

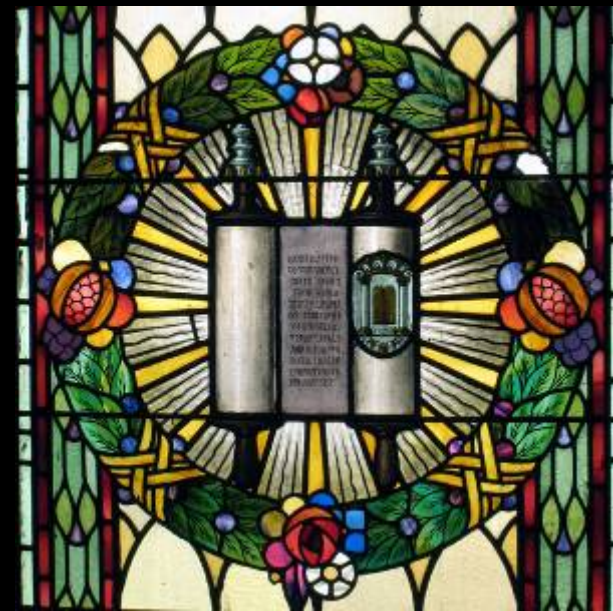


We advise
We educate
We campaign

www.spab.org.uk



There are approximately **16,500** listed places of worship in **England and Wales** and they are all cared for by **volunteers!**





How does **Faith in Maintenance** help?



Project Structure

- Run by the SPAB
- Courses are led by Sara Crofts, FiM Project Director
- Courses are organised by Kate Minnis, Project Administrator, in association with host groups
- Telephone helpline is staffed on Fridays by Dr Bruce Induni, Technical Officer
- Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and others





Courses

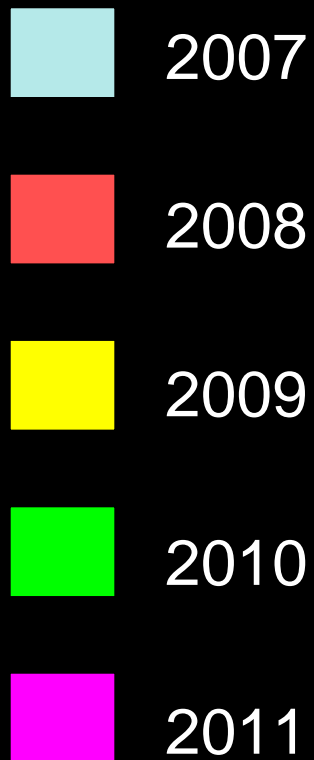
- One-day training courses
- Locations throughout England and Wales
- 150 courses run over 5 year duration of project
- Available at no charge to volunteers from historic places of worship
- Hosted by a variety of faith groups including Anglicans, Methodists, URC, Roman Catholics and the Jewish community



Courses

Course venues: 150

Participants: c 5,000





Course hosts

Number of courses for defined groups

Anglican dioceses in England: 108

Anglican dioceses in Wales: 7

Nonconformist groups: 11

Roman Catholic organisations: 5

Jewish organisations: 1

Non-denominational courses: 12

Churches Conservation Trust: 6

No of courses: 150

Participants: c 5,000

Course aims

- An appreciation of the importance of historic places of worship
- The ability to recognise potential problems
- Information on how to tackle common maintenance tasks
- Access to specialist professional advice
- Opportunities to share experiences with other volunteers



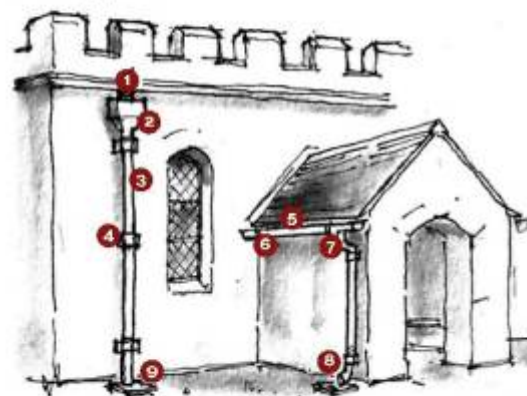
THE GOOD MAINTENANCE GUIDE

A practical handbook
to help volunteers care for
& preserve our historic
places of worship



1 RAINWATER GOODS AND DRAINS

The best time to inspect your rainwater goods is during or immediately after heavy rain, as this will let you identify any problem areas easily. Use a pair of binoculars to help you see what is happening at gutter level and a hand mirror to look behind downpipes.



Parts of a rainwater disposal system:

- 1 Outlet from parapet gutter
- 2 Hopper head
- 3 Downpipe
- 4 Fixing ears
- 5 Gutter
- 6 Metal bracket
- 7 Swan neck
- 8 Shoe
- 9 Gully

Gutters and downpipes

Check that gutters and downpipes have not been damaged by frost. If there are gutters that slope the wrong way (i.e. away from the outlet) or gutters that allow water to discharge over the wall surface they will need to be altered to make sure that the water can run away freely. Signs of soil being washed away at ground level or splashes of soil on the base of the walls can be an indication that the water is not being caught by the gutter. Stains on brickwork or masonry that are visible when the weather is dry are also an indication that there might be a problem. If you can see a dripping section on a dry day, there may be a blockage, which needs to be removed.

The fixings for downpipes and gutters should be checked as they can work loose. Metal fittings may corrode and cause damage

Faith in Maintenance Calendar

Regular checks are a vital part of building maintenance. Check as frequently as you can, but preferably no less often than is suggested below. The best time to check gutters and rainwater goods is during or just after rain as this will help you to spot any leaking sections. Further information and guidance can be found in the Faith in Maintenance handbook.



Tick the boxes as you complete each task. You can also use this chart to identify any points of concern that need to be addressed.



JANUARY

Things to do:

- Have the electrical systems checked by a qualified person at least once every five years.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Smoke alarms should be regularly tested and cleaned. Remember to replace the batteries too!

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Parapet and valley gutters need to be cleared of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Extra caution is needed in icy conditions.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED



FEBRUARY

Things to do:

- Parapet and valley gutters need to be cleared of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Extra caution is needed in icy conditions.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Make sure that fire towers, roofs and windows are bird proof before nesting starts. Do not disturb bats.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Check the condition of any ladders in the tower and ask the tower captain to ensure that the bells and bellframe are in good order.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED



MARCH

Things to look for:

- Check that eaves gutters and downpipes have not been damaged by frost. Look for cracks and leaks in rainwater goods and note damage sections.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

Things to do:

- Parapet and valley gutters need to be cleared of snow to prevent melt water rising above them and causing damp internally. Extra caution is needed in icy conditions.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED



APRIL

Things to look for:

- Check the roofs for frost, snow and wind damage. Debris on the ground from broken slates and tiles indicates that there may be a problem.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Check for splits and cracks in areas of flat or sloping sheet roofing.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Inspect lead flashings and mortar fillets at chimneys for signs of decay. Problems will include holes or splits in leadwork and erosion of mortar fillets.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

Things to do:

- Clear leaves and debris from gutters and rainwater pipes regularly. Frequent attention may be needed if the building is surrounded by trees, or perched on by pigeons. Cast iron gutters may also require repainting.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED



MAY

Things to do:

- Gullies beneath rainwater pipes should be cleaned out regularly and drains should be rodded out if they overflow during wet weather. Remove silt and debris and ensure water discharges freely.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Make sure that windows and ventilators are operable so that the building can be ventilated on dry days during the summer months. Lubricate door and window ironmongery and check security of locks.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Shut down the heating system and have the boiler serviced. Bleed radiators if you have them and ensure that the frost thermostat is operational.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Clear away any plant growth from around the base of the walls and in particular from the drainage channel.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED



JUNE

Things to look for:

- Inspect all windows. Check the glazing putty, lead cames and wire ties for signs of damage.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Check timber work for signs of rot including less accessible areas such as floor and roof voids, under stairs and in cupboards.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

Things to do:

- Clear any dirt from condensation drainage channels and holes at the base of windows.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED

- Remove any remains from floor and roof voids.

CHECKED ACTION NEEDED



Safety

- Ensure you maintain your building safely. Ladders, lofts and roofs present particular hazards. It is best not to work alone, but think of the safety of helpers and others beneath if working above ground level. Safety equipment is needed for some jobs, including gloves for the clearance of drains or removal of pigeon droppings from gutters.
- Do not touch gas or electrical supplies unless you are qualified.
- If in any doubt about safe access, particularly on roofs and in attics, use a reputable, professional builder for inspection or work. Binoculars can be a useful tool to help you inspect roofs and other high level items.
- For further advice contact the Health and Safety Executive – www.hse.gov.uk



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The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

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Maintenance DVD

- Filmed at a variety of historic places of worship in 2008
- 25,000 copies distributed to volunteers from all denominations

Additional support

Technical helpline

- Operated by David John and latterly by Bruce Induni, both conservation experts
- Available on Fridays between 11am and 6pm
- Advice on all maintenance and repair issues
- Access to our database of professionals, craftspeople and contractors
- Technical advice can also be accessed by email





Resources

January 2010

Welcome to **January's** Faith in Maintenance email bulletin. Every month we will be sending you a short reminder of some of the things that you might do to make sure that your place of worship stays in tiptop condition. This month we are going to think about **winter weather checks**.

Things to think about...

Winter can be a tough time for old buildings (as well as for people!) as the weather plays an important role in the decay of structures.

Prolonged exposure to acid rain can start to dissolve some limestones and will also corrode metal ties and fastenings. Driving rain can penetrate deep into solid walls where the *pointing* is missing or decayed and condensation in a poorly ventilated building can lead to mould growth or encourage decay in timberwork.



Frost can also contribute to the break down of building materials. If there is too much moisture in porous walling materials, this can freeze in winter. As the moisture freezes it expands and can shatter the surfaces of old bricks and tiles. This process can have a dramatic effect if the cycle is repeated a number of times over the winter season. Storm damage and high winds may also play a part as they can dislodge slates, tiles and leadwork.



This is why it is good to check your building frequently over the winter period, especially when the weather is severe. If problems such as blocked rainwater goods are spotted quickly this can prevent the water freezing in them and

Additional support Website

- Current news
- Upcoming course dates
- Advice and guidance
- Downloadable PDFs
- Case studies
- Maintenance DVD
- E-bulletin service
- Links to other websites

www.spabfim.org.uk

Course Feedback

Questionnaire – Question 1b

How confident do you feel in identifying maintenance issues or problems in your building?

| Year | No. in sample | Pre course | | | Post course | | |
|------|---------------|------------|-------|-----|-------------|------|------|
| | | Very | Quite | Not | More | Less | Same |
| 2009 | 821 | 122 | 504 | 185 | 711 | 35 | 60 |
| | | 15% | 61% | 23% | 87% | 4% | 7% |
| 2008 | 713 | 103 | 447 | 158 | 646 | 2 | 54 |
| | | 15% | 63% | 22% | 92% | <1% | 8% |

Course Feedback

Questionnaire – Question 1c

How confident do you feel in knowing what to do about maintenance problems when you find them?

| Year | No. in sample | Pre course | | | Post course | | |
|------|---------------|------------|-------|-----|-------------|------|------|
| | | Very | Quite | Not | More | Less | Same |
| 2009 | 821 | 94 | 452 | 266 | 678 | 30 | 99 |
| | | 11% | 55% | 32% | 83% | 4% | 12% |
| 2008 | 713 | 75 | 418 | 213 | 600 | 3 | 97 |
| | | 11% | 59% | 30% | 86% | <1% | 14% |

Course Feedback

“Thank you for an excellent course. I was particularly pleased that it was in ‘lay speak’. I left the course much more confident than when I arrived!”
(Bristol, 2010)

“The handbook is a great resource and so too the website. Thank you for giving us the encouragement and the know how of what we need to do. Thanks to you, I am now better informed to do my job as churchwarden.”
(Sherriff Hutton, 2009)

“I found the morning to be both instructive and most interesting – you turned a dry subject into a most fascinating piece of education.”
(Hinckley, 2010)



Positive headlines

As a result of the course:

- The average number of hours spent inspecting each place of worship rose from 1.81 to 3.19 hours per month
- 52% said that they now require their contractors to have more appropriate conservation experience
- 56% of participants felt more confident about seeking advice from professional advisors after the course
- 80% agreed or strongly agreed that the course increased their enjoyment of their voluntary role
- 26% reported that they are updating their maintenance logbook or file more regularly





Why was the project successful?

- The project met a real and substantial need not being tackled by anyone else
- There was huge support from many other organisations in the heritage sector
- The project was timely – it linked up with other initiatives in the sector
- There was a team of hardworking and enthusiastic professional staff
- The quality of the teaching and support materials was very high

What were the challenges?

- Communication ~ relying on the various faith groups publicising our courses to their volunteers
- Logistics ~ setting up and running 151 training courses takes a lot of time!
- Audience development ~ attempts to reach out to a non-Christian audience have not been entirely successful
- Funding constraints ~ grant conditions have meant that there was a lack of flexibility in some areas
- Sustainability ~ the project model works very well but is not sustainable in the longer term





What next?

Maintenance Co-operative Movement

This new project will:

- Promote timely maintenance
- Build capacity amongst volunteers by providing training and support
- Allow the sharing of skills, knowledge and resources
- Provide opportunities for networking and sharing of best practice

www.spabfim.org.uk

Faith in Maintenance

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Sara Crofts ~ Project Director

Kate Minnis ~ Project Administrator

David John / Bruce Induni ~ Technical Officer



Supported by

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