

A History of Anglicanism in Nailsworth & St. George's Church

By Richard Barton



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Preface

In 2014 St George's, Nailsworth celebrates the important event of the installation of its new organ and it is an honour to be invited to be part of the celebrations associated with this milestone.

Back in 1975 I produced my 'Anglican History of Nailsworth'. At the time I was only sixteen and my little pamphlet was the fruition of a childhood love, both for Nailsworth and its fascinating history. It seems strange today to be re-visiting the history of St George's almost forty years later.

Sadly I have not had time to re-dig through the huge quantity of parish records now that they are deposited in Gloucestershire Archives. This time I have decided to root my research in the essay entitled 'Nailsworth From 1500 to 1900' by A.B. Pavey Smith, son of A.E. Smith who was the first churchwarden of St George's, and I have quoted extensively from his publication. In addition I have some of my own notes from long ago including summaries of documents held by the Church Commissioners, where I worked for a time in 1979.

Other principal sources include the Victoria County History; 'Gloucestershire – The Cotswolds' by David Verey and Alan Brooks; the Borough Guide from the 1900s; 'A Portrait of Nailsworth' by Betty Mills; Crockford's Directories; Kelly's Directories; the parish histories by compiled by Rudkin and Arthur Twisden Playne; the histories of the nonconformist churches in Nailsworth together with Roy Close's very useful 'A Village of Parts'. The illustrations have come in the main from Nailsworth Archives.

Emily Guerry's beautiful tribute to 'A Last Supper' has been used together with the biography of Frederick Bligh Bond by Tim Hopkinson-Ball, correspondence with Sir Oliver Heywood and Robin Sharp's 'All About Elcombe'.

St George's played a huge part during my formative years. I was a pupil at the Nailsworth Church of England Primary School from 1963 to 1966. Becoming involved with church at the age of eight I came under the influence of Peter Walker and his untimely death in 1970 resulted in the shedding of many tears. His successor, John Lewis, was enormously influential too and in many ways I feel that my own vocation to the priesthood was shaped by the ministries of both of these vicars and I am thankful to both of them. Conscious of this and of the kindness of so many members of the congregation when I was a youth it gives me tremendous pleasure to write these words in appreciation.

Richard Barton 2012

The New Organ

The original organ of St George's Church was built by Nicholson and Lord in 1881 and was first installed in the Pepper Pot Chapel for a total cost of £192. When the present parish church was under construction it was decided to re-install it 'temporarily' until funds were available for a more suitable instrument. This organ was small in specification and weak in volume but it was fitted with an electric blower after electricity had been laid to the church. An overhaul in 1957 by Osmonds of Taunton involved the organ being cleaned and its keys recovered at a total cost of £321. The organ was over-hauled again in 1977 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee and whilst it was dismantled, the spare stops were added, other improvements were made and the instrument re-voiced at a cost of £5,500.

In 2010, the original organ, despite two major overhauls, had deteriorated to a degree where a decision was taken to replace it.



After a year-long search, in 2011 a Samuel Renn organ became available from the redundant church of St. John the Baptist in Bollington, Cheshire. This was a two manual organ with its original casing and most of its pipe work which was built by Renn in 1836. In 1909, it was enlarged by Nicholson and Lord and then rebuilt by Jardine in 1932 and renovated by the same firm in 1980.

The organ has been renovated by TW Fearn, firstly for nine months in their workshops, and from November 2013 installation in the church has been ongoing. The organ installation was completed at the end of February 2014 and a service of dedication was held in 2014.

The final cost for the new organ was just over £105,000.

The money for the restoration of the Renn organ came firstly from a bequest from Mr. Williams, a choir master at St. George's for some years;

secondly a substantial grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund and finally the generosity of other grants and donations.

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The organ's present specifications are:

<u>Great</u>	<u>Swell</u>	<u>Pedal</u>
Open diapason	Double diapason (open from mid.C)	Open diapason
Open diapason	Open diapason	Bourdon
Stop diapason bass	Stop diapason	Swell to Great
Stop diapason treble (tenor C)	Dulciana	Swell to Pedal
Flute	Principal	Great to Pedal
Principal	Fifteenth	
Fifteenth	Hautboy	
Sesquialtra bass	Horn	
Cornet treble (12, 15, 17, from mid. C)	Viol d'Amoure	
Trumpet	Voix celestes	

Samuel Renn

He was born at Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire in June 1796 where his father was coachman to Sir Nicholas Curzon, first Baron Scarsdale.

At the age of 13, he was sent to London to be apprenticed to James Davis, an organ builder and uncle by marriage and he soon became a highly skilled craftsman rising to foreman in 1808 when only 22 years old. Following the death of David Davis, brother to James, the latter was able to retire and pass the organ-building business to Samuel.

Renn relocated the business to Stockport forming a partnership with John Boston whom he had met in London. They traded as Renn and Boston from 1822 – 1825 before moving to Manchester. In 1835, Boston left the company but by then Renn's nephew, James Kirtland, had served his apprenticeship and was promoted to a senior position.

Following Renn's death in 1845, his widow, Sarah and nephew ran the business until 1848 when Frederick Jardine was appointed manager. On the death of Sarah in 1850, the firm was renamed Kirtland and Jardine and continued until 1866 when Kirtland appears to have retired. However, Frederick Jardine carried on under the name of Jardine and co. and is still in business in Manchester today.

Renn developed a mechanised system for building organs using standardised dimensions, thereby reducing costs but continuing to produce artistic designs. Renn's organs have been praised by critics for their musical properties and the best surviving example is in St. Philip's Church, Salford.

An Anglican Parish for Nailsworth

Gilbert Maxwell Scott

During the year 1892 a twenty-eight year-old Anglican priest arrived in Nailsworth to take up his post as the minister of the Episcopal Chapel of St George, affectionately known as 'The Pepper Pot'. The Reverend Gilbert Maxwell Scott was born in the Birkenhead area in about 1864. He was educated at Jesus College, Oxford where he gained his B.A. in 1885 and his M.A. four years later. He spent a year at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford before being made a deacon in 1886 and he was appointed to serve his title at St John the Evangelist in Reading where he remained until his appointment to the Pepper Pot. He was in Nailsworth for twelve years and by the time of his departure Anglican life had been totally transformed.

The Town of Nailsworth

During the nineteenth century Nailsworth had changed from being a scattered community of cottagers reliant on the woollen cloth industry, into a prosperous little town. On 26th March 1892 the town was constituted a civil parish by order of the County Council and two years later it became one of the smallest Urban Districts in the country.



The Pepper Pot Chapel, Nailsworth

A Town in Four Ecclesiastical Parishes

Within the parts of Nailsworth still within the ancient parish of Avening the adherents of the established Church were gathering for worship in two un-consecrated buildings served by clergy who were appointed by trustees. Scott was Minister of the Nailsworth Chapel and Henry Alfred Crabbe was the Minister of the tin tabernacle at Inchbrook. Both of them were effectively assistant curates of the Rector of Avening and both of their churches were owned by trustees and had schools attached.

Much of the centre of Nailsworth together with the Newmarket Valley, lay within the parish of Horsley and since 1865 there had been an Anglican church at Shortwood which was often placed under the care of Horsley's assistant curate.

To make things even more complicated, part of the present parish of Nailsworth lay within Minchinhampton parish. Up until 1836 an Anglican who lived in the Amberley district would have worshipped at Holy Trinity Church at Minchinhampton or at Rodborough. As this area became more populated the need for a church grew and during the year 1836 the Church of the Holy Trinity was erected at Amberley. It owes its existence to the generosity of David Ricardo, the economist, who lived at Gatcombe Park. The building included the church, which was capable of accommodating in excess of 450 persons, two large school rooms and an adjoining parsonage house for the minister. In 1840 an ecclesiastical district was assigned to it formed out of the portion of the parish of Minchinhampton, usually called Littleworth Tything, and that portion of the parish of Rodborough which is situated east of the road leading from the Fleece Inn to the Bear Inn. The first perpetual curate of Amberley was the Reverend R.E. Blackwell, who later became Rector in 1866 when the parish was designated a Rectory under the District Church Tithes Act of 1865.

Towards an Ecclesiastical Parish for Nailsworth

The work of forming a consolidated chapelry for Nailsworth commenced in November 1892 when Scott was invited to serve Inchbrook Chapel in addition to the Pepper Pot. The 1894 Crockford's Directory listed his gross income as £290 per annum, which included money resulting from pew rents. Also in 1892 the Patron of the Living of Avening offered to make over the tithes of the Nailsworth Tything when the present Rector of Avening left.

During the March of 1893 Robert Dickson Cruikshank was appointed as Scott's assistant curate. Eleven months later the Shortwood area was unofficially annexed with the co-operation of the Vicar of Horsley, whose assistant curate, Mr Veasey, had just left Horsley Parish.

The Legal Background

At the beginning of the nineteenth century many new churches were built in England with the great increase and movement of population. In the year 1818 the first of the Church Building Acts was passed, empowering the Crown to appoint commissioners for building new churches. Under this and other acts, powers were given for the division of ancient parishes in order to form new and separate parishes for Church purposes. The Commission remained in office until 1857 when its functions were transferred to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Between 1818 and 1857 twenty-one acts relating to the building of new churches and the constitution of new parishes were passed, many of these statutes being complex and conflicting in character.

Under these acts the Church Building Commissioners were empowered to create district or distinct and separate parishes; consolidated chapelries; and district chapelries or particular districts.

District or distinct and separate parishes were formed by the division of existing parishes either with the consent of both the bishop and patrons or, in the case of a district parish, the bishop only, as the tithes and permanent endowments were not affected. A consolidated chapelry was formed out of contiguous parts of different parishes or extra-parochial places and the consent of the bishop and the patrons of the several parishes, or the majority of them, was required. The district chapelries or particular districts were districts assigned to a parochial chapel or chapel-of-ease, the latter requiring only the consent of the bishop.

Earlier Plans for a District Chapelry for Nailsworth

The plan for Nailsworth was for a district to be assigned to the Pepper Pot Chapel based upon the ancient Nailsworth Tything, which lay in Avening Parish. The final outcome was the creation of a consolidated chapelry but this took sixty-two years to achieve.

When John Betts was appointed as minister of the Pepper Pot Chapel in 1842 he made it a condition that he should eventually receive an income of £75 per annum from the Nailsworth Tything rather than £60 per annum which he was currently earning from the pew rents. Betts was deeply committed to having legal district assigned to the Nailsworth chapel and in a letter, dated 9th July 1844, he attempted to persuade the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to establish a district chapelry.

'I am the officiating Minister of Nailsworth, Gloucestershire. The Episcopal Chapel of which was erected more than 50 years ago by the private subscriptions of some members of the Church of England for their own use, there being at that time no church within any reasonable distance.

It was vested in trustees; and the Trust Deed stated that out of the Pew rents (then much larger than at present) the stipend of the Minister, the salaries of its minor officers and the repairs of the edifice itself were to be furnished.

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It has never yet been consecrated nor even licensed. Three years since I accepted the charge of the place at the hands of the present Rector of Avening, under the assurance that within 6 months the Chapel would be consecrated and a portion of the tythe or rent charge belonging to that end of Avening Parish (in which the chapel is situated) should be attached to it by way of endowment. Various obstacles arose to hinder this plan; until Sir Robert Peel's Act seemed to open a way for the settlement of the whole affair.

A district was formed in its immediate vicinity containing more than 2,000, the Rector still offering the rent charge; and it was laid before the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; but they, for some cause unknown have refused to receive it...

At no time since I have held the chapel has its proceeds amounted to more than from £60 to £65. It will contain from 300 to 400 persons, and is generally well filled at both services. I have done my best to keep it in decent repair, but every year adds to its dilapidation and calls for a much larger outlay than I can possibly obtain.

Nailsworth is situated in a valley 4 miles from Stroud, just at the junction of the 3 parishes of Avening, Horsley and Minchinhampton. Before the transfer of the clothing trade to the northern counties, it was a place of some importance, even now it is a great thoroughfare from Bath, Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud and many other towns around it. It has still either 9 or 10 cloth mills at work within a mile of the chapel, besides flock mills connected with these and pin and other manufactories in different parts of what has been marked out as its district – but alas! I fear not really to become such. It is only to ascend one of the hills and look down upon the place itself with its small tower in the midst, and the question at once arises, must its doors be shut and the place given to ruin? Such at this moment seems its probable fate. There is not one individual near or in it to help me and as I have not sufficient private property to fall back upon, I feel I must soon give it up unless it is put upon a better foundation.

John Betts failed to convince the authorities and three years later the Rector of Avening made a further unsuccessful attempt:

'I have now been requested by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol to write to you ... to get necessary preliminaries settled so as to allow the church to be consecrated by him about 26th of next month. ... The parish of Avening contains (by the census of 1841) a population of 2,227, of this number 1019 live 2 ¼ miles from the parish church. This portion of the parish, called Nailsworth, it is proposed to form into a district chapelry in the patronage of the Rector of Avening. '

A Consolidated Chapelry

The plan for the formation of a consolidated chapelry for Nailsworth was, no doubt, influenced by the establishment of the new civil parish as the boundaries of the proposed chapelry closely followed the boundaries of the new civil parish. The chapelry was to be formed out of the ecclesiastical parishes of Avening, Horsley, Minchinhampton and Amberley and it was only where part of Amberley village itself lay in the civil parish that the boundaries differed.

On 2nd February 1895 an Order-in-Council was made by Queen Victoria, at Osborne, creating a consolidated chapelry to the consecrated Church of All Saints at Shortwood and that it should be named the Consolidated Chapelry of Nailsworth. The order had gained the full co-operation of the patrons of the four livings:

'Consented to by the Right Reverend Charles John (Ellicott), Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, as such Bishop and also as the Patron, in right of his see, of the Vicarage of the Parish of Horsley; with the consent of the Reverend Edgar William Edwards of the Old Rectory, Avening, Clerk in Holy

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Orders, the Patron of the Rectory of Avening; with the consent of Henry George Ricardo of Standon Place, Brentwood, the Patron of the Rectory of Minchinhampton and with the consent of Louisa Frith, of The Highlands, Amberley, widow, the Patron of the Rectory of the parish of Amberley.'

To make this possible it had been necessary to raise an endowment fund. The Church authorities required that at least £1,000 should be found by the inhabitants to provide for an incumbent's stipend and church expenses. In December 1892, the vicar appealed for subscriptions and by May, 1893, £1,000 had been given. This was later increased by a further £900 with grants from the Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. In March, 1896, the fund was brought up to £2,400 to be held in trust by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the annual interest of £72 paid to the incumbent. Further income came from the trustees of Inchbrook and Nailsworth chapels and from the tithes resigned by the incumbents of the four benefices. In 1898 the Rector of Avening assigned £100 of the tithe rent charge to support Nailsworth Chapel. In 1897 the £100 income from Inchbrook Church ceased and in compensation Miss Molyneux made a gift of £500 and Mrs Frith gave £300.

The new consolidated chapelry became a perpetual curacy and then a vicarage, the patronage being held by the Bishop of Gloucester. It was assigned to All Saints' Church at Shortwood because this was the only building legally consecrated. Shortwood Church had only two hundred sittings and, because of its location, a mile from the town centre, this arrangement could only really be regarded as a temporary solution.

Scott was inducted at All Saints' Church, Shortwood, on 30th July 1895 and Alfred Edward Smith and Thomas Cox, of Chestnut Hill, were elected by the vestry meeting as the first churchwardens. At last the town of Nailsworth had its own vicar.

On 28th March 1901 an Instrument was made by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the Bishop of Gloucester and the vicar of Nailsworth, substituting the new St George's Church for the Church of All Saints at Shortwood as the Parish Church of Nailsworth.

'We the said Ecclesiastical Commissioners do hereby transfer all endowments, emoluments and rights belonging to the said old parish church (dedicated to All Saints) of the new parish of Nailsworth or of or belonging to the vicar of Nailsworth thereof, to the said new Church of St George being by virtue of these presents the parish church of the said new parish of Nailsworth and to the vicar or incumbent thereof, and his successors for ever.'

The Reverend Stephen John Earley was collated by the Bishop of Gloucester and inducted by the Archdeacon of Cheltenham as the vicar of the newly formed Benefice of Nailsworth with Shortwood, Horsley and Newington Bagpath with Kingscote on 27th August 2002.

The Building of the Parish Church



Church Street, Nailsworth 1893

As early as 1892 an unofficial fund was launched for the erection of a new church in the town centre. In the parish magazine for September 1893 Scott expressed his desire for a new church for Nailsworth. He stated that a larger building was required for the growing town as there were only thirty-two free sittings in the existing chapel, and it was generally unfit for purpose. The Pepper Pot was not legally consecrated and was owned by the trustees. Should the subscriptions and pew rents prove insufficient to maintain the building and support the minister then these trustees

could close the chapel at any time and sell it for secular usage. The status of the new ecclesiastical parish demanded a new parish church.

'In October 1896, a first meeting was arranged to discuss plans, and ways and means of collecting necessary funds. With the help of subscriptions, sales of work, bazaars and similar efforts to explore every avenue, the building fund, by the following July, reached £3,000. The architect's estimate for completion of the nave, aisles and base of the tower was £4,000 and that was as much as the trustees felt they could afford. It was realised that a further £1,500 for the chancel and £2,000 for the tower with a peal of six bells would have to wait. Tenders were then invited and in October, 1897, one was received for £4,500 which could be held open for six months. Though, in March 1898, the money was still short of this by £1,400 it was decided to get on with the building in the summer.' (Pavey Smith)

An Estimate for New Church in Nailsworth

Nave, Aisles, Base of Tower and Porch £4,000.0.0d

Chancel with Reredos £625.10.0d

Organ Chamber £170-0-0d

Clergy Vestry £255.0.0d

Eastern Passage and Entrance £80.0.0d

Choir Vestry and Heating Chamber £74.0.0d

Tower with Peal of Six Bells £2,000

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During November 1896 the members of the Building Committee had resolved that, 'subject to the approval of his estimate and modifications agreed on, the committee adopt Mr Medland's plan'.

Medland's plan consisted of the erection of the present nave with a massive tower soaring above

Matthew Henry Medland

Matthew Henry Medland (1838-1920) was the son of the architect James Medland (1808-1894). His father who had come to Gloucester in 1834 and was chief assistant to the architects, Samuel Whitfield Daukes and John R. Hamilton of Gloucester. Medland became, for a time a partner of Hamilton, and then from 1854 until 1868 a partner of Alfred William Maberly, another former pupil of Daukes. James Medland was then joined in the 1860s by his son John and then by Matthew Henry. The Medlands were Gloucester architects and, amongst other things, M. H. Medland designed a number of the county's police stations; the Council Chamber of the Shire Hall at Gloucester in 1894, Linden Road School, Over Hospital, as well as various minor church works. Locally he had already designed Inchbrook School in 1895. In 1891 he was living at Kingsholm Road, Gloucester, and ten years later in Horton Road.

the south porch. The chancel was to be flanked on the south side by a Lady Chapel with a sacristy beyond. On the north side of the chancel the plan included an organ chamber with a large vestry. The sacristy and vestry were to be linked by a corridor with its own entrance and porch. An ornate reredos was designed for the High Altar. The proposed building was to be constructed out of rusticated Cotswold stone and to be broadly Early English in style. There is a fine framed and tinted architect's impression of the proposed church hanging in the present church.



Medland's proposed church

Having commissioned an architect the Building Committee appointed the builder. On 26th October 1897 the members of the committee accepted the tender submitted by Messrs Wall and Hook of Chalford.

On 15th May 1898 the Pepper Pot Chapel was packed for the final service. The structure was then knocked down and, under one large stone, were found three halfpennies dated 1773. Two of the urns from the roof were placed in the grounds of 'The Hollies', the home of A.E. Smith.

Once the Pepper Pot had been completely demolished the site was cleared and the foundations were dug. These had to be very deep on the west side owing to the nearness of Fountain Street below. On 6th October 1898 the Foundation Stone was solemnly laid at a full masonic ceremony led by Sir Michael Hicks-Beech.

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St George's Church, newly completed
circa 1900

The walls of the new church gradually took shape and the whole structure was completed within two years. The new church contained five hundred sittings even though the eastern bays of the nave were set up as an interim chancel and part of the north aisle was used as a vestry. The chancel arch was walled up, pierced only by a pair of small temporary windows. Much of the carving was left and today the exterior of the nave lacks much of the detail that Medland had intended.

On 29th November 1900, St George's Church was consecrated by Dr Gibson, the Bishop of Gloucester. During 1905 the debt was cleared, the final figure being £7,119-14-0d for the building work and £300 interest on the debt.

Problems arose in 1912 when the aisle roofs began to leak. The architect, Mr F.W. Waller, proposed re-roofing the aisles in slate but, in the event, it was decided that it would be sufficient to alter the angle of the slope. During the year 1924 a heating system was installed at St George's and a boiler room was erected beside the north porch. Electricity was connected three years later.

Phase Two: The Chancel, Lady Chapel and Vestries



The original chancel

Fund-raising began again during April 1913 with the launch of the Chancel Fund. Sixty pounds had already been raised for this but the impetus was quickly lost with the declaration of hostilities during the following year.

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Shortly after the Great War it was decided to complete the east end of the church as a war memorial. Medland had died in 1920 so a new architect was sought. Initially the firm Temple Moore and Moore were invited to draw up plans. Temple Lushington Moore was the celebrated architect of All Saints' Church, Uplands, but he had died in 1920 too. Messrs Frederick Bligh Bond,

Thomas Falconer

Thomas Falconer (1879-1934) trained as an architect in London which included a spell in Ernest George's office, where his interest in vernacular architecture was nurtured. He later set up in practice, mainly in Gloucestershire, from his house at Theescombe. He was in partnership with Harold Baker from 1917 to 1928, with Frederick Bligh Bond from 1919 and he also worked from 1922 with John Archibald Campbell, a designer and draughtsman of extraordinary talent, under the name of Falconer, Baker and Campbell. Falconer had many contacts and was a friend of Norman Jewson and an associate of Frederick Bligh Bond as well as his own neighbour the stained glass artist Henry Payne. From 1915-16 Thomas Falconer designed the Church of St Alban in Stroud. His legacy today includes many fine arts and crafts houses in the Nailsworth, Woodchester and Minchinhampton area together with the enlargements to the Bear Hotel, the Wycliffe College footbridge and, the sadly demolished vicarage at Cashes Green. His son remembered him as 'an extremely conscientious and disciplined designer with a great eye for detail.'

Thomas Falconer and Henry Baker were then appointed and their plans were approved in 1921. They proposed a noble chancel and sanctuary which would have stretched back as far as the school buildings. On the south side they proposed a further porch, near the site of the present organ, with a Lady Chapel flanking the new chancel. On the north side they proposed a vestry and sacristy with an organ loft above and boiler room below. A screen would have divided the nave from the chancel and this screen would also have incorporated a stone pulpit.

Frederick Bligh Bond

Frederick Bligh Bond (1864-1945), a Bristol architect and author of 'Roodscreens and Roodlofts', was appointed archaeologist of Glastonbury Abbey but his methods were eventually considered controversial and he was dismissed in 1922 as a result of unease over his use of psychical research and his advocacy of a system of numerical symbolism on which he claimed the monastic buildings had been based. From 1919 he was joined in partnership with Thomas Falconer and Harold Baker. The war memorial at Nailsworth was undertaken during Bond's Glastonbury period together with further church work at the Ascension, South Twerton, near Bath, where he had added the chancel back in 1911 and further work in 1919. In 1932 Bond was ordained by the leader of the Old Catholic Church in America.

Meanwhile the Town of Nailsworth decided to erect a Town War Memorial on The Cross. A stone Celtic Memorial Cross, designed by Frederick Bligh Bond, Thomas Falconer and Harold Baker, was provided by public subscription and consecrated by the Bishop of Gloucester on 26th September 1920.

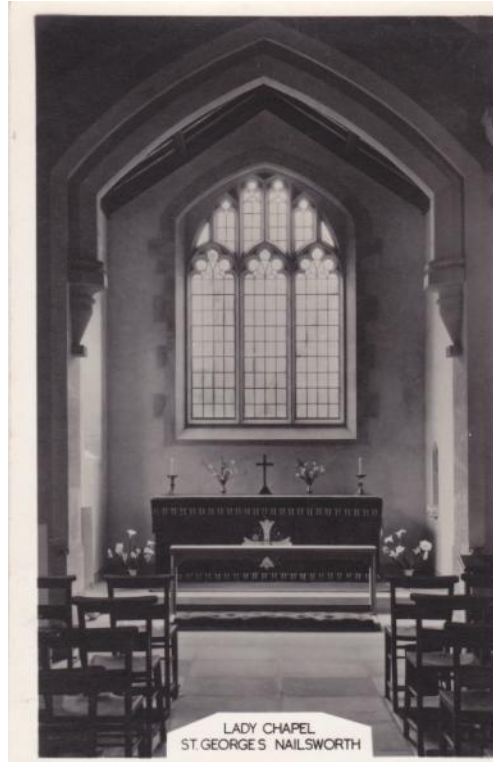
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The provision of the chancel as a further war memorial suffered a blow with the untimely death of Thomas Falconer in 1934; he was an asthmatic who smoked, that being the common cure at that time. A new architect was appointed, William Ellery Anderson, and it was he who was to design the present perpendicular-styled chancel, Lady Chapel and three vestries which have so successfully transformed St George's Church.

William Ellery Anderson and Peter Falconer

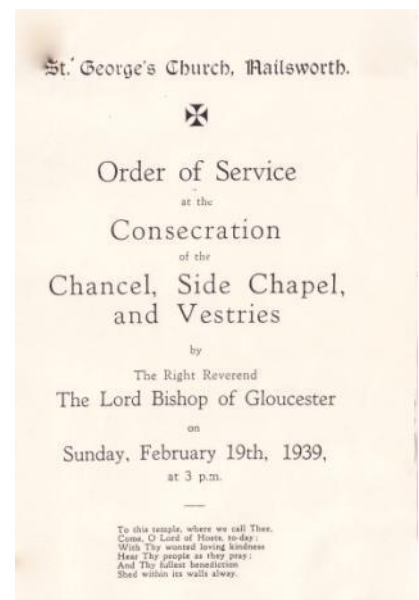
William Ellery Anderson (1887-1943) was one of the improvers, along with Martin Travers, in the office of Sir Ninian Comper in London and it has been said that only Ellery Anderson came close to Comper's standards in his own work. From 1911 until 1914, Ellery Anderson had been in partnership with Bligh Bond but this came to an acrimonious conclusion and a court case resulted in Bond having to pay Anderson £550 in damages. He later went into partnership with E.A. Roister and had an ecclesiastical practice in Cheltenham. In 1929 he oversaw the beautiful restoration and re-furnishing of the ancient St Mary's Church at Shipton Sollars. In 1933 he had designed the modest church of Holy Trinity at Primrose Hill, Lydney and also St John's Church at Little Thurrock, Essex. Later work included Holy Innocents at Kidderminster and, from 1938 to 1939, the Church of St Oswald at Coney Hill, Gloucester, which has been described as 'the best Early Christian-style in the county.' He went on to design further churches in Pembrokeshire and carried out work in many other Gloucestershire churches. Anderson and Roister were later joined in practice by Peter Falconer (1916-2003), the son of Thomas Falconer. Peter Falconer was involved with the chancel extension at St George's and later acted as church architect during the 1970s. He was acknowledged at his death as an architect with a notably varied practice ranging from designing breweries and distilleries to overseeing the remodelling of Highgrove House for the Prince of Wales.

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Sanctuary and Lady Chapel 1939

In 1938, having raised sufficient funds, Messrs Orchard and Peer were given the building contract and work soon commenced. Site clearance necessitated the demolition of the former Clerk's Cottage which had been erected during the 1820s. Phase II of the Church had cost approximately £4,200. The work was consecrated on 19th February 1939 by the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Reverend Arthur Cayley Headlam.



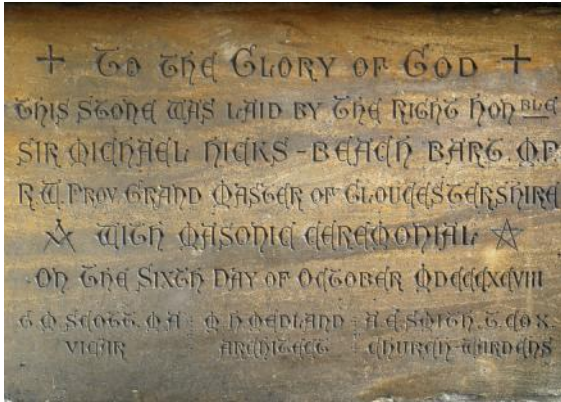
Consecration service 1939

Phase Three: Parish Rooms

Using money released from the sales of the site of Inchbrook Church and the former Inchbrook Infant School, the large vestry of St George's Church was partially demolished and extended to form two new parish rooms and a kitchen. The design was altered many times so that the structure is much larger than it was in the first plan of February 1978 and of a different shape. The architects were the Falconer Partnership and the building work was undertaken by Messrs Orchard and Peer for the cost of about £27,000. Much of the external stonework was reused and the remainder was sourced from the same quarry. The rooms were opened by the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Reverend John Yates, on 23rd March 1980 who marked the occasion by unveiling a plaque.

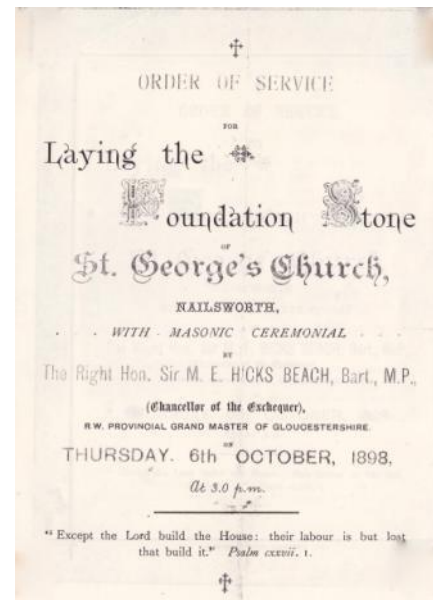
Tour of the Church

The Foundation Stone



The Foundation Stone of the church, which is situated on the east side of the South Porch, was solemnly laid on 6th October 1898 by Sir Michael Hicks-Beech, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Provincial Grand Master of Gloucestershire, at a full masonic ceremony.

The ceremony commenced at 3pm when two hundred robed freemasons processed from the schoolroom to the site. They were met by the clergy who included the Vicar of Nailsworth and Canon Bowers who was the representative of the Bishop of Gloucester. A hymn and a prayer followed and then the Vicar requested Sir Michael to lay the stone. Sir Michael received vessels of corn and ewers of wine and oil which were placed on a nearby pedestal. A further prayer and hymn followed and then the upper stone was raised and the lower stone adjusted. Sir Michael then addressed the assembled congregation and then he read the inscription on the stone. The Provincial Grand Treasurer placed a phial of coins into the cavity with a copy of the inscription on the stone. The Provincial Grand Secretary placed a plate on the lower stone. Cement was then spread on the upper face of the lower stone and Sir Michael adjusted it with a trowel. The upper stone was lowered with three distinct stops to symbolise the Trinity. Sir Michael tested the stone with a plumb line, supplied by the Junior Grand Warden, a level was then brought by the Senior Grand Warden and then a square supplied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Sir Michael gave the stone three distinct knocks with a mallet and declared the stone duly laid according to ancient custom. Finally the cornucopia containing corn and the ewers of wine and oil were then poured over the stone.



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Masonic procession to lay the foundation stone. 1898



Laying the foundation stone. 1898

Mr Medland was presented to Sir Michael and he showed the Provincial Grand Master his plans. A further hymn was sung and the collection was placed on the stone. When the ceremony drew to its conclusion the Freemasons returned to the schoolroom and a banquet in the Nailsworth Subscription Rooms followed.

The Royal Coat of Arms of King George III



George III, who was king from 1760 to 1820, was reigning in 1794 when the Pepper Pot was opened and his coat-of-arms were brought to the new church ready for the opening in 1900.

The Baptistry



The font was given and designed by the architect, Matthew Henry Medland.

The Prophetess Anna



This stained glass window, dating from about 1903, depicts the Prophetess Anna who recognised the child Jesus when he was presented in the temple at Jerusalem. It commemorates Charles Richard Vines of East Lodge, Wanstead, Essex, who died on 2nd January 1884 and his wife Emma who died at 'The Lawn', Spring Hill, Nailsworth, on 25th September 1903. Vines had been Clerk to the Brewers' and the Leathersellers' Companies.

The Kempe Windows



A set of three lights commemorate Alfred Edward Smith, (1848-1920), son of Peter Playne Smith (1810-1899) and nephew of the Nailsworth lawyers, William and George Smith. He became a partner in the Smith firm of Solicitors. When his son Geoffrey joined him in the firm it became A. E. Smith & Son and Geoffrey was the last partner of the firm descended from the original family.

A. E. Smith was elected a trustee of the Pepper Pot in 1885. He married Ellen Pavey, daughter of Dr. Henry Pavey, who

Herbert William Bryans (1856-1925)

This window bears the greyhound craftmark of Herbert Bryans. His father was a vicar and his mother was the youngest daughter of Bishop Lonsdale of Lichfield. In 1877 Herbert went to India as the manager of a tea plantation. After ten years he was returning to England through France when he saw a vineyard for sale. When the train stopped, he threw all of his luggage out and bought the vineyard on the spot! He remained there for two years making wine and then returned to England in 1889. It was at this time that he began a new career as a stained glass artist. Bryans initially trained with Kempe and worked for a time with Geoffrey Webb. He was a brother of the Rector of Minchinhampton and produced a set of windows for his brother's church between the years 1899 and 1908.

was for many years a surgeon of Church Street, known then as Chapel Street. The Smiths lived at 'The Hollies', Nailsworth Hill. He was churchwarden for forty years and was a major benefactor of the new parish church contributing over £1,000. He became the first Clerk to the Urban District Council and his son, Dr A. B. Pavey Smith, was a keen local historian.

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A.E. Smith died on 3rd September 1920 and his widow, Ellen Smith, died in her ninety-second year on 28th December 1944. She had served as President of the Nailsworth Nursing Association.

The three stained glass windows, depicting St Luke, St Paul and St Barnabas bear the trademark of the famous Charles Eamer Kempe (1837-1907), the golden garb or sheaf. They were given in 1902 in memory of A.E. Smith's father-in-law, Henry Pavey, who died in 1893.

The three depicting St Richard of Chichester, St George and St Martin of Tours were given in 1922 and are in memory of A.E. Smith himself. When the stained glass artist Charles Eamer Kempe died in 1907 his firm passed to his relative, Walter Earnest Tower (1873- 1955), who renamed the firm C. E Kempe and Co. These windows have been attributed to Tower but do not actually bear his trademark.

A Clerical Dynasty

The Vicar of Horsley from 1862 to 1869 was the Reverend Vaughan Simpson Fox and during his time there he was responsible for the building of All Saints' Church at Shortwood. He was the son of a doctor of medicine and studied at Balliol College, Oxford, and gained his M.A. in 1858. He served as the assistant curate at Leonard Stanley and during November 1860 he married Emily Frances, third daughter of the Reverend Samuel Lloyd of Stanley House, Selsley, formerly, the Vicar of Horsley.

Back In the year 1839, during the incumbency of the Reverend Samuel Lloyd (1793-1863), the whole of Horsley Parish Church, with the exception of the tower, was rebuilt – in fact for this new structure to be erected the mediaeval church was almost entirely swept away. Samuel Lloyd gave annually more than half of the proceeds that he received from the small living of Horsley and also subscribed towards his re-building project. After he left Horsley he moved to Stanley House and became the first promoter of the new church at Selsley.

Lloyd who had been the Vicar of Horsley from 1825 until 1849, had family ties with three of the ministers who served at Nailsworth. His brother-in-law was Dr Edward Dalton (1787-1876), a barrister of Dunkirk Manor House, who was closely involved with both the church at Nailsworth and at Amberley. His only daughter, Elizabeth Head Dalton, married the Reverend Augustus Turner (1821-1902) at Amberley on 19th August 1856. Her husband had served his title at Amberley but he returned to be minister at Nailsworth from 1857 until 1861. For some years Turner was Vicar of Colerne before he and his wife returned to take up residence at Dunkirk Manor House during their final years.

From 1859 to 1860 the minister of the Pepper Pot was the Reverend Allen Weare Gardiner who was the only son of the famous 'Missionary Martyr', Allen Francis Gardiner (1794-1851). Accompanied by a surgeon, a ship-carpenter, a catechist, and three Cornish fishermen Gardiner senior sailed from Liverpool on 7th September 1850 in the 'Ocean Queen', and was landed at Picton Island on 5th December. He had with him two launches, each twenty-six feet long, in which had been stowed provisions to last for six months. The Yaghan people were hostile and great thieves; the climate was severe and the country barren. Six months elapsed without the arrival of further supplies, which were detained at the Falkland Islands for want of a vessel. The unfortunate men gradually died of starvation, Gardiner, himself the last survivor, expiring, as it is believed, on 6th September 1851.

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The Reverend Allen Weare Gardiner followed his father to Patagonia as a missionary. Having returned to England he married Eliza Rose, the second daughter of the Reverend Samuel Lloyd during 1858. Later on Gardiner acted as Chaplain of Lota in Chile and as the Chaplain to the Bishop of Bathurst in New South Wales. He died in office in 1878.

From 1885 until 1886 the Reverend William Henry Lloyd was minister at Inchbrook. He was the only son of the Reverend Samuel Lloyd and had been the chaplain at Valparaiso for thirteen years.

This meant that through his father-in-law Vaughan Fox had family connections with a number of the local clergy. Although he was by now the Vicar of St Mary's, Spring Grove, Middlesex, his untimely death took place amongst the Lloyds at Stanley House, Stroud, on 27th February 1869. He was aged thirty-four-years.

'This tablet has been placed here by the Members of the Clerical Association to which he formerly belonged as a mark of the esteem and affection with which they regarded him as a Friend and Brother in Christ.'

This plaque was moved from Shortwood Church to St George's in 2011.

The Eagle Lectern



The fine brass lectern was presented in 1900 by Mr and Mrs J. S. Davis of Avening in readiness for the opening of the Church.

Dr Pratt's Pulpit



Dr James Pratt was minister of the Pepper Pot from 1879 to 1886. Like a number of the other clergy who were appointed to Nailsworth and Inchbrook he was born in Ireland and studied at Trinity College, Dublin. He worked in various Irish parishes before 1875 and, whilst working in Nailsworth, he published his 'Metrical Version of Solomon's Song'.

In 1881 Dr Pratt presented this pulpit to Nailsworth Church and Kelly's Directory, four years later, includes details of a more general refurbishment undertaken during his time:

'The church of St George consisting of apsidal chancel, with vestry and organ chamber, nave, west porch and a western tower, with domical roof, containing a clock and three bells: it was re-roofed and re-pewed in 1879, at a cost of nearly £200, the money being chiefly raised by subscriptions: a new organ was erected in 1881 at a cost of £190: there are 400 sittings, a small proportion being free.'

The Sanctuary



When the Sanctuary was consecrated in 1939 the focal English High Altar was adorned with its dorsal, riddel curtains and frontals. This composition resembled the altar piece that Ellery Anderson had designed for St Stephen's Cheltenham in the same year. The fine 'Arts and Crafts' altar rails were originally situated on the second step of the Sanctuary but were moved forward during the late 1950s to increase the space. The piscina was given in memory of Lemuel Price (1855-1932). Price lived at The Mount in Church Street and, for many years, he ran a grocery business in Market Street. He was churchwarden from 1910-1932. The Bishop's Chair, with coats of arms of the County and Diocese of Gloucester, is a memorial to Sidney Arthur Townsend, who although blind, was organist at St George's from 1922 to 1958. The beaten copper altar cross, which matches the processional cross, was given in March 1908 in memory of Miss

M.E.P. Smith by her Sunday School scholar, George Cooke.

The vaulting was coloured in 1965 and during the late 1960s there was a plan to replace the curtains behind the altar with brighter fabric and also to move the altar forward slightly but nothing came of this scheme.

The East Window



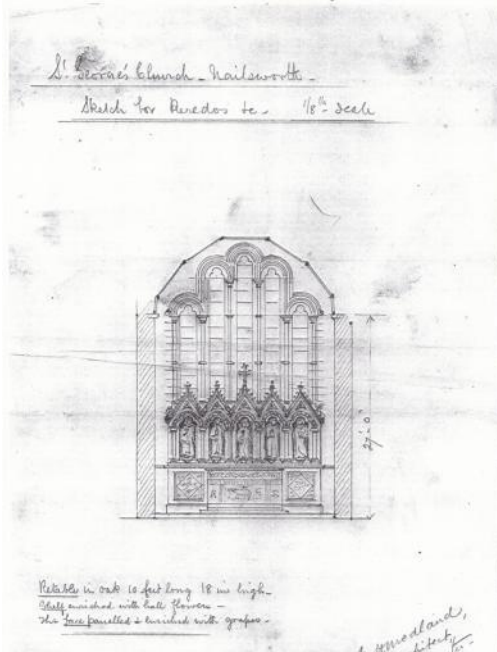
During 1968 the Reverend Peter Walker wrote to the Diocesan Advisory Committee informing them that he had received a suggestion that the plain glass in the east window be replaced with coloured glass and he was enquiring about how he should proceed. He was advised to consider a suitable replacement tinted glass but not to contemplate a scheme that would involve any form of artistic design. Two years later Peter Walker had died and it fell to his successor, John Lewis, to pursue the question of how best to enhance the sanctuary area and he turned to local architect, Peter Falconer, for help with this.

First the aumbry for the reserved sacrament was installed in a recess which had been left for it. The door was designed and painted by Edward Payne, the stained glass artist of Box. This beautiful addition was dedicated on Easter Day 1973.

Shortly afterwards a legacy was received from Miss Edith Norman in memory of her family:

'To the Vicar and Churchwardens of Nailsworth Parish Church the sum of Two thousand Pounds with a request that the same should be used in the provision of a memorial (preferably a stained glass window) to the Norman Family.'

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The original plans for the east window

In response Peter Falconer drew up a scheme for the five blank stone panels beneath the window to be adorned with painted shields showing the church, St George, Christ in blessing, St Michael and the arms of the diocese. Drawings were prepared by a retired priest, Reverend S.M. Epps, and submitted to the diocese for consideration. The scheme did not impress the members of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the parish was advised to consider a stained glass window instead.

There was some disappointment at this decision as it was felt that a modern glass might not be appropriate in Gothic tracery and that the legacy may be insufficient to fund such a massive project. In defence of the panels John Lewis wrote:

‘The position about the panels is this – the original design concept of the east end in which our present architect (Mr Peter Falconer) was involved included some art work in the 5 stone panels below the east window, and assumed that the window would remain clear. In fact the light and spacious interior of the church is highly appreciated by

many, not only for enhancing the atmosphere of services but also for enabling us to use the visual aids and drama which can be seen clearly from most parts of the building.’

The secretary of the advisory committee assured the parish that ‘a good artist would be able to utilise the stained glass in a large window only to the extent that it was not in any way interfering with the light. I dare say that if only a few of the lights were filled with stained glass you might do quite nicely for £2,000’.

A stained glass artist was sought and the commission was finally given to Peter Strong of Peter Strong and Lesley Smith Designs, of Buttress House, Queen Street, Chedworth. They had created their barn conversion studio there in 1969.

Peter Strong

After a period at Stroud Art School (c.1955) and a break for National Service, Peter studied Fine Arts (painting) at Camberwell School of Art. Subsequently he was introduced and trained to the craft of a stained glass artist by Edward Payne at Box. Peter worked with him as his apprentice on various windows in churches throughout the Gloucester diocese from about 1960. They also carried out work in Gloucester Cathedral. Edward had continued the tradition of his father Henry Payne; both were well known in the area. For a short period Peter Strong worked as a glass painter in Whitefriars glass factory in London where he gained experience of large scale decorative glass applications and manufacture.

In his own workshop at Chedworth he undertook stained glass commissions in churches as well as other architectural artworks in various media from about 1966. After the death of his father in 1982 he moved his studio to Cumbria and continued with work in that area. In 2002 Peter Strong designed and installed a major stained glass window for St Luke's Haverigg, Cumbria. It depicts the mining, fishing and agricultural heritage of the village.

He has recently completed a second window for St Michael's Church in Dalston. As well as the UK, he has work in Australia, USA, and the Falkland Islands.

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Approval was granted in February 1976 for his design and for the work to proceed. The window

In iconography the evangelists are often represented by the symbols of the four "living creatures" that draw the throne-chariot of God in the vision in the Book of Ezekiel and are reflected in the Book of Revelation. Matthew the Evangelist is symbolized by a winged man, or angel, Mark the Evangelist is symbolized by a winged lion, Luke the Evangelist is symbolized by a winged ox or bull and John the Evangelist is symbolized by an eagle.

shows representations of the symbols of the evangelists flanking the Crucifixion.

During 1978 the doorway which led into the former choir vestry was blocked up as part of the major scheme to extend the parish rooms.

The Last Supper



During 2008 a huge painting of The Last Supper was commissioned by the Parochial Church Council to hang behind the altar at St. George's. The canvas was painted by Lorna May Wadsworth, a young portrait and landscape artist.

The story begins with the PCC being advised that a church member, Alan Denman, had left them a substantial sum:

"on condition that the monies are not used for the general maintenance and repair of the church but for a mural with a religious theme preferably "The Last Supper" on the East wall of the Church behind the high altar"

Alan Denman had died on 27th January 2008, aged eighty-six-years, and left the sum of £5,000 to the church. He had moved to Nailsworth in 1959 with his wife Tina, having previously been a navigator in the RAF during the Second World War. Mr Denman, who lived in Orchard Mead, was a former churchwarden and was well-known in the town as he used to be chief public health inspector and surveyor for the former Nailsworth Urban District Council. He also volunteered help to the Women's Institute when his wife was the chairman and after she died.

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The search began to see if such a condition could be fulfilled and his dreams realised. Mr Denman's son Nigel had a client, Vicky, who painted and he mentioned it to her - she did not think she could tackle such a task herself but she had a friend who she knew from an Art College in Plymouth who was a portrait painter in London - Lorna May Wadsworth. Contact was made and Lorna was intrigued by the possibility of a commission to paint The Last Supper, having just been inspired by recent visits to Florence. She was visiting her friend in July and arranged to meet the Vicar, Stephen Earley, his Administrator, John Davis and Nigel at the church. Lorna liked the look of St George's Church and church representatives were impressed by her stunning portfolio - at the tender age of 28 she had already painted Archbishop Rowan, Lady Thatcher, umpteen Labour politicians and various other well-known folk. She was very enthusiastic about the painting and its eventual location and the measured space of 12x3 ½ feet.

Her two conditions before she accepted the commission were that she be given artistic freedom to create a painting to the best of her ability and that she be allowed to exhibit the painting in London before it came to Nailsworth - it was not feasible to paint a mural but it was agreed it could be on canvas so Lorna could paint in London to which she added a third condition - she had in mind a model for Jesus and he was black. The church PCC, on hearing of the meeting and seeing examples of her work were unanimous in agreeing to offer the commission. Lorna explained, as she painted from life she would have to locate a studio large enough to accommodate her thirteen models! After several months searching, Lorna found a studio -heated by one gas fire and started drawing and planning her composition at the beginning of November 2008, when the weather was freezing. St George's PCC was impressed by her first drawings and it was obvious she was going to create a very special painting indeed.

Prior to the start and during the painting of The Last Supper, Lorna sent regular e-mails and pictures charting the progress of her painting and giving a fascinating insight of the creation of what we are now seeing:

'22nd July 2008. - (before the painting was started)

So far I envisage a painting in the region of 12 by 3 ½ feet, depicting The Last Supper. In the manner of Da Vinci's painting the 13 figures would be seated on the same side of a long table. The composition would not be identical to Leonardo's but would be formed of individual tableaux and interactions between the figures as in Da Vinci's painting. It would be painted from life in loose vivid brush strokes, have a wonderful quality of light (I'm hoping) and be bright in colours without being garish. It would sit behind the altar and provide a focal point for the congregation.

10th September - (Lorna needed to find a studio to accommodate 13 models!)

I've finally found a suitable studio! It's available from the 27th October and I'm signing a 3 month contract for it (Hopefully will have it done in that time frame!)

The space has a lot of light, is in walking distance from my flat and is big enough for the 12 foot picture, and 13 models! So I shall spend the next weeks continuing to round up my disciples and flexing my painting arm in anticipation!

Heating is by Calor gas and apparently costs around 30 pounds for a canister which lasts 1 1/2 to 2 weeks. Other costs are model fees if I can't persuade my disciples to sit for free, paint, and a ginormous canvas

12th November 2008. (In the beginning... Lorna started drawing on 1st November)

Indeed I have been making progress. Saturday 1st was quite possibly the most stressful of my artistic career:- Waiting for Mister Blair or walking into a room to meet Lady Thatcher has nothing

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on trying to round 13 boys up in a cold corner of Hackney on a freezing Saturday the morning after Halloween...

But somehow 13 bodies arrived and I managed to make a start on getting a grip on this massive thing. I decided the best way to proceed was to give them lots of food and wine (as they weren't getting any money!) and that this would get them relaxed, getting to know each other, and give the air of a real meal taking place.

I have been drawing from the many many photos and getting boys in all week to sit for me individually as I work out where everyone should be. Some bits are coming together nicely, others need a lots more work. I've been wearing lots of clothes as the studio is freezing! The one gas heater provided doesn't quite hit the edges of the room, if you know what I mean, and I think it's only fair to aim it at the boys when they come sit, seeing as I've made them part with their jumpers to drape a pashmina around them...

19th December 2008

I had my bag stolen on Monday with my phone and camera in, which has made life very difficult. I've lost the numbers of some of my disciples! I was with one of the disciples, Lawrence who is John. I'd taken him out for a glass of wine to celebrate him being alive after he somehow managed to set himself on fire by standing too close with his trailing robe to the Calor gas heater! Thank heavens he managed to whip off the robe and stamp out the flames with his winkle pickers!

4th January 2009

I'm having a day off today as 7 days straight painting has left me exhausted. The studio is freezing and I'm having a bit of an artistic block. I tried to paint Peter Saturday and Sunday, but ended up wiping it all off on Sunday night as I wasn't convinced I'd got it right.

22nd January 2009

I've been working like a Trojan horse in a freezer all week. Here are some photos I took today after I put Judas's head in.

24th February 2009

I've been painting endless glasses of wine and plates. I have three of everything on the go - I paint one and then it gets moved down the table to the other side, like when people cross a river stepping on the same two rocks... I've attached it so you can have a look...

Friday April 3rd 2009 - "It is Finished"

Thanks for your timely email. You will be pleased to learn that the painting is finally completed. I went through a very difficult few weeks getting it finished - I was in a very black depression, It really taken a massive toll on me. But here we are, it's finally finished and I can finally relax and smell the roses.

The Last Disciple was painted last weekend, the figure far left. He is a beautiful French model who I got over from Paris on the Eurostar called Adrien.

12th May 2009 - (A planned article in the Tatler was shelved - Adrien's story)

However, silver lining: I did my last disciple, a beautiful French boy called Adrien Brunier, through the photographer on the shoot Ram Shergill who really loved the painting. He personally rang Adrien in Paris to ask him. Funnily enough, Adrien told me when he was sitting for me, that he lives in Montmartre near the Sacre Coeur. The day Ram and then I called him he'd gone into the building and stayed for a Mass. He said he wasn't religious and it was very out of character that he would do that. He said that when I called and asked him to be in a Last Supper later, this was one factor

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that made him say yes, that if he hadn't gone to that mass he wouldn't have agreed to come to London to be my much sought for Last Disciple.'

Lorna May Wadsworth

Lorna was born in Sheffield. She graduated from Falmouth College of Art in 2002 with a First in BA (Hons) Illustration, and subsequently studied at the Prince's Drawing School in Shoreditch, which was founded by Prince Charles 'as an antidote to the lack of regard for drawing within current, concept driven, Fine Art higher education'. Lorna is a young figurative artist who has persuaded many distinguished figures to sit for her including Dr Rowan Williams and Baroness Thatcher. Her work is represented in the collection of the Prince of Wales and her portrait of Home Secretary, David Blunkett, was purchased for the Permanent Collection of the Palace of Westminster when she was only twenty-three-years old. Lorna is based in Hackney, East London.

The parish applied to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for a faculty to hang the painting in the church - nothing can be installed or removed without a faculty - and this was granted on the 12th January on the basis of Lorna's description of her painting and the charcoal drawings. Lorna was excellent at e-mailing updates of her progress, together with pictures of the work in progress. Things went a little quiet for a month or so - as Lorna battled with her last disciples and the tedious job of painting umpteen glasses and the tablecloth until a glorious e-mail was received by Stephen on the 3rd April 2009, just before Easter headed "The Last Supper! It is finished!" With lots of pictures.

Lorna was shattered and needed to recuperate. Then came the difficult task of finding the right place to exhibit until it was confirmed in October that the Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar, Square was willing to host the exhibition - which could not be a better venue. They also agreed to exhibit other paintings by Lorna, under the title "Sacred or Profane" which consisted of contemporary studies of "hoodies" inspired by a painting of St Francis of Assisi in a hooded monks habit. The exhibitions were launched on the 4th March 2010 to which personalities like Lord and Lady Howe, Sir Derek Jacobi, Rolf Harris, Jarvis Cocker, Timmy Mallet and a number of the "disciples" including Tafari Hinds, a fashion super-model who was Lorna's "Jesus" were present and ran until 4th April.

The painting was then delivered to St George's and hung, with Lorna in attendance on the 8th April. The painting was unveiled by Nick Denman and his family during a special service on the 23rd April and dedicated by the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Revd. Michael Perham. During the service a piece of music entitled "Haggadah" composed by Michael Castle, musical director at Beaudesert Park Preparatory School specially for the occasion was sung by an ecumenical choir. Both the painting and music were received with much acclaim by a congregation of some 200. Lorna had gone for a much needed holiday in Sorrento and was unable to return for the service due to the volcanic ash cloud. However Tafari Hinds was able to attend and talked about what it was like being painted by Lorna and other background details.

The Nathaniel Dyer Memorial

Nathaniel Dyer was the architect of the Pepper Pot Chapel and senior chapelwarden. He died on 10th January 1833, aged eighty-one-years.



Nathaniel Dyer

'Nathaniel Dyer left in his will "£100 the interest to be applied to provide £1 1s. 0d. to the minister of Nailsworth Chapel for a sermon on the 6th day of February. 10/- to the Chapel wardens, and the remainder of the interest to be distributed in bread to the poor of Nailsworth for ever." His will made other provisions for, at his death in 1833, according to an account written on the fly-leaf of an old Bible, "His remains were by his own desire deposited on his own premises underneath a small building erected for such purpose. The interment took place the 18th June. The burial service was read by Mr. William Cocking, A.M., Rector of Minchinhampton, with the consent of the Bishop of Gloucester and the Rector of Avening, Dr. Bliss, the promises made in the lifetime of Nathaniel Dyer by William Cocking."

According to a member of his family this was done because some enemy of his had threatened to come and dance upon his grave.'
(Pavey Smith)

Nathaniel Dyer's memorial plaque, by Cooke of Gloucester, cost £5 and was transferred to the present parish church in 1900. His grave can still be visited and is situated amongst modern houses off of Spring Hill. Copies of his portrait and that of one of his wives are hung in his former home, now known as Winslow House, which is situated close by.

With the collapse of the cloth industry the poverty in the valley reached terrible proportions. In addition to the Dyer Bread Charity Miss Anne Coffin of Theescombe gave £100 for the temporal benefit of the poor attending the Nailsworth Chapel, which was distributed in clothing by her trustees during the years 1835 to 1837.

St Francis of Assisi



The carved lime wood statue of St Francis of Assisi, was given in memory of Mary Carmichael Clark (1898-1985) of the Upper House, Spring Hill. It was carved in 1986 by Paull.

The Inchbrook Font



The small stone font was brought to St George's Church when Inchbrook Iron Church was demolished in 1978.

Sir Oliver Heywood's Mural



The mural on the west wall of the church was painted by Sir Oliver Heywood during 1985 and reminds those who gaze upon it that the risen Lord continues to bless them and the whole community as they go about their daily activities. Drawings of Nailsworth scenes around the painting develop this theme reminding us that all the ages of man and all human emotions within the common experience of life in work and leisure are pervaded by Christ's gracious presence.

Sir Oliver became involved with the project as early as November 1983 when he met up with the vicar, Canon David Strong, and by the late summer of the following year he had produced a fifth scale sketch design. By December the project was being discussed by the Diocesan Advisory

Sir Oliver Heywood (1920-1992)

Sir Oliver's title derived from a forebear who was MP for Manchester in the 1830s and who was credited with many good works. After taking part in the Normandy landings in 1944, Oliver met and married Denise when peace came the following year. Though without formal training, he determined to be a painter and in 1947 they moved to a large, sixteenth century house in Wick Street, where they stayed for thirty-five years. They later moved to Rose Cottage, Elcombe where a studio cabin was erected in the garden and where he exhibited his work. His portfolio consisted mainly of landscapes from Scotland to Greece including some from around Slad. He exhibited widely over four decades. Robin Sharp, in his 'All about Elcombe', has written: 'Although essentially figurative, Oliver Heywood's paintings developed an optic from which the viewer seemed to be seeing the scene with several eyes, and in different lights, at the same time.' Sir Oliver and his wife were members of a meditation group following The Way of Contemplative Being and it was whilst dancing with friends from this group that he collapsed and died.

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Committee who considered this to be a most praiseworthy project and his photographic cartoon met with 'general and decided approval'. In February 1985 the Edwin Austin Abbey Memorial Trust Fund for Mural Painting in Great Britain was pleased to announce that a grant for £500 would be forthcoming from their E. Vincent Harris Fund for Mural Decoration.

His son Pip has written:

'The making of the mural was an interesting time. He only made two large scale murals. The other for the Trustee Savings Bank in the High Street, Stroud, long since dismantled. He and Denise, my mother, spent a month or so in and around Nailsworth, Dad sketching and Mum taking photographs. Back in his studio at Elcombe, at the top of the Slad Valley, he drafted out a small-scale version, finally transferring it to the West Wall. As you'll see from a photo on the website, children then came along and helped with some of the painting.'

The whole project cost £5,000 and Sir Oliver was able to write after the dedication: 'The service was beautiful, and we felt very moved that the mural was given such a launching. It was lovely to meet the Bishop – what a glowing person he is.... I feel profoundly grateful for having been given the opportunity of being used as a channel of expression in terms of the painting'.

Sir Oliver also wrote that the mural is looked at particularly by people leaving the church after a service. It was intended to make the transition from the contemplation of the life and teaching of Jesus, to an awareness of the Christ-Spirit working within each individual and within the community as they go about their daily activities.

'The image of the Central Heart is important. From the Risen Christ figure rays or bands extend outward, rather as arteries from a heart. Set between them are cells. The cells represent some basic aspects of our lives as individuals within a body or community.

You can see the different cells touch upon:- The Ages of Man; Work; Leisure; Worship; Festival and Civic occasion; the development of relationships; emotions such as Love, Anger and Despair, Joy and Enthusiasm; the world of Nature – flowers, butterflies, animals and birds; Landscape views in and around Nailsworth, and a reference to the historical importance of wool in the town's growth, Dunkirk mill with just below it a shield bearing two of the old Cotswold breed of sheep.

Most of the cells have been derived from people and scenes in Nailsworth, but no attempt has been made to produce a series of portraits. The picture is not intended as a comprehensive portrait of the town but as an image pointing to a wider, more universal message.

Low left, a question is suggested as people move towards the door. The figures may be considered as everyman and everywoman. Behind her is the symbol of the Spirit, the realm of awareness. Above them a computer circuit and robot hands, symbolising science, the realm of reason. Below and left, flowers symbolising our natural world.

The question which each in their own way ponders is 'How can we within ourselves and within our society bring these three areas of our experience into a balanced, evolving unity?'

Wide sweeping arcs and curving lines weave through the design, connecting up the cells to each other and to the rays, binding them together into a whole, all energised by the central heart.'

The Consecration in 1900

When we began this tour we recalled the celebrations associated with the laying of the foundation stone during October 1898. As we leave it is good to remember the sacrifices made by many Nailsworth people to build this parish church. When the new church was completed its

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consecration was planned for 9th August 1900. The service was postponed because the Ecclesiastical Commissioners had not finished drawing up of the deeds. However, on 29th November 1900, St George's Church was consecrated by Dr Edgar Charles Sumner Gibson, the Bishop of Gloucester.

The service commenced at 11.15am when the Bishop was received by the Chancellor, Registrar, Churchwardens and clergy. A petition was presented to the Bishop and the procession moved into the building during the recitation of the twenty-fourth psalm. The Bishop, seated at the communion table, was presented with the Deed of Conveyance and this was registered. The church was solemnly dedicated to St George and the Sentence of Consecration was signed by the Bishop and read out by the Chancellor. A Festive Holy Communion Service followed during which Stainer's 'Sing a Song of Praise' was sung. A public luncheon followed in the Subscription Rooms. What a wonderful day that must have been for Gilbert Maxwell Scott and the people of Nailsworth.

Tour of the Town

The National School

In 1840, two years after the nonconformists had established a British School in Northfields Road, a group of Anglican trustees bought the former Gilkes' Dissenting Academy. These buildings were purchased for £325 from John Ball and so the National School began its life. The building consisted of a first floor schoolroom with a teacher's house underneath.

The conveyance, dated 30th July 1840, was drawn up between John Ball and the Anglican trustees whose names included the Reverends Edward Arnold, John Jenkinson, Solomon Gampetz and Thomas Brooke together with local worthies Thomas Kingscote, David Ricardo and William Smith. Details from the conveyance include the following:

'Upon Trust to permit the said premises and all buildings thereon erected or to be erected to be forever hereafter appropriated and used as and for school or schools for the education of children and adults or children only of the labouring manufacturing and other poor classes in the village and hamlet of Nailsworth and its vicinity and as a residence for the teacher. Which said school shall always be conducted upon the principles of the Incorporated National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principle of the Established Church and shall be at all times open to the inspection of the government inspector.

A couple of years later the minister, John Betts, presented some of the problems confronting the new school:

Added to this, the year before I entered upon the place (for it is not a parish) there was a large infant school erected, partly by a government grant, partly by subscriptions, and partly by a legacy. And this also came upon my hands without any funds to carry it on. The subscriptions I can collect, together with the children's pence) amount on an average to about £30 to £35 and even to obtain this, I am burdened with a lodger in the schoolhouse, a thing at once very improper and inconvenient in such an establishment. On my first arrival, by retaining the elder children and forming one or two juvenile classes, the numbers steadily increased. This caused opposition, and drawing the children away from me, obliged me to dismiss one of my teachers for want of friends. Yet from past experience I am fully convinced, that could I obtain an official Master and Mistress, I should not only have a good Infant School which would support itself in a great measure but be able to add to it a School of Industry also. The rooms are spacious and well furnished with all necessary apparatus, and the juveniles still in it, making a steady progress. The moral state of the population is very low, and their habits idle, and thriftless to a great degree, making it especially desirable to train up the rising generation amongst these upon better principles. If duly sustained this school might become an especial blessing in this place. But as it is, it must gradually sink. And as I look upon the results measured as they necessarily are of the two years past I grieve to think I must in all human probability send the elder children afloat again amongst evil, whereas by a continuance under present discipline and instruction they would form a future attached and useful congregation.

In 1871 the British School became a school for boys whilst the National School became a school for girls and infants.

Having gained a grant for £250 the school trustees raised further monies through public subscriptions so as to finance the erection of a new schoolroom in 1882/3 for the total cost of £700.

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In 1905 the parishioners were informed that the Nailsworth National School required an Infant Department. Mr Medland was once again appointed as the architect and Mr E. Baldwin won the building contract for the new infant department, playground and offices.

In 1950 the schools were re-organized in Nailsworth and the National School became a co-educational Church of England Primary School whilst the British School became the secondary school for the town. With the opening of Highwood Secondary Modern School in 1964 the old British School building in Northfields Road became available for use by the Primary School too but when Highwood building was closed in 1991 the whole of the Primary School moved to Forest Green.

The Vicarage



Temporary tin church in The Chantry grounds, used 1898 – 1900.

This house, formerly known as 'The Chantry', was erected in 1894 for the first Vicar, Gilbert Maxwell Scott. The site was part of Enoch's Field, land used for the weekly cattle market from 1861 until 1891. The property was designed by Charles Aldridge of Liverpool and was the private residence of the Scotts during their time in Nailsworth.

From Whitsunday 1898 until November 1900 Anglican worship was conducted in a temporary corrugated iron church situated in the garden of 'The Chantry'. This tin tabernacle came from St Katherine's, Ledbury, and it consisted of nave, apsidal chancel and a small

vestry. Only a few of the two hundred and seventy seats were free. From August 1898 weddings could also be solemnised in the temporary church. The temporary building remained in situ until April 1901 when it was sold for £105 to Messrs J. Rolfe of Shepherd's Bush, London, who found a new home for the building in Neasdon.

Although Nailsworth had a Vicar it had no parsonage house. The design of 'The Chantry' was considered ideal for a parsonage so fund-raising began in earnest with the launch of the Vicarage Building Fund in March 1909. The asking price of £2,000 was raised by March 1911 and a further £186 was found to put the house into good order.

On the night of 14th July 1909 the Vicarage Building Fund suffered a loss of one penny which was stolen along with the contents of a bottle of wine. The thief, however, missed half a sovereign which had rolled under the lining of the alms box.

Bannut Tree House Chapel

During the late 1830s J.C. Tabram of Bannut Tree House drastically restored the ancient chapel in his grounds and also compiled a manuscript book detailing what he had discovered about the chapel and the work he, himself, had carried out there

The author of the article entitled "Nailsworth Old Chapel and Priest's House, Bannut Tree House", published in the Borough Guide sometime between 1905 and 1908, stated that the former chapel had been converted into a stable 'rather more than a hundred years ago'.

In 1831 the occupant of Bannut Tree House was James Norton. However, by 1836 the property was in the occupation of John C. Tabram. a collector of antiquities and curiosities. Clearly he took

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an interest in the history of the former chapel and he decided to put it to a more sympathetic use. At that time two other buildings were being demolished – Horsley Parish Church and Fonthill Abbey in Wiltshire.

Tabram brought curiosities from these two very different buildings to embellish his own gothic folly. Here his account of the restoration from his own manuscript book, now deposited in Gloucestershire Archives:

'Of the Chapel – Rudder says that there was formerly a chapel at Nailsworth and another at Aston. Fosebrooke says Oct 19th 1794 a new Episcopal Chapel (nearly upon the site of an old one long ago converted into a stable) of which gives no account was opened (error see Rudder & Biglands histories).

This latter is situated at the Bannut Tree Cottage in the parish of Avening – the property of George Blackwell Esq and was used many years as a stable, a part of which is now converted into an office. There was an ancient Gothic stone window frame in the East End, the upper part of which has been removed to the end appropriated for an office and filled with painted glass principally from Fonthill Abbey, also an ancient stone font or Piscina with the bottom hollowed out to serve as a basin for holding the holy water and a hole in the centre which lets the water run into a stone receiver. This curious relic has been much damaged while in the stable but has since been cleaned and removed to the end of the building Westward. Several relics of antiquity have also been found on the premises, a silver penny of Edward 1st in 1253. Also a small metal image of a female supposed to represent the Virgin Mary and a piece of a Roman pan or dish similar to that which has been discovered with the testelated pavement at Woodchester May 15th 1834.

In May 1838 the entire of the old chapel was opened for an office for Savings Bank etc.

The lower window in the East end was brought from Horsley Church and was made for the Vestry in the year 1802. The other also came from the said Church and is supposed to be 800 years old. It was in the old Chapel of the Church called St George's, the glass is all from Fonthill Abbey, the other window, the glass principally from the latter place. The coat of arms of the family of the Revd Samuel Lloyd from Wheatenhurst the family late of that manor.

Three services are known to have taken place in the building during the nineteenth century. Tabram records in his manuscript book that on 10th May 1841 the Reverend Henry Paddon preached a sermon there from the text John 2: 10 and the same clergyman preached there again on 15th June in that year. On 23rd June the Reverend John Betts conducted a baptism in the former chapel. However, the office became a private museum as the years passed by and its owner, Mr G.B. Tabram, gradually filled it with exhibits including the bell from Kynley Priory, numerous books, a collection of arrow heads, butterflies and stuffed birds. Pieces of Jacobean carving were displayed and the window jambs were decorated with shells and ladybirds.

The Upright Lawyer Fountain

In 1862 a fountain was erected, to the design of G.F. Playne, near the foot of Spring Hill, as a memorial to William Smith. William Smith, born in 1808, was the eldest son of Daniel Smith. The Smiths were local clothiers and his father had married Martha Playne of Longfords Mill. William moved out of the cloth trade and set up a legal practice in Nailsworth with his brother, George Birt Smith, and for most of the time they had offices at High Beeches. In 1861 William Smith was listed in the census as a fifty-three-year-old solicitor living at High Beeches with his two brothers and three unmarried sisters. He and his family were closely involved with the Pepper Pot, both Playnes and Smiths served as trustees. A.E. Smith was his nephew. William Smith never married and died after a sudden illness within a year of the 1861 census.

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'According to an account of a public meeting which was called to discuss the question of some memorial: "It was decided that a considering the anxiety and disinterested services of our late lamented friend for securing to the village an abundant supply of pure water this meeting is of the opinion that a drinking fountain will be the most suitable testimonial."

Who it was that composed the inscription on it is not recorded. But its commendation of William Smith as the "upright lawyer" has in the course of years given the fountain a greater publicity than was intended.' (Pavey Smith)

The Town Clock

As we know from the baptismal register the clock in the tower of the Pepper Pot was provided by public subscription in 1805. The tower also contained the bell which had been cast by John Rudhall in 1795 with a diameter of 25 inches. During 1839 two new faces were added to the clock by Mr Underwood, the local blacksmith. However, quarter bells were also added at the same time but they were inferior to the bell cast by Rudhall, and one of them had cracked by 1951.

Some notes written by J. C. Tabram offer details surrounding the events of 1839:

On the 16th of May 1839 was erected a seat in the garden an old window and other relics from Horsley Church. The seats are oak made from the celebrated pole erected to perpetuate the general peace of 1814 which I sold by auction on the 14th January 1839 in upwards of twenty pieces after been carried being carried through the neighbourhood attended by the Nailsworth Band in their scarlet uniform. 'The proceeds of the sale amounting to near five pounds with a subscription from persons in the neighbourhood amounting to £25 and upwards to defray the expenses of erecting two extra new dials for the Chapel Clock for the accommodation of the Inhabitants to be completed by the first of July 1839 for £25 by Underwood & Co, Nailsworth (minus to this day £1-8-6 ½ d & all the costs).

From the 31st March 1896 Nailsworth Urban District Council 'undertook the repairing, maintaining and winding of the public clock.' However, when the Pepper Pot was demolished the old clock was left without a home and it was soon realised that the new church would not have a tower for many years to come. In 1898 William George Clissold, prominent Baptist, brewer and first Chairman of the Urban District Council, erected, at his own expense, a temporary clock tower for the service of the inhabitants. This wooden structure which was placed on the church bank in Fountain Street, cost him £80 and it served its purpose until 1951.

'When it was first put up no one imagined its life would be more than a year or two. It actually survived over fifty, which was long enough for it to become well-known, or even notorious, as "the clock on stilts," to be described by our local poet, W.H. Davies, as a cross between a windmill and a lighthouse, and , in the course of years, to be much repaired and variously illuminated and ultimately to be replaced....' (Pavey-Smith)

After the Second World War the temporary clock tower gradually fell into a poor state of repair. The legs, having rotted, were encased in steel girder uprights and the back was built up on concrete. The gas lighting had been replaced by electricity because of the harmful effect on the mechanism and during the 1940s the pendulum fell out damaging one of the clock faces.

In 1951 it was decided to erect a new clock tower as a memorial to those who had fallen during both of the world wars. The present memorial clock tower was designed by Peter Falconer, the son of Thomas Falconer, and it was completed in 1952. At the same time Falconer was busy designing the attractive little church of St Barnabas at Box. The old bell from the Pepper Pot, cast by John Rudhall, was incorporated into the new clock tower. Today, two of the legs belonging to

Clissold's wooden clock tower can still be seen in the retaining wall opposite the Mortimer Garden.

Building the Pepper Pot

The Episcopal Chapel of St George, in the hamlet of Nailsworth and parish of Avening was built by private contributions, collected chiefly by the late Jeremiah Day, Esq. of this place, who was himself the principal contributor and superintendent of the building; the architect was the late Nathaniel Dyer, Esq. who built several seats in the neighbourhood, and directed by his will a monument, to be erected in this chapel, to commemorate him; he left also £100 to the poor attending divine service here. The chapel was opened for public worship, on 12th October 1794. It contains galleries on three sides and an organ; adjoining, are two school-rooms for Sunday scholars.

This chapel is situated on the confines of the parishes of Avening, Horsley and Minchinhampton, in the centre of a dense population; it has only a small endowment, and is in the patronage of trustees; the present resident minister is the Rev. Edward Arnold A.M.

{Alfred Smith, 1837}

Notes in the Horsley Parish Register, written by the curate, the Reverend Thomas Dudley Fosbrooke, include the following entry:

'Tradition says that the Rector of Avening was obliged originally to find a clergyman to do duty there once a day, and that there were on this account frequent disputes between the inhabitants and the Rectors. But there has been no duty done there in the memory of the oldest person living – not even Mrs. Elizabeth Castleman, of Horsley, who died 1790, aged 99 years.'

The Rector of Avening who was instituted in 1779 was the Reverend Nathaniel Thornbury whom Fosebrooke described as:

'A gentleman well known for his intimate acquaintance with most of the nations of Europe, which he repeatedly visited as well as the greatest part of England. In mineralogy, of which he has a most judiciously-selected cabinet, he possesses a great information, as well as in ancient and modern languages and general knowledge of a liberal and elegant kind. All which he enlivens by ability, vivacity and wit.'

During the last decade of the eighteenth century, meetings were taking place to discuss the building of an Episcopal Chapel in Nailsworth itself. In 1793 an appeal was launched by a committee for outside help:

'Whereas the inhabitants of Nailsworth are almost deprived of the benefit of attending Divine Worship according to the Establishment owing to the distance from, and the bad roads to, the surrounding churches. Nailsworth is a very populous village situated in the parishes of Avening and Horsley, and inhabited chiefly by people employed in different branches of the clothing manufacture – most of them with large families – consequently rendered so poor that it is entirely out of their power (of themselves) to raise a sum sufficient for the erecting of a small chapel. Two or three of the principal people residing in the said village have suggested a plan for entering into a subscription and soliciting the assistance of those who are willing to encourage such an undertaking, so that the labouring poor of the aforesaid place may have an opportunity of attending the Church on the Sabbath day.'

Dr Pavey-Smith, in his booklet 'Nailsworth 1500-1900', suggested that one of the factors that may have led to the building of a chapel was an attempt by the mill owners to stabilize the labouring

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classes who were being influenced by the spreading discontent sparked-off by the French Revolution of 1789.

Mrs Betty Mills, in her 'Portrait of Nailsworth', proposes that the building of the factory mills by speculative mill owners, who were not of local non-conformist stock and had moved into the area, were responsible for building an Anglican church as they feared the strength of the chapels where traditionally mill owners and workers worshipped side by side.

During this period Nailsworth was expanding and at times the cloth industry thrived with improved communications and the new factory mills. Certainly for some of the inhabitants a church-building was becoming increasingly desirable.

We have a record of a meeting of subscribers which is dated 31st May 1793. It is here that we find the first reference to the principles which underlie the Trust Deed of the Nailsworth Chapel:

'At a meeting of the subscribers for the erecting of a chapel at Nailsworth agreeable to the plan already exhibited to the several subscribers. The following gentlemen were nominated of the committee and approved:-

The Reverend Nathaniel Thornbury, Edward Wilbraham, Jeremiah Day, James Clutterbuck, Nathaniel Dyer.

Resolved that the named following persons – Edward Sheppard, Edward Wilbraham, Jeremiah Day, James Clutterbuck, Nathaniel Dyer, Joseph Lock, John Remmington, Thomas Smith, Edward Clutterbuck - Be and are hereby appointed chapelwardens during life but when the number is reduced to seven the said number of named shall be filled up by the choice of the majority of the survivors.

Resolved that the said committee may those of whom shall be empowered to receive the subscriptions and purchase land and attend to the erection of the chapel and seats and other necessary buildings and conduct all payments and disbursements and shall choose a Treasurer and Secretary and when the buildings are completed and the purchase money for the land paid the overplus of the subscription shall be paid to the chapelwardens or the survivors of them to be placed out at interest for the benefit of the clergyman who shall from time to time officiate and perform divine service in the chapel intended to be erected.

Resolved that the majority of the said chapelwardens and their successors and the majority of the survivors of them shall in twenty days after notice given them by the committee that the chapel is completed nominate four clergymen of the Established Church of England one of which shall be chosen and appointed within twenty days after such nominated by the Incumbent of the Parish of Avening, for the time being the care of the said chapel who shall every Sunday morning and evening at such hours as the majority of the chapelwardens shall appoint do and perform divine service according to the rites of the said Established Church in the said intended chapel and whenever a vacancy shall happen in the care of the said intended chapel the majority of the chapelwardens for the time being of the parish of Avening shall choose and appoint within twenty days in the manner before mentioned and in the case of the Incumbent of Avening for the time being or the Bishop of the Diocese of Gloucester shall within the span aforesaid neglect or refuse to appoint one of them the said chapelwardens shall appoint one of the said clergymen so nominated as aforementioned.

Resolved that the seats or pews which from time to time be erected in the said intended chapel shall be costed in the chapelwardens' accounts for the time being and shall be let and sold by them or the majority of them from time to time and the rents and profits thereof be applied for the use

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and benefit of the curate for the time being, unless the majority of the chapelwardens shall think necessary to apply part thereof for and towards the repair of the said chapel and pews such part not to exceed one fourth of the net annual rents of the seats or pews.

J. Day – Treasurer, Mr. Burgh – Secretary

Provided that in case the present Bishop of Gloucester or any future Bishop of the said diocese shall attempt or present any clergyman or clergymen to the care of the said intended chapel contrary to the manner hereinbefore directed to be placed out at interest for the benefit of the curate for the time being shall be deposed of by the majority of the chapelwardens for the time being for such charitable purposes as they shall think proper.'

The Nailsworth Trust Deed was a unique document and created a situation in which an episcopal chapel, owned and erected by the laity, was legally un-consecrated and the income derived from its pew rents was used to maintain the fabric and to pay for a minister of the Established Church to conduct services within it. Should any Rector of Avening be rash enough to stop the services, it was in the power of the trustees to "sell" the chapel if they pleased, and to convert it into a free church conventicle or a dissenting meeting house, or into anything else they pleased.

Over £700 was collected by subscription. The chief contributors were Jeremiah and Daniel Day; Nathaniel Dyer, and J.P. Westley, who each gave £50; Joseph and Philip Lock both gave £30 and Sir George Onesiphorus Paul of Hill House, Woodchester, and Lord Ducie of Spring Park (Woodchester Park) who both gave £20 towards the project. The other one hundred and three subscriptions that are listed included smaller sums ranging between ten guineas and half a guinea.

There was some difficulty over securing the actual site as the land was owned by Jane, the widow of W.C. Sheppard, and she was too elderly and frail to transact the business. The land was not transferred into the hands of the trustees until after she had died and had bequeathed her property to Thomas and Ann Shutz. William Smith actually purchased the land and he was in turn reimbursed by various chapel wardens. Some money was realised by the sale of part of the site. In fact the final figure paid out for this wonderful commanding site was £105. The deeds, which were signed on 25th January 1803, described the purchase as half an acre of land bought from W.C. Sheppard, Thomas Shutz and his wife, Ann Shutz.

Fosebrooke, in his history of Gloucestershire, gives us this summary of the events surrounding the erection of the chapel:

'The erection was principally owing to Jeremiah Day Esq, the chief inhabitant, who married the sister of John Remington Esq. of Horsley'

The building work was commenced during the summer of 1793 to the design of Nathaniel Dyer, a chapelwarden. In fact Dyer had not only contributed £50 but 'gave his services for making drawings, setting the work, superintending the building and making out the accounts, etc.' It was said that if Nathaniel Dyer, the architect; Thomas Underwood, the blacksmith; and Daniel Browning, the plumber and glazier, had not given their services free, the chapel would never have been built. Already £200 had been mortgaged and this figure rose to £203-11-9d in January 1803. The sum was finally paid off at £25 per annum until the debt was cleared in 1823.

A number of receipts for the payment of various tradesmen have survived and are now deposited with other archives in the Gloucestershire Archives. These include the following examples:

July 19th, 1793 to September 10th, 1794 - £225-11-10d for stone moving

1793 - £46-1-0d for lead

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Oak timber from E. Sheppard – 22 trees 455 feet – scaffold poles and sawpit - £39-2-6d

Lime carried to Nailsworth for masons by November 28th, 1793 - £3-16-0d

June 21st. slates and plaster up to December 20th - £32-5-6d from Thomas Pearce

Nails/screws £9-19-5 ½ d from Thos. Evans Sept 24th, 1793 – Oct 31st 1794

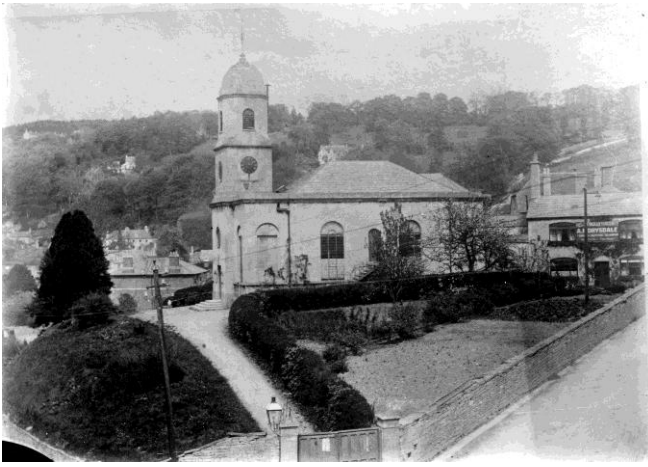
£9-3-9d – sawers (sic) 1793

Ann Davis – cushion for pulpit - £4-8-0d

Aug. 27th - £1-1-0d for Robert Harbalt – moving earth

£46-10-9 ¼ d for legal fees to John Saunders between 1797 to 1803

£10 for church plate and books



The Pepper Pot Chapel

The Nailsworth Chapel was built in a fairly restrained classical style and consisted of nave, apsidal chancel, organ and tower. The galleries and vestries were added later. The tower contained a bell cast by John Rudhall in 1795 with a diameter of 25 inches. There were 217 sittings in the chapel of which only very few were free.

Fosebrooke noted that:

'The chapel is light and elegant and does credit to the architect, Mr Dyer.'

'Nathaniel Dyer was a local character and must have been a remarkable man. In 1794 at the age of 44 he owned the George Inn and

several small houses in Nailsworth, including a shop which is mentioned in the Turnpike Minutes as "Near the George Inn." From it he conducted a wine merchant's business. He lived at "The Lawn" in Spring Hill, married in succession three widows all of whom pre-deceased him. His fourth wife survived him. Of his work as an architect there are few records. His design for the new chapel was more practical than beautiful. It was surmounted by a little tower which from its shape became known as the "Pepper Pot." But the chapel was well built and served its purpose for many years...' (Pavey Smith)

The design of the Pepper Pot may well have been influenced by two earlier chapels – Wooley (1761) and Hardenhuish (1779), one near Bath and the other near Chippenham, both attributed to John Wood the Younger. Earlier still was the Redland Chapel near Bristol by John Strahan and William Halfpenny (1740-1743).

The chapelwardens, or trustees, of the Nailsworth Chapel were all respected local citizens. John Remmington and Joseph Lock both owned mills in Horsley parish. Jeremiah Day (-1824) and his brother, Daniel Day, had operated Day's Mill from about 1784. Members of the Playne Family were also clothiers in the area operating Longfords Mill and later Dunkirk Mill.

The Stroud Journal for 25th December 1858 carried a letter concerning the Trust Deed of the Nailsworth Chapel which suggested that there were difficulties between the Rector of Avening and the chapelwardens:

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'At the time of the erection of Nailsworth Chapel, when a sardian deafness had come upon the Church of England, and when its bishops were as much asleep as were its clergy, it was the lot of Avening to be scourged with a rector who cared more for the endowments of the benefice than for the souls of the people committed to his charge... Though leaving the Nailsworth end of his parish to take care of itself, yet he had sufficient zeal and cunning to try to grasp at the control of the pious works of others, and to thwart them if not performed exactly to his mind. Tradition states that the said Rector (of Avening) on coming over with his son to inspect the rising chapel was overheard to say "Let the fools go on and when it is finished it will be mine".'

The chapel was eventually completed and, in addition to the £105 which had been paid out for the site, the building work cost £920. Fosebrook wrote in the Horsley Register:

'1794 Oct. 19. – The new Chapel of Nailsworth was opened by Rev. Anthony Keck M.A. who thereupon resigned the curacy of this parish' (19).



Interior of The Pepperpot Chapel

Anthony Keck was the son of Anthony Keck of King Stanley. He was educated at Trinity College, Oxford, and matriculated on 11th October 1784 aged eighteen years. He gained his B.A. in 1788 and M.A. in 1791. Keck had been curate of Horsley parish from 1792. He received but a meagre income at Nailsworth, but clearly had private means for he purchased the Castleman estate at Barton End. In 1803 he applied for the living of Stonehouse and finally left Nailsworth in 1811 to return to Horsley where he was licenced on 8th June 1812. He acted as curate-in-charge at Horsley until his death in November 1825.



Interior of The Pepperpot Chapel

The first year after the opening of the Nailsworth Chapel proved to be a great success for 120 baptisms were registered up to and including 10th August 1795. The initial fervour seemed to wain a little for it was not until 14th March 1813 that the three hundred and fifteenth baptism was conducted On 27th August 1804 the Bishop of Gloucester wrote to Mr Keck praising the chapel and promising to consecrate it during the following summer. This consecration never took place.

The chapel was not without financial difficulties for the minister's stipend, which was 'supported by the profits of the pews' fell from £75 per annum in 1794 to £40 in 1811. One solution for increasing the chapel's income was to erect galleries. The chapelwardens – Mr Smith, Mr Lock, Jeremiah Day and Mr Remmington all had galleries. However, this matter became divisive when the Reverend Dr Moore had a gallery erected for himself even though he was not one of the original subscribers to the chapel. In 1812 a group of chapelwardens further objected when Nathaniel Dyer not only built a gallery but created an entrance for it, from outside, without consent. He retorted by reminding this fellow wardens that they had already destroyed the proportions of the building with their own constructions.

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In 1815 the financial difficulties became so acute that a public appeal was launched for 'the case of the Episcopal Church in Nailsworth'. £320 was raised from this initiative which offset the cost of repairs and maintenance to the fabric which had resulted in escalating debts.

The Baptism Register for the chapel includes some of the major events which took place during the early days of the chapel:

'August 31st, 1805 - A new clock was set a gwain

Nothing for the whindin of hym,

Nor for his hard work.

Nothin' for the clerk's work

July 20th, 1806 – John Smyth began to be clerk at Nailsworth Chappel

December 29th, 1811 - Rev'd Mr. Cooke began to preach at our chapel, Nailsworth

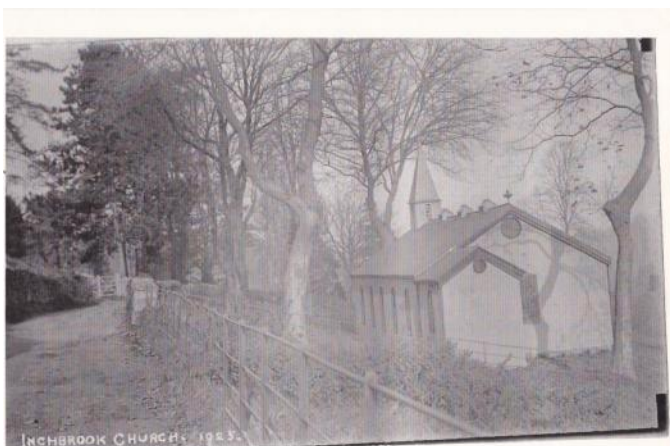
January 9th, 1812 – Began the evening lectures

February 27th, 1812 – Chandeliers put up in the chapel

During the 1820s a schoolroom and vestry were erected on either side of the chancel, and a clerk's house was built in the south east corner of the chapel yard. The school room was presumably built to accommodate the Sunday School which was attached to the chapel from 1815. Much of the old chapel yard surrounding the Pepper Pot was used for allotments. In 1865 the chapel was lit by gas.

Inchbrook Iron Church

Sometime prior to 1865 it was decided to build an Anglican Church to serve the Inchbrook and Forest Green parts of Avening Parish and to withstand the continued success of the Congregationalists and the new threat to the Established Church posed by the nearby Dominican Priory. This new chapelry was to serve the districts of Inchbrook, Dunkirk and Forest Green. A site was acquired and on Easter Sunday 1865 a small corrugated iron mission church was opened at Inchbrook.



The Inchbrook Chapel 1925

'The account in the Gloucester Advertiser of February reads: "an iron church to seat 200 costing upwards of £300 is in course of erection at Forest Green. The site is within a short distance of the Roman Catholic Chapel, and it is understood that the special object of this movement is to prevent the progress of Romanism in the locality." How much that comment was "inspired" and how much the building was really something of a strategic or tactical manoeuvre it is now impossible to say.'
(Pavey Smith)

The new chapel was owned by trustees who appointed the minister. The building was un-consecrated and consisted of a nave with 160 sittings, a chancel, western porch and eastern vestry. The small western turret with spire contained one bell.

A History of Anglicanism in Nailsworth & St George's Church

The first minister at Inchbrook would appear to be the Reverend Anthony Ralph D'Arcy. He was born in 1832 at Ginnet's Park, West Meath and served at Inchbrook for an initial three years.

In 1875 the trustees of Nailsworth Chapel suggested a scheme whereby the trustees of both Nailsworth and Inchbrook each provided £150 towards a minister who would serve both chapels and £30 would be made available for an assistant curate. From 1875 until 1885 the livings of Nailsworth and Inchbrook were thus linked and Mr D'Arcy returned to the area to serve as the minister of both chapels from 1875 until 1879. During his years away he had served as the incumbent of Kensington Chapel, Bath and as curate at Eastington. Mr D'Arcy left Nailsworth to become the Rector of Nympsfield until his death on 17th September 1894.

Crockford's Directory for 1880 states that the living of Inchbrook, which was the gift of proprietors, was worth £200 per annum whereas Nailsworth, which was the gift of trustees

In 1885 the Inchbrook trustees decided to withdraw from the scheme of having a shared incumbent and Mr Thomas Lancaster, of Bownham Park, wrote to the Nailsworth trustees annulling the arrangements. In 1889 the minister received an income of £200 and the living was in the gift of four trustees, namely Mr Thomas Lancaster of Bownham Park, Mr C.R. Baynes, Mrs Whitehead and Mrs Louisa Frith, the widow of J.G. Frith, of The Highlands, who was also the patron of Amberley Parish.

Of the trustees Mr Thomas Lancaster of Bownham Park was a manager and auditor of Amberley School as well as being a generous benefactor and Churchwarden of Amberley Church and Parochial Schools. A plaque in Amberley Church commemorates his life and a stone plaque at Brimscombe recalls his building of the school there. In 1891 he was living at Bownham with his niece, Miss Emma Molyneux. J.G. Frith, a London business man, had in 1861 purchased The Highlands, and the present house (now Beaudesert School) was being built when he died in 1868. The Friths had for many years been friends of the Lancasters of Bownham Park. Louisa Frith, his widow, was a generous supporter in her own right not only of Amberley Church but also of Amberley Parochial Schools which were commenced in 1887. She resided at The Highlands until 1897 when she died and then the property was bequeathed to her eldest daughter, Caroline, the widow of the Rev. R.E. Blackwell, the first incumbent at Amberley. The Blackwells had married in 1863 and after his retirement they lived at The Highlands until the former vicar's death in 1878. Mrs Whitehead was the widow of Ralph Ratcliffe Whitehead, a cotton manufacturer, who was living at Amberley Court. He was involved with Amberley Church and when he died in 1871 his widow continued to live at Amberley Court until about 1879. Charles R. Baynes, was a retired Indian civil servant, living at The Lammas, Minchinhampton.

In 1892 Mr Crabbe, the minister, left Inchbrook and during the following year he was replaced by the Rev Gilbert Maxwell Scott, who was already the minister at Nailsworth, and he was soon to become the first Vicar of the new parish. There is a letter surviving from 1898 which discusses the vesting of the trusteeship of Inchbrook Church in the Incumbent of Nailsworth.

The church was fairly active with its own choir, thriving Sunday school and day school. Mr Gillman was organist from 1865 until 1905 and Mrs Seabin Freem was the verger for forty years.

In 1915 the Vestry Minutes reveal that there was then a proposal to pull down the church. In the event, during 1921, a legacy of Mrs M. Pimbury was received which instead provided for the re-building, repair and decoration of the building.

Inchbrook Church itself was finally closed on 16th April 1976. It had fallen into a poor state of repair and was poorly attended. Back in 1968 it had been renovated and the spire was removed

from the bell turret. The site of the chapel was sold ten years later for housing together with the former Inchbrook Infant School building which is now a private dwelling.

Inchbrook School

An infant school, supported by the Playne Family, was commenced at Inchbrook sometime before 1879 and in 1885 there was an average attendance of sixty. In 1895 Miss Molyneux, one of the trustees of Inchbrook Church, financed the re-building of Inchbrook School for seventy children. Miss Molyneux was responsible for enlarging Brimscombe School and she supported many other charitable works in the area. Inchbrook School was built in memory of her uncle, Mr Lancaster, of Bownham Park, Amberley, who had also been a trustee of the church at Inchbrook. The cornerstone of Inchbrook School was laid by her cousin, Colonel Molyneux, on 20th June 1895 and on that happy occasion the children were all presented with buns. Miss Molyneux was sadly ill on the great day so she was later presented with the trowel as a memento. The building was designed by Matthew Henry Medland.

In 1932 the school was closed but the building re-opened as an Infant school annexe from 1957 until 1966.

The Church of All Saints, Shortwood



Shortwood Church – date unknown

The Vicar of Horsley from 1862 to 1869 was the Reverend Vaughan Simpson Fox. His widow later described how he had 'earnest desires and long cherished plans for the good of that portion of Horsley parish' known as Shortwood and that he decided that he wanted to build a chapel-of-ease there. Divine services had been conducted at Shortwood since 1853 by the Vicar of Horsley who made use of the old work house there.

The site, which was situated close to Shortwood Baptist Chapel, was made available by a friend of the Vicar and during 1864 plans were drawn up by William Clissold. The chapel was erected by Mr Edmund Clayfield of Horsley using stone from the old workhouse. The building was a relatively simple structure consisting of a chancel, nave, south porch, vestry and bell turret. The carved stone quatrefoil-shaped font and other carved stone detailing enhanced what was a fairly plain little church.

William Clissold (1837-1902)

Clissold was the son of a Bisley plumber. At the age of twenty one he was listed in the 1851 census return as an architect's clerk living at Bath Terrace, Stroud, with his architect grandfather, seventy-three-year-old William Franklin. By the year 1871 William Clissold had married and he was described in the census return for that year as an architect and surveyor of Russell Street, Stroud. William Clissold designed many buildings in the Stroud area including the former Grammar School building in Lansdown and restored and enlarged Stonehouse Church in 1884. In 1901 his address was Stanley Villas, Rodborough.

A History of Anglicanism in Nailsworth & St George's Church

'The Builder', for 19th August 1865, reported in its columns that a new chapel-of-ease had been built on the site of the old poorhouse at Shortwood and that it had been opened for divine service. The total cost, including the purchase of the site, was £900 of which £800 had already been collected.

The necessary funds were raised by public subscription and grants were made by the Warneford Trustees and the Diocesan Society. The church was dedicated to All Saints and it was consecrated by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol on 26th May 1866. On the day of the consecration the little church was: 'beautifully decorated with leaves, flowers, and illuminated texts and after the service luncheon was served in a tent on the Vicarage lawn for the Bishop and many clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood, seventy in all, interesting speeches were made by the Bishop and others.'

'The Builder', for 23rd June 1866, reported that the new church was consecrated and included a nave and chancel with a seating capacity of 200 and that all the seats were free. The style was described as 'Early Decorated' and elsewhere as 'Thirteenth Century'. The main body of the nave had windows on either side each comprising of two lights with circular lights above. The glass in these windows had purple, blue, red and yellow borders. The pointed roof has stained rafters supported by carved freestone corbels.

All Saints' Shortwood was served for a time by an assistant curate who had a specific responsibility for the church, a condition attached to the grant from the Assistant Curates' Fund.

From 1895 until 1901 All Saints' Church became the Parish Church for Nailsworth and the first marriage ceremony in the newly-formed parish took place on Saturday 23rd September 1895 at Shortwood. The couple were Alfred Stringer and Alice Elizabeth Drake and at the conclusion of the service the vicar presented the newly-weds with a beautifully bound copy of the Scriptures, complete with concordance. Burials also took place at Shortwood where there was a churchyard.

Kelly's Directory for 1897 offers the following description:

'The church of All Saints at Shortwood, 1 mile south-west, is a small building of stone in the Gothic style, consisting of chancel, nave, south porch and a turret containing one bell; pending the erection of a consecrated building, this is regarded and used as the parish church: there are 300 sittings.'

In 1905, the church was so poorly attended that the Vicar said that he found it impossible to conduct the Sunday afternoon service there because he also ran a boys' bible reading class in Nailsworth at the same time. He asked the Bishop of Gloucester to declare it a mortuary chapel as the new cemetery had been consecrated there on 12th August 1905. The Bishop approved the scheme but made a condition that there should be a monthly Holy Communion Service and another service occasionally.

A faculty, dated 1938, gave permission for electric light to be installed in 'Shortwood Mission Church'

The decision was finally taken to close All Saints' Church at Shortwood during the summer of 2009 due both to a lack of attendance at services (peaking at around twenty) and the large potential expenditure required to make the building structurally safe. An architectural survey conducted during the autumn of 2008 reported that cracks in the arches of the church could be caused by the heavy roof which is pushing out one of the walls. The church was costing roughly £1,000 to run per year and over the last ten years £20,000 had been spent on repairs. The last service led by the Bishop of Gloucester, was held on 1st November 2009, poignantly All Saints' Day.

A History of Anglicanism in Nailsworth & St George's Church

The building has been placed on the market by the Diocese of Gloucester, it being considered perfect for continued community use, or subject to consent, conversion to a variety of commercial uses such as and arts and crafts studio, workshops, galleries or offices.

The cemetery at Shortwood is the final resting place for church wardens A.E. Smith and Lemuel Price, Sidney Townsend the blind organist and George Horner who died in 1914 having been Verger at St George's for forty years. Also buried at All Saints is the Reverend Peter Charles William Walker, Vicar of Nailsworth from 1967-1970, who died in office, aged forty-two-years.

Ministers of Nailsworth Chapel

Reverend Anthony Keck, M.A. 1794-1811

Reverend Thomas Cooke, LL.B. 1811-1816

Reverend Henry Campbell, M.A. 1816-1831

Reverend John Simon Jenkinson, B.A. 1831-1837

Reverend Edward Arnold, M.A. 1837-1842

Reverend John Betts, B.A. 1842-1856

Reverend Augustus Turner, B.A. 1857-1859

Reverend Allen Weare Gardiner, M.A. 1859-1860

Reverend William Lewis Mills, M.A. 1860-1865

Reverend Edward Thomas Watson Thomas, M.A. 1865-1875

Reverend Anthony Ralph D'Arcy 1875-1879 (shared with Inchbrook)

Reverend James Pratt, M.A., D.D. 1879-1886 (shared with Inchbrook until 1885)

Reverend Frederic Peake, M.A., LL.D. 1886-1892

Reverend Gilbert Maxwell Scott, M.A. 1892-1895 (shared with Inchbrook from 1893)

Ministers of Inchbrook Church

Reverend Anthony Ralph D'Arcy 1865-1868

Reverend Thomas Alexander Aylmer Hughes, M.A. 1868-1875

Reverend Anthony Ralph D'Arcy 1875-1879 (shared with Nailsworth Church)

Reverend James Pratt, D.D. 1879-1885 (shared with Nailsworth Church)

Reverend William Henry Lloyd, M.A. 1885-1886

Reverend Henry Alfred Crabbe 1886-1892

Reverend Gilbert Maxwell Scott, M.A. 1893-1895 (shared with Nailsworth Church)

The Vicars of Nailsworth

Reverend Gilbert Maxwell Scott, M.A. 1895-1904
Reverend John William Metcalfe, M.A. 1904-1908
Reverend Frederick William Sears, M.A. 1908-1915
Reverend William Francis Wood, M.A. 1915-1922
Reverend George Adsley Piper, B.A. 1922-1935
Reverend David Francis Jeffrey Davies, M.A. 1935-1955
Reverend Cyril George Hooper Rodgers 1956-1961
Reverend Philip Joseph Bevan 1961-1967
Reverend Peter Charles William Walker 1967-1970
Reverend John Arthur Lewis, M.A. 1970-1978
Reverend Canon John David Strong 1978-2001

Vicar of the Benefice of Nailsworth with Shortwood, Horsley and Newington Bagpath with Kingscote

Reverend Stephen John Earley 2002-2013

Assistant Curates of Nailsworth Parish

Reverend William D. Cockcraft, B.A. 1896-1899
Reverend Ralph D. Kidd, M.A. 1900-1903
Reverend George H.B. Greening, M.A. 1905-1907
Reverend John W. Timson L.Th. 1908-1911
Reverend Gerard L. Bourdillon, M.A. 1912-1916
Reverend Frederick P. Simms-Reave, M.A. 1923-1928
Reverend Reginald Gammelien 1928-1931
Reverend Clyde W. Jacob, M.A. 1931-1932
Reverend Richard Elphick 1934-1936
Reverend Gordon E. Diamond, A.L.C.D. 1936-1938
Reverend Barry M. Overend, B.D., A.K.C. 1972-1974
Reverend Andrew J. Young, B.A. 1975-1976