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In 1741, in acknowledgement of the Swedish Church's privileges in England, Anglican public worship was allowed in Sweden. Permission was also given to own and build churches. The first English church was started in 1747, in a rented room in Nederlags House in Smedjegatan. This arrangement continued until 1761. The first English priest Rev. George Nash arrived in Gothenburg to take up his appointment as Chaplain in October 1747. He received a salary of £75 per annum, the amount being subscribed voluntarily by members of the congregation.

Colin Campbell died in 1757. He left a bequest of Three Thousand Dollars Silvermynt towards the building of an English church, with the proviso that if the building was not set about and in a fair way to be continued within two years after his death this article is to be null and void. In 1759, a plot of land between Östra Hamngatan and Sillgatan (now Postgatan) was purchased, and an expensive building was designed. This was subsequently purchased by William Williamson, George Carnegie and John Hall Sr., with the agreement that the English Congregation should have the use of a room for worship - in "the second English church." This was the place for worship between 1764 and 1785, and was followed by an interregnum of 37 years during which no Chaplain was appointed, until 1822, when the Revd Morgan Morgan took up office.

St. Andrew's church has been maintained by the devoted care of generations of British and other English-speaking residents, with the help of the British Factory, an association of British merchants in Gothenburg. Among these are many names well known in the history of the city: Dickson, Carnegies, Chalmers, Keiller, Hall, Wilson, and so on - benefactors to city and church alike.

Women have played an important part in the work at St. Andrew's church, providing support and friendship, as well as working to raise funds for the support of St. Andrew's Church. The first Ladies' Guild, was formed in the 1930s by the Chaplain Dr. Frew. The Guild was re-established in 1943 and has met regularly since then. The first concern of the Ladies Guild was "to assist the Red Cross in the exchange of Prisoners of War and to support the British P.o W.'s in various ways. The Guild has played a very important role in the support of St. Andrew's Church. The Ladies' Evening Group (LEG) was founded in 1976 by Cathy Lister as an evening group for working women who were not able to attend the Ladies' Guild which meets in the daytime. Ann Gustafsson and Lena Paulse were founder members of the Group. The main aims of the group are Christian Fellowship, building friendship among the members, and providing material support for St. Andrew's Church.

References

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