

Visit of All Saints' Church by the Association Arts et Découvertes



On 11th March 2015, members of All Saints Church, Marseille, were delighted to welcome an enquiring group of history seekers from the *Association Arts & Découvertes*. Fifteen people were shown round our Edwardian church, now over 100 years old, by our churchwarden, Amanda, who relayed the human stories behind the brass memorial plaques on the walls, as well as the history of the mid-19th century English organ and the beautiful stained glass windows.

A short general history of the church, (established to cater to the ex-pat community and also particularly to the British sailors coming into the port, considered a morally dubious area) was related, giving rise to many questions from our guests.

These were not only about the church but about Anglicanism, which remains almost unknown to the French. One question even concerned our large plain wooden cross above the altar, without a Christ figure on it. Luckily we could explain why this occurs in non Roman Catholic places of worship.



The whole group were happy to partake of English tea, cake and informal chat after the visit. They left us much wiser about our presence in Marseille, our history and about Anglicanism in general, and have thanked us profusely for "*une excellente visite*" which they say introduced them to "*une page d'histoire*", and they bought several copies of "*All Saints et les marins*", our brand new *version française* of "*All Saints and Sailors*", the fascinating and unusual history of All Saints' Marseille.