

was a leading member.

For many years the church was kept going by visiting clergy who gave their services without payment and the devoted members of the church council. In 1992 the English speaking community had grown sufficiently to justify regular services throughout the year and congregations have steadily increased in number.

From its earliest days St Bartholomew's has entered fully into the life of the local community and the chaplain and representatives always participate in local and national events such as Liberation Day, Remembrance Day and major festivals.



St Bartholomew's Church receives no help or subsidy from any source and is entirely self-supporting. With the help of visitors and townspeople as well as the generosity of its regular congregation, it has been able to maintain regular services and to minister to the spiritual needs of residents and holiday-makers. An increasing number of local French residents are regular worshippers.

The church is open every day throughout the year – a haven of peace and prayer for all who seek it. Adjoining the church is a library of English books for the use of residents and visitors.

St Bartholomew's, while being the only remaining Anglican church building in Western France, belongs to the Christian community of Dinard.

Alan C. Charters. 2006



St Bartholomew's Anglican Church

rue Faber, Dinard

Founded 1871

The Revd Gareth Randall

Priest-in-charge

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0.50€

A Brief History

The church is well known to the townspeople of Dinard, having been built at the same time as the community was being developed from a tiny fishing hamlet, largely by English and American immigrants.

At first sight the entrance looks similar to many of the town villas but once inside the iron gate you discover the atmosphere of a quiet English churchyard with its mown lawn and flower borders with carefully trimmed ivy around the porch.

The building of the church was not without controversy for the Bishop of London, then in charge of Anglican churches in Europe, decided that there was no need of a church in Dinard as there were already eight churches in the district around St Malo.

However, William Faber, who had inherited a large tract of land on the headland from his mother, Mrs Lyona Faber, was determined to build a church in memory of his mother and as a result of his faith and determination and the generosity of others, including Sir Philip Egerton, St Bartholomew's was completed in 1870.

It had been hoped that Napoleon III and his wife would attend the opening of the church but the Franco-Prussian war intervened and the first service did not take place until 16th November 1871, led by the Revd. W. Bird from Norfolk, the Revd. A. Money, chaplain of St Servan, and the Revd. H.B. Snook, chaplain of St Malo, who preached the sermon on the text from Psalm 122, «I was glad when they said unto me: let us go into the house of the Lord ».

Dinard soon became a fashionable centre for wealthy English and Americans who often brought their own servants with them and very soon there was a large and

flourishing church membership. The church had to be enlarged in the 1890's when the 'north' transept was built. In the meantime Mr Faber had sold the church to a committee of seven men who looked after it on behalf of the congregation and appointed the chaplains whom the Bishop of London licensed. In French law the church remained in effect a private dwelling and it was not until 1926 that it became the property of the Association of the Anglican Church in Dinard, as a result of the inspired leadership of Sir George Curtis and General Smith Dorrien.

This arrangement with permanent resident chaplains continued until the outbreak of the Second World War. During the German occupation Anglican services continued to be held for some months under the leadership of a retired American priest, Karl Cate. This ceased when the United States joined the war in 1942 but services continued to be held in the church by German Lutheran soldiers. Under the watchful eye of the verger, John Clark who remained in Dinard, the Germans respected the building and left it as they had found it.

After the war, the English speaking community had greatly diminished and there were few tourists. It was no longer possible to maintain a full-time chaplain and the church was only open during the summer months.

However, between 1946 and 1957 the Roman Catholic curé of Dinard ministered to the small resident community of Anglicans, offering friendship and spiritual help. It is particularly remembered that when King George VI and later Queen Mary died the curé and parishioners shared in their national mourning by saying masses on their behalf. This close friendship led to the establishment of the Ecumenical group in this area which was centred on St Bartholomew's Church and of which Elizabeth Hannay