



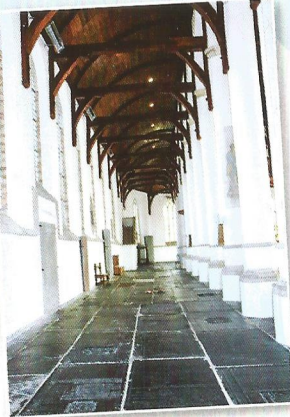
During the 1940–1943 restoration the tombstones – just over 300 – were placed back, based on ornamentation. The 27 most important ones were placed upright against the walls.

The large tombstone of Frederick van Schurman, former inhabitant of Martenastins, was placed against the south wall opposite the 5th column. He died in 1623 aged 59 and was Anna Maria van Schurman's uncle.

In the middle of the north aisle a small tombstone can be found reminiscent of three Hungarian students who studied theology in Franeker. They all died at a young age and were buried in the church.



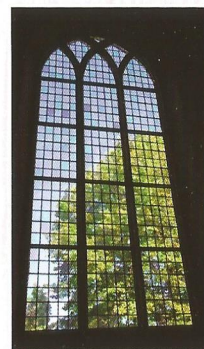
The pulpit was made by coffin maker Syuert Hieronimus from Franeker in 1622. The panels of the pulpit have a cornice decorated with black ebony. At the bottom a scaly decoration can be noticed. Over the pulpit sits a large soundboard into which a smaller, older soundboard was incorporated. On top is a lion holding the Franeker coat of arms.



The present-day organ dates from 1842. It was built by the Leeuwarden company Van Dam. Some pipes from earlier organs were reused in this one. In 1996–1997 both the organ and the organ case were substantially restored. The organ is played on weekly, e.g. in support of the Sunday service.

Since February 1987 some beautiful chandeliers have ornamented the church. A door-to-door collection was organised in Franeker to raise funds for the chandeliers.

From 1999–2009 a thorough restoration of the church took place. A deathwatch beetle plague made this necessary. The beetles were annihilated by heating all the timberwork and beams, including the roof timbers, and treating them with a salt solution afterwards. Outside all the roof slates were replaced and new copper roof gutters were placed. Apart from that, the leadlight windows were repaired or renewed. Double glazing was put on the outside.

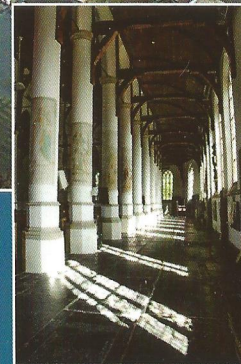
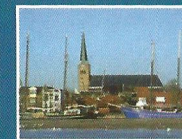


The total cost of this restoration amounted to over € 1,500,000.--

Additional information can be found in an illustrated booklet 'Vroomheid en Vergankelijkheid' and the dvd 'De Martinikerk'. Both are available (Dutch only) at the information desk.

For more information about St. Martin's church and the Protestant congregation of Franeker, go to [www.pkn-franeker.nl](http://www.pkn-franeker.nl)

Thank you for your visit. We hope to see you again in our church.  
Board of Church Supervisors and volunteers of the Protestant congregation in Franeker.





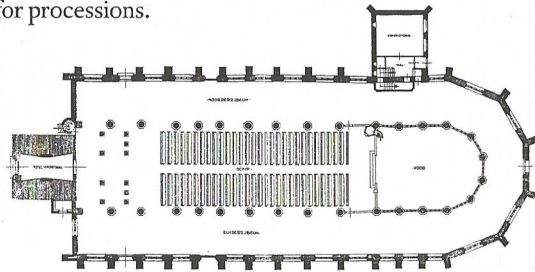
## The History

A church dedicated to St Martin of Tours is known to have existed in Franeker from as early as the 11th century. It was a tuff structure, situated on a mound.

Around 1421 the present parish church (Franeker was a deanery) was built. The church is a so called pseudo basilica.

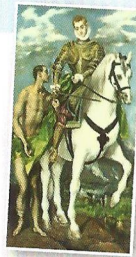
On entering, the effect of spaciousness is overwhelming. This effect is probably caused by the thirty slender columns between the aisles and the nave of the church. These thirty columns represent Divine perfection. The twelve columns round the choir stand for the tribes of Israel, and these in their turn refer to the twelve apostles.

The Franeker St. Martin's church is the only church in Friesland with a choir aisle. Prior to the Reformation in 1580 the choir aisle was used for processions.



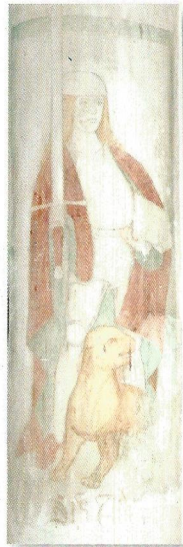
The choir stalls (on a raised part opposite the pulpit) date from the 15th century. The front pews have beautifully ornamented self closing doors that go back to the 17th century.

When Protestants took over the church at the end of the 16th century, the decorations on the columns were covered under a layer of whitewash. By mere coincidence these frescos were re-discovered in 1860 when gas lighting was installed in the church. Not until 1940-1943 when the last major restoration but one was performed, were the frescos brought back to their former splendour. Recent research has shown that in fact we are talking about secco's here. .



## On the columns the following saints can be seen:

South side, back to front:



Saint Adrian



Saint James

### Saint Clothilde:

she was the spouse of the pagan Frankish king Clovis (with a church in her hand and a crown on the head).

### Saint Roche:

patron saint of doctors and nurses (with plague spot, angel and dog).

### Saint Hubert:

patron saint of huntsmen (with horse and a stag with a holy cross between the antlers).

### Saint Adrian:

patron saint of soldiers, knights and blacksmiths, fighting the plague (with sword, anvil and lion).

At the top only the word Maria.

At the top: "IHS" (In Hoc Signum, a picture of a sort of cross).

Round the choir:

### Saint Luke:

died aged 84. He was a physician and painter (painting in hand and his emblem, a cow with coat of arms round the neck).

### Saint James the Greater:

Painted here as a pilgrim with staff, travelling bag, long cloak and hat.

### Saint Sebastian:

patron saint of archers and crusaders. He was an officer in the Roman army (as a knight with bow and arrow).

North side:

### Saint Appolina:

patron saint invoked to cure toothache (was sent to the stake (as she is tied to a tree and her teeth are pulled out)).

at the top

### Saint Francis of Assisi:

he was the founder of the monastic order of the Franciscans (as a monk with brown habit and a white cord round his middle).

at the bottom

### Saint Margaret:

patron saint of infertile women from the peasantry (with pearly crown and sword).

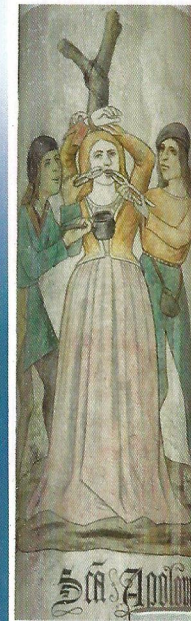
at the top

### Saint Dominic:

he was the founder of the monastic order of the Dominicans (as a monk with the devotional rope and a staff with cross in his hand. The figure beside him holds a staff with globe in his hand).

### Saint Catherine of Alexandria:

patron saint of philosophers, cartwrights and millers (with beaker and sword).



Saint Appolina



## Tombstones

A lot of highborn people used to live in Franeker in the period when Franeker was a university town (15th-16th century). There were quite a few professors as well. These wealthy and prominent people used to be buried in the church. The 'common' people were buried in the churchyard.