



St Alban's Anglican Church, Copenhagen

St Alban's Church, the only Anglican (Episcopal) church in Denmark, was consecrated in 1887. Until then, English-speaking Christians had met to worship in various rented halls in Copenhagen and Elsinore (Helsingør). St Alban's is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, which is led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and is in the Diocese of Europe. The liturgy is that of the Church of England.

Building the Church

After about 30 years of determination, hard work and raising funds, the church was built between 1885 and 1887. The site of the church, near the Royal Palace, was obtained with help from Princess Alexandra (1844–1925), daughter of King Christian IX of Denmark (1818–1906), and her husband Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII of Britain. Prince Edward took a keen interest in the project and was Chairman of the London fund-raising committee.

The Princess laid the foundation stone on 19 September 1885, accompanied by the Prince, King Christian IX and Queen Louise, the Czar and Czarina of Russia (Alexandra's sister), and members of the Greek and other Scandinavian royal families, who returned two years later to witness the consecration of the church on 17 September 1887.

The Exterior of the Church

St Alban's is a fine example of Victorian 'Early English' Gothic architecture. It was designed by the Victorian church architect, Sir Arthur Blomfield, and executed under the supervision of the Danish architect Professor L. Fenger. Despite the very English appearance of the church, most of the building materials are Danish. The stone dressings are limestone from Faxe and the outer walls are faced with cleft flint from Stevns, both in southern Sealand. The spire is made of cut stone from Öland in Sweden. The roof is covered with Broseley tiles from Shropshire. Because of the nature of the ground, the Church was built on piles, and the floor of the crypt is below the local water table and kept dry by an automatic pump.

The Interior of the Church

Apart from the addition of memorials and memorial windows, the church building has changed very little since 1887, other than the installation of electric lighting and a central heating system in the early 1930s. The interior wall facings and mouldings are in fine white Faxe limestone. The floor tiles were donated by Campbell Tile company from Staffordshire. The font (placed by the door to welcome members into the church through baptism), the pulpit and the altarpiece (reredos) are of terracotta and Doulton ware and were a gift from Doulton & Co from London.

The organ was built by J.W. Walker and Son of London in 1887 and is still housed in the original casing. In 2004/5 it was restored in Durham by Harrison & Harrison and the range was extended to include 1480 pipes. The bells in the tower are the original set of eight Harrington tubular bells installed in 1887 (the tower was not built for larger bells). In 2013 these were augmented with seven extra bells, also made by Harringtons and of a similar date. The bells are played before and after the services; they also chime the quarters and play a different hymn tune on each hour.

The stained glass windows are from three different periods. The windows in the main part of the church are Victorian and were made by Heaton, Butler and Bayne in London between 1887 and 1901. The windows in the side aisle were made as part of the Alexandra memorial by Geoffrey Webb in the late 1920s, and the window in the side chapel, the Princess Viggo memorial window, was made by a local company in 1971. The Victorian windows were cleaned and completely re-lead in a major conservation project in 2011/2012.

Saint Alban

The church is named after Saint Alban, the first martyr of England (c. 303 AD). Alban was a Roman soldier who sheltered a priest from persecution. Alban was so inspired by the priest's teaching that, when the soldiers arrived in pursuit, he put on the priest's robes and handed himself over. Challenged and sentenced to death he declared "I worship and adore the true and living God, who created all things." The priest also gave himself up, inspired by Alban's faith and courage. According to legend, Alban's relics were taken to the church of St Mary and St Alban in Odense, Denmark, where St Alban's name is still held in veneration.

More about the history of the church and a guide can be found in the booklet *St Alban's History and Guide* available at the entrance of the church.

Today

We are an international and inclusive Church family who, while worshipping God within the Anglican-Episcopal tradition, welcome people from all Christian traditions, as well as those who are searching for faith in God. Currently we have people from 22 different countries in our congregation, and we are joined by many visitors to the church and to our services in the summer. There is also a congregation in Aarhus that meets eight times a year in Møllevangs Kirke.

If you have time, there is an opportunity for you before you leave to light a candle and say a prayer or to leave a prayer request in the book for that purpose in the side chapel of the church.

***As the church does not receive any financial support from the United Kingdom or from Denmark, any contributions will be gratefully received.
Donations can be placed on the offerings plate or in the wall-safe in the narthex.***

**Thank you for visiting St Alban's.
We wish you every blessing and hope to see you again soon.**