledge. Brabant market parties and stakeholders are involved in policy development and pilots.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Museum Catharijneconvent

MISSION

The Museum Catharijneconvent was founded in 1979 in the city centre of Utrecht, in a former monastery. It is a state museum of Christian art and culture in the Netherlands with an extensive collection (approximately 80,000 items) of historical and artistic objects from the early Middle Ages to the present day. The main collection consists of several older episcopal, ecclesiastical, and monastic exhibits. The museum also holds heritage responsibilities such as advising and assisting all churches and convents on their interior and movable religious heritage.

ACTIVITIES

- **EXHIBITIONS**

The collection presentation shows an overview of the Protestant and Catholic art and cultural history of the Netherlands, and its impact on Dutch society. The collection includes richly illustrated manuscripts, book bindings decorated with precious stones, richly-worked images, paintings, altarpieces, pieces of clothing and ecclesiastical objects in gold and silver. Currently the museum showcases exhibitions on a variety of Christian themes, such as the virgin Mary, Martin Luther, miracles, and gospel. Museum Catharijneconvent is also the initiator of “The Largest Museum of the Netherlands” in cooperation with eighteen churches and synagogues in the country.

- **ADVISING**

Museum Catharijneconvent advises churches and monasteries about management and preservation, cultural valuation, opening and re-use of church interiors and movable religious objects. The heritage specialists draw up inventory lists of ecclesiastical collections throughout the country (approximately 800.000 items in 6.000 buildings), give out validations for this heritage and advise on the appointment of heritage in the case of the ceasing of religious functions. The team of Museum Catharijneconvent extends its knowledge with academical research and writes articles and books. This knowledge is necessary to make deliberate decisions about conservation, restoration, de-accessioning and destruction of religious heritage.

[Click here](#) for more information.

RevRens

MISSION

RevRens is an international theological consultancy based in the Hague. Its pillars are innovation, research, pastoral care, advice, and entrepreneurship. It mostly focuses on theological advice for churches, but also give consultancy to businesses and society.

ACTIVITIES

- **CONSULTANCY**
RevRens provides theological consultancy for organisations. Their consultancy mainly focuses on entrepreneurship, religious site management, and marketing.
- **RESEARCH**
RevRens also conducts and publishes research on topics concerning religious heritage.
- **3RMODEL**
RevRens has developed and registered its own 3RMODEL. It is an all-round model that can be used in many ways and on many levels.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken

MISSION

Groningen's Historic Churches Foundation is committed to safeguarding both the fabric and function of Groningen's monumental churches and their environment. The Stichting Oude Groninger Kerken was established on May 13, 1969 at a time when many churches threatened to fall into serious and unacceptable decay. Thanks to the initiative of a group of very dedicated and motivated enthusiasts the foundation was set up for the purpose of safeguarding these derelict churches as religious heritage. Today the Foundation cares for 107 churches located in the city and province of Groningen.

ACTIVITIES

- **ELEMENTARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Groningen Historic Churches Foundation feels it is important to inform young people about their cultural and religious heritage at an early age. That is why they have developed educational materials for all grade levels and some projects suitable for the entire school. They have also developed programmes for higher education institutions. Their partners include the University of Groningen and the Hanze School of Education. With these actions, they want to make children and young people aware of the unique heritage in their immediate surroundings and acquaint them with it.

- **INTERNSHIPS AND RESEARCH**

The foundation provides guidance and supervision to students doing internships and postgraduate research all year round. Students from a variety of backgrounds and fields of study can rely on the foundation to gain valuable experience in the heritage sector.

- **RENOVATION AND MAINTAINANCE**

By purchasing, renovating, and maintaining these churches, the Foundation is able to preserve our valuable cultural heritage for future generations.

[Click here](#) for more information

VBMK - Vereniging Behouders Monumentale Kerkgebouwen (The Association of Administrators of Monumental Church Buildings)

MISSION

The Association of Administrators of Monumental Church Buildings in the Netherlands (VBMK), founded in 1981, is the national association for owners and managers of monumental church buildings. It has more than 600 large and small, urban and rural churches and emblematic ecclesiastical buildings among its members. VBMK is committed to the management and use of monumental church buildings in the Netherlands. It also plays a role as a source of information and as a promoter of professionalism in the exploitation of monumental church buildings.

The association has more than 140 members, both religious and non-religious. The association defends the collective and individual interests of its members and represents them in government and politics. They also try to make society as familiar as possible with the multifunctional uses of these buildings.

ACTIVITIES

- **REGIONAL MEETINGS**

The VBMK regularly organises meetings on issues related to church management to exchange knowledge and to bring those involved in contact with each other. The meetings are held throughout the Netherlands. They are open to all interested parties and are free of charge. Before the Regional Meetings, the VBMK always conducts a Round Table discussion exclusively with the VBMK members from the relevant region to be closely involved with developments in the church country and to discuss how the VBMK can best connect to this.

- **SECURITY**

The VBMK provides an Integral Security Plan (IPV) for religious buildings. The drafting of this plan is a key tool to ensure the security of people and buildings and minimize risks. It structures and documents the topics that have to do with safety management. In the IPV, the church board speaks about whether or not to accept risks, the organisational responsibilities and what measures and provisions are being taken. In addition, this plan includes structures, guidelines and instructions aimed at preventing and combating incidents and limiting the resulting damage.

- **RELIGIOUS HERITAGE MANAGEMENT**

The VBMK believes that religious buildings and artefacts are something of irreplaceable and indispensable value to Dutch cultural heritage. They have therefore published guidelines for the owners of these sites about how to properly manage religious buildings. The guidelines include topics such as financing, registration, renovation, etc.

[Click here](#) for more information.

ERFGOED.NU

MISSION

Since its foundation in 2009, Erfgoed.nu has been working on the development of heritage in all its facets. The organization has guided various foreign working visits and contributed to the organisation and programming of a number of conferences in the Netherlands and abroad. In 2018, among others, the international conference “Religious Heritage – Europe's Legacy for the Future” in the UNESCO building in Paris.

Erfgoed.nu considers cultural education in all kinds of forms part of its work. Messengers of cultural-historical information such as festivals, and events and the use of new technology such as AR (augmented reality) are part of this. Cultural and historical heritage is undergoing remarkable development. Today people look at it differently. The touristic and economic importance is measurable and demonstrable while maintaining the quality of the living environment also plays a role.

ACTIVITIES

- **NETWORK**

Erfgoed.nu works together with a network of architects, construction engineers, financial specialists and other experts. This provides the organisation with the knowledge and experience necessary to respond appropriately to a wide range of needs, whether they involve historic properties, monuments, cultural-historical events or educational projects.

[Click Here](#) for more information

NORTH MACEDONIA

Makedonida Foundation

MISSION

Makedonida Foundation was established in 1998 in the city of Skopje, North Macedonia, to introduce cultural heritage in the education of the young generations. The programme became a huge success and the Makedonida Foundation was seen as a key organisation in protecting their cultural heritage. For more than 20 years now, the foundation has been working with the public and private sectors to not only protect North Macedonian cultural heritage but also that of the wider Balkan area.

As a Foundation, its main objectives are to protect cultural heritage, monitor heritage sites under threat, lobby at national and international levels for the preservation of cultural heritage, and implement successful international and national projects in the fields of restoration, conservation, research and education.

ACTIVITIES

- **ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME**

Makedonida Foundation organised an artist-in-residence programme in Skopje entitled “South America - North Macedonia, New Beginnings “. This is the first artist-in-residence programme to be organised in the territory of North Macedonia with artists from South America and the country. The foundation also organised an art workshop with artists from Sardinia, Italy and Macedonia sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

- **RESTORATION**

Makedonida Foundation in collaboration with the EU delegation in North Macedonia, led the restoration of the byzantine church of Saint George in Kurbinovo. The restoration was featured in a documentary film entitled “The Church St George at Kurbinovo, History, Cultural Significance and Conservation”. Since 2019, Makedonida Foundation also takes part in a major project of inventory and valorisation of Byzantine churches in the region of Ohrid, with the support of the Richard Driehaus Foundation from Chicago.

- **SACRED PLACES**

This project consisted of the photographic exhibition entitled “Sacred Places”, which had already been shown in France, a set of lectures and the presentation of Makedonida’s guide books in Macedonian, English and German. The project was implemented in partnership with the Institute for Catholic Theology and Pedagogy at the Faculty for Philosophy III, Department for Pedagogical Sciences and Didactics at the Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, under the auspices of the campaign launched by the European Commission – European Year of Cultural Heritage – “EYCH2018”.

[Click here](#) for more information.

NORWAY

University Museum of Bergen

MISSION

The University Museum of Bergen holds one of Europe's most outstanding collections of medieval church art. The origins of the museum date back to 1825, when Bergen's Museum was founded in order to preserve Norway's cultural heritage. Church art from the medieval period has been a core focus of the museum since the very beginning. Most artefacts originate from churches in western Norway, including some of the country's famous stave churches. In addition, the collection includes a considerable number of post-Reformation fittings.

ACTIVITIES

- **RESEARCH**

Research on the church art collection (in Norwegian: 'Kirkekunstsamlingen') is carried out at the museum's Department of Cultural History. Main areas of interest in recent years have been the medieval altar and its equipment, overseas connections reflected in Norwegian medieval church art, church art and the Hanseatic League, the survival of medieval art through the Lutheran Reformation and the history of the museum and its collections. A catalogue of selected pieces was published in 2022 <https://schnell-und-steiner.de/produkt/the-medieval-church-art-collection/>

- **EXHIBITIONS**

Most of the medieval church art collection and part of the post-Reformation church art are permanently on display at the University Museum at the University Campus of Bergen at Haakon Shetelig's plass 10 (open Tue-Sat 10-16 h, Sun 11-17 h). In addition, temporary exhibitions of a thematic character are organized in Bergen and elsewhere. In 2019-2020, the University Museum of Bergen initiated the exhibition *North & South. Medieval Art from Norway and Catalonia, 1100-1350*, that was shown in Utrecht (the Netherlands) and Vic (Spain).

- **CONSERVATION**

The Conservation Department is responsible for the examination, analysis, treatment, stabilisation, and documentation of objects in the collections. Besides church art, the conservation section also takes care of other categories in the museum's collections including archaeological findings and natural history. The museum's Antiquities Department (Formminneseksjonen) is actively involved in archaeological excavations in western Norway.

Contact person for the Church Art Collection: Prof Dr Justin Kroesen Justin.Kroesen@uib.no

[Click here](#) for more information on the University Museum of Bergen.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Church Art Collection.

PORTUGAL

Confraria da Rainha Santa Isabel

MISSION

The “Confraternity of Saint Elizabeth of Portugal” was established in 1560 in the Portuguese city of Coimbra to continue the liturgical activity in honour of this venerated patroness. It is currently dedicated to the conservation and maintenance of the Saint Elizabeth Church of the Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Nova, promoting the cult of Saint Elisabeth, and preserving the traditions associated with it. It also organises social and cultural activities in collaboration with the local authorities and other organisations.

ACTIVITIES

- **CONCERTS**

The church of Santa Isabel regularly hosts concerts as part of its cultural agenda. These concerts are mainly choir or orchestra concerts with musicians, singers and performers from Portugal and abroad.

- **RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE**

The members of the confraternity are responsible for the maintenance of the church, which is funded by donations. Occasionally, they organise fund-raising events to finance specific restoration works in the most deteriorated areas.

- **PROMOTION OF SAINT ELISABETH**

Saint Elizabeth's Confraternity organizes parades, services, and other celebrations in her honour, promoting her legacy and figure in this region of Portugal.

[Click here](#) for more information.

ROMANIA

Asociatia Pentru Turism Bucovina

MISSION

Asociatia Pentru Turism Bucovina (APT Bucovina) was established at the end of 2001 as a joint initiative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Suceava County, the Ministry of Tourism, the public administration and all of the tourism agencies in Bucovina.

ACTIVITIES

- **EUROPE TOUR: TRAINING COURSES FOR CULTURAL TOURISM**

APT Bucovina offers courses on a range of topics including, among others, the long-term transformation of SMEs in the tourism sector, access to tourism training for partners in their region, and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the tourism sector.

- **OPENDOOR INITIATIVE**

The organization also promotes this initiative for developing innovative methods for students and employers to improve their skills in the vocational field and increase their motivation in the business sector as well as in the educational environment. It also promotes the use of e-learning materials in the study of foreign languages.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Fundatia Tarbut Sighet (FTS)

MISSION

Tarbut Foundation Sighet (FTS) was established in 2014 following the 70th commemoration to the Jewish deportations from Maramures region, in northern Romania. Its mission is to keep alive the memory of the 40,000 Maramures Jews that lived in the region before the Holocaust and preserve the local Jewish heritage of through art, culture and education.

ACTIVITIES

- **PROMOTION OF JEWISH HERITAGE**
- FTS organises the “Family Roots/Routes Journeys” and is an active member of the AEPJ Jewish Heritage Routes Program, as well as guided walking tours of the historical Jewish sites of Sighet, situated in the heart of the Maramures region and embraced by two rivers the Iza and the Tisa. It also organises conferences, art workshops, contests and other events regarding Jewish history and culture.
- **EDUCATION**
The foundation educates students about the Jewish community of pre-WWII Sighet, the Holocaust and Human Rights. Every year they organise student trips to the concentration camps of Birkenau and Auschwitz, encouraging students to share their experiences with others during a school assembly after the visit.
- **INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS**
FTS is involved in international projects such as Parallel Traces, to unearth the traces of Jewish cultural heritage in urban architecture in Europe, and transnational events, such as the European Days of Jewish Heritage and the International Remembrance Day.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Stiftung Kirchenburgen (Fortified Churches Foundation)

MISSION

The Fortified Churches Foundation was established in 2015 as an expert institution for preserving and maintaining the religious and cultural heritage of the Evangelic Church of Augustan Confession in Romania (ECR). They organise a large number of activities that go beyond the fields of construction and preservation. Romanian President Klaus Werner Iohannis and German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier have taken over the double patronage of the Foundation.

ACTIVITIES

- **MONUMENT PRESERVATION**

The organisation supports congregations, district consistories, hometown associations as well as independent initiatives when it comes to the conservation of church buildings. It also offers support to decision-makers and everyone interested in questions concerning monument preservation.

- **EDUCATION ON TRADITIONAL CHURCH CONSTRUCTION**

Fortified Churches Foundation is committed to the implementation, up-keeping, and sharing of knowledge in traditional methods and techniques which were used to build fortified churches in the past. Knowledge of these methods and the preservation of monuments, in general, are passed on to craftsmen, castle guardians, curators, caretakers, and other interested groups.

- **PROFESSIONAL TOURISM**

They organise tours targeted at specialists who want to get involved with the “actual matter” of fortified churches, whether they are universities, colleges, professional associations or other interested groups and individuals.

[Click here](#) for more information.

SLOVAKIA

Ohrozene Kostoly

(Religious Heritage at risk)

MISSION

Ohrozene Kostoly works as a nationwide umbrella for local community initiatives and organisations dealing with religious heritage in Slovakia, and also offers them a platform to negotiate with church institutions, municipalities and authorities. The organisation aims to draw attention to the problem of under-use of historic places of worship, offer solutions, advise and seek appropriate uses and raise or find funds for restoration and maintenance.

ACTIVITIES

- **LOCAL ASSISTANCE**

The organisation assists locals, organisations and initiatives related to places of worship in danger (underused, redundant, damaged...). They do this by negotiating with municipalities, churches, authorities and sponsors.

- **PRESERVATION OF CHURCHES**

The organisation's preservation efforts include the documentation and historical research of endangered churches, maintenance works and the design of architectural projects restoration. It also works on maintaining movable heritage and archives.

- **DATABASE AND INTERACTIVE MAP**

The OhrozeneKostoly.sk project aims to map potentially endangered churches and chapels of all denominations of Christian churches in Slovakia and to create an interactive database with basic information. This database should draw attention to the existence of the religious buildings and alert the competent authorities to the unsatisfactory or deteriorated state of construction and technical condition of specific sacred buildings, which should ultimately initiate interest in their rescue.

[Click here](#) for more information.

SPAIN

Ars Civilis Foundation

MISSION

Ars Civilis Foundation is a non-profit organisation founded in 2008. It is based in Lorca, Spain but operates on a worldwide basis. The organisation believes in the importance of finding synergies between tradition and innovation so that people and cities can give heritage the importance it deserves.

Its main goals are to support surveys and reports that may be used to drive innovation, contribute to the sustainable development and preservation of natural and cultural heritage, and create a network of experts for the diffusion of knowledge. The foundation also develops reports related to the conservation of cities and the organisation of events on a regular basis.

ACTIVITIES

- **EUROPE TREE**

Europe Tree is a cross-media project designed to raise awareness about the principles that constitute what we know as the European Civilization. It is an open discussion for all social levels and all ages, to help build a narrative for generations to come. The Tree represents the growth of Europe upon strong and dense roots, with a trunk of principles which are shared by all those branches that open to the diversity of what Europe is today. Because Europe is an ever-growing tree, that needs to be nurtured with debate, questions and the contribution of all its citizens, his narrative is continually questioned and updated.

- **UMAYYAD LEGACY**

The Umayyad legacy project is a common effort to recover our collective memory without sectarianism by celebrating a legacy that united humanity.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Asociación Amigos del Románico (AdR) (Friends of the Romanesque Association)

MISSION

Amigos del Románico (AdR) was founded in 2004 thanks to the contribution of five people who had been individually sharing their knowledge of Romanesque heritage through publications and websites of their own creation. Throughout the years, AdR has established itself as a reference in the protection, knowledge, and dissemination of Romanesque heritage. Its goal is to safeguard and protect Romanesque art across Spain. The organisation focuses mainly on the restoration and preservation of Romanesque buildings throughout Spain and is also very active in several conferences and forums where they share their expertise.

ACTIVITIES

- **ROMANESQUE WEEKENDS AND DAYS**

The Romanesque Weekends (FSR) and the Local Romanesque Days (JdRL) are organised to spread awareness of the Romanesque style by fostering ties of friendship between the associates. They include guided visits by leading specialists, abundant documentation, access to places usually restricted to the public and, above all, the company of many like-minded people.

- **ROMANICO MAGAZINE**

The ROMANICO magazine is the only art publication in Europe on this style. On a biannual basis, it has original works on Spanish Romanesque architecture and European symbolism, interviews and news articles, presented with a modern design that places great importance on image quality.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Ayuntamiento de Orihuela (Municipality of Orihuela)

MISSION

The municipality of Orihuela, in south-eastern Spain, is dedicated to ensuring the conservation of its many cultural heritage sites either by direct ownership or through their ensuring their care as a local administration body. Their goal is to ensure that this heritage is not only known but also recognised for its value. Currently, work is being done on numerous projects on an international level to preserve the municipality's cultural heritage sites. Methods of preserving these sites include extended use, reuse, and conservation.

ACTIVITIES

- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM EXPANSION**

One of the municipality's biggest and most important projects currently underway is the expansion of the city's archaeological museum. This project has two objectives: to establish a rehabilitation-conservation process that hinders the deterioration of the building and provide the building with the necessary conditions that allow the development of activities in a safe, functional and accessible way for all users.

- **CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE CASTLE AND WALLS OF ORIHUELA**

The municipality is carrying out an extensive project to preserve the defensive Andalusian fortifications of the area. Four major interrelated objectives have been set, in accordance with the guidelines of the National Plan for Defensive Architecture (PNAD): firstly, to compile all the information necessary for the knowledge of this site and the entire scope of action of the Master Plan; secondly, to make a diagnosis of the current situation; thirdly, to make proposals for action for documentation, research, protection, conservation, restoration, dissemination, enhancement and management of the property and its environment, including analysis of economic viability and lastly, to disseminate the castle and its Master Plan among citizens, as well as enable the mechanisms for their participation.

- **RUN FOR HERITAGE CAMPAIGN**

In 2021, the city of Orihuela organised a relay race in which students ran through the main religious heritage sites of the city, such as the Church of Santiago Apóstol, and the Diocesan Museum of Religious Art and the Cathedral of El Salvador. This race was part of the Run for the Heritage campaign organised by FRH to raise awareness about the rich religious heritage of European villages and cities that is often overlooked.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Centro de Estudios Lebaniegos (CEL)

MISSION

The Liébana Centre of Studies Don Desiderio Gómez Señas (CEL) is located in the old church of San Vicente Mártir, a noble building located between the Deva and Quiviesa rivers in the Spanish town of Potes. The CEL is a multidisciplinary space that houses the tourist office of Potes, an exhibition hall, the only Pilgrim Information Office in the region of Cantabria which every year receives thousands of visitors who walk the Camino de Santiago and the Camino Lebaniego, and the Don Desiderio Gómez Señas Lebaniegos Study Centre. The old church of San Vicente Martir used to host the Lignum Crucis, the largest known piece of the Cross of Jesus Chris.

ACTIVITIES

- **EXHIBITION**

CEL manages the exhibition of "Blessed of Liebana", which is located in the Torre del Infantado, a few meters away, in the centre of the town of Potes. This exhibition is considered to be the best exhibition of "blessed" or codices of Beato de Liebana, in the world. It is made up of 22 facsimile codices and is complemented with 4 musicalized plants around the figure and vision of this abbot. This exhibit facilitates a greater understanding of this historical period through objects and interactive multimedia materials.

- **JUBILEE YEAR**

Every Holy Year of the Lebaniego Way (when 16 April falls on a Sunday) the Government of the region of Cantabria organises a series of religious and cultural activities, aimed to value the historical, social, political and religious importance of the region of Liebana, with the Monastery of Santo Toribio as a central point.

- **RUN FOR HERITAGE**

CEL has organised several activities for children and adults in the frame of the "Run for Heritage" campaign promoted by FRH. These activities range from dramatised visits for 3 and 4-year-olds to tours for 5 and 6-year-olds as an extracurricular activity in coordination with the local school.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Eugenia Balcells Foundation

MISSION

The Eugenia Balcells Foundation is a visual arts organisation based in Barcelona Spain. It encourages a view of the world that cherishes our variety, our differences, and our multicultural richness developing new visions and new means of expression, more suited for our fast-changing world and contemporary challenges. Given the reflective character and the expressive clarity of the works of Eugènia Balcells, as a creativity centre, the Eugenia Balcells Foundation wants to become an educational vehicle for individuals and institutions that search for the arts as a way to access knowledge.

ACTIVITIES

- **GLIMPSE OF THE UNIVERSE**

GLIMPSE OF THE UNIVERSE is a film by Eugènia Balcells, in conversation with the astronomer Marc Balcells, director of the Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes at the Roque de Los Muchachos Observatory (Canary islands).

- **FREQUENCIES**

This installation allows visitors to experience hands-on the atomic heartbeat of matter. It takes them inside a poem written in this fundamental alphabet. It lets them touch the spectral lines, walk there, observe the splitting of the lines and detect the most subtle atomic quantum states.

- **JARDI DE LLUM (GARDEN OF LIGHT)**

In 2003 this piece was permanently installed at the Ciutat Meridiana stop of the 11th line of the Metro of Barcelona. Contemporary “gardens of light”, virtual, shadow theatres, that suggest visions of a magical world. A slight movement of the shadows of flowers and leaves gives life to these imaginary gardens. It suggests the garden as a meeting place between the human being and nature and between nature and art.

- **LIGHT IS THE VOICE OF MATTER**

The project is the title and at the same time the concept that brings together a series of works based on scientific investigations that facilitate a deeper understanding of reality. In turn, LIGHT IS THE VOICE OF MATTER is linked to a very ancient artistic tradition consisting of using the language of the arts to convey to the general public the interpretation of the reality of each historical moment.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Laboratori Multidisciplinar de Recerca en Turisme (LMRT) Universitat de Girona

Multidisciplinary Lab on Tourism Research (LMRT) University of Girona

MISSION

The University of Girona is a public institution that integrates into the system of Catalan public universities. It excels in teaching and research and participates in the progress and development of society, through the creation, transmission, dissemination and critique of science, technology, humanities, social and health sciences, and the arts.

The Multidisciplinary Lab on Tourism Research (LMRT) brings together researchers with diverse backgrounds, including geography, cultural studies, humanities, marketing, communication, economics, librarianship and tourism. The LMRT is part of the Superior Institute of Tourism Research (INSETUR) and participates in other international networks such as the UNITWIN-UNESCO Culture, Tourism and Development.

ACTIVITIES

- **RESEARCH**

The team specialises in cultural tourism and local development among other. One of its lines of study also includes spiritual tourism, religious tourism and pilgrimage. The team is involved in various international projects.

- **ADVICE ON HERITAGE PROJECTS**

The Lab provides advice on local and national heritage enhancement projects.

- **TRAINING**

The Lab is also involved in the design and delivery of tailor-made training courses.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Desarrollo Intervención Participación Sostenibilidad Social Y Cultural (D.I.P.S.O.C.)

Development Intervention Participation Social and Cultural Sustainability (D.I.P.S.S.O.C.)

MISSION

DIPSOC is a multidisciplinary non-for-profit organisation to boost employment in areas threatened by depopulation. This is done through culture and the enhancement, preservation and promotion of heritage.

ACTIVITIES

- **BENEDICTINE WAY. The forge of Europe.**

This project aims to create a cultural-religious itinerary in the Andévalo region of Spain. This region has preserved an important Benedictine legacy, being home to one of the oldest confraternities in Spain and Europe. The parade of Saint Benedict of Nursia is the most important religious and cultural expression of the area. The creation of this pilgrimage route aims to guarantee the conservation of this vast tangible and intangible heritage while boosting employment and tourism.

[Click Here](#) for more information.

Diocese of Lugo

MISSION

The Diocese of Lugo is a see of the Catholic Church in the ecclesiastical province of Santiago de Compostela, in north-west Spain. It is the diocese with the largest number of parishes in Spain, with 1,138 parishes in the provinces of Lugo, A Coruña and Pontevedra. The episcopal seat is the city of Lugo, where the Cathedral of Santa María de Lugo is located. The Diocese also has a World Heritage site, the Cistercian Monastery of Santa María, in Sobrado dos Monxes.

ACTIVITIES

- **Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail.**

The Diocese of Lugo includes several churches that are part of the primitive route, the French route and the Silver Route of the Camino de Santiago where pilgrims can attend masses and learn about the historic and artistic value of the buildings.

- **Diocesan and Cathedral Museum.**

The Diocesan Museum was founded in 1918 and is one of the oldest museums in the region. The museum is now located in the Cathedral of Lugo and includes the Cloister, the Chapter House and the Anteroom of the Archive and the cathedral triforium. The different exhibitions in these spaces take the visitor on a journey through the history of the temple and Christianity in the region.

[Click Here](#) for more information.

Radio TV Camino de Santiago

MISSION

The Saint James Way or Camino de Santiago is a pilgrimage route leading across Europe and particularly the north of Spain which welcomes hundreds of pilgrims a year and travels through several important religious heritage sites. El Camino de Santiago TV is the first and only online TV channel with a 24-hour live broadcast on the Camino de Santiago as well as a multitude of videos and a radio broadcast. The broadcast is a collaboration of individuals and organisations from many different nationalities.

ACTIVITIES

- **VIDEO SERIES**

Radio TV Camino the Santiago specialises in news coverage related to the Camino de Santiago, touching on all the different aspects of the pilgrimage as well as important events and relevant information for pilgrims.

- **INTERNATIONAL FORUM**

In 2021 the channel organised an international forum for professionals on the Camino de Santiago. The forum included a congress with seminars, debates, workshops and other activities, and a trip along the English Way, one of the shortest routes to Santiago the Compostela, which was popular in the past among Northern pilgrims.

- **CAMPAIGN 2022**

The channel also offers advertising opportunities for small businesses in the local communities along the pilgrimage path. The advertisement helps support the economy of the rural communities as well as the sustainability of this religious heritage.

[Click Here](#) for more information.

SWEDEN

Svenska Kyrkan i Bryssel

MISSION

Svenska Kyrkan i Bryssel is the delegation of the national church of Sweden in Brussels. The delegation has been present in the city since 2007 with the mission to provide Swedish families, workers and exchange students settled or living temporarily in Brussels and its surroundings with a place for church services, meetings, and dialogue. The Swedish Church in Brussels organises regular activities for people of all ages.

ACTIVITIES

- **CHOIR MUSIC**

The Swedish Church promotes choral music with the support of three choirs in Brussels: the Swedish Choir, whose repertoire includes diverse musical styles from classical to pop music; the Children's Choir, which is made up of young singers between 8 and 11 years old; and the Lucia Choir, which gathers every autumn to rehearse for Saint Lucy's Day (13 December) and the Christmas concert.

- **CAFÉ AND FOOD SERVICE**

The church café welcomes families with children and people of all ages who want to meet and participate in activities such as crafts and singing. On Thursdays, they also offer a special lunch service with pea soup and pancakes.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Department of Conservation of the University of Gothenburg

MISSION

The University of Gothenburg dates back to 1891. It consists of eight faculties and 38 departments. Around 49 000 students and 6 000 staff study and work there, making them one of the largest universities in Northern Europe. It has a large number of research centres that span several academic disciplines. These disciplines serve as a meeting point for students, researchers and representatives from the commercial, industrial, and public sectors.

The University of Gothenburg meets societal challenges with a wide range of knowledge. Strong research and appealing study programmes attract scientists and students from around the world. They are environmentally certified and work actively for sustainable development. With new knowledge and new perspectives, their students and researchers contribute to a better future.

ACTIVITIES

- **RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABILITY**

The University of Gothenburg has a long tradition of both extensive research and education in environmental sciences. The environmental aspects have recently been more and more integrated into the broader concept of sustainable development as defined in the Brundtland Commission Report and in the Agenda 2030. In addition to traditional environmental issues such as climate change, recycling and energy use, also equality and the work environment are examples of important aspects of sustainable development.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Uppsala University, Department Of Art History

MISSION

Uppsala University is the oldest university in Sweden, founded in 1477. It has a clear mission: to pursue top-quality research and education and interact constructively with society, in different ways contributing to a better world. The Department of Art History is located in Uppsala and at Campus Gotland in Visby. It offers Art History, Textile Studies and Conservation with a Master's programme specialised in Cultural Heritage and Sustainability.

ACTIVITIES

- **THE SACRED HERITAGE RESEARCH FORUM (FFKK)**

The forum is a meeting place for academic research within the field of sacred heritage and the different stakeholders within the public sector and the heritage field. It organises seminars, conferences and promotes research. The Forum also publishes research monographs and collaborates in different projects concerning sacred heritage outside the university.

- **SUSTAINABLE HERITAGE FORUM (SuHRF)**

The Sustainable Heritage Forum is a platform to bring together the various experts from the business sector, the public sector and civil society involved in the field of heritage. It organises seminars, workshops and other activities to stimulate and strengthen the collaboration of interdisciplinary teams, especially at the international level.

- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Innovation is a core value for Uppsala University, therefore it has a variety of services to help researchers and students develop their ideas. These services include a mentoring programme, business advice, and support to find funding opportunities.

[Click here](#) for more information.

UNITED KINGDOM

Addoldai Cymru - Welsh Religious Buildings Trust

MISSION

Addoldai Cymru (Welsh Religious Buildings Trust) is a charity set up to take into ownership a selection of chapels that are historically and/or architecturally significant to the story of chapel building and Welsh nonconformity and that are valuable to their local communities. The Trust currently owns 10 chapels from a variety of denominations located across Wales. It is managed by a small team that works to ensure that funds are available for the repair and development of each building, identify new uses and return the buildings to the cultural heart of their communities.

ACTIVITIES

- **ADVICE FOR CHAPEL OWNERS**

The Trust aims to provide guidance that will help congregations and chapel owners make positive changes to promote and encourage the preservation and appreciation of their chapel buildings, whether the buildings are being used for their original purpose or not.

- **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Citizens can support the organisation's work by getting involved. Volunteers work along with Trustees, and staff to create a friendly environment for visitors, care for their chapels and to support the use of their buildings for the benefit of the local community.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Churches Conservation Trust

MISSION

The Churches Conservation Trust is the national charity saving historic churches at risk in the UK. They have saved over 350 buildings which attract almost 2 million visitors a year. Its unique collection of English churches includes irreplaceable examples of architecture, archaeology, and art from 1,000 years of history. They are kept open and in use, living once again at the heart of their communities.

ACTIVITIES

- **CONSERVATION**

The CCT carries out an extensive conservation program of repair and maintenance of these special places. All the churches operated by them are listed mostly in grade I and grade II, and some are also Scheduled ancient monuments, according to the designation of the heritage protection system in the UK. Their collection is the third largest collection of heritage buildings in the country, which are worthy of conservation for their national historic, architectural, and cultural significance.

- **REGENERATION AND COMMUNITIES**

Their Regeneration Team delivers major “new use” projects for historic places of worship. They are an award-winning team with experience across community regeneration, planning and social enterprise, historic conservation, site interpretation, and project management.

- **CHAMPING**

The CCT is the initiator of champing, a pioneering initiative to reuse the space of historic churches for camping overnight. The initiative has been running since 2015 and has a dedicated website where users can check the availability of the churches and book their overnight stay.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Church of England (Archbishop's Council)

MISSION

The Archbishops' Council was established in 1999 as a charity to promote and further the work and mission of the Church of England. It does this by providing national consultancy services to dioceses, parishes, cathedrals, schools etc., and engaging people in the life of the Church, especially through digital means. The Archbishops' Council is one of the seven National Church Institutions and it works closely with the House of Bishops and other bodies of the Church.

ACTIVITIES

- **PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES**

One of the Council's strategic objectives is to help dioceses and cathedrals to be more efficient in their mission, by providing cost-effective national and specialist services and advice. The Council provides specialist services and support to churches and dioceses over a range of areas from the launch of contactless card readers to training and support for churches to help them use their social media and websites for digital evangelism and discipleship.

- **GOVERNANCE FOR THE CHURCH**

The council also aims to operate the national governance arrangements of the Church of England as cost-effectively as possible in pursuit of the Church's mission. Efforts that have been made in this direction include changing rules and jurisdictions available to churches in their care for local owners to take better maintenance of their buildings.

- **A CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE**

Finally, another goal of the Council is to be a church that can provide a welcoming home for all people in England, offering its place to every community to work for reconciliation, justice and the flourishing of all people.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Diocese of London

MISSION

The Diocese of London is a Church of England organisation covering much of Greater London north of the Thames. It comprises parishes, schools, chaplaincies, missional communities, and other organisations. The Diocese is overseen by the Bishop of London, assisted by area bishops, archdeacons, and other senior staff, and administered by the staff of the London diocesan fund. Its Cathedral is St Paul's.

ACTIVITIES

- **WORKING GROUPS**

The Church of England in London runs thousands of groups working with children and young people, refugees and asylum seekers, the homeless and runaways, the unemployed and the lonely, families and the elderly, people with disabilities, physical and mental illness, addictions and debt management problems, ex-offenders and prisoners. They are committed to environmental issues, fair trade and making London a better place for ethnic minorities. Many of these groups are supported by the Community Ministry team.

- **RELATIONSHIPS**

The local and international partnerships are important to the Diocese. Its partnerships include those with dioceses in Africa through ALMA, its European links with Berlin-Brandenburg, and its local relationships with other faith groups.

- **NEW COMMUNITIES**

Within the changing landscape of the city, there are always new communities being formed.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Foundation for Jewish Heritage

MISSION

The Foundation for Jewish Heritage works internationally on preserving Jewish heritage in danger; a heritage that faces profound challenges as a result of the great upheavals faced by the Jewish people in the 20th century – vast migrations and the tragedy of the Holocaust - which meant that many centuries-old historic sites became ‘orphaned’ and, without a community of users, remain to this day in peril in many parts of the world.

ACTIVITIES

- **RESEARCH**
Creating an inventory of Jewish heritage sites, and identifying those at risk. The Foundation commissioned unprecedented research to [map all the 3,300+ historic synagogues of Europe](#) in order to identify the most important buildings in danger.
- **ADVOCACY**
Making the case for Jewish cultural heritage and promoting interest in specific sites.
- **EXPERTISE**
Providing professional advice and guidance to create sustainable solutions for vulnerable sites working with local partners, while nurturing expertise in Jewish heritage preservation.
- **RESTORATION**
Securing funding for Jewish heritage sites at risk to ensure these are preserved, given a contemporary purpose, and saved for the future.

In addition to working on individual synagogue preservation projects, the Foundation also:

- mapped the 368 historic Jewish heritage sites in Iraq and Syria
- acted as the expert body guiding a Council of Europe report into the state of Jewish heritage preservation in Europe today
- participates in two European Union-funded projects on (a) creating a network of Jewish heritage towns and cities across Europe and (b) the preservation of Jewish cemeteries

The Foundation views its role as primarily educational – preserving this special heritage to inform about the life and contribution of the Jewish community, building awareness and understanding, combating ignorance and prejudice.

Our mantra is ‘preserving the past, shaping the future’.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Friends of Friendless Churches

MISSION

Friends of Friendless Churches rescues and campaigns for redundant historic churches threatened by demolition, decay, and unsympathetic conversion. The organisation now cares for over 60 former places of worship in England and Wales, preserving them for the local community and visitors to enjoy. Friends of Friendless Churches relies on the generosity of their members and on the willingness of groups of local Friends to fundraise and to act as their eyes and ears. Their work is also sustained by local volunteers who are the guardians of these places and use them for concerts, exhibitions, supper clubs, beer festivals, folk festivals, and as community centres.

ACTIVITIES

- **COTTAM WILL TRUST**

Through the Cottam Will Trust, the organisation can make grants for items such as statues, sculptures, murals, paintings, paschal candlesticks, vestments, Commandment Boards, stained glass, altars and altar frontals. Grants are normally made for new works of art, but they have funded the purchase of salvaged items. Anyone can apply for a grant, but they tend to get applications from Parochial Church Councils (PCC). Sometimes they come from the artist themselves, with the backing of the PCC.

- **VOLUNTEERING**

The organisation offers several volunteer opportunities for the public. Many of the churches involved in the network are always active and host events which rely on voluntary work. These events can range from cake bakes and harvest suppers to talks, hands-on maintenance and educational trips and visits.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Historic Religious Buildings Alliance

MISSION

The Historic Religious Buildings Alliance was set up in 2008. They bring together those working for a secure future for historic religious buildings. It is a part of the umbrella organisation Heritage Alliance. Most of what they do is focused on safeguarding religious heritage in the UK. They produce a newsletter for anyone interested in religious heritage that updates them on the latest news in this field. They also maintain a members' network which holds quarterly meetings. Additionally, they also provide a communication channel with the government for their representative members, on matters affecting historic religious buildings in Great Britain.

ACTIVITIES

- **EVALUATION OF LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP ROOF REPAIR FUND**

The organisation conducted a project whose goal was to analyse the conditions of roofs on religious buildings throughout the UK. Using the findings for the organisation, religious buildings were able to apply for grants which would allow their roofs to be inspected and repaired if needed. This project was an enormous success and inspired other religious heritage sites to consider the conditions of their roofs.

- **ADVICE AND CONSULTANCY**

Through the help of its members, the organisation provides advice and consultancy on several aspects of religious heritage preservation and maintenance. This advice ranges from toolkits on their website to personalised consultancy through either one of the members of the organisation itself.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Maintain our Heritage

MISSION

Maintain our Heritage is a group of building conservation campaigners, academics and others who first came together in 1997, having all realised how UK building conservation had become focused on rescuing historic buildings in advanced states of decay, rather than preventing them from decay through appropriate and timely maintenance. Their work includes mostly advocacy and awareness, as well as conducting preservation projects.

ACTIVITIES

- **ADVOCACY**

The organisation advocates for maintenance to be given its proper place in conservation policy. It tries to influence the policies of a wide range of organisations including Historic England (HE), Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Cadw and the Northern Ireland Executive, The Heritage Lottery Fund, and The Health & Safety Executive.

- **MAINTENANCE**

The organisation sets up schemes with the dioceses of the Church of England to make it easier for parishes to get help with maintaining their churches. Part of this work includes keeping a record of incidents in which parts of badly maintained buildings fall into the street. It also organises special one-off maintenance events for local authorities, usually in connection with a Townscape Heritage Initiative.

- **MANTAINENCE DAYS**

Maintain Our Heritage organises an event called Maintenance Days. This starts with a presentation by a Maintain speaker to residents and businesses about the importance of maintenance, illustrated by examples from the locality. The presentation is accompanied by an illustrated handout for all participants and a walkabout immediately afterwards. This walkabout serves to draw participants' attention to the problems in the area, assisted by the use of high-level CCTV to show maintenance and repair problems at high levels not normally visible from the ground.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Methodist Heritage

MISSION

Methodist Heritage is an organisation aimed at preserving the heritage of the Methodist Church and using it as a tool for contemporary missions. In 2008 the Methodist Church's governing body, the Methodist Conference, received a report highlighting the value and untapped potential of the Methodist Church's historic sites and archives. The Conference approved recommendations in that report to convene a strategic Methodist Heritage Committee and employ a Heritage Officer within the Connexional Team to coordinate and support its heritage resources. Since then, Methodist Heritage has been engaged in several tasks including the mapping of religious sites of the Methodist Church, producing specialised publications on the subject, and fundraising.

ACTIVITIES

- **METHODIST HERITAGE HANDBOOK**

The Methodist Heritage Committee oversees the publication of the visitors' guide to Methodist heritage sites of historic importance, the Methodist Heritage Handbook, and supports its distribution through travel trade and Christian exhibitions, as well as directly to church congregations and visitors to Methodist Heritage sites. The Methodist Heritage Committee also publishes a twice-yearly newsletter: Heritage News.

- **PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE**

One of the organisation's main activities is the mapping of Methodist Heritage sites all around the UK and Ireland. Its interactive map displays just over 150 sites related to the Methodist Church. It also has a library facilitating documents about Methodist Heritage to those people interested in researching the topic. In 2014, Methodist Heritage came up with a policy to help with the management of Religious Artefacts, accessible on their website to everyone.

[Click here](#) for more information.

National Churches Trust

MISSION

The work of the National Churches Trust is dedicated to supporting places of worship of historic, architectural and communal value used by Christian denominations throughout the UK. The National Churches Trust funds urgent repairs and modernization, provides expert advice on church maintenance and on how churches can continue to serve local communities and promotes church heritage and tourism. They also run a number of award schemes which help to highlight the importance of church buildings, as well as campaigns and projects which help promote the work of churches and the people who care for them.

ACTIVITIES

- **RIDE + STRIDE**

Ride+Stride for churches is a sponsored bike ride or walk between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Cornwall to Northumberland. It takes place every year on the second Saturday in September. The money raised helps to preserve some of Britain's 42,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses which are at risk of falling into serious disrepair. Supported by The National Churches Trust and in partnership with County Churches Trusts nationwide, Ride+Stride crosses 34 counties and opens the doors to some of Britain's most rare and unusual buildings.

- **CAMPAIGNS**

The National Churches Trust's work includes promoting awareness of churches as some of the UK's most important and best-loved buildings and of the need for continuing funding to keep them in good repair for future generations. One example of a campaign is Beetlemania wherein Michael Palin voiced an animated feature calling attention to the damage caused by deathwatch beetles on historic structures.

- **GATEWAY GRANTS**

The new Gateway Grant Programme launched by the Trust offers grants from £3,000 to £10,000 to local church trusts to fund projects that support organisational development, increase their capacity to support churches in their area, or deliver new ways of supporting churches.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Historic Churches Scotland

MISSION

Historic Churches Scotland is a charity founded in 1996 to identify churches at risk through lack of use, closure, or sale within Scotland that need particular expertise because of their cultural value. The organisation assesses them for their architectural and historical significance to see which are of greatest importance to Scotland's heritage. For Historic Churches Scotland, the safeguarding of the finest churches requires a careful balance of conservation and regeneration: protecting the most important aspects of a building and at the same time giving a new life and purpose.

ACTIVITIES

- **TIBBERMORE CHURCH**

Closed and sold by the Church of Scotland in the 1980s, Tibbermore Church came into its care in 2001 when it was transferred from the ownership of the Tibbermore Charitable Trust. Since then Historic Churches Scotland has maintained the church and made it available for a variety of events including Doors Open Day, concerts, talks and local history presentations. The condition of the building and the lack of power, heating, water and toilets has prevented more extensive use, but the church offers an atmospheric space with a great historic character that lends itself to music and performance events on a modest scale.

- **ST MARGARET'S BRAEMAR - A CENTRE FOR DISCOVERY, PERFORMANCE AND ENJOYMENT IN THE HEART OF THE CAIRNGORM NATIONAL PARK**

The project to conserve and regenerate Sir J Ninian Comper's magnificent St Margaret's Church, at risk for over a decade, is a partnership project between the SRCT and a local group, St Margaret's Trust SCIO Braemar. The aim of the project is to secure the future of an A-listed building of outstanding cultural value and create an asset for the community and the area's vital tourism industry. This will be achieved through the repair of St Margaret's and its important collection of stained glass and ecclesiastical fittings, providing opportunities for the development of traditional skills and conservation expertise. The restored building will become a venue for performance and interpretation, capitalizing on the superb acoustics and unique heritage of St Margaret's and Royal Deeside.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Representative Body of the Church in Wales

MISSION

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales is responsible for looking after the assets of the Church in Wales to ensure that resources are available for the benefit of the whole Church. The buildings it owns enable church members to meet together for worship and other occasions and provide housing for the Church's clergy. The income from the investments it holds is used to provide grants to support the work of the Church in each diocese and to pay for clergy pensions.

ACTIVITIES

- **VIRTUAL TOUR SHOWS OFF CHURCH'S £1M MAKE-OVER**

A church in Llanrwst which has undergone a £ 1 million transformation has come up with a novel way to enable visitors to look around. St Grwst's Church is now open for worship and to tourists. They can also undertake a virtual tour in which 360-degree images of the medieval church, the historic Gwydir Chapel and the churchyard enable visitors to see the wonderful restoration, imaginative reordering and flexible spaces now available inside St Grwst's.

- **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Church in Wales recognises responsible stewardship of creation is integral to Christian discipleship and, given the urgency of the situation, commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero as quickly as practically possible, embedding care for the natural world into all aspect of the Church life from worship and teaching to the sustainable management of buildings, land, and financial resources.

- **ARCHBISHOP OF WALES FUND FOR CHILDREN**

The fund has been set up to support children in need and their families and local communities through making grants to bona-fide organisations in the following order of priority and category. The fund is administered by a Board of Trustees and staff of the Representative Body of the Church in Wales who provide day-to-day clerical and administrative services.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)

MISSION

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) was established in 1877 in response to the work of Victorian architects whose enthusiasm for harmful restoration caused irreparable damage. Today the SPAB encourages excellence in new design to enrich and complement the built historic environment. Its main task is to train new generations of architectural professionals and build craftspeople. Through their unique training schemes, courses, advice, and research they help people put their expertise into practice. They also play a statutory role as advisers to local planning authorities.

ACTIVITIES

- **NATIONAL MAINTENANCE WEEK**

The SPAB's annual National Maintenance Week campaign reminds anyone who looks after a building - regardless of its age, type or purpose - of the simple, achievable steps they can take to prepare for the worst that winter can bring.

- **MANTAINANCE COOPERATIVE PROJECT**

Established in 2013, the SPAB Maintenance Co-operatives Project (MCP), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, provided free-of-charge, practical support to the dedicated staff and volunteers who take care of some of their most treasured and distinctive built heritage. Working in five regions across England and delivering a further five 'Co-op Minis' the Maintenance Co-operatives Project built on the success of Faith in Maintenance and assisted places of worship not only with training but also with practical support on gathering volunteers, carrying out baseline building surveys and turning all that knowledge into maintenance plans and practical working parties.

- **FAITH IN MAINTENANCE PROJECT**

The SPAB's award-winning Faith in Maintenance project helped volunteers who care for historic places of worship to understand their buildings better and to carry out basic preventative maintenance. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage, the project ran for five years (2007 -2012). It delivered 150 courses and trained more than 5,000 volunteers throughout England and Wales for Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed Church, Roman Catholic and Jewish groups.

- **THE SPAB HERITAGE AWARDS**

The SPAB Heritage Awards take place annually to celebrate outstanding achievements in aspects of the care and repair of old buildings.

[Click here](#) for more information.