



## *BOARD 4*

### **THE CHURCH OF SAINT TROPHIMUS**

Before this building was built (between 1742 and 1760), the parishioners gathered in the original village church (XIth or XIIth century), which forms part of the old presbytery.

An interesting document in Latin, dating from 1577, has been brought back from Rome. It is a report of a visit by the bishop of Cavaillon to the parish of Les Taillades. He recounts that : "The village of Les Taillades looks exactly like a village surrounded by seven high walls and its name no doubt comes from the fact that it is built very close to the rocks that are commonly won in large square blocks. The parish church is built within the walls and is dedicated to Saint Lucia, the virgin martyr, whose relics are preserved and whose feast day is celebrated every year. In this village there is a single priest to care for the population of not more than a hundred souls ".

In the XVIIIth century, the population of Les Taillades expanded and the old parish church proved too small. On 23 March 1740, the town councillors voted to have a new church built. A document dating from the same year refers to the removal of skeletal remains from the old cemetery, between the town hall and the church, so that the new building could be constructed.

1760 saw the "acceptance" of the works on the new building. Between 1780 and 1781, a "new" bell tower was built so that the two bells called after Saint Lucia and Saint Trophimus were under cover.

In 1793, following the French Revolution, the property of the bishopric was confiscated and sold. At Les Taillades, it was the bells that were seized! The mayor sent one to Avignon ... and was accused of supplying the smaller one! It was not till 1894 that it was replaced by a new bell cast in Rodez.

Subsequently, the church was less and less well attended and indeed suffered acts of vandalism.

The years passed ... a first renovation was carried out in 1940 by a group of refugees from Lorraine.

Finally, extensive works were carried out by the municipality and the parish community in 1982, resulting in the present appearance of the church.

Inside the church, above the altar, can be seen the mosaic created by Mr Le Clerc when the church was restored in 1985.

The artist explained his work "Saint Lucia in the footsteps of the risen Christ" in these terms: "In the footsteps of Jesus, in his light, Saint Lucia, guided by the Lord, wends her way towards the little church ... She is its patron saint. She reminds the faithful of her painful ordeal in the year 305. So many centuries later, she now smiles again, happy to be able to pass on her message of peace, inviting us, too, to follow in the light of the risen Christ ... "

*A copy of a document from the XIIIth century states that the old church – like the new one several centuries later – was known by two names : Saint Trophimus and Saint Lucia. In the XIXth century, it was decided that the church would be called Saint Trophimus and the parish placed under the patronage of Saint Lucia.*



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<https://www.lestaillades.fr/decouvrir/visiter/>

