

## DePetrus Vught in a nutshell

April 2018



### Sources

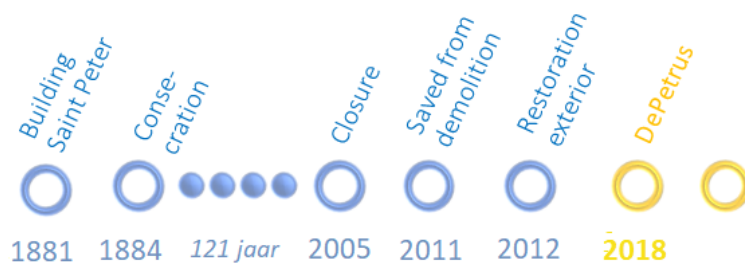
A. Looyenga: De St. Petruskerk te Vught: sleutelwerk van Karel Weber, 2005.

H. Smeets: 'Een uiterst belangrijk experiment'. De geschiedenis van de Petrus, 6-4-2018.

## DePetrus, a meeting place for Vught

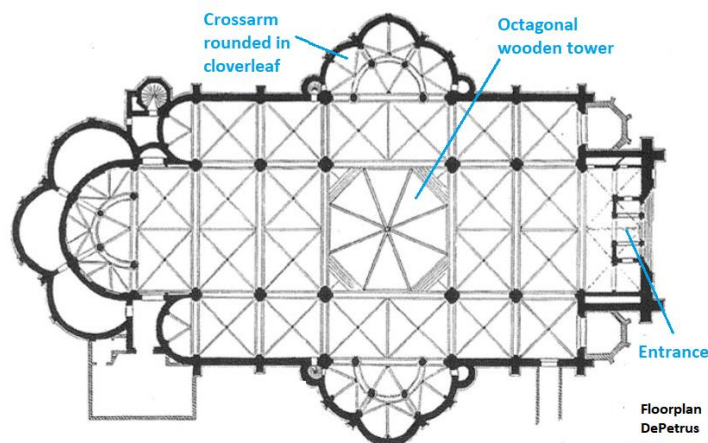
DePetrus, opened in April 2018, is intended as a meeting place in Vught. Visitors can work, read, drink coffee, follow a course, view beautiful things or do something together. The residents and volunteers at DePetrus work closely together to realize this meeting place. Below you can read how DePetrus originated and you'll find a description of the current residents.

## The origin of DePetrus



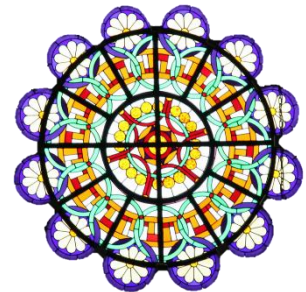
DePetrus started out as 'St. Peter's Church'. This church was built between 1881 and 1884 to replace St. Pieter. The latter was a little church with a straw roof, dating from the fourteenth century. This church had grown too small and was in a bad condition.

Architect was Carl Weber, from Germany. He designed the church in the 'round' Neo-Romanesque style. With an octagonal stone dome and cross arms which are rounded in a cloverleaf form. The murals were made by the Vught painter Charles Grips. The construction costs were 150,000 Dutch guilders. This amount was mainly brought together by the Vught community.



## The construction was an emotional process, 1881 - 1884

The construction of St. Peter's Church turned out to be an emotional process. At the end of the day, on December 5, 1882, two pillars for in northern cross arm collapsed. Eight men died here. Weber himself was very saddened by the accident. After inspection it turned out that the wrong mortar had been used. This meant that many previously built constructions had to be demolished and rebuilt. Weber was allowed, after much hesitation, to finish the work, but the relationship was chilled for a while. "I wish I'd never met you" wrote Father Lips, who had initiated the cooperation with Weber. In the end Weber had to greatly simplify his design; he made the transverse arms narrower, he added iron "tie rods" which kept the structure together. Instead of the big stone dome he designed a smaller, wooden tower. In 1884 the church was finished and consecrated by Bishop Godschalk



## Extension and decay

In 1935 two chapels were added to the front side of the church. Around 1960 the church was connected to the presbytery by an extension.

In 2005, due to deferred maintenance, grit and stones fell down during a funeral. From that moment on St Peter's Church was no longer used for religious activities. A Foundation for the Conservation of the Church became active to find a new destination for the church. They received two million from Dutch Government, the Province and the municipality of Vught. The local housing association then made plans to re-develop the building. In the end these plans could not be realized financially, when the municipality of Vught did not want to issue any guarantees. The housing association stopped planning, and in 2010 the parish had no choice but to apply for a demolition permit.






## St. Peter's Church was saved in 2011

A number of entrepreneurs from Vught, originally 3 and eventually 7, put together their heads in early 2011 to prevent the demolition of one of the most striking buildings in Vught. They formed a non-profit company and became the *economic* owner of DePetrus from 23 August 2011. *The legal* owner of the church is the board of the parish Edith Stein in Vught.

## The restoration of the exterior , 2011-2012

Commissioned by the Petrus BV, contractor Nico de Bont from Vught started the restoration on 20 August 2011. The restoration was completed on 18 December 2012.

### The following activities have been performed

-  Renovation of the masonry and joint work
-  Restoration of the roof constructions and the roof boards
-  Renovation of roof coverings and the lead work
-  Replacement of window frames, windows and doors
-  Restoration of a number of stained glass windows



The total contract price for the restoration was approximately 2.4 million euros, excluding VAT. The municipality of Vught, the National Cultural Heritage Agency and the Province of Noord-Brabant provided a subsidy of 2 million euros in total, including VAT.



## From St. Peter's church to Meeting place DePetrus, April 2018

The church was thus protected from demolition, but what would be the function of the building? The final choice was to make it a meeting center for Vught.

Architect Jan David Hanrath designed the interior. He did this with respect for the church, and an occasional wink to its history. Just look at the confessional shutters at the flex workspaces. He put the interior ingeniously on rails, so that the midship can be made completely free for events.

All functions of the meeting center intermix. There are no separate areas, so people will easily meet other people and other functions of the building.

## The current residents of DePetrus

The following organizations inhabit DePetrus.

### Vught Library

The Library in DePetrus offers a varied collection of books. You can also go here for fresh newspapers and magazines, free internet, a range of activities and pleasant workplaces.

### Vughts Museum

The Vughts Museum is about the history of Vught and Cromvoirt. The collection can be seen in 21 'themed islands'. There are lectures and temporary exhibitions.

### Stichting Anders Bezig Zijn (ABZ)

ABZ organizes educational and creative courses, activities and meetings for adults.

### Wereldwinkel Vught

The Wereldwinkel sells fair-trade products like food, jewelry, books and gifts from the Third World for a fair price. The producers can thus build a better life.

### Welzijn Vught

The social workers and 116 volunteers of this welfare organization endeavor to make people participate in society and to improve quality of life in Vught.

