



Rosie Newbould represented ARC UK during the 2005 ARC project in Florence, Italy.

In July 2005, I spent five weeks volunteering for ARC in Florence. I had only visited Italy once previously and had never visited an Italian cathedral before, so it was a fantastic opportunity to be able to work as a tour guide in Florence's cathedral, Santa Maria del Fiore.

Fr. Timothy, an American art-historian/priest, showed myself and the other ARC volunteers around the Cathedral and the rest of Florence over four days. He was amazingly knowledgeable and entertaining, and taught us everything we needed to know.

I was able to visit all the parts of the Cathedral that are closed to normal visitors, like the roof!

The first few tours I did were pretty scary, but I gradually got the hang of entertaining a random mixture of tourists. My tours lasted between 30 and 50 minutes, depending on how interested the visitors were and the number and age of children in the group.

Florence is located in central Tuscany and makes a perfect base for day trips around the area; I visited Pisa, Siena, Lucca, San Gimignano, and the beach of course! There was so much to see in Florence that when I wasn't working I was busy exploring the rest of the city and eating lots of ice creams. I had plenty of time to visit all the sights, including the Uffizi Gallery and Michelangelo's David at the Academia. It was really nice to be able to live, work and explore with the other ARC volunteers. Altogether there were ten young people from across Europe, including Spain, France, Germany, Netherlands and Italy. Luckily they all spoke fantastic English and even managed to understand my Scunthorpe accent! Any initial awkwardness soon disappeared, and we all got on really well. I had such a fantastic time with them all – we all giggled so much that it was actually the other volunteers that made my trip so much fun.

Cologne 2005

Recruitment Overseer, Rebekah, attended the recent International ARC meeting in Cologne...

This year the Autumn European Board Meeting of ARC was held in Cologne, Germany on 10th and 11th December. The later date of this year's meeting was arranged for practical reasons, but also allowed us to enjoy the delights of Germany's famous Christmas markets!

The meeting itself was excellently organised and headed by ARC Germany who ensured that we got through a lot of topics in a short period of time. We discussed the projects held in 2005 and agreed that the vast majority had been very successful. Any small concerns were aired and solutions found.

It is hard to decide on one particular highlight of the meeting but there are two very strong contenders for the title. One is the excellent lunch we enjoyed as each participant brought something from their own country. This produced some very tasty but slightly odd results, such as the lovely pizza soup provided by ARC Germany. We were all sure that ARC France's contribution would have been excellent had they not left the whole cheese they brought on the train! The second highlight would have to be the draft of the European Handbook produced by Stephen of ARC Netherlands/Belgium. This mammoth task had, I have been told, been on the agenda for many years now, but never been produced. The result is an incredibly useful body of work ranging from the practical considerations of projects to information on art and architecture.

The rest of the weekend was great fun as we visited the Christmas markets, saw the awesome cathedral where we participated in mass, and generally enjoyed the lovely city and wonderful food. I'm sure I speak for everyone present when I offer my thanks to ARC Germany for doing such an excellent job.



ARC would like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their support in 2005:

Revd Jules Cave Berquist

Lynne Waller

Revd Ruth Adams

Lesley Burton

Lt. Cl. David Earlam

All at Salisbury Cathedral

All at St Pauls' Cathedral

Congregation of Holy Trinity, Kensington

The Chaplain and Fellows of Oriel College, Oxford

The congregation of St Mary the Less, Cambridge

THANK YOU!



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Welcome!

...to the ARC UK Newsletter. This year we read the final instalment of Pamela Davie's article on church architecture, we go behind the scenes of an Italian project and the 2005 training day, and we get up to speed on news from the last European meeting.

2005 was an extremely busy year for ARC UK. Not only did we launch our new website (www.encounterarc.org.uk) and register as a charity, but the Board saw a couple of changes, too. Most notably, Iona Hine has stepped down as National Co-ordinator and has been replaced by **Stephen Stavrou**, a Theology graduate from Saint John's, Cambridge. We also said farewell to Hannah Pauly who worked tirelessly for ARC as Treasurer for a number of years. We thank Hannah for the great contribution she made to ARC UK. Taking over from Hannah is **Lucy McKitterick**, a Theology graduate from Cambridge who first heard about ARC through Little St. Mary's church, with which she is very much involved. After a brief spell in London working for a church, she is back in Cambridge and looking forward to taking on the role of Treasurer and co-ordinating fundraising initiatives.

As he steps into the role of National Co-ordinator of ARC UK, Stephen shares some thoughts on its future.



Writing this article at Hilfield Franciscan Friary in Dorset, I have had the opportunity to step back and reflect on the task in front of me as the new National Co-ordinator of ARC UK. ARC UK, like other Christian organisations, needs to innovate and adapt if it is to thrive. Here at Hilfield, an ecumenical centre is being created as a response to the changing needs of the community; similarly ARC UK must respond to the communities in which it welcomes and is welcomed.

I believe that ARC's main activity 'encounter' now chimes more loudly than ever with three key areas in any church's ministry: visitor outreach, ecumenical relations and young people. In the small way in which ARC projects demonstrate how individual Christians can gather together and demonstrate God's love in the community they are ever more relevant. In this respect, the changes ARC UK is exploring should enable us to become part of today's 'mission shaped church'.

My predecessor, Iona Hine, summarised these issues very well in her parting e-mail. Diversification, flexibility and economy will be vital to ARC UK in responding to the challenges ahead. We need to explore non-traditional projects which allow us to respond to the circumstances of the communities in which ARC members volunteer.

I would like everyone who receives this newsletter to think about how they might contribute to ARC UK in its process of development and discernment, whether it is time, thought or money. Even small things like an old mobile, a recital collection or a brief word with someone like a parish priest who might be interested in our work can make a big difference to ARC. Do get involved, and send the Board your ideas. Don't forget the shiny new website either – www.encounterarc.org.uk - or that we have just become a registered charity (1111651). In this period of change, we must be guided by the charter principles Welcome, Encounter and Community - as Psalm 133 puts it:

'For behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!'

Accueil, Rencontre, Communauté

ON ARCHITECTURE

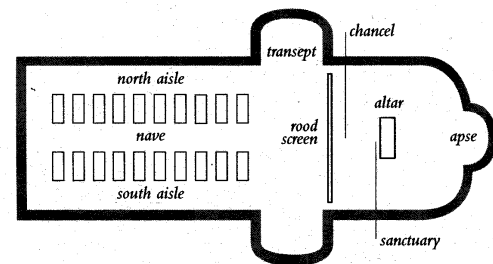
The second installment of Pamela Davie's illuminating article on church architecture. The first part was included in last year's newsletter. An electronic copy can be found on the ARC UK website - www.encounterarc.org.uk

Romanesque - meaning 'in the Roman style' (bearing in mind that the names for most styles in the history of art and architecture were given long after their time) - is used to describe **medieval** churches in between the basilica style and the gothic style. In England this style is known as **Norman**. The name Romanesque comes from the Roman style of rounded windows and arches.

By medieval times the Church was growing in wealth and power. Many people made pilgrimages to churches to visit the relics or graves of saints. The pilgrims provided some of the revenue for the building of grander churches, which were more likely to impress those who visited and to reflect the glory of God. Surviving medieval churches still greatly impress, so imagine their impact when they were the only permanent structure in a town or village.

It is also a reflection of the faith people had in the Church - they were willing to put in such an effort to erect massive structures which would have taken many years to construct without the aid of machinery.

WESTERN CHURCH LAYOUT



The Romanesque churches retained many features from the earlier basilicas. However, there was also a great deal of new development. Although the ground plan remained very similar to that of basilicas, some architects liked the idea of making churches in the shape of a **cross**. Therefore a **transept** was added - a cross section in between the nave and the apse. The service was performed in the apse of the church but an increased number of clergy meant that this area was extended to make a choir or chancel before the apse, completing the cross shape.

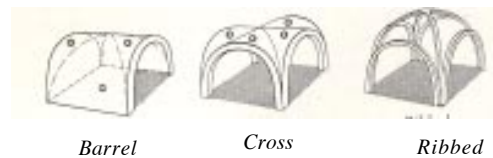


In many churches a screen was erected before the choir, to separate the clergy and the mass from the common people. There would be a pulpit in front of the screen (known as a **rood screen** in the United Kingdom, after the Anglo-Saxon word for cross) from which the sermon would be performed. The atrium was often enhanced by towers, which increased the grandeur of the façade. Stairs leading to the entrance complemented the doorways (known as **portals**). The main portal could become the central arch of three, recreating an image of Roman triumphal arches.

The arches themselves could be adorned with carvings or relief sculpture. Indeed there was an increase in sculptural decoration throughout churches, the capitals at the top of columns often demonstrated amazing craftsmanship in their intricate decoration.

By far the most important medieval architectural change in churches was the introduction of **stone roofs**. Stone roofs were intended to look more dignified and sturdy than their wooden predecessors and brought added protection from fire. This however, posed a problem for the architects of the day. The first stone roofs were erected somewhat like bridges. The stone columns became large pillars in order to support the weight, and the roof arched across to the opposite side. This is known as a barrel or tunnel vault. The problem with this method was that in order to make the roof span a wider area, pillars had to increase in size, which was impractical. Therefore barrel vaults were superseded by ribbed vaults. By reinforcing parts of the roof supported by pillars the rest could be made of a lighter material. Ribs ran from pillars up to the ceiling, where they cross over like an X and run down the opposite side. This still produced an outward force, which was counteracted by reinforcing the exterior walls with buttresses. This innovation leads on to the wonders of Gothic architecture.

Types of Vaulting



This is merely an introduction to the development of church architecture in the West and to give a better understanding of some terms used to describe architecture. It is difficult to avoid using technical terms when discussing or explaining subjects so complex. However, a basic knowledge of them can only be beneficial when learning for specific projects.



ARC APPEAL



Like every other charity you've ever heard of, ARC UK needs money. We don't need a huge amount – our target for this year is £500. Here are some ideas for how you can help us reach that target – and have some fun at the same time:

- > **Organise a get-together for ARC members in your area – ask everyone to pay a little extra for their dinner or drinks and give the money raised to ARC.**
- > Give free guided tours of your church and collect tips for ARC.
- > Perform in a short lunch-time or evening concert with a retiring collection for ARC. A church would be an appropriate (and inexpensive) venue.
- > **Talk about ARC at your church and ask people to give a donation.**
- > Get your friends and family to give you their used mobile phones and printer cartridges, then send them to ARC - we can get money for them (see www.encounterarc.org.uk for more details).
- > Ask people to sponsor you to do something impressive or silly.

The money raised will fund the Board's activities to recruit, interview and train new guides, set up new ARC projects and meet with representatives of the European Boards twice a year. For more information please contact Jennifer at arcukpro@yahoo.co.uk. Cheques should be made payable to ARC UK.

ARC Recruits in Training

Before commencing their projects, new recruits are expected to attend a day of training. New ARC UK Co-ordinator Stephen took part in his first project this summer, and here gives an insight into the training day.

On a day that hot, the only place to be was in church. Holy Trinity in South Kensington was an ideal location for the ARC training day not only because of the weather but as a beautiful example of Gothic revival architecture with some excellent arts and craft movement features, it was of appropriate historical and artistic interest for learning about ARC.

The day began with a prayer in the church and a consideration of why we were there and what ARC's purposes were. It set the tone for a day that was both reflective and fun. Questions were answered, and we did some problem solving which involved a display of our rudimentary acting skills, but which added to the amusement. There were also excellent tips on how to conduct a tour which saw each of us giving a quick talk on a painting. I had the slight advantage of receiving the Isenheim Altarpiece by Grunewald which I happened to know quite a bit about already. There was also a delicious lunch provided by Jules, the ARC UK chaplain.

The part which I found most interesting (perhaps because I study theology) was when we split into two groups to write a short order of prayer. It instantly highlighted the difficulty of finding suitable language and liturgy for sensitive ecumenical dialogue and inter-denominational prayer.

For example, which version of the Lord's Prayer was most suitable? We went for the traditional (trespasses, thee and thy &c.) as a version everyone knows. Moreover, it demonstrated the importance of situating prayer in the context of the day and circumstances; as it was someone's birthday we said together the jubilant Psalm 100.

The overall effect of the training day was to enormously increase my excitement of my project in Toledo, and I am sure the feeling was universal. There were some fascinating people taking part – and I was quite upset not to be going with them! I am sure however those I will be meeting in July will be equally so. Many thanks to Iona and those who organised a very helpful day; we all feel quite prepared and ready to go this summer.

Farewell Iona!

Most current members of ARC UK encountered ARC because of the time and energy Iona Hine devoted to running what was 'ARC England' during her four years at the helm. In fact, ARC UK as it is now did not exist before Iona arrived. The re-branded membership organisation with its board, constitution and handbooks was very much her vision.

Members of ARC and Cathedral contacts across Europe have all expressed their gratitude to Iona for her commitment, organisation, hospitality and many kindnesses already. The trustees and board of ARC UK would like to reiterate these thanks and wish her every success in her future adventures.