



Welcome to May'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 looking at **how to get others involved**.

You can view an illustrated version of this bulletin [online](#).

We know that the task of caring for historic places of worship can seem like quite a challenge, especially if congregation numbers are modest or there are other competing concerns. However, as the saying goes, many hands make light work so we thought that we might offer some ideas about how to engage others in the upkeep of your buildings.

Things to do...

Think about setting up a working party to tackle simple, straightforward tasks such as clearing away plant growth from around the base of the walls. People often enjoy working together to achieve a shared goal - especially if their efforts are rewarded with tea and cakes!

Consider starting a 'Friends group'. There might be a number of people within the local community who don't take part in services but who care deeply about the building and might be willing to help with fundraising or maintenance. Guidance on setting up a 'Friends group' can be found on the [Parish Resources](#) website.

Explain your repair needs to visitors in a poster or a leaflet. Many visitors to historic buildings will have little idea of the cost of maintenance or repair. If you can demonstrate how donations will be spent your visitors may be encouraged to be a little more generous. The idea of sponsoring a roof tile or a window might appeal to some visitors too.

Get young people involved in looking after your place of worship. CSV Cathedral Camps runs the [ReFresh Project](#) as a way of diversifying the type of buildings and the types of volunteers the charity works with. It is a programme of one-day volunteering events in faith buildings across England aimed at 16 to 25 year olds. The ReFresh Project combines the expertise of the Cathedral Camp week long residential programme with the flexibility required by smaller venues. Find out how to get involved on the [Cathedral Camps website](#).

Organise a fundraising event during [National Maintenance Week](#) (19 - 26 November 2010). This could be a good way of drawing attention to the maintenance and repair needs of your building whilst raising some much needed funds at the same time.

Need more help?

If you have any questions about maintenance or repair issues contact our [Technical Helpline](#) for advice and guidance. This service is normally available on **Fridays** between **9.30am and 3.30pm** on **0207 456 0916**. Alternatively you can mail your questions to advice@spabfim.org.uk. Copies of the SPAB's range of Technical Pamphlets and Information Sheets are available to purchase from our [online bookshop](#).

Faith in Maintenance wins a European Award!

We are delighted to announce that the Faith in Maintenance project is one of the 29 'laureates' to be awarded a [European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Award](#) in 2010. This award scheme celebrates outstanding initiatives within Europe's heritage sector and aims to stimulate the cross-border exchange of knowledge and expertise by spreading the power of example. Describing the Faith in Maintenance project as an 'exemplary initiative' the judges said that our scheme to train and support the many volunteers who care for historic places of worship was an 'inspirational model'. Sara Crofts and Kate Minnis will be attending the awards ceremony in Istanbul in June where they will learn if the project has also won a prestigious Grand Prix.

National Churches Survey

The [National Churches Trust](#) has launched a survey of churches, chapels and meeting houses throughout the United Kingdom. By completing this survey volunteers will help the Trust provide convincing fact-based arguments of the value of church buildings to a wider audience - both as places of worship and as important community resources. The Trust hopes that this work will prove to be an important step in the longer-term objective of developing more structured funding for faith buildings. [Access the survey](#).

We hope that you have found this email bulletin useful. If you have any comments or suggestions on how we may improve this service please do get in touch with us using info@spabfim.org.uk.

Sara Crofts Faith in Maintenance Project Director

Stave off decay by daily care ~ William Morris 1877