1838

1839

Rev Francis Close - Vicar of Cheltenham 1826 to 1856, he led the project to build Christ Church.

The founders of Christ Church were Rev Francis Close, Rev William Carus & Pearson Thompson Esq. who gave the land for the church.

The cost of £17,000 was raised by the sale of shares to 61 shareholders who subscribed a minimum of £50 each.

'It was impossible to listen to this tall auburn-haired young man without feeling emotion on account of that indescribable voice of his' On his move to Brighton he became a nationally famous preacher of a radical inclination, considered the greatest preacher of the century.

From 3,000 in 1800 to 30,300 in 1840
Cheltenham's population increased
tenfold
25th September 1837, a Deed o
Arrangement was signed by the
founders and the shareholders
Building stone was brought by car
from Dodwell Hill Quarry, Wittingtor
and the Forest of Dean
The master builder was Thomas
Newton and the mason was James
Brown
21st January 1840, the church was

consecrated by the Bishop of

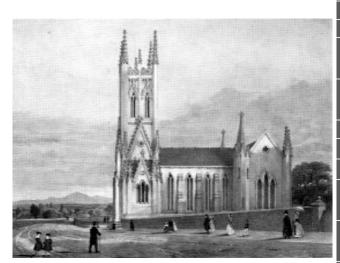
Gloucester in a violent gale.

	our Famous	curate
	TE!	
41	A	M
1/3		
100		

Rev Frederick W. Robertson was appointed as Curate by Rev Boyd served from 1842 to 1846/7.	
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appointed as Curate by Rev Boyd	
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1837 sketch by the architect R. W. Jearrard, showing the church in wooded parkland before the surrounding houses were built.



Etching showing the church as built in 1840 before the church rooms were added; note the clear views to the Malvern Hills.

1840	6th February 1840, Rev Charles
	Edward Kennaway M.A. was instituted
	as Vicar (1840 to 1842).
1841	The pews held about 2000 people,
	about 1500 seats were available to
	rent and 434 were offered free.
1842	High backed and upright box pews
10-11	filled the ground floor including the
	choir area, both transepts and to the
	back of the baptistry.
1843	Congestion by sedan chairs and pew
	sales at the door became a problem so
	sales were transferred to the
	Montpellier Library.

laid by Rev Francis Close.

Queens Hotel.

From 1822 to 1831 four large churches were built in Cheltenham, Christ Church in 1840 was the fifth. 10th November 1837, first stone was

Robert William & Charles Jearrad were

the achitects; they also designed the

The clerk of works was Henry Drew

and the foreman was Thomas Sutton.

1844 The first wedding was held under special licence in November and the new clock was installed.

1845 Originally the high central pulpit was in front of the Altar so that the preacher was visible from all seats.

1847 Rev Boyd founded Christ Church

School in the adjacent church hall building

1848

1849

31st March 1849, the church was in debt as the pew rents had failed to meet expenses.

The Clock quarter chimes were stopped following complaints from neighbours.

1851 A small central pinnacle fell from the tower, this was replaced but all were later removed.

1852

1853

1854

1855

1856

1857 1858 During Boyd's ministry, the boys of the Gentleman's College worshipped in the church using the gallery until their own chapel was built in 1865.

1859

1860
8th June 1860 Rev. Canon Joseph Finch Fenn M.A. instituted as Vicar (1859 to 1884).

1861
Urgent fabric repairs were needed and

were funded by the shareholders.

1862

1863

25th April 1865, the church was assigned a 'District Chapelry' allowing baptisms & marriages.

1865

On Good Friday 1865 the first baptism in the church was held for Alice Mary Gaitskill.

1866

Central 'three-decker' pulpit lowered

and moved to the left for weddings & the font was installed.

More fabric repairs were needed,

More fabric repairs were needed, objections were raised to seeking these funds from shareholders.



Rev **Charles Edward Kennaway**, first vicar from 1840 to 1842. 'A very gentle spirited and excellent Christian man'. Honorary Canon of Gloucester.



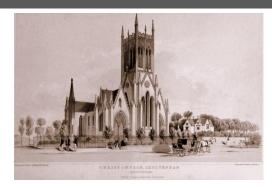
Rev Canon Archibald Boyd M.A., vicar from 1842 to 1859. 'His eloquence was logic on fire'. Founded Christ Church School in 1847. An Honorary Canon of Gloucester, he later became Dean of Exeter.



Small print from about 1855.



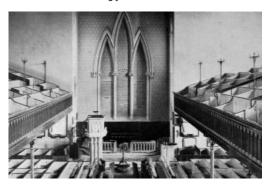
Rev Joseph Finch Fenn, vicar from 1859 to 1884, '...an excepionally pursuasive preacher, ...a most gracious Christian gentleman'. Helped found St. Stephen's Church and died in office from ill health. Honorary Canon of Gloucester.



Christ Church in about 1850 showing the Grange on the hill.



Painting from about 1860



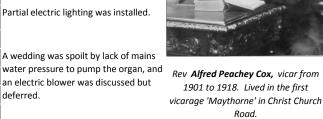
Church Interior in about 1875, with choir stalls, central brass lectern, second and offset pulpit and separate readers desk, gas lighting and flat East end wall with false windows with texts.



East wall in 1884 showing new decoration of the Reredos.

In 1914, one of the clock weighs fell from the clock room to the baptistry floor causing 'Old Mr Moorey - Church Clerk to run out thinking that a Zeppelin had bombed the church'.

۹			
	1868		
ı	1869	The wardens advised shareholders that	
ı		the church was intending to end the	pa and £150 for a Curate was rejected
i	1870	proprietory status. A brass lectern was presented by Rev R	This lectern may have been the one
	1871	H Cooke.	that was later given to St Stephen's
	10/1		church.
	1872	Choir used to sing from the gallery.	
	1873	The Ladies' College having moved from Cambray to Bayshill now worshipped in the church.	The Christ Church chalices were given to St Stephen's church and were replaced by Mr Middleton.
	1874	'Choir now sited in the chancel'	
	1875	Faculty approved to remove the North	
	1876	transept gallery and move the organ	1. 1. 4. 图 节
	1877	from the tower gallery. Church patronage transferred to the Simeon Trustees.	9
	1878	It had taken 10 years to change the church proprietorial system.	
	1879		
	1880	Church finally passed into the hands of the Simeon Trustees.	
ı	1881		
	1882		
	1883		
ĺ	1884	Canon Fenn died.	Rev Christopher Venn Child, vicar
	1885	The marble pulpit in memory of	from 1884 - 1901. A barrister before
		Cannon Fenn was erected.	ordination. 'In the vanguard of Church Militant'. Honorary Canon of
ı	1886	John Wilkins, Church Clerk for 46 years died.	Gloucester.
ĺ	1887	Re-ordering with new floor and pews,	Land was given by Mr. Alan Bruce-
i	1888	dais with choir stalls with ironwork	Pryce, and it was agreed to build the
	1889	screens, agreed. Re-ordering completed and the pillars	Apse with marble and fresco decoration and a domed roof.
	1890	were clad in marble at a total cost of	
		£2,000 in 1890.	
	1891	Anna daggration designs agreed to be	Darradas was arested the Ansa was
	1892	Apse decoration designs agreed, to be funded by voluntary contributions.	Reredos was erected, the Apse was decorated with marble and jasper and
	1893	, ,	the Frescoes were painted by Mr W. A
	1894		Richmond assisted by Mr J. Eadie Reid
	1895	The organ was dedicated, having been rebuilt to include the missing pipes,	at a cost of £1,500.
ı	1896	now with 38 stops & three manuals at	The second secon
	1897	a cost of £1,100.	- 34
ĺ	1898	New marble steps to the Pulpit fitted in	20
ĺ	1899	memory of General Bean.	
ĺ	1900	Decided to reduce the height of the	AND THE RESERVE TO TH
	1901	Gallery pews and provide sloping	
	1902	backs. First stained glass memorial windows	A RELIEF
		were installed in the nave.	1000
- 11	4000	First parish magazine published	THE RESERVE THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 2 I



The Christ Church hymn books were Minor repairs done to the organ and replaced by Hymns Ancient & Modern. an American organ was purchased, later given to St. Marks in 1955.

The 10th Gloucester regiment worshiped in the church while they were billited and training in Alstone fields. They occupied most of the Gallery. Belgians from Western Road also worshipped in the church rooms.

First parish magazine published.

1903

1904 1905

1906

1907

1908

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1911

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1914

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1916 1917 deferred.

1921

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1961

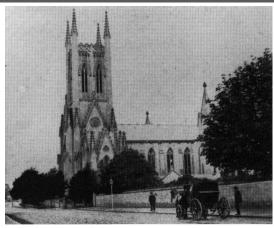
1962

1963

1964

1965

1966



Photograph taken in about 1890 showing that the central tower pinnacles had been removed, church rooms, gas street lighting and the railings and gates to the forecourt. Note the decorated pinnacles and pineapple finnial stones.



Apse after re-ordering in 1889



Scheme for the interior by Middleton Prothero & Philpot rejected in 1895.



Church Interior in 1952 showing the Cloucesters' Colours in the original position and gas light stands in the gallery.

'A new heating apparatus was installed as a cost of £240.19s.6d.' An 'Acousticon' was installed in the church with a microphone in the Pulpit and 8 other points provided at a cost of about £67

Christ Church boys school ceased as other schools were then used.



1940s photograph, note the paving and gravel drive.

Organ was overhauled and a new concave pedal board was fitted.

10:30 Family Service introduced and the parish magazine was reintroduced after it was suspended in the war.

Mr John Beck F. R.C.O., (later Rev. Beck of Cirencester) appointed as organist (1951 to 1953). He had been a choir boy at the church.

To the designs of Mr Robert W
Patterson A R I B A, major
redecoration undertaken, new side
chapel, organ rebuild, restoration
of the tower and resurfacing of the
drive, at a total cost of £25,000.



Church Interior in 1957 after the internal redecoration.

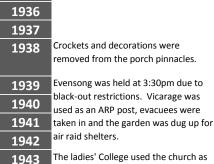
1920 First annual parochial church meeting on 18th April, followed by the first PCC meeting on 3rd May.

The bronze war memorial tablet was funded by subscriptions.

New vicarge purchased and first stone finial removed. Electric lights installed in the Apse. Hopper windows were fitted, the frescos were retouched and gilt work repaired and declared to be some of the finest frecsoes in England.

The Robertson memorial screen was erected in the West Gallery.
The Wooden Cross in memory of the 10th. Service Batallion from the High Wood area of the Somme battlefield was unveiled by LT. Col H. E. Pritchard.

The Mission Hall in Milbroook Street was purchased for £394.
The colours of the 10th Gloucester Reg't. were laid up in the church.



a classroom and for assemblies.

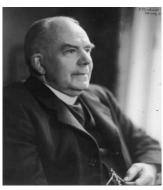
Rev **Edward Norman Spear**, vicar from 1949 to 1952. Previously CMS missionary and Archdeacon in Southern India. He was Rural Dean and became Canon Missioner for the diocese.

Christ Church Schools were transferred to be managed and funded by the local authority

Church is listed as Grade 2* and a small hall and kitchen are added to the old church halls.

Rev John Kingsmill Cavell , aged 35 appointed as Vicar from 1952 to 1962. He came from the CMS Home Education dept. Developed a flourishing youth club, and resurgence of music. Frequent BBC broadcasts and abolished pew rents. He became bishop of Southampton.

The old vicarage was replaced by the new building.



Rev Canon Francis Hanmer Webb-Peploe M.A., vicar from 1919 to 1937. 'A big humourless man with a strong voice' and a personality to be reconed with. Lived in the new vicarage in Malvern Road. In 1927 he paid for the clock repairs in memory of his wife Emily.



Rev Lindsay James Coursey, vicar from 1937 to 1949. Fainted at his first service. 'A man of courage and cheerfulness who disliked pessimists'.





1970

1971

1972

1973

1974 1975

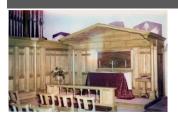
1976

1981

1982

1983

1984



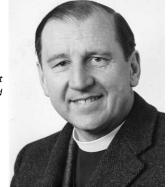
New side Chapel in 1958

Vestries and Offices were designed by
Mr Peter Ryland A.R.I.B.A. built by
Messrs E.W. & W.J. Moore and cost
£7,000.

Televised Morning Service broadcast live from Christ Church at 10:30am.

1967 The Garden of Remembrance was laid 1968 1969

> Rev David Charles St. Vincent Welander, vicar from 1963 to 1975. Started parish weekends and Candle-lit Carol Services. He was Rural Dean and became Proctor in the Diocese and Residentary Canon at Gloucester.



The Doris Pike memorial re-ordering was completed in 1978 with central communion rail and the hanging cross by Bryant Fedden.

The Tower required major work, 1977 specification for work was done by Eric 1978 Cole Architect and an appeal for 1979 £20,000 was launched. The Alternative Service Book was 1980 introduced.

Storm damage to Church Roof.

missionary in Africa. He was Rural

Dean and an Honorary Canon of Gloucester. Keen sailor and photographer, he developed a popular ' everyday church for all ages' and encouraged innovation and tradition.

Rev John Rossitor Harwood . vicar

from 1975 to 1991. Former CMS



The Miss Milne bequest for tower floodlights was received. Tower Clock Fund appeal launched and

'Pram Service' introduced.

The Choir were elected to the RSCM St

Cecilia Guild.

The service for Palm Sunday was 1985 televised by the BBC.

The Lay Pastor Scheme was started.

1986

The appeal for the repairs to the organ was launched.

The Font was moved to the back of the Baptistry.

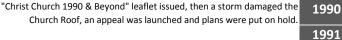
The Wednesday Coffee Mornings were introduced. 1988

1987

1989

21st January, 150th Anniversary

Thanksgiving Service was held. Rev John Harwood resigned.



Prayer Visiting was introduced. 1992

1993

Rev Edwin Crofton was appointed as vicar from 1993 to 2002. He was

instrumental in the realisation of Project 2000 by setting up fundraising and project teams and guiding the

early days of use of the new Harwood Hall and the foyer.



"Caring for Carers" scheme was introduced. 1994

New boilers were installed at £25,000 1995 "Christ Church 2000 - A new Challenge" leaflet issued with a day of prayer and 1996 recording of the Carol Service for BBC Radio Gloucestershire. With only £3,210 in the Church Hall Fund, fundraising concerts were started, 1997

plans were displayed, Project and Appeals committees were formed and Project 2000 was launched.

On 15th March £410,000 was pledged to Project 2000. In November, the PCC 1998 voted to admit children over seven to communion.

to raise funds for Phase 3 developments.

The temporary choir vestry and church office were built by volunteers to allow 1999 Phase 1 of Project 2000 to be started on 10th May.

The new Harwood Hall and Kitchen was completed and dedicated by the 2000 Bishop of Gloucester on 8th October.

The North Porch was refurbished with toilet and kitchenette added, this was

dedicated by Archdeacon Hedley Ringrose in May. Phase 1 and 2 of Project 2000 are completed and Project 2000+ was launched

Phase 3 to complete the Music Room and Foyer was approved and on 17th

October, £41,500 was pledged towards the total cost £420,000. Work on Phase 3 of Project 2000 begins in January

Project 2000 is finally completed and dedicated by the Bishop of Gloucester on 8th January.

2001

2002

2003

2008 2009 2010

2011

2012

Rev Ted Crofton resigned and moved to a new ministry in Eccles. Rev Tim Mavfield was appointed as vicar on 6th September 2003.



Latest aerial photograph taken in 2010, note the new houses, flats and terraces built in the large gardens.



Early aerial photograph from about 1910, showing the villas with large gardens surrounding the church.