

SPAB Faith in Maintenance

SPAB, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY. Tel: 0207 456 0913 Email: info@spabfim.org.uk
The SPAB is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.
Company No. 5743962. Charity No. 111 3753. Scottish Charity No. 039244. VAT No. 577 4276 02.



Course Programme

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 Introduction by Sara Crofts, Faith in Maintenance Project Director
- 10.15 Places of worship in context
An overview of historic places of worship in the local area
Traditional materials and building construction techniques
- 10.45 Coffee and maintenance quiz
- 11.15 Maintenance
What is maintenance? Why do buildings decay?
Why is maintenance important? What should we look for?
- 12.30 Lunch, opportunities for discussion and bookshop
- 1.15 Managing maintenance
Managing the routine care of historic places of worship
Understanding the role of professional inspections and reports
Managing relationships with professionals, contractors and specialists
- 1.45 Staying safe
Including risk assessments, working at height and fire safety etc.
- 2.00 Practical observation exercise (in small groups or as individuals)
Looking at the building element by element, inside and outside, to identify vulnerable areas of the fabric of the building and maintenance issues.
- 3.00 Tea, opportunities for discussion and bookshop
- 3.15 Discussion about the observation exercise with time for questions
- 4.00 Depart

*If you require further assistance after the course you might like to make use of our **Technical Helpline**. David John is available to answer your questions on **Fridays** between 9.30am and 3.30pm on **0207 456 0916**. You can also find additional resources such as the email bulletin service, case studies and the online forum on our website at www.spabfim.org.uk.*

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Instructions for the Practical Exercise

Instructions

Please divide yourselves into small groups and make your way over to the case study building (or you might like to work individually). We would like you to explore the building thoroughly inside and out and then try to identify some of the main maintenance issues. You might like to use the questions on this sheet as a starting point or you might like to use the checklist at the back of the handbook as a guide. Sara and her team will be on hand to answer any queries and point out particular features of interest. We will discuss the various maintenance issues you have identified after tea, which will be served in the hall at 3pm.

Some questions to get you started...

- Can you identify the materials used to construct this place of worship?
- Are the materials hardwearing and robust or more delicate and fragile?
- What implications might this have for the maintenance of this building?
- Can you identify how rainwater drains away from the roofs?
- How well does this building deal with the disposal of rainwater?
- Can you suggest any improvements to the way that rainwater is dealt with?
- How easy do you think it is to get access to the roofs or other high areas?
- Do you think that volunteers could clean the gutters or should it be left to contractors?
- Are there any other obvious hazards or health and safety issues?

Please remember that all old buildings have their faults and failings. Often these faults are a result of the way that they were built or the materials used in their construction. Many of the issues we will be dealing with are common to all places of worship, regardless of age or style. We know that volunteers do their best to look after the buildings in their care, often with limited resources. Even when problems are identified, it is not always easy to find a solution. We should therefore try not to be too critical of the work done by others and remember that our own places of worship may face similar issues from time to time!