

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH  
AND CEMETERY  
BORNOVA  
IZMIR  
TURKEY

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6th September 2010

Dear Friends,

This letter concerns the Church of St Mary Magdalene and the Anglican Cemetery in Bornova. I hope it will be of interest to all those who ever lived in Bornova or who had ancestors who did. I hope it will also be of interest to the many people who may have stayed in Bornova in the past and were touched by its special atmosphere.

As you may know the Anglican Church of Saint Mary Magdalene was built in 1857 for the Anglican Community in Bornova by Charlton Whittall, the first Whittall to settle in Turkey. It became the only place of worship for the large Anglican community in Bornova.

The Cemetery was established shortly afterwards in 1875 and ever since then most of the Anglicans who died in Bornova were buried there. My great grandfather Edward Whittall was also buried there.



[Attached](#) is a list of names of persons who were buried in the Bornova Anglican Cemetery. This list was compiled by Sally Gallia who several years ago surveyed the Cemetery and reorganized all the available Church and Cemetery Records, producing a comprehensive report about the Graves together with photographs of all the Headstones. This was no easy task because the Church and Cemetery records were until then mostly stored in loose leaf and were very disordered and because many of the written records were lost in 1922. In addition many of the headstones were illegible because of vandalism and had to be restored in order to be read.

The day to day upkeep of the Church and Cemetery is carried out with regular small donations from a few members the local community in Izmir who are either Anglican or have ancestors who are buried in the Cemetery. These include a few Whittall descendants still in Izmir. The money thus raised covers basic day to day expenses but does not suffice to maintain the buildings and graves to the desired standard. Unfortunately today most local Anglicans who used to contribute to the Church and Cemetery can no longer do so because they are themselves buried there, and the vast majority of their descendents no longer live in Turkey. In addition, the Anglican Community in Izmir has steadily shrunk ever since the foundation of the Turkish Republic in 1922. As a result there are today not more than about 15 regular local contributors to the upkeep of the Church and Cemetery.

More expensive one off repairs have up to now been carried out by making special appeals to interested parties around the world with historical connections to the Anglican Church and Cemetery in Bornova.

Since the Church and Cemetery were privately built they rely totally on private contributions.

A fund was set up for this purpose by Peggy Wittet before she died in 1996. Peggy lived in Edinburgh and was the granddaughter of Edward Whittall who in turn was the grandson of Charlton Whittall (who built the church in 1856).

This fund is administered by her son Ian Wittet who lives in Scotland together with Harold John Charnaud who lives in England and myself in Turkey. Harry Charnaud's father, John, for many years acted as Warden of the Church properties in Bornova. When John moved to settle in England I was asked to take over his role.

I hope you will lend your support to the ongoing Church repairs by making a contribution to this fund.

If you wish to make a contribution please contact me or Harry Charnaud for details of the Church and Cemetery Fund ACCOUNT. Our contact numbers are:

**Brian Giraud**

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The purpose of this letter is to use the internet to try to inspire more people than before to send a one off contribution and to try to inspire some of you to enlist as regular contributors.

A target has therefore been set to raise at least **20000 pounds sterling**.

Of this 12000 pounds sterling will be spent immediately on urgent repair projects including the repair of the Church roof, outer walls, external cornices, garden walls and entrance. These are projects which have already been started and will be completed hopefully this year immediately the funds become available.

Less urgent projects include the redecoration of the ornate Church interior and landscaping of the Cemetery and the Church properties. It is estimated that this will cost around 10000 pounds sterling bringing the total to about 22000 pounds sterling.

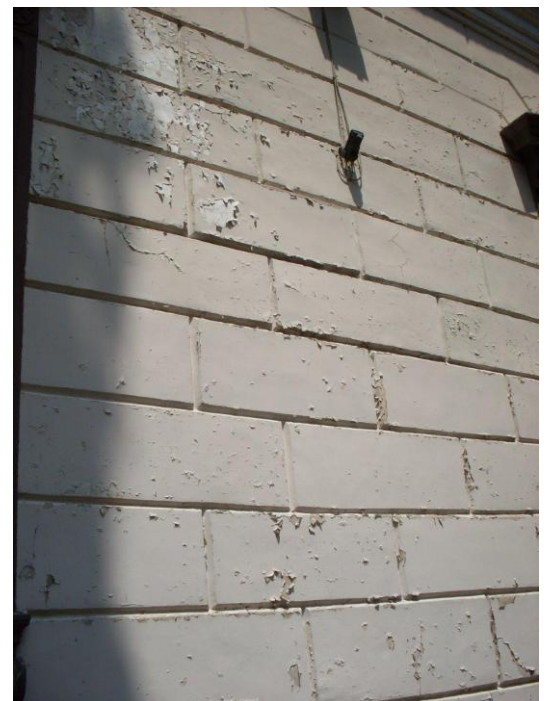
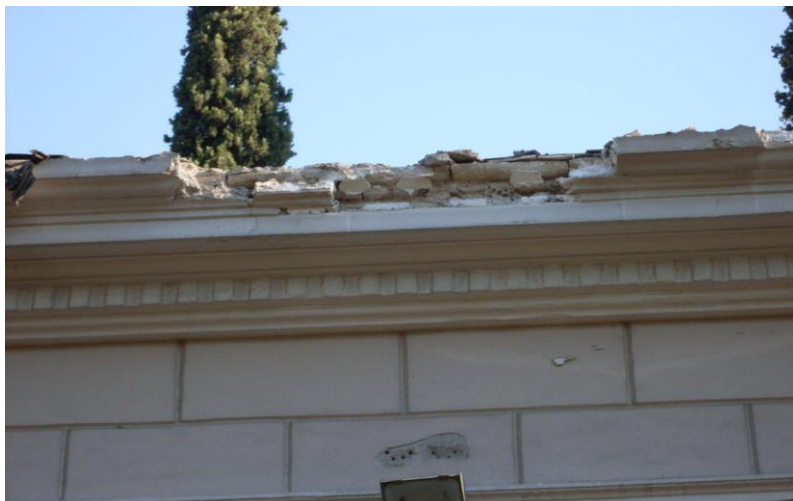
Please find below the full list of repair projects and their estimated cost accompanied by photos of the current state of the Church and photos of work in progress.

## **Repair Projects:**

1. A project is currently underway to restore the Church Roof (more photographs of work in progress are available on request). The budget for this project is about 5000 pounds sterling.



2. A second project is to restore and paint the Church's exterior walls and cornices. It is hoped that this can be done concurrently with the roof repair taking advantage of the existing scaffolding. Much depends on the availability of funds because the Budget for this is about 3000 pounds sterling.



3. A project in the near future must be to rebuild sections of the Church property boundary Walls which have collapsed and to restore the walls still standing: Estimated cost 3000 Pounds



4. And to glass in and restore the entrance: Estimated cost 1000 pounds sterling

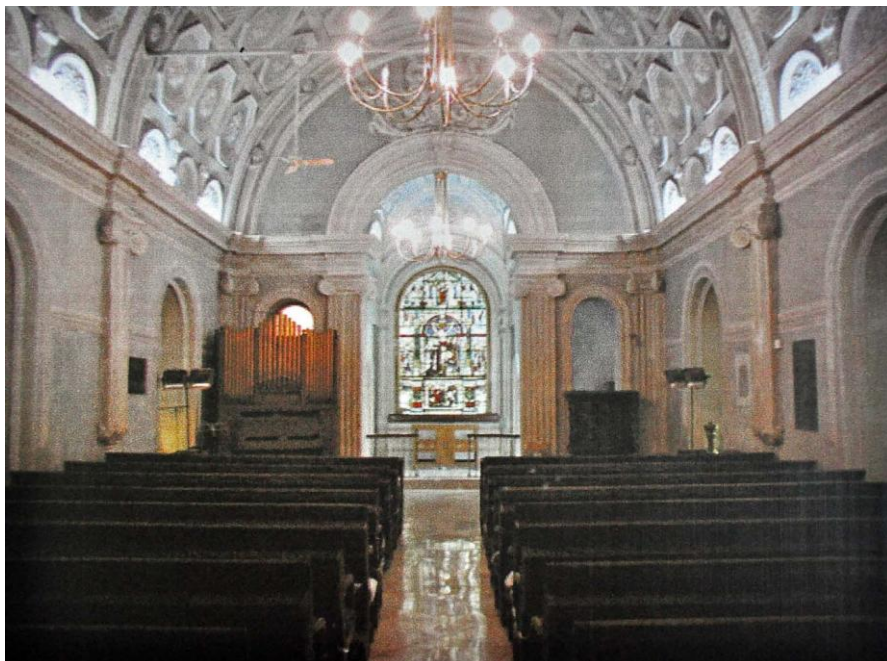


5. Less urgently the interior of the Church with its intricate plasterwork ornamentation will soon need repainting. This will require considerable skill. The cost of this could exceed 8000 pounds sterling if done properly.

## **Recent restoration work:**

Repair work carried out over the last 20 years using funds previously raised has included

- Restoring all the broken headstones and monuments in the Cemetery after most of the graves had been seriously vandalized; and repairing the Cemetery walls to include an impregnable fence on top of the walls in order to keep out vandals.
- Repainting the exterior walls of the Church (in the 1990's). and restoring the Church floor (again after it had been vandalized following a break in - see below for scenes before and after) :



Currently there are not enough funds left to cover even the Roof Repair which is urgent. It is therefore underway partly on borrowed money.

I am hoping to distribute this letter as widely as possible within the community of people who have a family connection (past or present) with the Bornova Church and Cemetery. I am expecting to send it to over 250 people. However the community is much larger than that and since I do not have all the relevant e-mail addresses, I ask you to forward a copy of the letter to any relatives and friends who might be interested and whom I have missed (with a cc to me for the record).

The account details for your contributions are repeated below. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

**Brian Giraud**

**Note:**

If you wish to make a contribution please contact me or Harry Charnaud for details of the Church and Cemetery Fund ACCOUNT. Our contact numbers are:

**Brian Giraud**

Bornova

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**Harry Charnaud**

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For the record please inform me of your contribution by e-mail at [smbbornova@gmail.com](mailto:smbbornova@gmail.com)