

## Keith McKay

### Development of the church.

When the Prison was planned by architect Daniel Alexander, he was also, at the same time, commissioned to design the church for the town<sup>1</sup>; it's said that the French prisoners in fact built the main structure of the church and later the American prisoners fitted out the interior<sup>2</sup>. It is considered to be architecturally important, its Grade II\* listed, it was, as I say, originally designed by Daniel Alexander, the architect for the Prison, but other architects were also involved in its alteration, in 1868 Fulford improved the chancel and then the nave arcades were inserted and the chancel extended again, round about the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, then the tower was restored in 1915 by Richardson and Gill: so many professional men have had a hand in what we see today.

*So it's developed over the years?*

Yes, it's developed over years, out of the roots of its early origins so grows these buildings and with churches in particular there's always a desire to respect the quality of what's survived from the past and incorporate that but also leave a mark of the time when the alterations are made subsequently. The stained glass in the east window by Mayer of Munich is in memory of the American prisoners of war who helped build this church, especially the 218 who died here at that time.

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<sup>1</sup> According to Elisabeth Stanbrook, *Dartmoor's War Prison & Church 1805-1817* (2002), the architect for the church was Mr John Walters.

<sup>2</sup> According to Elisabeth Stanbrook, *Dartmoor's War Prison & Church 1805-1817* (2002), the American prisoners also worked on some of the exterior of the church.