

There has been an Anglican Chaplaincy in Chantilly since the early days of the English-speaking community here, which first arrived in the 1830s and '40s at the invitation of the Duc d'Aumale to help establish horse-racing.

The Duc d'Aumale actively encouraged Anglophone immigration to Chantilly, in recognition of the warm welcome that he had received whilst in exile in England. In 1860 he sold a piece of land to Messrs Antrobus and Marjoriebanks, British bankers, who then gifted it to the Colonial and Continental Church Society. These patrons supported the building of a new church built on the rue des Cascades for the British community living in Chantilly, and in time, financed the ministry of services and activities in English.

The present church plot and the adjoining plot were bought from the Duc d'Aumale by Messrs. Antrobus and Marjoriebanks on behalf of the Commonwealth and Continental Church Society (now ICS). The foundation stone of a Victorian Gothic style, typically 'English' village church was laid in 1865, and there was a fairly constant line of chaplains until the Second World War.

The church was constructed in 1865 under the guidance of the architect Thomas Fraser Duff (1830-1877) in a neogothic style, typical of village churches in England. The new sanctuary was consecrated in 1883 during the pastoral visit of the Archbishop of Gibraltar. The first pastor's home was added in 1890-92. The tradition continues today with a strong Anglican community worshipping at the church. Parishioners come not just from the surrounding towns and villages but from as far away as Beauvais and beyond.

Following the War, there was a general decline in numbers until, by the late '60s, early '70s, there was a financial crisis and then no full-time Chaplain until 1983.

In 1973, the Intercontinental Church Society renewed their patronage of St. Peter's Church. The Society appointed four full-time chaplains in succession to look after the English-speaking community. The numerous plaques on the interior walls of the church bear witness to generations of British and Irish families who have made their home in Chantilly.

Since 1983 the Chaplaincy has grown gradually but steadily, with five successive full-time chaplains. In 1991-92 a Church Centre with hall, meeting rooms, other facilities and chaplain's accommodation was built which has encouraged further growth.

A new building, completed in December 1992, constructed next to the church, was financed by donations and serves as the chaplain's home, a community hall and a library. Today there are some 350 Anglophone families of many different nationalities living in Chantilly and its neighbouring towns and villages.

Since 2009, thanks to various initiatives (golf tournaments, Twickenham/Chantilly Bike Ride, concerts) and donations, the first 3 phases of restoration have been carried out: a new drainage system, modernised heating to meet regulations, the roofing and interior of the church.

Now the restoration needs to be completed with, as a priority, phase 4 then phase 5.

Phase 4

- Creation of an entrance ramp for the disabled in stone - €10 000
- Stained glass window repairs & double glazing (10 windows) - €28 000
- Perimeter wall repairs including railings/gate €30 500

