



AS WE ALL KNOW, IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

BOEKHANDEL DOMINICANEN · MAASTRICHT · NETHERLANDS

If there's a heaven for book lovers, then the hallowed aisles and hushed galleries of this Gothic church in Maastricht might well be it

Tom Harmes and his team are the guardians of these sacred halls. Behind the monumental doorway to the Boekhandel Dominicanen, the old Gothic church is stuffed with classical and scholarly literature, international magazines and newspapers, and a huge selection of music. Warm light streams in through the ancient windows, falling upon the colossal modern steel shelves. Between them, book lovers wander up and down in search of inspiration. Business is booming at what is now one of the world's most popular bookstores, but that was once far from a foregone conclusion. Having been at risk of bankruptcy, the store was luckily able to avoid closing altogether thanks to the people of Maastricht, explains Harmes. A crowdfunding campaign raised over 100,000 Euros within just seven days to keep the bookstore going.

The campaign really welded Harmes's team and the store's tribe of loyal customers together. The local people remember the oncedisastrous condition of the church only too well. "It was used as a bicycle shed and snake exhibition →

