

A Tour of Holy Trinity Church and the British Cemetery

We recently took a group of U3A members of Madeira on the official tour of the church and cemetery which is run, by arrangement, on Wednesdays and led by Cefyn Embling Evans. Cefyn, as the church archivist, has a wealth of knowledge about both, and shares with all on his tour the great experience of finding out a bit more about our precious church treasures in Funchal linked with the British. I am deliberately keeping this simple and I not going to go into any details about this tour but just enough to make you want to take it at your next opportunity.

The first part of the tour, which starts at 2.30p.m, is inside the church and participants sit in the pews whilst Cefyn shares the historical origins and first ideas of a Anglican church being built in Funchal. He touches on the 'for whom', 'by whom' and when and why and how it was closely connected with the Madeiran Wine trade merchants. Up until this time all Protestant services had to be held in private and were usually in the Consul's house or on ships in the harbour. It is an indication of how important the British merchants had become.



kind being built in the story of gold Napoleon whilst on a taken into exile. The payment for supplies buried in the not yet found. He those who rocked the Lowe.(who split the services in another

We hear about the design of the building as a perfect example of the



Britain. Cefyn talks about coins given to the Consul by ship in the harbour being coins were said to be in and they are said to be foundations somewhere but talks about various clergy, boat and especially Rev. congregation and started location. This required the

intervention of no less authority than parliament! Cefyn tells of the decoration, the church furniture, the things on the walls and the dome, and we see the Queens royal emblem brought to the church when the Consulate closed. He talks about how there were box pews and that the church was re-decorated by a theatrical designer, as interior designers did not yet exist at that time. You can really see the beauty of the church but you should really hear all the information Cefyn gives in his talk.

From the church we walked past the Parsonage built early 20th century and then up Rua da Carreira to the site of the first British Burial Ground which was built just outside the city walls to 'house' those Protestants who died would not be buried in a Catholic grave. were disposed of off Cabo Girau cliffs into burial ground was completely dug up and road a bit to the 'new' burial ground which three sections which helps to date the these sections originated as a Military military graves look like this:



whilst on Madeira and Prior to this the bodies the sea. This original everything moved up the we then visited. It has graves. The oldest of Burial ground and all

Cefyn pointed out some of the resting places of the famous which included the first person buried in whole cemetery, a military wife; Professor Langerhans who discovered the Islets of Langerhans as well as other medical discoveries, the king of Bonny (a country near to Nigeria) and Sarah Forbes the black God daughter of Queen Victoria. You will be fascinated by all these people and there will be an opportunity for you to find out more when we hold our regular Meet the Residents event, when people from the Cemetery come 'alive' thanks to a



group of

volunteers and you visit them and hear more about their lives. During an interlude there is always cheese and wine to taste, presented by an authority from the wine industry. It is hoped to hold this entirely in the Cemetery and Cemetery Chapel on the nearest Saturday to All Saints Day. If you are in Madeira you should definitely come to this event. There is a handout available about the church and the cemetery for a few more details and this has some further reading references. We hope you visit us soon. Jean Faulkner