

The clothman Nicholas Affernwell (d.1537) left a bequest of 20s. to be distributed among the poor at their own houses at his burial and a further 20s.one month later.¹³⁴³

In 1619 the churchwardens paid Sir Edward Bayntun 2s. rent annually for an almshouse,¹³⁴⁴ Its site is unknown, but in the 1650s, according to burial records, it assisted both men and women.¹³⁴⁵ It may have closed soon afterwards, as the churchwardens were paying rent for the ground where the almshouse 'latelie' stood, and in 1660 they let the almshouse ground to Thomas Harris for seven years.¹³⁴⁶ The parish continued to pay rent for the almshouse site until 1673 or later, but there is no other evidence for its existence.¹³⁴⁷

The itinerant poor were relieved by both the parish and the borough. In 1649 the borough accounts include payments of 2s. 6d. to persons with passes and 1s. 4d. to seven soldiers.¹³⁴⁸ The churchwardens' accounts also record people being given relief, probably travellers with a brief authorising them to ask for charity because of misfortune, such as the 'distressed minister' relieved in 1673.¹³⁴⁹ Poor townspeople might additionally benefit from charities set up for their relief,¹³⁵⁰ and from charitable donations made in wills, such as the £5 left by Elizabeth Hawkins in 1659.¹³⁵¹ Overseers' accounts survive from 1705. The 18th-century accounts show them relieving the poor either by regular monthly payments, or by 'extraordinary' or occasional payments. They also paid rent for certain poor people.¹³⁵²

A short-lived parish workhouse was set up in 1736,¹³⁵³ and was still functioning in December 1739, but not by April 1740 when its contents were sold.¹³⁵⁴ Abandoning the project appears to have increased the overseers' expenditure in subsequent years, and this may have led in 1753 to the decision to re-establish a parish workhouse, and appoint a master and mistress at a salary not exceeding £20.¹³⁵⁵ This workhouse is said to have stood in Mac's yard in the Butts in Chippenham.¹³⁵⁶ Certainly by 1830 or earlier the parish workhouse was on the site of a former cloth factory in the Butts.¹³⁵⁷

The offerings made at parish church services were sometimes used for poor relief. In 1783 the vicar, Thomas Weekes Dalby, distributed the proceeds of the offertory to the poor in the form of bread, meat or clothing.¹³⁵⁸

¹³⁴³ TNA, PROB 11/27/240.

¹³⁴⁴ WSA, 415/6, f. 1v; it is referenced slightly earlier, in 1612: WSA, 122/1.

¹³⁴⁵ WSA, 811/7.

¹³⁴⁶ WSA, 415/6, f.57v; 811/95, f. 31r.

¹³⁴⁷ WSA, 415/6, f. 83r.

¹³⁴⁸ *Recs. Chippenham*, 218–19.

¹³⁴⁹ WSA, 415/6, ff. 65v, 83r.

¹³⁵⁰ below, charities for the poor.

¹³⁵¹ TNA, PROB 11/292/179.

¹³⁵² WSA, 811/123, ff. 89v–92r.

¹³⁵³ WSA, 811/125, f. 131v.

¹³⁵⁴ WSA, 811/125, f. 191v.

¹³⁵⁵ WSA, 811/126.

¹³⁵⁶ A. Platts, *A History of Chippenham AD 853–1946* (1947), 55–8.

¹³⁵⁷ WSA, H5/190/1.

¹³⁵⁸ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 61–2.

Under 1834 legislation poor law unions were established, administered by a locally elected board of guardians. The Chippenham union, when inaugurated in 1835, embraced Chippenham and 28 surrounding parishes.¹³⁵⁹ The 1834 Act severely restricted payment of outdoor relief, so that individuals and families had either to attempt to survive without any assistance, or enter the workhouse, which many refused to do.¹³⁶⁰ Nevertheless, the existing 18th-century Chippenham workhouse and the Lacock workhouse were inadequate for the needs of the union's poor, and concerns were expressed that at the Chippenham workhouse young people were being kept with adult criminals and undesirables. A single workhouse, it was suggested, would also be cheaper to run than maintaining both Chippenham and Lacock establishments.¹³⁶¹

In 1857 the guardians voted to build a new workhouse at Chippenham, and identified a suitable 8 a. site at Rowden Hill, available for £200 per acre. A Bournemouth, architect Christopher Creeke was contracted to design the new building, the guardians having visited his workhouse at Blandford Forum (Dorset). In 1858 the tender of R.P. Watts, a Chippenham builder, was accepted, and a loan of £13,100 agreed for site purchase and the construction costs.¹³⁶² The inmates of the former workhouses moved to their new accommodation in 1859, and the guardians began holding their meetings there. The old workhouse buildings at Chippenham and Lacock were sold.¹³⁶³

The 1834 Act did not restrict private charity in the town.¹³⁶⁴ In 1853 Charles Bailey, a Chippenham surgeon, established a charity to provide accommodation for distressed members of the medical profession or their widows, and six villas were built at Brookfield in Langley Burrell.¹³⁶⁵ The subsequent history of the charity is obscure.¹³⁶⁶

In 1884 five cottages were built as almshouses on land at Lowden, the gift of Elizabeth Utterson.¹³⁶⁷ The charity provided accommodation for aged and infirm women of the parish who had to be members of the Church of England. The occupant of the central cottage (which could be a married couple) was to act as caretaker, but the other four dwellings were for women only. The bequest included an investment to provide the occupants with a weekly allowance, which in 1905 was 3s.6d. in winter and 3s. in summer. They paid no rent, although

¹³⁵⁹ WSA, H5/110/1. The parishes were Avon, Biddestone St Nicholas, Biddestone St Peter, Box, Castle Combe, Chippenham, Christian Malford, Colerne, Corsham, Ditteridge, Draycot Cerne, Grittleton, Hardenhuish, Kington Langley, Kington St Michael, Lacock, Langley Burrell, Leigh Delamere, Littleton Drew, Nettleton, North Wraxall, Pewsham, Seagry, Slaughterford, Stanton St Quinton, Sutton Benger, Tytherton Kellaways, West Kington and Yatton Keynell.

¹³⁶⁰ WSA, H5/110/1.

¹³⁶¹ WSA, H5/110/11.

¹³⁶² WSA, H5/110/11.

¹³⁶³ WSA, H5/110/11; WSA, H5/190/1.

¹³⁶⁴ See below, 'Charities for the Poor'.

¹³⁶⁵ WSA, 873/211. They seem to have stood along the Bristol road: *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1875 edn.).

¹³⁶⁶ It may have become linked to the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund: see <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 14 Jun. 2017).

¹³⁶⁷ WSA, 2568/13; Thomson, *Wilts. Almshouses*, 40–1.

a small amount could be charged to cover necessary repairs, insurance and administrative costs.¹³⁶⁸ In 2023 the charity continued to manage the five almshouses for elderly residents.¹³⁶⁹

Some out-relief continued to be given to deserving cases by the Chippenham guardians after 1834, such as those unable to work through infirmity, or for the expenses of burying a child.¹³⁷⁰ In 1864/5 867 persons from Chippenham were assisted by out-relief in a 12-month period,¹³⁷¹ but the total in 1890/1 had decreased to 591.¹³⁷²

A charity soup kitchen operated in St Mary street in winter on two or three days a week from 1867 or earlier, where eligible poor could buy a quart of soup for a penny.¹³⁷³ In 1888, a year of great hardship in the town, the soup kitchen supplied bread free of charge,¹³⁷⁴ and a relief fund provided further assistance.¹³⁷⁵ The soup kitchen may have continued until 1915, perhaps intermittently, but its history is obscure.¹³⁷⁶

Churches and chapels may have assisted their own poor. In 1916/17 the vicar and churchwardens had established a fund for the poor and needy, which had collected and distributed £17 8s. 5d., the money coming from a £10 donation, and collections and thank offerings in the church.¹³⁷⁷

Notwithstanding such relief, the workhouse remained the place of last resort for the poor. In a 12-month period 1864/5 107 men, women and children from Chippenham had been resident in the workhouse for periods varying from a few days to six months or longer, out of a total of 630 persons admitted from the whole union.¹³⁷⁸ The equivalent in 1890/1 was 164 Chippenham poor out of 456 in total.¹³⁷⁹ Vagrants were admitted on a casual basis, as they had been in the old workhouse in the Butts.¹³⁸⁰ By 1880 the workhouse employed a married couple as master and matron, a chaplain, medical officer, schoolmaster and mistress, porter, nurse and assistant nurse.¹³⁸¹ The guardians also appointed, besides the workhouse medical officer, a union medical officer and a vaccination officer.¹³⁸²

When old age pensions were introduced in 1909 and limited unemployment and sickness benefits in 1911, the threat of the workhouse receded for many poor persons. Workhouse numbers did not decrease significantly to begin with: 279 paupers were admitted to the Chippenham workhouse in the year 1911/12, and 237 in the year 1914/15.¹³⁸³ But the

¹³⁶⁸ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 274–6.

¹³⁶⁹ <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk> (accessed 5 Apr. 2023).

¹³⁷⁰ WSA, H5/142/1–8.

¹³⁷¹ WSA, H5/142/2.

¹³⁷² WSA, H5/142/7.

¹³⁷³ WSA, G19/991/1–2.

¹³⁷⁴ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 15 Mar. 1888, 8.

¹³⁷⁵ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 15 Mar. 1888, 8.

¹³⁷⁶ WSA, G19/991/1–2.

¹³⁷⁷ WBR, WILBR 5600.

¹³⁷⁸ WSA, H5/142/2.

¹³⁷⁹ WSA, H5/142/7.

¹³⁸⁰ WSA, H5/142/1–8.

¹³⁸¹ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1880 edn.).

¹³⁸² *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1880 edn.).

¹³⁸³ WSA, H5/142/8.

workhouse, later the Chippenham institution,¹³⁸⁴ increasingly concentrated on admitting those unable to care for themselves.¹³⁸⁵ On a night in January 1930, of 171 persons relieved in Chippenham institutions, 44 adults were sick or infirm, 83 certified under the Lunacy or other Acts, and only 34 were not suffering some form of infirmity.¹³⁸⁶ Ten children were cared for in institutions, probably in a cottage home at Velley Hill (Corsham).¹³⁸⁷ The workhouse continued in use until the advent of the National Health Service, when it became St Andrew's Hospital, later Chippenham Community Hospital. Much of the 1859 workhouse still survives as part of the hospital premises.

Charities for the Poor

From 1600 onwards charitable gifts to the Chippenham poor are recorded, often as loans to tradesmen. Mr Bull had given £20 to use as £5 loans and Sir Henry Bayntun left £20 for loans of £6 13s. 4d. Between 1603 and 1639 the bailiff and burgesses administered various gifts to support the poor ranging from 20s. to £10, from six individual benefactors.¹³⁸⁸

Charitable money used as loans proved difficult. Some benefactions given to assist young married couples and the elderly poor, it was noted c.1609, had not been used as intended, and it was resolved to limit any payment to between £3 and £5, to be loaned only to those whom it was intended to assist.¹³⁸⁹ In 1617 a memorandum noted that many borrowers had not repaid their loan, and had to be pursued, since the money was unavailable to assist others in need, and potential benefactors were discouraged. The bailiff and burgesses resolved to take legal action to recover money lent in this way.¹³⁹⁰

Despite their endeavours all these early gifts were eventually lost. Reports on charities in 1834 and 1908 could find no information,¹³⁹¹ and noted that parliamentary returns of 1786 made no mention of them.¹³⁹²

The difficulties encountered in administering loans may have encouraged later charitable donors to make straightforward gifts of money, clothing, food or fuel. The number of charities giving clothing or blankets to the poor may reflect the importance of the cloth trade in Chippenham. These later charities used the interest on an endowment of property or investments to provide an income. In the 1870s some were appropriated to provide scholarships for secondary education.¹³⁹³ Many survived into the late 20th century, although those with a fixed endowment saw their income decline in real terms, leading to eventual removal from the register of the Charity Commission.

¹³⁸⁴ WSA, F13/207/1–2.

¹³⁸⁵ Ruth Marshall, *Chippenham Memories* (2005), 87.

¹³⁸⁶ *Persons in Receipt of Poor-Law Relief* (Parl. Papers 1930 (146), xxv), 453.

¹³⁸⁷ <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Chippenham/> (accessed 22 Oct. 2017).

¹³⁸⁸ *Recs. Chippenham*, 16–18, 325.

¹³⁸⁹ *Recs. Chippenham*, 35.

¹³⁹⁰ *Recs. Chippenham*, 45–6.

¹³⁹¹ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 240.

¹³⁹² *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 276.

¹³⁹³ Below, 'Education'.

Ann Bradbury's Charity: In 1834 Ann Bradbury bequeathed the interest on £100 to provide blankets for the aged and deserving poor of Chippenham on St Thomas's Day, excepting every fifth year, when the money was to be used to maintain the tomb of her sisters in the churchyard, and any surplus to go to the vicar and churchwardens for their pains. In 1904 it was noted that the tomb had last been repaired in 1896, and 24 blankets had been distributed in 1903.¹³⁹⁴ In 1917 nine blankets were purchased for distribution.¹³⁹⁵ The charity's income from the interest declined in real terms, and by 1948 it was disbursed as cash gifts of 5s.¹³⁹⁶ It still existed in 1962 but had ceased by 1998.¹³⁹⁷

Rebekah Church's Charity: In her will of 1842 Rebekah Church bequeathed the residue of her estate, which amounted to £304,¹³⁹⁸ to be invested, and the interest used to provide cloaks on 1 November each year to poor elderly women of the parish.¹³⁹⁹ In a 1908 report it was stated, without explanation, that the cloaks were to be marked 'R. Scott'. By 1904 16 cloaks, no longer badged, were usually distributed each year.¹⁴⁰⁰ During and after the First World War coats, rather than cloaks, were distributed. The number of recipients declined as the interest's purchasing power reduced, though between four and six coats were still distributed every year from 1920 to 1936. Rugs were distributed after the Second World War.¹⁴⁰¹ The charity was recorded as registered in 1965 but had ceased by 2005.¹⁴⁰²

William Colborne's or The Freeman's Charity: This charity, known by both names, was established by William Colborne in 1769 by investing £1,000 in trusts, the dividends to be used to assist freemen and their widows, in money, clothes, provisions or otherwise at the trustees' discretion. Only one dated distribution, in 1822, was made between 1798 and 1828–9, when Anthony Guy, who kept the accounts, was declared bankrupt.¹⁴⁰³

By 1834 dividends between 10s. and £3 were distributed annually in or around January to poor freemen and their widows, according to need. In 1833 35 persons received assistance. By 1896 only 47 persons were entitled to benefit from the charity, none of whom was in necessitous circumstances. The funds were therefore appropriated to a charitable foundation, administered by the governing body of Chippenham District County School, for educational purposes. This foundation, approved in 1900, included the charities of Bridge, Colborne, Ray, Scott and Woodroffe, and one-fourth of Sir Francis Popham's gift.¹⁴⁰⁴

¹³⁹⁴ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 269–70.

¹³⁹⁵ WBR, WILBR 5600.

¹³⁹⁶ WSA, L2/58.

¹³⁹⁷ <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

¹³⁹⁸ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 162–5.

¹³⁹⁹ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 271–3.

¹⁴⁰⁰ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 271–3.

¹⁴⁰¹ WSA, L2/59.

¹⁴⁰² <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

¹⁴⁰³ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239–40.

¹⁴⁰⁴ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 248–52.

Robert Gale's Charity: Robert Gale, a London citizen and vintner, in 1628 bequeathed £20 annually to the Chippenham poor, from his estates of Claypool (Lincs.) and Brassington (Derbs.), to be distributed at the parish church on the feast of St Thomas by the bailiff and six of the oldest burgesses. They were to receive 20s. for their pains, and a further 20s. was to be paid to a preacher for a sermon.¹⁴⁰⁵

Surviving records suggest that the poor benefitted from the charity throughout the 18th century.¹⁴⁰⁶ The 1834 report stated that £22 was paid annually to the bailiff of Chippenham from the estates of Christ's Hospital in London, less 5s. for the receiver's pains. The vicar preached the annual sermon, but remitted his 20s. to the poor. The clerk and sexton received 10s. out of the charity for distributing the gift, which was paid in half crowns (2s. 6d.) to all the deserving second poor (those not receiving poor relief) of the town of Chippenham, and on occasion to the whole parish.¹⁴⁰⁷

In 1902 the charity benefitted 169 poor persons resident in the ancient parish, who were given 2s. 6d. each.¹⁴⁰⁸ The vicar received £1 for preaching a sermon, 3s. was paid to the sexton, and £1 towards a dinner for the trustees. The charity continued to make cash gifts to the poor, increased to 5s. by 1942; between 1951 and 1954 between 71 and 75 persons still benefitted annually.¹⁴⁰⁹ By 2014 the income was still £22 a year, which was received and distributed with Sir Francis Popham's charity.¹⁴¹⁰

Goldney's Charity: In 1681 (will proved in 1684), Gabriel Goldney bequeathed lands and a house to his nephew, on condition that he and his heirs should pay the sum of £6 yearly to buy six coats for honest poor labouring men of the parish of Chippenham. Initially these were distributed at or around Christmas each year,¹⁴¹¹ and in 1904 the six coats were still distributed annually.¹⁴¹² The charity later amalgamated with others to operate under the working name of 'Goldney and Gundry with John Wicks and Ann Bradbury'. As the Goldney and Gundry Charity it was registered with the Charity Commission in 1967 but voluntarily removed from the register in 2009.¹⁴¹³

Gundry's Charity: William Gundry, in a codicil dated 1851 to his will of 1844, bequeathed £500, the interest to be expended on coals or clothing for the poor residing in the parish of Chippenham. Beneficiaries received 1½ cwt of coal, known as 'Valentine' coal because it was distributed annually on 14 February, Gundry's birthday.¹⁴¹⁴ In 1904 131 persons received

¹⁴⁰⁵ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 236.

¹⁴⁰⁶ *Recs. Chippenham*, 92, 94.

¹⁴⁰⁷ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 236

¹⁴⁰⁸ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 260–1.

¹⁴⁰⁹ WSA, L2/59.

¹⁴¹⁰ <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

¹⁴¹¹ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 236.

¹⁴¹² *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 247.

¹⁴¹³ <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

¹⁴¹⁴ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 273.

coal.¹⁴¹⁵ The value of the endowment declined, so that by the 1920s in some years only 1 cwt per person was distributed. By 1948 50 persons received 1 cwt of coal.¹⁴¹⁶ In 1967 the charity was amalgamated with the Goldney charity to form the Goldney and Gundry Charity.¹⁴¹⁷

Mrs Hawkins's Charity: In 1638 Mrs Hawkins of Chippenham left the interest of £10 to be paid by the bailiff to six poor widows of freemen. By 1834 the interest at 6% was 12s. annually, and continued to be distributed to six poor freemen's widows on Candlemas day.¹⁴¹⁸ By 1904 10s. per year was being distributed, but only a few widows were eligible.¹⁴¹⁹ From 1905 to 1930 one widow each year received 10s., but in 1931 income fell to 8s. 8d., which appears to have been distributed annually to one poor widow at least until 1954.¹⁴²⁰ By 2015 the charity was no longer in existence.¹⁴²¹

Sir Francis Popham's Charity: Sir Francis Popham gave lands at Foxham in Bremhill and Dale Mead in Christian Malford to benefit poor freemen. The first payment of £6 was made on All Saints' Day 1638. By 1826 the charity's property had been let for seven years for £21 per annum, and the income was distributed at £2 each to nominated poor freemen; if a single pound remained it was given to the junior of the freemen. The Dole Mead land was sold in 1839 and 1842, and the money invested. A meeting in 1873 agreed that money should be taken from the charity's funds and added to those of Scott's, Woodroffe, Bridges and Ray's charities to make up to £50 the annual income of the newly-established fund for educational purposes. One quarter of Sir Francis Popham's endowment was to be used for educational purposes in Chippenham. Of the money not thus earmarked, £6 was to be distributed to poor freemen or their widows, and the remainder to poor persons residing in the borough, after various deductions.¹⁴²² In 2014 Sir Francis Popham's Charity had an income of £10,640, and its activities were stated to be the benefit of the poor and needy of the parish by annual distribution by trustees.¹⁴²³

Ray's Charity: In 1615 Thomas Ray of Salisbury bequeathed his house and tenements in Gigant Street, Salisbury to poor clothiers in Trowbridge, Chippenham, Westbury and Marlborough in turns. By 1834 the property consisted of 13 very small tenements in Gigant Street, all in bad repair, which realised total annual rent of £30. Anthony Guy of Chippenham administered the charity 1817–29 on behalf of all four towns, but was found on his bankruptcy in 1829 not to have kept proper accounts, and the distribution had not taken

¹⁴¹⁵ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 273.

¹⁴¹⁶ WSA, L2/59.

¹⁴¹⁷ WSA, 811/228.

¹⁴¹⁸ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 162–5; *Endowed Charities*, 1908, 236.

¹⁴¹⁹ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 261.

¹⁴²⁰ WSA, L2/60.

¹⁴²¹ <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).¹⁴²¹

¹⁴²² *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 237, 247, 248, 261–2. The 1834 report gave the first payment date, erroneously, as 1735.

¹⁴²³ <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

place in accordance with Ray's will. Perhaps resulting from losses of over £43 sustained during Guy's administration, the annual rent on the properties was increased.¹⁴²⁴ In 1873 it was decided to appropriate for educational purposes the income from Ray's charity, then about £12 annually.¹⁴²⁵ All property was sold in 1877 for £1,120 and the money invested, Chippenham receiving one quarter share.¹⁴²⁶

Robert Sadler's Charity: In his will of 1838 Robert Sadler left the interest on £300, stipulating that no more than £20 annually should be spent on keeping his tomb in good repair, the remainder to provide drab cloaks of the type known as 'Duffel' to poor elderly women of Chippenham parish. The distribution was to take place annually on 17 October, his birthday. Sadler's estate was insufficient to provide £300, and the charity was established with £80 17s. By 1903 it distributed coats to men, rather than cloaks to women, perhaps because women received cloaks from Rebekah Church's charity. Eight coats were given away in 1903, though none in 1902.¹⁴²⁷ The charity is recorded as registered in 1962 but was removed from the register in 2001.¹⁴²⁸

Henry Smith's Charity: In 1642 Henry Smith, a London citizen and silversmith, left an estate at Longney (Glos.) in trust to the Governors of Christ's Hospital for the benefit of 23 parishes, including Chippenham. The rents from the estate were to relieve the poor in purchasing clothing of one colour with some badge in remembrance of the donor, or else in distributing bread, meat or fish on every Sabbath day, publicly in the church.¹⁴²⁹

Chippenham's share of Henry Smith's gift seems to have been distributed on or near St Thomas's Day, 21 December. In 1645 10 men and 15 women were provided with coats at a cost of £8 11s. 4d. No accounts or lists of recipients exist for some years, so distribution may not have been annual.¹⁴³⁰ By 1766 coats were distributed to men only, and the number reduced to seven, costing £17 16s. 7½d.; in 1767 ten coats were distributed.¹⁴³¹ After 1800 this number had increased, to 27 in 1818/19 and 23 in 1819/20,¹⁴³² perhaps because a cheaper cloth was used. The badge required by Henry Smith was still sewn on to the coats in 1834.¹⁴³³

By 1904 eight or nine coats worth 25s. each were usually given away each winter, and no longer bore any distinctive mark to show that they were Henry Smith's gift.¹⁴³⁴ By 1917 the charity distributed beef to the poor,¹⁴³⁵ and later widened its remit to cover assisting the poor, sick, disabled or elderly within Chippenham parish, and providing funds for almshouses and

¹⁴²⁴ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 235–6.

¹⁴²⁵ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 247.

¹⁴²⁶ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 248.

¹⁴²⁷ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 270–1.

¹⁴²⁸ <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

¹⁴²⁹ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 162–5; *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 237; WSA, 811/92, vol.1, ff. 1r–3r.

¹⁴³⁰ WSA, 415/6, ff. 94r–104v.

¹⁴³¹ WSA, 811/92, vol. 1, ff. 4v–5r.

¹⁴³² WSA, 811/92, vol. 1, f. 10r.

¹⁴³³ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 238.

¹⁴³⁴ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 265.

¹⁴³⁵ WBR, WILBR 5600.

facilities within churches and church halls if benefiting the poor, infirm or elderly. It was voluntarily removed from the Charity Commission register in 2009.¹⁴³⁶

Wicks's Charity: John Wicks (d. 1689), gentleman of Chippenham, left 8½ a. in Pipsmore Field to the minister and churchwardens to provide clothing for the poor of the town and parish, to be distributed annually on 29 or 30 March.¹⁴³⁷ The minister and churchwardens received 6s. 8d., and leased the land throughout the 18th century.¹⁴³⁸ By 1783 William Pope paid £8 rent annually for the 'Shirt and Shift Grounds', though by 1792 it was known as the 'Smock-grounds'.¹⁴³⁹

In 1767 27 men and women received garments from the charity, and 24 men and women in 1770.¹⁴⁴⁰ By 1819 the charity received £18 in rent and distributed 45 shifts to women and 30 shirts to men.¹⁴⁴¹ In 1837 63 men and 94 women received garments,¹⁴⁴² and 72 men and 70 women in 1847.¹⁴⁴³ By 1834, and for some time before, distribution had been made at Christmas rather than March, and the annual rent received was £18 10s. Rather more shifts than shirts were made each year, but equal amounts were spent on men and women, and the minister and churchwardens give their 6s.8d. to the charity.¹⁴⁴⁴ By 1905 about 50 garments were distributed annually,¹⁴⁴⁵ and 42 were made up in 1917.¹⁴⁴⁶ The charity was recorded as registered with the Charity Commission in 1962 but was removed in 1998.¹⁴⁴⁷

Medical Practitioners and Hospitals

In 1611 a serious outbreak of plague in Chippenham continued for some five months. The parish register recorded that of 180 people buried in the year to March 1612, 130 were plague victims.¹⁴⁴⁸ The outbreak severely strained the town's resources, though through the mediation of local magistrates nearby towns provided support.¹⁴⁴⁹

Stringent measures were imposed throughout Wiltshire whenever plague threatened. In 1666 the Wiltshire magistrates prohibited inhabitants of the county from receiving goods from areas affected by the plague, and imposed restrictions on innkeepers offering hospitality and on the movements of pedlars and beggars.¹⁴⁵⁰ Such measures seem to have succeeded in Chippenham, as the town recorded no further plague epidemics after 1611.

¹⁴³⁶ <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

¹⁴³⁷ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 164.

¹⁴³⁸ WSA, 811/92, ff. 1r-2r.

¹⁴³⁹ WSA, 811/92, vol. 2, ff 19v, 24v.

¹⁴⁴⁰ WSA, 811/92, vol. 2, ff. 9r, 66r-66v.

¹⁴⁴¹ WSA, 811/92, vol. 1, f. 11r.

¹⁴⁴² WSA, 811/92, vol. 1, ff. 46r-47r.

¹⁴⁴³ WSA, 811/92, vol. 1, ff. 66r-67r.

¹⁴⁴⁴ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 238.

¹⁴⁴⁵ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 265.

¹⁴⁴⁶ WBR, WILBR 5600.

¹⁴⁴⁷ <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk> (accessed 22 Oct. 2015).

¹⁴⁴⁸ WSA, 811/6.

¹⁴⁴⁹ *VCH Wilts*, V, 319-20; *Recs. Chippenham*, 38.

¹⁴⁵⁰ WSA, 212B/7195.

Repeatedly until widespread vaccination became common in the 19th century, smallpox was another devastating infectious disease that afflicted Chippenham, and a particularly serious epidemic visited the town in 1711.¹⁴⁵¹ In 1748 the overseers' accounts referred to an isolation house, probably for smallpox and other infectious diseases, though for how long it existed is unknown.¹⁴⁵² Campaigns to control smallpox saw 429 people inoculated in 1779, 136 in 1785, and 273 in 1793.¹⁴⁵³ In 1829 townspeople infected with smallpox were threatened with prosecution if they exposed others, but poor children were offered free vaccination.¹⁴⁵⁴ Cholera was another threat, with nine deaths in the town during the epidemic of 1831–2.¹⁴⁵⁵

Medical practitioners in Chippenham in the early modern period were largely barber-surgeons and apothecaries, rather than physicians.¹⁴⁵⁶ Only two midwives, Joan Drake (1588) and Joan Bond (1622), occur in burial registers.¹⁴⁵⁷ In 1783 three surgeons were practising in Chippenham,¹⁴⁵⁸ and in the early 1790s four men were described as 'surgeon, apothecary and man-midwife', and one as apothecary and druggist.¹⁴⁵⁹ Physicians are known to have practiced in the town, among them William Gale (d. 1688 or 1689).¹⁴⁶⁰

By 1842 four surgeons resided in Chippenham, and four chemists and druggists.¹⁴⁶¹ Modern general practice began to develop during the later 19th century. In 1875 two physicians (both practising as physicians and surgeons) were listed in a trade directory.¹⁴⁶²

Doctors' fees could be prohibitive for working people, who could mitigate the impact of such fees by paying a regular amount into a 'club'. One Chippenham practice operated such a club whereby each family paid 1s. per month to cover all medicines and fees.¹⁴⁶³

Chippenham lacked hospital provision until 1899, when a cottage hospital was built along London Road, with eight beds.¹⁴⁶⁴ By 1903 it could accommodate 16 patients and had an operating theatre.¹⁴⁶⁵ Later known as the District Hospital, it served the town until 1994, when the site was sold and the buildings demolished.¹⁴⁶⁶ Also in 1899 a district joint isolation Hospital with 32 beds was built at Frogwell.¹⁴⁶⁷ at an eventual cost of £1,372.¹⁴⁶⁸ it was later renamed Frogwell Hospital. In 1987 it had 13 general practitioner beds, a ten-bed unit for

¹⁴⁵¹ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 102.

¹⁴⁵² WSA, 811/126.

¹⁴⁵³ *VCH Wilts*, V, 323.

¹⁴⁵⁴ WSA, 811/100.

¹⁴⁵⁵ *VCH Wilts*, V, 324.

¹⁴⁵⁶ WSA, 811/6, 7; Peter Elmer, research document on Wiltshire medical practitioners, n.d.

¹⁴⁵⁷ WSA, 811/6.

¹⁴⁵⁸ *Early Trade Dirs* (WRS. 47).

¹⁴⁵⁹ *Early Trade Dirs* (WRS. 47).

¹⁴⁶⁰ TNA, PROB 11/395, ff. 129v-131r.

¹⁴⁶¹ *Early Trade Dirs* (WRS. 47).

¹⁴⁶² *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1875 edn.).

¹⁴⁶³ WSA, 4236/7.

¹⁴⁶⁴ WBR, WILBR B9392; *Burdett's Hosp. Annual* (1899), 370.

¹⁴⁶⁵ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1903 edn.); WSA, 4236/7.

¹⁴⁶⁶ WBR, WILBR B9392; WSA, 4236/7.

¹⁴⁶⁷ WSA, J1/166/1.

¹⁴⁶⁸ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1911 edn.).

young disabled persons, and physiotherapy facilities.¹⁴⁶⁹ In 1995 the site, along Lords Mead, was sold for residential development.¹⁴⁷⁰

During the First World War a Red Cross hospital, staffed with Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurses, operated in the Town Hall, which had been altered for the purpose. The first patients arrived on 5 November 1915. Demand was such that the original provision of 40 beds was inadequate; a further 40 were added in August 1916, and by November 1916 100 beds were available. By this time the hospital had expanded into the Neeld Hall and the Corn Exchange.¹⁴⁷¹

Maternity provision was basic, and most births still took place at home, until in 1924 a scheme was introduced in Wiltshire to allow expectant mothers two free ante-natal examinations,¹⁴⁷² and an infant welfare clinic opened in Chippenham in 1925.¹⁴⁷³ Complicated midwifery cases were referred to Corsham maternity home until a new facility at Greenways was opened in the early days of the National Health Service,¹⁴⁷⁴ it has since been demolished.¹⁴⁷⁵

St Andrew's Hospital was established shortly after the creation of the National Health Service in the former workhouse at Rowden Hill, by then a public assistance institution. Nearby Rowden Hill House became a nurses' home.¹⁴⁷⁶ By 1959 the hospital had 156 beds and 56 nursing staff.¹⁴⁷⁷ Although many new buildings were later added to the site, the original 1859 workhouse building was retained. The hospital, renamed Chippenham Community Hospital, continued to serve the town in 2023.

COMMUNAL LIFE

Law and Order

A 19th-century historian branded Chippenham as 'notorious for riotous assemblages of the populace'.¹⁴⁷⁸ Shortly after the town received its charter in 1554 riots and unlawful assemblies, incurred fines, and in 1630 there were disturbances at the enclosure of Pewsham forest. In 1643 William Iles was killed by a soldier in St Mary street,¹⁴⁷⁹ and in 1647 the townspeople attacked excise officers and the quarters of Sir Thomas Fairfax's troops. There was a riot at Chippenham in 1673, against five of the justices then sitting in the town, including Sir Edward Bayntun and Sir Edward Hungerford. The local postmaster was suspected of being involved, and the postal service disrupted.¹⁴⁸⁰ Rioters destroyed a turnpike gate in 1727, and

¹⁴⁶⁹ WSA, J1/164/15.

¹⁴⁷⁰ WBR, WILBR B2217.

¹⁴⁷¹ WSA, 1769/56; R. Alder, *Unity and Loyalty* (Chippenham Studies 5, 2021).

¹⁴⁷² WSA, 4236/7.

¹⁴⁷³ *VCH Wilts*, V, 335.

¹⁴⁷⁴ *VCH Wilts*, V, 335; WSA, 4236/7.

¹⁴⁷⁵ *Buttercross Bulletin*, 77 (Nov. 1995), 4–5.

¹⁴⁷⁶ WBR, WILBR B4404; WSA, 1911/8HC, 9HC.

¹⁴⁷⁷ *Wilts. Times*, 11 Sept. 1959.

¹⁴⁷⁸ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 107.

¹⁴⁷⁹ WSA, 811/6.

¹⁴⁸⁰ *Cal. SP Dom.* 1672–3, 445.

further riots were reported in 1765 and 1767.¹⁴⁸¹ Highwaymen robbed racegoers in 1742,¹⁴⁸² and in 1782 William Pease robbed a Chippenham coach; he was executed in Salisbury and his body hung in chains near the site of the crime.¹⁴⁸³ Chippenham also saw other serious crime, including an arson attack on a flour mill in 1816.¹⁴⁸⁴

A prosecuting society, the Chippenham Association for the Prevention of Robbery and Thefts and the Protection of the Persons and Property of the Members, was founded in 1809. Its membership subscriptions were used to fund rewards for information leading to the conviction of poachers and other offenders, and it contributed towards the costs of prosecution lawyers and witnesses in criminal cases. It, or a successor society, met in 1868 as the Chippenham Town Association for the Prosecution of Felons.¹⁴⁸⁵

Occasional riots persisted nevertheless. In 1822 a dispute between the men of Chippenham and Kington Langley led to street rioting in Chippenham in which two men were killed and several people injured. Nine of the eleven rioters committed for trial in 1823 were discharged, and the remaining two acquitted.¹⁴⁸⁶ During agricultural rioting in 1830 Chippenham itself remained untouched (despite arson at Pewsham), but apparently only because the rioters fled on hearing a rumour that troops were coming.¹⁴⁸⁷

Following his defeat to Conservatives at the borough parliamentary election in 1865, the Liberal candidate William Lysley's supporters rioted, attacking the premises of known Conservative supporters, and caused damage estimated at over £1,000.¹⁴⁸⁸ In 1874 the diarist Francis Kilvert wrote of threatening behaviour by the mob at another borough election. This passed off more peacefully, but the disturbance may have prompted a resolution passed later that year to appoint two police constables for the borough, rather than one.¹⁴⁸⁹

A borough lock-up, recorded as such as late as 1888, was situated under the council chamber in the Yelde Hall.¹⁴⁹⁰

Benefit and Friendly Societies

Friendly societies flourished during the late-18th and 19th centuries, providing financial support to their members in cases of sickness and death, as well as social fellowship.¹⁴⁹¹ A number were established in Chippenham during the 19th century, usually holding their meetings in one of the town's inns. Under legislation between 1793 and 1855 such societies had to have their rules enrolled and certified. The earliest known Chippenham society to be enrolled was the Society of Broad and Narrow Cloth Weavers in 1794, followed by an unnamed society meeting at the Bear Inn in 1806, the Friendly Society of Clothworkers (1807),

¹⁴⁸¹ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 107–8; *Recs. Chippenham*, xi–xvii.

¹⁴⁸² *Stamford Mercury*, 26 Aug. 1742, 3; *Derby Mercury*, 26 Aug. 1742, 3.

¹⁴⁸³ WAM, 48 (1937–9), 429.

¹⁴⁸⁴ WSA, 1959/5, 132–3; *Morning Chronicle*, 3 December 1816.

¹⁴⁸⁵ WSA, 415/439.

¹⁴⁸⁶ WSA, 541/3.

¹⁴⁸⁷ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 110–11.

¹⁴⁸⁸ WSA, 137/99.

¹⁴⁸⁹ Kilvert, *Diary*, II, 407–10; *Recs. Chippenham*, 176.

¹⁴⁹⁰ *Recs. Chippenham*, 185, 186.

¹⁴⁹¹ D. Hey (ed.), *Oxford Companion to Local and Family History* (1998), 195.

the Royal Oak and Friendly Society of Handicraft Tradesmen (1808), the Tradesmen's Philanthropic Society (1833), a society meeting at the Great Western Inn (1837), the Order of Odd Fellows (1844), the Chippenham Friendly Society meeting in the Baptist chapel vestry (1851), the Ancient Order of Foresters (1853) and the Wiltshire Loyal and Independent Benefit Society (1854).¹⁴⁹²

Some of these societies may have been short-lived. By 1847 only three societies were active in Chippenham: the Tradesman's Philanthropic Society, the Odd Fellows, and an unnamed society meeting at the Three Crowns Inn, possibly the same as that previously meeting in the Great Western Inn. This folded in 1855. The Wiltshire Loyal and Independent Benefit Society lasted under two years, closing in 1856.¹⁴⁹³

Societies often held an annual dinner or similar event around Whitsuntide. The Unity and Loyalty Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows held their annual festival in May 1888, where it was reported that the Chippenham branch had spent £120 in sick pay and £52 in funeral allowances during the previous year.¹⁴⁹⁴

Benefit and friendly societies continued to operate in the town well into the 20th century. In 1939 the Wiltshire Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society, the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society, Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows, Pioneer Sick Benefit & Provident Society, the United Patriots Benefit Society, the Royal Liver Friendly Society, the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society and the Stroud Mutual Benefit Society were all listed in a trade directory, along with a Freemasons' lodge. Some may have retained their social club role, and continued to provide financial support to members in need, many were more akin to financial institutions than the benefit and friendly societies of the previous century.¹⁴⁹⁵

Recreation

A 'new recreation ground' opened in 1889.¹⁴⁹⁶ A recreation ground shown on a 1912 map along Cocklebury Road, behind the secondary school,¹⁴⁹⁷ may have later become part of the school grounds.

John Coles, a Birmingham chemist, settled in Chippenham, and on his death in 1916 left £4,000 for the culture and education of the townspeople. His legacy contributed towards the purchase of 15 a. of land as a recreation ground.¹⁴⁹⁸ The park, known as John Coles Park, opened in 1923.¹⁴⁹⁹ That summer it hosted a carnival and display of motor vehicles in aid of the Cottage Hospital.¹⁵⁰⁰

¹⁴⁹² WSA, A1/390. It is not known at which Baptist chapel the Chippenham Friendly Society was meeting.

¹⁴⁹³ WSA, A1/390.

¹⁴⁹⁴ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 24 May 1888, 8.

¹⁴⁹⁵ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.* (1939 edn.).

¹⁴⁹⁶ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 7 Nov. 1889, 3.

¹⁴⁹⁷ OS Map 25", Wilts XX.14 (1912 edn.).

¹⁴⁹⁸ M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (2011), 16–17.

¹⁴⁹⁹ WSA, 1769/97(i).

¹⁵⁰⁰ *Wilts. Times*, 21 Jul. 1923, 5.

The Monkton Park estate, sold in 1919,¹⁵⁰¹ was by c.1960 in council ownership and, as the housing estates around it were built, the grounds were developed for recreational purposes. A golf course was established, and an open-air swimming pool built.¹⁵⁰² A third facility, Stanley Park, had been established as a sports ground before 2016.

Libraries and Museum

Chippenham Literary and Scientific Institution was founded in 1833, and by 1834 had 45 members and 78 volumes in its library. Various artefacts and scientific apparatus had been donated, including a pair of globes from Joseph Neeld M.P. By 1835 the society had use of a room in which to house its library and collections,¹⁵⁰³ and by 1875 it was based in premises on the Market Place.¹⁵⁰⁴ In 1887, in celebration of Victoria's golden jubilee, it was proposed to erect a purpose-built building in the Market Place for a literary and scientific institution, to be used by the inhabitants of the town and beyond for purposes connected with science, literature and the arts; it had opened by 1889. The land was given by Sir John Neeld.¹⁵⁰⁵

In 1925 Chippenham Council decide to establish a branch of the county library scheme in the town, worked by voluntary effort and without cost to the rates.¹⁵⁰⁶ By 1939 the library was established in the Jubilee Building, which was also the Literary and Scientific Institution office.¹⁵⁰⁷ A purpose built public library, which served as divisional headquarters of Wiltshire Library & Museum Service, was opened in Timber Street in 1973, and remained in use in 2024.¹⁵⁰⁸ Other libraries may also have been established in the town, including a working men's library existing at Landsend in 1857,¹⁵⁰⁹ and a Boots library operating in 1949.¹⁵¹⁰

Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre opened in 2000 in premises fronting the Market Place, succeeding an earlier museum in the Yelde Hall.

Cultural Life

There was no cinema in Chippenham before 1913, but moving picture shows were occasionally shown at Poole's Yard and in a wooden shack near St Paul's school. A public hall and roller-skating rink, built along Station Hill in 1910, showed films from 1911.¹⁵¹¹ In 1913 the hall was leased to Albany Ward, who operated several cinemas in the west country. He refurbished it as the Palace cinema, whose façade can still be seen on Station Hill.¹⁵¹² The Chippenham Public Hall and Skating Rink Ltd voluntarily wound itself up in 1920 and Ward

¹⁵⁰¹ WSA, G19/155/7.

¹⁵⁰² M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now*, 48–49; M.Stone, *Chippenham: Town and City Memories* (2006).

¹⁵⁰³ WSA, G19/992/1.

¹⁵⁰⁴ WSA, 415/465; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1875 edn.).

¹⁵⁰⁵ WSA, G19/150/50.

¹⁵⁰⁶ *Western Daily Press*, 23 Jul. 1925, 9.

¹⁵⁰⁷ *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1939 edn.).

¹⁵⁰⁸ Information from Dr John Chandler.

¹⁵⁰⁹ *Som. and Wilts. Jnl.*, 19 Dec. 1857.

¹⁵¹⁰ *Wilts. Times*, 17 Sept. 1949, 2.

¹⁵¹¹ WSA, G19 760/57; Sheldon School, *Early Cinema in Chippenham 1911–1936* (1984).

¹⁵¹² Sheldon School, *Early Cinema in Chippenham*.

may have given up the lease at this point.¹⁵¹³ The Palace cinema continued to operate until 1936, when the Gaumont opened in Timber Street.¹⁵¹⁴ It operated as the Odeon from 1962 and Classic Cinema from 1967 until 1974, when it closed. The building was used as a warehouse and then, from 1981, as a nightclub, Goldiggers. This had ceased to operate by 2000. In 2005, the site was sold and the building was subsequently demolished to make way for a development of retirement flats and shops.¹⁵¹⁵ The Astoria cinema opened in Marshfield Road c.1938,¹⁵¹⁶ and continued to trade (as the Reel cinema) in 2023.

The Cause music and arts venue opened in 2002. The former Methodist church building had previously been sold to North Wiltshire District Council, who left it vacant for many years before putting it on the market in 2000.¹⁵¹⁷ In 2015 another venue, the Neeld Community and Arts Centre, was re-opened following a major refurbishment.¹⁵¹⁸

Sport

Horseracing is recorded in Chippenham in 1742, when robberies occurred at a race meeting, and newspapers reported racing in the 1760s and 1790s.¹⁵¹⁹ Horseracing took place in the town during the period 1808–16,¹⁵²⁰ but appears to have been discontinued, since an attempt was made in 1839 to re-establish it. As the races were run on borough-owned land, the mayor was able to defeat the proposal over concerns of immorality at such occasions.¹⁵²¹ Race meetings are known to have been held in 1857, 1898, and 1901.¹⁵²²

A Chippenham football club was formed in 1873,¹⁵²³ and was active throughout the 1880s.¹⁵²⁴ Before the Second World War the two main clubs in the town were Chippenham Town and Chippenham Rovers. After the war interest in football surged, so that over 2,000 people are said to have attended matches by either team.¹⁵²⁵ A third team, Chippenham United, was formed in 1947, and became professional in 1948 with a reserve team of amateurs, playing on a ground at The Firs, Hungerdown Road.¹⁵²⁶ As interest in the game declined Chippenham Rovers amalgamated in 1960 with Corsham, on whose ground Rovers had been playing. United folded in 1962, and their ground became a residential

¹⁵¹³ WSA, G19/994/9.

¹⁵¹⁴ Sheldon School, *Early Cinema in Chippenham*.

¹⁵¹⁵ E. Davis, 'Goldiggers Remembered', *Buttercross Bulletin*, issue 176/177 (Sept. 2020), 27–31.

¹⁵¹⁶ WSA, G19 760/404, 428.

¹⁵¹⁷ <http://thecausemusicandarts.com/history-of-the-building/> (accessed 18 Feb. 2016).

¹⁵¹⁸ *Talk Chippenham* (Autumn 2015), 1; <http://www.chippenham.gov.uk/neeld/> (accessed 29 Mar. 2016).

¹⁵¹⁹ *Stamford Mercury*, 26 Aug. 1742, 3; *Derby Mercury*, 26 Aug. 1742, 3; *Bath Chronicle*, 20 Sept. 1764, 4; *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 8 Sept. 1766, 3; *Bath Chronicle*, 19 Sept. 1793 3; 30 Aug. 1798, 3.

¹⁵²⁰ *VCH Wilts*, IV, 381; J. H. Thomas, 'Society, economy and sport in Wiltshire 1700–1914: some initial thoughts', *WAM*, 102 (2009), 275–87, at 281.

¹⁵²¹ *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 9 Sept. 1839, 4; 30 Sept. 1839, 4.

¹⁵²² *Hampshire Advertiser*, 10 Oct. 1857, 4; *Bath Chronicle*, 25 Aug. 1898, 5; *Sporting Life*, 7 Nov. 1901, 2.

¹⁵²³ S. and D. Webb, *Town United: Chippenham and its football club* (2019), 5.

¹⁵²⁴ *Bristol Mercury*, 23 Feb. 1886, 6; *Bath Chronicle*, 11 Aug. 1887, 2; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 15 Mar. 1888, 8.

¹⁵²⁵ D. Twydell, *Defunct F. C.: Club Histories and Statistics* (s.l., n.d.), 63, 65.

¹⁵²⁶ Webb, *Town United*, 102–4.

development.¹⁵²⁷ Chippenham Town was still playing in 2023, based at its ground at Hardenhuish Park on the Bristol Road.¹⁵²⁸

A rugby football club had been established by 1899.¹⁵²⁹ During the 1950s it purchased a field between Greenways and Langley Road, and when this was sold for housing development in the 1980s it moved to a new ground at Allington Field, where a modern clubhouse was built.¹⁵³⁰

A meeting in 1859 agreed to form a rifle club.¹⁵³¹

A cricket match was played at Chippenham races in 1798, although not until 1837 was a cricket club established in the town.¹⁵³² By 1888 there may have been three cricket clubs meeting in Chippenham: the Town, Langley Burrell and Avon clubs. The Avon club later disbanded, but the Town club secured a permanent ground at Hardenhuish Park in 1889, where it was still playing in 1959.¹⁵³³

A swimming club was founded in the town, c.1877, based from 1878 at a bathing place beside the Avon, where a shed was erected for bathers to change.¹⁵³⁴ It was in use until shortly after the Second World War.¹⁵³⁵ In 1948 the baths were closed following concerns over pollution from the open river. Swimmers had to use facilities in other towns until a public open-air swimming pool was opened at Monkton Park in 1960.¹⁵³⁶ A new indoor swimming pool was opened at the Olympiad sports centre in 1989, and despite local opposition the Monkton Park baths were demolished.¹⁵³⁷

Other sports known to have been played in the town from the late 19th century included a hockey club, formed in 1890,¹⁵³⁸ and a golf club established in 1896.¹⁵³⁹ The cricket ground at Hardenhuish Park was used for archery practice, and a bowls club was established at Hardenhuish Park in 1912, where croquet may also have been played.¹⁵⁴⁰ There were two lawn tennis courts at Pond's Island in 1886,¹⁵⁴¹ and a tennis club had been established by 1930,¹⁵⁴² by 1934, and still in 1951, it played on courts at Hardenhuish Park.¹⁵⁴³ By 1938

¹⁵²⁷ Twydell, *Defunct F. C.*, 67, 68, 82, 90, 92–3; Webb, *Town United*, 159.

¹⁵²⁸ Chronicled in detail, to 2019, in Webb, *Town United*.

¹⁵²⁹ *Wilts. Times*, 9 Sept. 1899, 8.

¹⁵³⁰ <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/chippenham/a/history-7652.html> (accessed 28 Jan. 2024).

¹⁵³¹ *Bath Chronicle*, 10 Nov. 1859, 3.

¹⁵³² *Bath Chronicle*, 30 Aug. 1798, 3; *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 3 Jul. 1837, 3; *Southampton Herald*, 16 Sept. 1837, 2.

¹⁵³³ WM Library, Mss 282 Box 244 Chippenham Cricket Club, typescript 'Chippenham Cricket Club 1842–1959' by Arnold Platts and H. S. Northover.

¹⁵³⁴ WSA, 1769/53.

¹⁵³⁵ WSA, G19/760/112; *Bath Chronicle*, 22 Mar. 1900, 7; *Wilts. Times*, 20 Feb. 1909, 5; *Wilts. Times*, 9 Oct. 1954, 12; M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (Stroud, 2011), 48–9.

¹⁵³⁶ WSA, G19/168/1; *Wilts. Times*, 9 Oct. 1954, 12; M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (Stroud, 2011), 48–9.

¹⁵³⁷ WSA, 3632/4/5; M. Stone, *Chippenham Then & Now* (Stroud, 2011), 48–9.

¹⁵³⁸ WM Library, Mss 282 Box 244.

¹⁵³⁹ WSA, 3010/19.

¹⁵⁴⁰ WM Library, Mss 282 Box 244.

¹⁵⁴¹ WM Library, Mss 282 Box 244.

¹⁵⁴² OS Map 1:500, Wilts. XXVI.2.4 (1886 edn.); WM Library, Mss 282 Box 244.

¹⁵⁴³ WSA, 4055/1–2.

tennis, cricket, bowls, hockey and croquet clubs were using the Hardenhuish Park sports ground.¹⁵⁴⁴

By 2016, in addition to tennis and bowling facilities at John Coles Park, sports facilities were also provided at the Stanley Park sports centre. These included an artificial grass pitch and a BMX track, as well as facilities for local football clubs.¹⁵⁴⁵ Other facilities in the town included the Olympiad swimming pool and golf facilities at Monkton Park.

Allotments

In 1840 Joseph Neeld granted land for allotments for deserving cottagers in his neighbourhood, and £3 to be distributed to those whose allotments were the best cultivated.¹⁵⁴⁶ Allotment gardening was well-established in the town by 1878, when classes for allotment holders were part of that year's horticultural show.¹⁵⁴⁷

The Allotments Act, 1887, required local authorities to provide allotments if there was a demand, but it was reported that Chippenham was already well-supplied with plots.¹⁵⁴⁸ Maps of 1886 and 1900 show allotment sites in and around the town, though many of these were later lost to Chippenham's expanding residential development,¹⁵⁴⁹ including allotment gardens at London Road by the Quaker burial ground, developed for housing between 1924 and 1937.¹⁵⁵⁰ Allotment land was not entirely lost to development, and by 2016 Chippenham Garden & Allotment Society was managing six sites on behalf of Chippenham Town Council.¹⁵⁵¹

Societies and Events

As a market town Chippenham was a focus for local cultural life, and a number of societies are known to have existed in the town, though many may have been short-lived. A book club may have been established in 1809, and there are records of a book club from 1812, 1829 and 1862.¹⁵⁵² William Herschel, musician and astronomer (he discovered Uranus in 1781) performed in Chippenham in 1773.¹⁵⁵³

An active music scene was encouraged by James Morris Coombs, organist at St Andrew's church 1789–1820, who composed sacred and secular music, edited the anthology *Divine Amusement* (1819–20), and directed benefit services for the dependants of Waterloo casualties.¹⁵⁵⁴ His eponymous son, also a composer, succeeded him as organist, and directed a

¹⁵⁴⁴ WSA, 4055/1, 206–7.

¹⁵⁴⁵ <http://www.chippenham.gov.uk/stanley-park/> (accessed 29 Mar. 2016).

¹⁵⁴⁶ *Bristol Mercury*, 4 Apr. 1840, 2.

¹⁵⁴⁷ *Bristol Mercury*, 29 Aug. 1878, 3.

¹⁵⁴⁸ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 8 Mar. 1888, 8.

¹⁵⁴⁹ OS Map 25", Wilts. XX.14 (1886, 1900, 1912, 1924, 1936 edns.).

¹⁵⁵⁰ OS Map 25", Wilts. XXVI.2 (1924, 1937 edns.).

¹⁵⁵¹ <https://chippenhamallotments.wordpress.com/> (accessed 26 Apr. 2016).

¹⁵⁵² WSA, 1769/74.

¹⁵⁵³ *Bath Chronicle*, 2 Sept. 1773, 3.

¹⁵⁵⁴ C. Kent, *Music, Organs and Composers of St. Andrew's Parish Church Chippenham*, (3rd edn, 2019), 14–20, 116–17.

music festival in Chippenham in 1822.¹⁵⁵⁵ Local and visiting musicians performed secular music in 19th-century Chippenham;¹⁵⁵⁶ Chippenham Harmonic Society was founded in 1838, and Chippenham Choral Association in 1858.¹⁵⁵⁷ A Gilbert and Sullivan society (founded 1911), and an amateur operatic and dramatic society (1913),¹⁵⁵⁸ were both affected by the First World War, but productions resumed in peace-time.¹⁵⁵⁹ The operatic and dramatic society was wound up in 1937 due to lack of interest among male members,¹⁵⁶⁰ although an amateur dramatic society (not operatic) was in existence by 1953.¹⁵⁶¹

The Salvation Army formed a brass band in 1886,¹⁵⁶² and the Chippenham Town Silver Band had formed before 1900. It became prominent in the Wessex Brass Band Association, but membership fell and it closed in 1953. It was reformed in 1992 as a military style wind band, Chippenham Town Band, and continued to perform in 2022.¹⁵⁶³

Weekend festivals have sometimes been held to celebrate the music of American singer Eddie Cochran, fatally injured in a car accident on Rowden Hill in 1960.¹⁵⁶⁴ The town also hosts an annual folk music festival, the 50th being held in 2023.¹⁵⁶⁵ The folk festival has a long connection with a Morris side founded in 1977, the Chippenham Town Morris Men.¹⁵⁶⁶

Horticultural and related societies held annual competitions and displays in the 19th century. A dahlia society held its first annual show in 1835,¹⁵⁶⁷ and a horticultural society was established c.1871.¹⁵⁶⁸ Shows were particularly popular after 1900, held at various times for spring flowers, sweet peas, roses and chrysanthemums.¹⁵⁶⁹ A flower club for floral art was established in 1962 and continued to mount floral displays in the parish church and elsewhere in 2023.¹⁵⁷⁰

A Temperance Society was established by 1863,¹⁵⁷¹ when Revd Robert Martyn Ashe sold land in Foghamshire for £425, on which a Temperance Hall had been built in 1863.¹⁵⁷² In

¹⁵⁵⁵ Kent, *Music, Organs and Composers*, 22–9, 117.

¹⁵⁵⁶ WSA, G19/996/1; Kent, *Music, Organs and Composers*, 42.

¹⁵⁵⁷ Kent, *Music, Organs and Composers*, 42.

¹⁵⁵⁸ WSA, G19/996/2.

¹⁵⁵⁹ WSA, G19/996/1, 2.

¹⁵⁶⁰ *Wilts. Times*, 1 Jan. 1938, 5.

¹⁵⁶¹ Wiltshire Museum Library, Mss 282, Box 344.

¹⁵⁶² *The Local Officer*, Jun. 1905, 412; programme for Jubilee Celebrations 1881–1931, in Chippenham Salvation Army Corps History book, 1938–1974.

¹⁵⁶³ <https://www.chippenhamtownband.org.uk/> (accessed 5 Apr. 2023).

¹⁵⁶⁴ http://www.bbc.co.uk/wiltshire/content/articles/2009/02/27/the_death_of_eddie_cochran_feature.shtml (accessed 26 Apr. 2016).

¹⁵⁶⁵ <https://www.chippfolk.co.uk/> (accessed 3 Mar. 2023).

¹⁵⁶⁶ *Buttercross Bulletin*, 165 (Aug. 2017), 21–4.

¹⁵⁶⁷ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 17 Sept. 1835, 3.

¹⁵⁶⁸ *Wilts. Independent*, 3 Sept. 1874, 2.

¹⁵⁶⁹ WSA, G19/990/6.

¹⁵⁷⁰ <https://www.flowerssouthwest.com/chippenham> (accessed 5 Apr. 2023).

¹⁵⁷¹ WSA, G19/998/2.

¹⁵⁷² Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts* [page no.].

1874 the diarist Revd Francis Kilvert took a group of children there to see a panorama of Dr Livingstone's African travels.¹⁵⁷³

EDUCATION

Before 1900

Little is known of education in medieval Chippenham, although a grammar school may have existed in the town in the 1420s.¹⁵⁷⁴

In 1656–7 workmen were paid to view St Andrew's church vestry where a schoolhouse was intended, but it is not certain if a school was established.¹⁵⁷⁵ In 1674 the Presbyterian Benjamin Flower was presented by the churchwardens for teaching school, possibly without a licence.¹⁵⁷⁶

By his will of 1661 Richard Scott left his house in Cook Street for the use of a schoolmaster, if a school should be established.¹⁵⁷⁷ William Woodroffe, by his will of 1664, gave an annuity of £5 out of lands in Chippenham called the Breach to a schoolmaster for teaching ten poor boys.¹⁵⁷⁸ The free school seems to have been established following Woodroffe's bequest in the house left by Scott, but not until 1733 was it conveyed for this purpose to the bailiff and burgesses by Scott's great-grandson, also Richard Scott, who gave the sum of £20 towards repairs.¹⁵⁷⁹

The free school, or other charity school, opened in 1713 for 24 boys, endowed with £10 a year in land, and £20 a year subscribed by the inhabitants and neighbouring gentry; it still existed in 1730.¹⁵⁸⁰ In 1735 there was a grammar school in the town which taught 46 boys under the headship of William Thomas Daudett, a churchgoer who brought his pupils to church regularly. There was another, smaller, school in the town led by one Daniel Berry, a drunkard previously gaoled for fraud.¹⁵⁸¹

Mary Bridges, by will of 1764, left £10 for the free school's use. In 1774 this money and the interest earned to date was invested to provide an annual payment of 15s. to the schoolmaster for teaching two poor boys.¹⁵⁸²

By 1834 the house in Cook Street bequeathed by Richard Scott was used as both the schoolhouse and lodgings for the free school master. Ten poor boys were instructed through William Woodroffe's gift, and two through the gift of Mary Bridges. There were a further 22 paying scholars,¹⁵⁸³ which had reduced to 16 by 1858.¹⁵⁸⁴

¹⁵⁷³ Kilvert, *Diary*, III, 121.

¹⁵⁷⁴ N. Orme, *Education in the West of England 1066–1548* (1976), 40.

¹⁵⁷⁵ WSA, 415/6, f. 59v.

¹⁵⁷⁶ WSA, D1/54/6/1; Below, relig. hist.

¹⁵⁷⁷ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 234.

¹⁵⁷⁸ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 234–5.

¹⁵⁷⁹ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 234–5.

¹⁵⁸⁰ T. Cox, *A Compleat History of Wiltshire* ([1730]), 198.

¹⁵⁸¹ WSA, D1/47/3.

¹⁵⁸² *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 235.

¹⁵⁸³ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 235.

¹⁵⁸⁴ *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

Robert Cock, vicar of Chippenham, by will of 1719, left the residue of his estate to establish and support a charity school for girls. After Cock's death in 1724 a field along the Bristol road was purchased by the trustees, and the rent used to support a schoolmistress.¹⁵⁸⁵ By 1825, when the money was transferred to the new National School for girls, 25 girls were being taught at the school.¹⁵⁸⁶

A number of small independent schools were established before denominational education became widespread. Many were short-lived, though Richard Weaver's boys' school, opened in 1786, remained in Chippenham until he relocated to Corsham in 1801.¹⁵⁸⁷ Five independent schools, including one commercial school, are listed in an 1830 directory.¹⁵⁸⁸ In 1858 there were five dame schools in Chippenham, with about 90 children under instruction.¹⁵⁸⁹ These would have been held in private houses and provided a basic education.¹⁵⁹⁰

A National (Church of England) school began in 1824.¹⁵⁹¹ By 1833 there were 104 boys and 56 girls attending on weekdays, and 114 boys and 67 girls attending Sunday classes.¹⁵⁹² Despite an annual income of £8 from Cock's gift and additional charitable donations of around £22, the school struggled to stay solvent.¹⁵⁹³ Nevertheless, with the aid of a Treasury grant of £170, new school buildings were erected in 1836 for 500 children.¹⁵⁹⁴ By 1858 a mixed school of 100 to 120 children was taught by an uncertificated master in a large upper room. Below this room was an infants' classroom where another 100 to 120 children were taught by an uncertificated mistress.¹⁵⁹⁵ By 1876 the school had an average attendance of 222 pupils, although it had accommodation for 522 children.¹⁵⁹⁶

A British (non-conformist) school was opened in 1844 in Ladds Lane,¹⁵⁹⁷ and moved to a new site on Wood Lane in 1858,¹⁵⁹⁸ when about 90 to 100 boys were taught by a master and 70 to 80 girls by a mistress, both uncertificated.¹⁵⁹⁹ A subscription appeal from 1868 records one department for boys, and another for girls and infants.¹⁶⁰⁰ In 1876 the school had accommodation for 201 pupils, and an average attendance of 157.¹⁶⁰¹ The school was extended in 1898–9, and became Westmead Council School in 1905.¹⁶⁰²

¹⁵⁸⁵ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239, 266.

¹⁵⁸⁶ WSA, 4332/69.

¹⁵⁸⁷ *Bath Chronicle*, 29 Jun. 1786; *Salisbury Jnl.*, 20 Jul. 1801.

¹⁵⁸⁸ *Pigot's Dir. Wilts.* (1830 edn.), 795.

¹⁵⁸⁹ *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

¹⁵⁹⁰ *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

¹⁵⁹¹ A. Platts, *Wilts. Schools: a short history* (n.d.).

¹⁵⁹² Platts, *Wilts. Schools*.

¹⁵⁹³ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239.

¹⁵⁹⁴ Platts, *Wilts. Schools*.

¹⁵⁹⁵ *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

¹⁵⁹⁶ *Return of public elementary schools, 1875–6* [C. 1882], H.C. (1877), lxvii, 280–1.

¹⁵⁹⁷ Platts, *Wilts. Schools; Slater's Dir.* (1852–3).

¹⁵⁹⁸ Platts, *Wilts. Schools*.

¹⁵⁹⁹ *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

¹⁶⁰⁰ WSA, F8/600/65/1/5/1.

¹⁶⁰¹ *Return of public elementary schools, 1875–6* [C. 1882], H.C. (1877), lxvii, 280–1.

¹⁶⁰² WSA, F8/500/65/13/1, 22 Jun. 1898, 26 Jun. 1899, 31 May 1905.

A small school for Roman Catholic children was established in the newly-opened chapel in the town in 1855. In 1866 the Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy opened a convent in Marshfield Road, and ran a school until their removal to Malmesbury in 1884. Chippenham was then without a Catholic school until 1938.¹⁶⁰³

Land was conveyed for St Paul's National school in 1857 and it opened in 1858 at a cost of £1,767.¹⁶⁰⁴ Sixty to seventy boys were taught by an untrained master preparing for certification, with the assistance of a pupil teacher, and 70 to 80 girls by an uncertificated mistress, also with the assistance of a pupil teacher. Housing for teachers adjoined the school.¹⁶⁰⁵ By 1876 it had accommodation for 324 pupils, and an average attendance of 188.¹⁶⁰⁶ The increase in population in St Paul's parish during the 19th century saw a separate department for 99 infants added in 1896.¹⁶⁰⁷

Boys and girls living in the Chippenham Union Workhouse attended school in the workhouse, learning vocational skills.¹⁶⁰⁸ In 1858 there were 60 to 70 pupils in the workhouse school, under one teacher and three industrial instructors, who taught cooking, housework and sewing to the girls, and field labour and gardening to the boys.¹⁶⁰⁹

Lowden school, a Church of England primary school, opened in 1896.¹⁶¹⁰

The boys' free school continued in the house in Cook Street left by Richard Scott until shortly before 1860, when the small income and lack of money for repairs led to its closure. The Chippenham charity trustees in 1873 decided to combine the money from Scott's, Woodroffe's and Bridges's gifts, £18 annually; from Ray's charity, about £12 annually; money invested in the name of Mr Phillips; and money from Sir Francis Popham's charity, to create an endowment for educational purposes, providing £50 per year. These schemes, approved in 1875, provided scholarships for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15 years to attend secondary school.¹⁶¹¹

Secondary education in Chippenham remained in private schools until the establishment of the Chippenham District County School. Day classes under the superintendence of Edward Newall Tuck were established in 1895 by the borough's education committee, and it was recognised that the private grammar school was in an unsatisfactory condition and its numbers decreasing. A day school for boys was established in 1896, and a girls' school followed in September 1898, both initially conducted in rooms hired or lent for the purpose.¹⁶¹² A new school building was opened on Cocklebury Road in December 1900.¹⁶¹³ Scholarships were provided through the charity trustees' educational endowment, and by

¹⁶⁰³ J. and N. Coggles, *St Mary's Parish 1855–1998* (1998), 79–80.

¹⁶⁰⁴ A. Platts, *St Paul's County Primary School: Centenary Souvenir* (1957); *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15; *Bath Chronicle*, 15 Apr. 1858, 8; *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 17 Apr. 1858, 8; WSA, F8/600/65/6/32/1.

¹⁶⁰⁵ *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

¹⁶⁰⁶ *Return of public elementary schools, 1875–6* [C. 1882], H.C. (1877), lxvii, 280–1.

¹⁶⁰⁷ Platts, *St Paul's Centenary*.

¹⁶⁰⁸ Above, Poor Relief.

¹⁶⁰⁹ *Acct. of Wilts. Schs.* 14–15.

¹⁶¹⁰ WSA, F8/500/65/5/1, 15 Jun. 1896.

¹⁶¹¹ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 247–8.

¹⁶¹² *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 253–5.

¹⁶¹³ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239–40, 248–58.

Colborne's charity.¹⁶¹⁴ In 1901 there were 99 pupils on the roll, below the full complement of 380 as the completion of the school buildings had been delayed.¹⁶¹⁵

Technical education in the town had also been in private academies, until in 1893 the borough appointed Tuck to organise technical classes to be held in Chippenham and surrounding villages.¹⁶¹⁶ By 1904 evening classes in technical, commercial and other subjects, including cookery and dressmaking, were being held in the District County School on five days a week with an average attendance of 36 students. The school also provided classes for pupil teachers training at elementary schools in the area.¹⁶¹⁷ An art school was founded, c.1865, which also offered evening classes in mechanical drawing for working men.¹⁶¹⁸

1900 to 1945

A 1904 report condemned the National school building as unsafe and unsuitable, and the county council ordered its closure,¹⁶¹⁹ but this was delayed because of fierce resistance and a lack of alternative accommodation.¹⁶²⁰ By September 1906 there were still 141 boys, 115 girls and 92 infants attending the school,¹⁶²¹ but it closed in December 1906, apparently without final notice having been given to the teachers.¹⁶²² Children transferred to other schools in the town, including Westmead and the new Ivy Lane school.¹⁶²³

In 1907 a new building to accommodate the infants' department was built in Wood Lane opposite the existing Westmead school, where the mixed department remained.¹⁶²⁴ Ivy Lane, a mixed council school, opened in 1907 with 245 children on the roll and a staff of five teachers and three pupil teachers in addition to the head. Academic standards and behaviour were poor.¹⁶²⁵ Two years later the head reported an improvement, but there were still areas of concern.¹⁶²⁶

In 1927 St Paul's school transferred to Wiltshire County Council's control, and was reorganised, older children from its top two classes transferring to Ivy Lane school.¹⁶²⁷ The younger Ivy Lane children transferred to St Paul's.¹⁶²⁸

¹⁶¹⁴ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 239–40, 248–58.

¹⁶¹⁵ WSA, F8/700/4/1/2/1, 16.

¹⁶¹⁶ WSA, F8/700/4/1/23/1, A. Platts, *A History of the School: Chippenham Grammar School, 1896–1956*, 2.

¹⁶¹⁷ *Endowed Char. Wilts.* (N. Div.), 257.

¹⁶¹⁸ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 17 Oct. 1867, 3.

¹⁶¹⁹ WSA, F8/600/65/5/26/1, report of 6 Feb. 1904.

¹⁶²⁰ WSA, F8/600/65/5/26/1.

¹⁶²¹ WSA, F8/600/65/3/27/1.

¹⁶²² WSA, F8/600/65/5/26/1, letter of 7 Feb. 1907.

¹⁶²³ WSA, F8/500/65/13/1, 7 Jan. 1907; F8/500/65/3/1, 7 Jan. 1907.

¹⁶²⁴ WSA, F8/500/65/13/1, 7 Jan. 1907, 8 Feb. 1907; OS Map 25", *Wilts. XXVI.2* (1900, 1924, 1937 edns.).

¹⁶²⁵ WSA, F8/500/65/3/1, 7 and 8 Jan. 1907.

¹⁶²⁶ WSA, F8/500/65/3/1, 24 Jul. 1909.

¹⁶²⁷ WSA, F8/500/65/3/5, 30 Mar. 1927.

¹⁶²⁸ WSA, F8/500/65/3/5, 1 Sept. 1927.

Between 1914 and 1922 the number of scholars at the District County School increased from 120 to 318. By 1935, although numbers had dropped to 288,¹⁶²⁹ the Cocklebury Road premises were proving cramped. In 1939 the preparatory department, catering for children up to 11, was closed and the rest of the school moved to the 40 a. site of Hardenhuish Park.¹⁶³⁰ Although a grammar school, it was renamed Chippenham Secondary School.¹⁶³¹ Some accommodation was provided in the old manor house, and the remaining facilities in new buildings. In 1940 there were 414 pupils on roll, including 8 in the sixth form and 25 evacuees.¹⁶³²

The Wiltshire voluntary association for mental welfare pioneered juvenile occupation centres for those with special educational needs. The Chippenham centre was active for several years until it closed in 1934. It re-opened in 1947 and became full-time in 1950.¹⁶³³

A major reorganisation of Chippenham schools took place in 1940. Westmead retained both infant and junior departments, Ivy Lane became a junior school, and St Paul's and Lowden schools were to take infants only.¹⁶³⁴ The former District County School premises in Cocklebury Road became a mixed senior school.¹⁶³⁵

In 1938 sisters of the Roman Catholic order of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God opened the private St Margaret's school at their convent on Rowden Hill, initially with 18 pupils. Boosted by wartime evacuees numbers increased to 120 and a new extension was opened in 1940.¹⁶³⁶

Frogwell school was opened in 1943 as a primary school taking under-11 children from new estates in the town. It began with 31 children, a headmaster and two certified assistant teachers.¹⁶³⁷

1945–2000

By 1947 technical, commercial and recreational classes were being held in various venues in Chippenham and elsewhere.¹⁶³⁸ In 1948 a new technical college opened in Cocklebury Road providing day-release classes in technical and commercial subjects.¹⁶³⁹

The Cocklebury Road site remained in use by the secondary modern school. Further reorganisation in 1956 saw two single-sex secondary modern schools established.¹⁶⁴⁰ The new boys' school had 520 pupils on roll, and the girls' school 486.¹⁶⁴¹ The girls' school moved to

¹⁶²⁹ WSA, F8/700/4/1/23/1, Platts, *Hist. Grammar School*, 13.

¹⁶³⁰ WSA, F8/700/4/1/2/5, 29 Nov. 1938, 25 Apr. 1939; F8/700/4/1/23/1, Platts, *Hist. Grammar School*, 13–14.

¹⁶³¹ WSA, F8/700/4/1/2/5, 31 May 1938; WSA, F8/700/4/1/23/1, Platts, *Hist. Grammar School*.

¹⁶³² WSA, F8/700/4/1/23/1, Platts, *Hist. Grammar School*, 13–14.

¹⁶³³ *VCH Wilts*, V, 332.

¹⁶³⁴ WSA, F8/110/65/1/1, Wilts. County Council General Education Committee, Teaching Staff Sub-committee, 18 Oct. 1940; F8/500/65/5/1, 25 Oct. 1940; F8/600/65/4/3/2, 30 Oct. 1940.

¹⁶³⁵ Platts, *Wilts. Schools*.

¹⁶³⁶ Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 80–3.

¹⁶³⁷ WSA, F8/500/65/2/1, 1 Dec. 1943.

¹⁶³⁸ WSA, F8/750/2/1, 3 Dec. 1947.

¹⁶³⁹ WSA, F8/750/2/1, 24 Sept. 1947, 22 Oct. 1947.

¹⁶⁴⁰ WSA, F8/500/65/12/1, 27 Jul. 1956.

¹⁶⁴¹ WSA, F8/500/65/12/1, 10 Sept. 1956; F8/500/65/15/1, 10 Sept. 1956.

new premises at Hardenhuish,¹⁶⁴² but the boys' remained in Cocklebury Road until it also moved to new premises at Hardenhuish in 1959.¹⁶⁴³ All three secondary schools then shared the Hardenhuish site.

St Margaret's school became a primary school in 1955, but because many families could not afford the fees, in 1959 St Mary's Primary School opened on the Rowden Hill site, providing a state-funded education for Catholic children. New school buildings were opened in 1962. The independent St Margaret's school continued in the original convent building until 1968.¹⁶⁴⁴

From 1965 the eleven plus examination was abolished, and pupils of secondary school age transferred directly to either Chippenham Boys' High School or Chippenham Girls' High School.¹⁶⁴⁵ These provided an education for young people aged 11 to 16.¹⁶⁴⁶ Those of academic ability could transfer at age 13 to Chippenham School (the former grammar or secondary school).¹⁶⁴⁷ In September 1965 there were 610 on roll at the boys' school and 646 at the girls' school.¹⁶⁴⁸

Monkton Park primary school was built in 1967 to serve the new residential development around Sadler's Mead.¹⁶⁴⁹

In January 1972 Westmead junior school was subject to an arson attack, which seriously damaged the school office and a classroom, destroying all the junior school log books.¹⁶⁵⁰ In April 1972 there were 86 children on roll in the infants' school and 181 in the junior school.¹⁶⁵¹

St Paul's school moved in 1973 to a new site at The Oaks. The Park Lane buildings were later demolished and housing built on the site, although the master's house survived in 2016. In 1973 Lowden infants' school moved to new premises in Lord's Mead and was renamed St Peter's primary school; it began taking children up to 11.¹⁶⁵² The former school buildings were sold for residential development.¹⁶⁵³ A new primary school, Redland, opened in Brook Street in 1973 with approximately 160 children.¹⁶⁵⁴

To avoid disruption to pupils transferring at age 13,¹⁶⁵⁵ in 1975 the three secondary schools were merged to become Hardenhuish and Sheldon Schools, two co-educational

¹⁶⁴² WSA, F8/500/65/15/1, 10 Sept. 1956.

¹⁶⁴³ WSA, F8/500/65/12/1, 16–20 Mar. 1959.

¹⁶⁴⁴ Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 84–7.

¹⁶⁴⁵ WSA, F8/115/4/1/1.

¹⁶⁴⁶ WSA, F8/500/65/1/1, 23 Jul. 1965; F8/500/65/15/2, 9 Sept. 1965.

¹⁶⁴⁷ WSA, F8/115/4/1/1.

¹⁶⁴⁸ WSA, F8/500/65/1/1, 9 Sept. 1965; F8/500/65/15/2, 9 Sept. 1965.

¹⁶⁴⁹ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/126188> (2004), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

¹⁶⁵⁰ WSA, F8/500/65/14/1, 20 Jan. 1972.

¹⁶⁵¹ WSA, F8/500/65/13/4, 17 Apr. 1972; F8/500/65/14/1, 20 Apr. 1972.

¹⁶⁵² WSA, F8/500/65/5/2, 20 Jul. 1973; F8/500/65/5/3, 5 Sept. 1973, 25 Oct. 1973.

¹⁶⁵³ WSA, F8/600/65/4/26/2.

¹⁶⁵⁴ WSA, F8/600/65/9/24/1, *Redland School Brochure* (1986).

¹⁶⁵⁵ WSA, F8/115/4/1/1, folder 3.

secondary schools for ages 11–18.¹⁶⁵⁶ The former girls' high school buildings were to house the lower school of Hardenhuish School,¹⁶⁵⁷ and the boys' high school buildings became Sheldon School.¹⁶⁵⁸ Pupils transferred to these schools from designated catchment areas.¹⁶⁵⁹

Westmead school closed in 1989, and the pupils transferred to the newly-built King's Lodge primary school on the Cricketts Lane (Pewsham estate) development.¹⁶⁶⁰ Two new primary schools opened in the 1990s: Charter school in 1994,¹⁶⁶¹ and Queen's Crescent in 1996.¹⁶⁶²

Allington School, a special school, had been established by 1950. In 1997 it had 56 boys on roll, aged 11 to 16 years, but closed c.1998.¹⁶⁶³

After 2000

In 2011 there were ten primary schools in Chippenham: Charter, Frogwell, Ivy Lane, King's Lodge Community, Monkton Park Community, Queen's Crescent, Redland Community, St Paul's, St Mary's Roman Catholic and St Peter's Church of England. There were three secondary schools in Chippenham: Hardenhuish, Sheldon and Abbeyfield schools. Chippenham had one special school, St Nicholas School, taking pupils from the ages of 3 to 19 years.¹⁶⁶⁴

Chippenham's third secondary school, Abbeyfield, was established in 2000 for young people aged 11 to 16 years, and moved to a new purpose-built site along Stanley Road in September 2001. In 2002 it had 332 pupils on roll aged from 11 to 14.¹⁶⁶⁵ In 2006 the school began accepting students from 16 to 18 into a sixth form, and new sixth form accommodation was opened in 2008. By 2009 the school, which took pupils from the eastern area of Chippenham and nearby rural settlements, had 947 pupils, of whom 150 were in the sixth form.¹⁶⁶⁶

Hardenhuish school became an academy in 2010. In 2013 it had 1,596 pupils, of whom 303 were in the sixth form.¹⁶⁶⁷ Sheldon school became an academy in 2011. In 2012 it had 1,802 pupils on roll, of whom 410 were in the sixth form.¹⁶⁶⁸

¹⁶⁵⁶ WSA, F8/115/4/1/1.

¹⁶⁵⁷ WSA, F8/500/65/15/2, 11 Jul. 1975.

¹⁶⁵⁸ WSA, F8/500/65/1/1, 31 Aug. 1975.

¹⁶⁵⁹ WSA, F8/500/65/1/1, 23–27 Jun. 1975; F8/500/65/15/2, 23–26 June 1975.

¹⁶⁶⁰ WSA, F8/500/65/13/5, 21 Jul. 1989; F8/500/65/14/1, 21 Jul. 1989.

¹⁶⁶¹ WSA, F8/223/4, *Admissions to Primary & Secondary Schools in Wiltshire: Central Area* (1993).

¹⁶⁶² WSA, F8/223/4, *Education in Wiltshire: A Parent's Guide* (1996).

¹⁶⁶³ WSA, F8/610/7.

¹⁶⁶⁴ Wiltshire Council, *Directory of Wilts. Schools, 2011/12* (2011).

¹⁶⁶⁵ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/131969> (2002), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

¹⁶⁶⁶ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/131969> (2009), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

¹⁶⁶⁷ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/136296> (2013), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

¹⁶⁶⁸ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/136632> (2012), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

By 2014 St Nicholas special school was taking children from age four to 19, and had 72 pupils, of whom 10 were sixth-formers.¹⁶⁶⁹

In 2000 the former Chippenham Technical College, by then known as Chippenham College, merged with other tertiary education colleges at Trowbridge and Lackham (also Salisbury from 2008) to form Wiltshire College.¹⁶⁷⁰ New buildings were opened in 2016 at a cost of £21,000,000 on the Chippenham campus in Cocklebury Road, and in 2018 the college was offering a range of vocational courses, including engineering, commerce and construction.¹⁶⁷¹

RELIGIOUS HISTORY

ESTABLISHED CHURCH

Origins and Status of the Parish Church

There may have been a church in Chippenham by 853 when Æthelwulf, king of the West Saxons and father of Alfred, married his daughter to Burgred, king of Mercia, at his royal estate of Chippenham.¹⁶⁷² In 1066 and 1086 the church was held by Osbern, bishop of Exeter since 1072.¹⁶⁷³ The pre-conquest church at Chippenham almost certainly had minster status, serving also Biddestone, Box, Hardenhuish, Slaughterford and Tytherton Lucas. All except Tytherton Lucas became separate parishes after 1159.¹⁶⁷⁴

The church's dedication to St Andrew is recorded in 1268, 1328, and 1400–1.¹⁶⁷⁵ A reference c.1327 to St Mary's church owning a tenement in Foghamshire probably refers to a chapel where Mary was invoked within St Andrew's church.¹⁶⁷⁶ St Mary Street, which forms the eastern boundary of the churchyard, presumably also derives from such a chapel.

Chippenham lay in Ramsbury diocese until the see was united with Sherborne in 1058, and its seat moved to (Old) Salisbury in 1075.¹⁶⁷⁷ It remained in Salisbury diocese until 1837, when Malmesbury rural deanery, which included Chippenham, was transferred to the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol (Bristol, when divided in 1897). The parish of Chippenham remained in the diocese of Bristol in 2023.¹⁶⁷⁸ Part of the ecclesiastical parish, including the hamlet of Allington, was taken to form the parish of St Paul's in 1866,¹⁶⁷⁹ and a further

¹⁶⁶⁹ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/126552> (2014), (accessed 6 Mar. 2017).

¹⁶⁷⁰ The Chippenham, Lackham and Triowbridge Colleges (Dissolution) Order (2000), SI 2000, 2728

¹⁶⁷¹ <http://www.wiltshire.ac.uk/About-Us/Our-Campuses/Chippenham> (accessed 7 Feb. 2018).

¹⁶⁷² Asser, *Alfred the Great*, trans. S. Keynes and M. Lapidge (1983), 69.

¹⁶⁷³ *Domesday*, 162.

¹⁶⁷⁴ *English Episcopal Acta* 18, no. 88.

¹⁶⁷⁵ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre*, 1268 (WRS. 65), 126; *Cal. Pat.* 1327–30, 246; *Cal. Papal Reg.* v, 410.

¹⁶⁷⁶ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 80, 91.

¹⁶⁷⁷ *VCH Wilts*, III, 156–7.

¹⁶⁷⁸ I.M. Kirby (ed.), *Diocese of Bristol: A Catalogue of the Records of the Bishop and Archdeacons and of the Dean and Chapter* (1970), xvi–xix.

¹⁶⁷⁹ Below, this section, St Paul's.

portion in 1969 to form the parish of St Peter's.¹⁶⁸⁰ As a response to housing development, part of the parish of Christ Church, Derry Hill, was transferred to the parish of Chippenham with Tytherton Lucas in 1974.¹⁶⁸¹

Patronage and Endowment

In 1086 Bishop Osbern held the church with 1 hide worth £2 15s.¹⁶⁸² About 1144 Empress Matilda and her son Henry, later Henry II, gave the advowson of Chippenham to the Cluniac priory of Monkton Farleigh.¹⁶⁸³ Chippenham church was an early appropriation, the priory becoming rector and the incumbent becoming a vicar by 1189, and the division of the revenues was revised by the bishops of Salisbury in 1244 and 1270.¹⁶⁸⁴ A dispute between the priory and the vicar in 1272 was resolved with an ordinance that the vicar was to have all the tithes and other income of the chapel of Tytherton Lucas, then within the parish of Chippenham, except the tithes of the demesne sheaves, and the vicar was to pay the priory £2 yearly and supply ministers for the chapel at Tytherton.¹⁶⁸⁵

In 1291–2 the value of the benefice was assessed at £33 13s. 4d., one of the wealthier in Malmesbury deanery, but an exceptionally high proportion went to the rector and a correspondingly low proportion to the vicar. In 1291–2 the priory as rector received £26 13s. 4d. and a further £2 13s. 4d. to the prior from the vicar, who received only £4 6s. 8d.¹⁶⁸⁶ In 1535 the vicar, Henry Myllyn, declared an annual income of £16 3s. 4d. of which 4s. was paid to the archdeacon of Wiltshire and £2 to the prior of Monkton Farleigh.¹⁶⁸⁷ The prior also received 2s. from the chantry of St John the Baptist at Chippenham, and £20 in tithes from the manor.¹⁶⁸⁸ Monkton Farleigh priory remained patron until its dissolution in 1536.¹⁶⁸⁹ By 1550 the rectory and advowson of the vicarage had been granted to the dean and chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, with whom it remained in 2023.¹⁶⁹⁰ Chippenham rectory was held by John Goldney on a lease for the term of his life for an annual rent of £20.¹⁶⁹¹

In 1341 the church endowment at Chippenham was worth £18 13s. 4d. consisting of a parsonage house with a carucate of land and a dovecot worth 40s., meadow £1 6s. 8d., pasture for oxen 10s., rents £2 3s., perquisites of court £2, tithes of hay £1 14s., small tithes £1 6s. 8d., and offerings and heriots £3 10s.¹⁶⁹²

After the Dissolution the large and small tithes were received by Christ Church, Oxford, except the tithes of Tytherton Lucas, which remained for the benefit of the vicars of

¹⁶⁸⁰ Below, this section, St Peter's.

¹⁶⁸¹ WSA, 2658/7; *Lond. Gaz.* 20 Dec. 1974, p. 13072.

¹⁶⁸² *VCH Wilts*, I, 116 (no.8).

¹⁶⁸³ *English Episcopal Acta* 18, no. 88 n. For Monkton Farleigh priory see *VCH Wilts*, III, 262–8.

¹⁶⁸⁴ *English Episcopal Acta* 18, nos.88, 89; *Cat. Ancient Deeds*, iii, 441–51.

¹⁶⁸⁵ *Cat. Ancient Deeds*, iii, 441–51. For the chapel of St Nicholas, Tytherton Lucas, below, 'Outer Chippenham'.

¹⁶⁸⁶ *Tax. Eccl.* 189.

¹⁶⁸⁷ *Valor Eccl.* ii. 139.

¹⁶⁸⁸ *Valor Eccl.* ii, 143.

¹⁶⁸⁹ *Cal. Papal Reg.* v, 410; WSA, 1663/28.

¹⁶⁹⁰ WSA, 1663/28; inf. from Janey Hiller, Diocese of Bristol, 24 Jun. 2015.

¹⁶⁹¹ TNA, SC 6/HenVIII/3957.

¹⁶⁹² *Non. Inq.* 163.

Chippenham.¹⁶⁹³ In 1608 the vicar was receiving all the tithes from Tytherton, where he held a glebe of 12 a. of arable land and ½ a. of meadow, with rights to graze cattle on the commons. He also received tithes of eggs throughout the whole parish at Easter, as well as tithe of hay in Chippenham Westmead and some other unspecified lands in Chippenham.¹⁶⁹⁴ In the Church Survey of 1649–50, the yearly value of the vicarage was given as £6 13s. 4d., with the parsonage of Tytherton Lucas annexed to the vicarage of Chippenham being worth £40 per annum, of which the glebe land at Tytherton Lucas was worth £12.¹⁶⁹⁵ In 1655, as part of a nationwide augmentation of poor livings, Chippenham and Tytherton Lucas received a payment of £20.¹⁶⁹⁶

By 1671 the church held 14 a. of glebe in Tytherton Lucas, with rights of beast and sheep leaze in Westham, but no other glebe land in Chippenham parish.¹⁶⁹⁷ A later terrier, in 1704, recorded that the vicar had a house and garden at Chippenham and another at Tytherton. The parson's close and churchyard adjoining the Tytherton property totalled 1½ a. with a further 13 a. 46 lugs (rods) of land at Tytherton, and rights of beast and sheep leaze. The vicar continued to receive all the tithes of Tytherton, with tithe hay of all the freehold land in Westmead, 'Lord's Hamme' and several other, unspecified, pieces of land in Chippenham.¹⁶⁹⁸

Because the value of the living was under £50 it was eligible for assistance from Queen Anne's Bounty. In 1729 its governors used a grant of £200 which they had made in 1727 together with £100 contributed by Revd Gilbert Lake and £100 by Edward Colston to purchase 12½ a. of inclosed land in the parish, together with 2 a. in the common fields of Chippenham and Biddestone, to augment the value of the living,¹⁶⁹⁹ which by 1745, including Tytherton Lucas, was valued at £44.¹⁷⁰⁰ Because it was valued under £50 it was discharged from the payment of first fruits and tenths.¹⁷⁰¹

In 1766 Joseph Colbourne of Hardenhuish bought the lease of the great tithes of Chippenham from Christ Church, Oxford for £3,200.¹⁷⁰² In his visitation return of 1783 the incumbent, Revd Thomas Weekes Dalby, stated that all tithes from Tytherton had been given to the vicar of Chippenham in 1772.¹⁷⁰³ By 1807 the dean and chapter of Christ Church had leased the rectory and tithes of Chippenham to Miles Southerton Branthway of Taverham, Norfolk.¹⁷⁰⁴

In 1847 the tithes of Chippenham, excluding the tithings of Stanley, Nethermore and Tytherton Lucas, were commuted to a rent-charge of £7 5s. to the vicar on 28 a. for great and

¹⁶⁹³ Baines, *Chippenham*, 103.

¹⁶⁹⁴ *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 89.

¹⁶⁹⁵ *WAM*, 41, 1–2.

¹⁶⁹⁶ *VCH Wilts*, III, 42; *Cal. S.P. Dom.* 1655–6, 73.

¹⁶⁹⁷ *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 89–90.

¹⁶⁹⁸ *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 90–91.

¹⁶⁹⁹ *WSA*, 811/46.

¹⁷⁰⁰ Anon, *The Clergyman's Intelligencer* (1745), 44–5.

¹⁷⁰¹ W.R. Le Fanu, *Queen Anne's Bounty* (1921), 12.

¹⁷⁰² Daniell, *Chippenham*, 149.

¹⁷⁰³ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 61–2.

¹⁷⁰⁴ TNA, PROB 11/1458/197, will of Miles Southerton Branthway of Taverton, Norfolk, 1807.

small tithes. On the remaining land £860 was to be paid to the dean and chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, and £3 for tithes on the vicarial glebe. The tithing of Tytherton Lucas had been subject to an earlier agreement in 1838, amended in 1839, where the vicar of Chippenham was to receive the whole of the tithe rent-charge of £177 for great and small tithes. Stanley and Nethermore tithings were the subject of an award made in 1850 and amended in 1851 whereby the dean and chapter of Christ Church, Oxford, received the whole of the tithe rent-charge of £54.¹⁷⁰⁵ In 1906 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners agreed to grant the vicar of Chippenham the sum of £15 annually, taken from a sum of £500 in their hands. In 1916 this sum was increased to £19 1s. 8d.¹⁷⁰⁶

The existence of a vicarage house is implied by the 1270 grant.¹⁷⁰⁷ In 1608 the vicar held a dwelling house with orchard and garden, and a second house at Tytherton Lucas with garden, barn, brewhouse or stable and bakehouse.¹⁷⁰⁸ The 1704 glebe terrier recorded a vicarage house and walled garden in Chippenham, and a house and garden at Tytherton.¹⁷⁰⁹ In 1826 the vicarage house, then a dwelling south of the churchyard, was exchanged for a house on the opposite side of St Mary Street, the property of Ebenezer Fuller Maitland, so that part of the garden of the vicarage house could be used as a churchyard extension.¹⁷¹⁰ The vicarage house was valued at £675 and Maitland's property at £1,020. He was to be paid £300 for that part of the garden that was to be taken for the burial ground.¹⁷¹¹ Maitland's former property, at 54 St Mary Street, became the vicarage.

In 1964 land in St Mary Street was conveyed for a new vicarage and a mortgage of £2,575 plus interest granted in 1965 for a house and offices for the incumbent.¹⁷¹² This building, at 54A St Mary Street, remained the vicar's residence in 2023. The former vicarage at 54 St Mary Street was by then called the Old Vicarage.

After 1547 the parish retained gifts of land and property which were used for the maintenance of the church, gifts which became known as the church lands. A 1671 terrier recorded an extensive series of gifts of land, some dating from the 15th century, though not their value.¹⁷¹³ A conveyance of 1748 gave the church property as four tenements in the High Street; another near the bridge with a garden, 3½ a. of land in Chippenham, and some pasture; 5 a. of land, a tenement, close and pasture for one cow in Cocklebury; the land called Tremblows' Mead; and a house, garden, orchard and field at Notton (in Lacock), called Maggot's Field.¹⁷¹⁴ The Cocklebury property was, by 1848, two cottages owned by the Church Lands feoffees and situated on Cocklebury Lane. These were still standing in 2016.¹⁷¹⁵ Efficient

¹⁷⁰⁵ *Wilts. Tithe Apportionments* (WRS. 30), 34.

¹⁷⁰⁶ WSA, 1663/13.

¹⁷⁰⁷ See above.

¹⁷⁰⁸ *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 89.

¹⁷⁰⁹ *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 90–1.

¹⁷¹⁰ WSA, D/375/5/11.

¹⁷¹¹ WSA, D/375/5/11.

¹⁷¹² WSA, 2568/5; 4326/17.

¹⁷¹³ *Wilts. Glebe Terriers* (WRS. 56), 89–90.

¹⁷¹⁴ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 149–54.

¹⁷¹⁵ T/A 1848; A. R. Wilson, *Cocklebury: A farming area and its people in the Vale of Wiltshire* (Chichester, 1983), 61–2; inf. S. Hobbs, 1 Dec. 2016.

management of the church lands appears to have declined in the 18th century. In 1783 the incumbent mentioned the 1671 terrier but commented that, although some feoffees had the management of the lands, no accounts had been made for many years, and he believed the parish received little or no benefit from them.¹⁷¹⁶

In 1833 the bankruptcy of a feoffee, Anthony Guy, prompted an investigation by the Charity Commissioners. They commented that it had proved impractical to trace all the property listed in the conveyance of 1748; some tenements were still in the hands of the feoffees, but with one exception the whole of the lands were lost. It was estimated in 1894 that the lost land amounted to some 20 a. Most had been in large common fields without any form of boundary marker, and it was impossible to trace where the land had been, or when and how it had been lost.¹⁷¹⁷ However, it seems likely that the church lands were gradually appropriated by private citizens and so disappeared from the church records.¹⁷¹⁸ The Charity Commissioners' report of 1833–4 was scathing on the negligence of the feoffees, who had kept no regular accounts, and had met to inspect the church property only four times in thirty years. The property that could be traced in 1834 consisted of three houses in the Market Place, one in High Street, stables near the Bear Inn, a cottage with garden, orchard and cow-lease at Cocklebury, 1½ a. land on the Bath Road, and two cottages and a field at Notton, the whole portfolio being worth annually £110 11s.¹⁷¹⁹

The remaining church lands were eventually sold off; the final sale of land and property was a house and shop (23 and 24 Market Place) in 1973. By 1979 the entire endowment was held in the form of investments in stocks and shares, and in cash.¹⁷²⁰ The charity, properly called the Chippenham Church Lands Charity, continued to operate in 2015 by providing funds from its endowment for the maintenance of the fabric of the parish church of St Andrew.¹⁷²¹

Although the vicar was poorly paid, the parish was wealthy, and considerable benefactions were made to it in the later middle ages. North and south chapels were added to the chancel and a further outer transept (St Katherine's) to the south. Properties were managed by the wardens of St Mary's service in 1369–80 and other tenements were given to the church c.1400–1560.¹⁷²² In 1382 the revenues from an estate in Box were to be distributed annually in masses and to the poor in Chippenham church during the lifetime of Aline, daughter of Peter de la Heose.¹⁷²³ Additionally during the 15th century the parish was endowed with gifts of land and property. Similarly Maud Heath's benefaction was originally religious, highways being an accepted object of piety.¹⁷²⁴ Although unlicensed and

¹⁷¹⁶ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 61–2.

¹⁷¹⁷ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 149–54.

¹⁷¹⁸ Wilson, *Cocklebury*, 61–2.

¹⁷¹⁹ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 149–54.

¹⁷²⁰ WSA, 1663/29.

¹⁷²¹ Chippenham Church Lands Charity, <http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/showcharity/registerofcharities> (accessed 29 Jun. 2015).

¹⁷²² Daniell, *Chippenham*, 143–51. These deeds have yet to be located.

¹⁷²³ *Hobhouse Cart.* (WRS. 60), 8.

¹⁷²⁴ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 97.

undoubtedly for religious purposes, these church lands escaped dissolution in the 16th century.

Chantries and Gild

There were at least three chantries existing in the medieval parish church of Chippenham, dedicated to St Andrew, St Mary and St John Baptist.

St Andrew's chantry was founded in 1332. Its priest was usually appointed by the prior of Monkton Farleigh,¹⁷²⁵ except in 1350, when William Teynton of Calne was appointed by the king for the prior, and the last two appointments, in 1515 and 1545, which were made by the bishop of Salisbury and the king respectively.¹⁷²⁶ There is no record of this chantry in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.

In 1328 John le Clerc of Chippenham, whose family held lands at Rowden, Sheldon and Hardenhuish,¹⁷²⁷ was licensed to endow a mass in St Andrew's church for the souls of himself and his wife Alice.¹⁷²⁸ Alice's gravestone named her as foundress. No location or altar is stated, but possibly this mass was celebrated in the south chapel where the chantry of St Mary was founded (or re-founded) in 1442 and henceforth known as the Hungerford Chantry.¹⁷²⁹

Henry VI issued a licence in 1442 to Walter Lord Hungerford and his son Sir Robert to found a perpetual chantry with one chaplain in the chapel of St Mary in Chippenham for the souls of the king, Walter and Robert, the late Henry V, and of Katherine, late wife of Walter. The chantry was to be endowed with lands of £10 yearly value to support the chaplain. In 1447 land and property to the value of 7 marks was given to the chaplain as part of the annual endowment of £10; this document was not enrolled on the patent roll, possibly due to Walter's death in 1449.¹⁷³⁰ The first chantry priest is recorded in 1459.¹⁷³¹ The Hungerford family remained patrons until the dissolution of the chantries, although in 1522 the king presented during the minority of the heir of Sir Edward Hungerford.¹⁷³² The annual value of the chantry in 1535 was £7, of which 3s. was paid to the earl of Huntingdon, and 2s. 6d. to the abbot of Stanley Abbey.¹⁷³³ It was worth £11 1s. a year when it was dissolved in 1547 and sold to Henry Goldney.¹⁷³⁴ The chantry furniture was valued in 1548 at 13s. 8d.¹⁷³⁵

The third chantry, of St John Baptist, was founded in the church by 1497.¹⁷³⁶ There was no single patron. In 1515 it was the bishop of Salisbury, while the prior of Monkton Farleigh made the next appointment in 1521, and the third and final appointment of a chantry priest

¹⁷²⁵ *Reg. Waltham*, 60, and *Cal. Pat.*, 1327-30, 246.

¹⁷²⁶ WSA, 1663/28.

¹⁷²⁷ Daniell, *Chippenham*, 143-4.

¹⁷²⁸ WSA, 1663/28; Daniell, *Chippenham*, 143, *Cal. Pat.* 1327-30, 246; *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1327-77, 17-18.

¹⁷²⁹ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 91.

¹⁷³⁰ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 91.

¹⁷³¹ Phillipps, *Institutions*, 150; WSA, 1663/28.

¹⁷³² WSA, 1663/28.

¹⁷³³ *Valor Eccl.* ii. 138.

¹⁷³⁴ WAM, 10, 269.

¹⁷³⁵ WAM, 22, 328.

¹⁷³⁶ D. Wright (ed.), *The Register of John Blyth Bishop of Salisbury 1493-1499* (WRS. 68) 22 (no. 158).

was made by Edward, earl of Hertford, in 1545.¹⁷³⁷ The chantry's annual value in 1535 was £5 6s. 8d., of which 5s. 4d. was paid to the king, and 2s. to the prior of Monkton Farleigh.¹⁷³⁸ In 1546 it was valued at £8,¹⁷³⁹ and the chantry furniture at 2s. 4d. in 1548.¹⁷⁴⁰ It was dissolved without the king's licence.¹⁷⁴¹

In addition to the chantries, a part of the church was also used by a gild, the Fraternity of St Katherine, which had an altar endowed with land and houses and employed a priest.¹⁷⁴² Its value in 1547 was £4 9s. 11d. when, like the Hungerford Chantry, it was sold to Henry Goldney.¹⁷⁴³ The value of the chantry furniture in 1548 was 10s.¹⁷⁴⁴ The present baptistery may be the former gild chapel, the ground floor being the gild room and the surviving staircase leading to an upper chapel.¹⁷⁴⁵

Religious Life

Apart from the chantries, little is known of religious life in Chippenham in the medieval period. There may have been an attempt to avoid scandal in 1408, when Alexander Champion exchanged his position as vicar of Chippenham with the vicar of Burbage, Thomas Herchenene. In 1412 the parishioners of Burbage reported that Champion had committed adultery with a married woman for seven years both at Chippenham and Burbage, and had several children by a concubine in Salisbury.¹⁷⁴⁶

John Fawken (d.1534) left £6 13s. 4d. to find a priest to say masses for his soul for one year in St Andrew's church.¹⁷⁴⁷

The inventory of church goods made in 1553 allowed the church a chalice worth 9d. and a bell or bells worth 4d.; plate worth 2d. was reserved for the king.¹⁷⁴⁸ In 1620 an inventory of the parish church recorded the following: a new Bible for the minister, an old Bible for the clerk, a surplice and a communion cloth, two cushions and a pulpit cloth, a cloth for the clerk, a carpet for the communion table, two Common Prayer books, a Book of Homilies, a copy of the *Paraphrases* of Erasmus, a Book of Martyrs and a gilt communion cup with a cover.¹⁷⁴⁹ An inventory of 1625–6 included, in addition, seven matted forms on which to kneel at communion, a new flagon for the communion service, a copy of Bishop Jewel's *Apology* and a second Book of Homilies, and a sheet of lead with one other piece of lead.¹⁷⁵⁰

¹⁷³⁷ WSA, 1663/28; WAM, 10, 269.

¹⁷³⁸ *Valor Eccl.* ii. 138.

¹⁷³⁹ TNA, E 301/59 n. 20.

¹⁷⁴⁰ WAM, 22, 328.

¹⁷⁴¹ WAM, 12, 377.

¹⁷⁴² WSA, 1663/28; Daniell, *Chippenham*, 143.

¹⁷⁴³ WAM, 10, 269.

¹⁷⁴⁴ WAM, 22, 327.

¹⁷⁴⁵ *Parish Church of St Andrew Chippenham* (n.d.), 7.

¹⁷⁴⁶ *Chandler's Reg.* (WRS. 39), 119, 155.

¹⁷⁴⁷ TNA, PROB 11/25/199.

¹⁷⁴⁸ WAM, 12, 368.

¹⁷⁴⁹ WSA, 415/6, f. 2v.

¹⁷⁵⁰ WSA, 415/6, f. 6r.

In 1649–50 the minister, Jonathan Giare (or Gyer), preached every Sunday morning at Chippenham, and in the afternoon, unless prevented by flooding, at Tytherton Lucas. That he had duties at both churches was unsatisfactory for his parishioners; at Chippenham it was suggested that Tytherton become a separate parish, and furthermore that, since at Chippenham he had the cure of a large population of some 2,000 souls, the value of the living be augmented by the tithes of the disafforested Pewsham Forest. The villagers of Tytherton also supported the creation of a separate parish, but Tytherton remained annexed to Chippenham parish.¹⁷⁵¹

In 1662 it was reported that some parishioners were absenting themselves from church, and some had refrained from having their children baptised, and in 1674 some were refusing to pay the church rate, and two men had disturbed divine service.¹⁷⁵² By 1676 the parish of Chippenham (probably including Tytherton Lucas) recorded 724 communicants,¹⁷⁵³ and Kellaways, then held in plurality with Chippenham, recorded ten.¹⁷⁵⁴ From the late 17th century onwards Chippenham's churchwardens invariably reported that all was well within the parish, although in 1708 the vicar, Robert Cock, was presented for occasionally omitting some prayers during the service. The churchwardens attributed this to the pressures of looking after such a large parish, echoing the concerns made during Giare's ministry almost 60 years earlier.¹⁷⁵⁵

In 1783 the vicar, Thomas Dalby, replied to the bishop's visitation queries that there were prayers and a sermon every Sunday morning, and evening prayers at 4 p.m. in the summer and 3 p.m. in the winter, unless prevented by duties at Tytherton chapel. Services were also held on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent, and on every Friday, holiday and festival in the year. Communion was administered on the first Sunday in every month, and on Christmas Day, Easter Day and Whitsunday. There were about 20–30 communicants, but about double that at Easter.¹⁷⁵⁶ This represented a significant drop from the 724 communicants reported in 1676, and in his replies the vicar acknowledged that many in the parish did not come to church. At Tytherton there were services every Sunday except the first in the month, and on some days in the winter due to bad weather and shortness of the day. Dalby admitted that he did not constantly reside in the parish, being sometimes absent in Lewisham for family reasons, and it is unclear how the parish was served while he was away; no mention is made of a curate.¹⁷⁵⁷

On census day 1851 Sunday morning service at St Andrew's was attended by 414 worshippers, with 213 children at Sunday School. There was no afternoon service, but 501 people attended in the evening, and it is likely that some came to both services. The church had a total of 1,236 sittings, of which 167 were free seats, and 180 were seats for children. The

¹⁷⁵¹ WAM, 41, 1–2.

¹⁷⁵² WSA, D1/54/1/1; D1/54/6/1.

¹⁷⁵³ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 128.

¹⁷⁵⁴ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 128.

¹⁷⁵⁵ WSA, D1/54/21/1.

¹⁷⁵⁶ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 61–2.

¹⁷⁵⁷ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 61–2.

vicar, Revd Lewis Purbrick, also conducted an afternoon service at the chapel of St Nicholas, Tytherton Lucas, which was attended by 44 persons, in a chapel with 100 sittings.¹⁷⁵⁸

Construction of the railway line and the town's increasing population placed considerable pressure on space available in the graveyard. First raised in 1838,¹⁷⁵⁹ by the early 1840s the Revd Purbrick was expressing forthright opinions on the matter to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; no suitable land was available, and his attempts to purchase an otherwise ideal plot of land were frustrated by the owner's unwillingness to sell. In desperation he informed the bishop that he might soon have to close the graveyard to further burials.¹⁷⁶⁰ The graveyard was finally closed in 1855, when a new cemetery was opened along London Road.¹⁷⁶¹

By the 1880s worship at St Andrew's had expanded beyond the one or two Sunday services held in the 17th and 18th centuries. The parish magazine of October 1889 listed the Sunday services as holy communion at 8.15 a.m. with morning prayer, or combined morning prayer and holy communion, at 10.30 a.m. Two further Sunday services were held at 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Morning prayer was held at 10 a.m. on weekdays, and holy communion at 8.15 a.m. on Thursdays. Evening prayer was held each Friday and Saturday, and evening prayer 'with instruction' every Wednesday. There were weekly choir practices, a Sunday School, several Bible instruction groups, and a Mothers' Meeting.¹⁷⁶²

By 1906 the demands of a large and growing parish, which still included the church of St Peter's at Lowden, saw the vicar assisted by three curates. The curates, assisted by lady District Visitors, undertook much of the parish visiting. In addition to the Sunday School, choir and bell-ringers, several organisations were associated with the church, including groups for boys and girls, and a branch of the Mothers' Union.¹⁷⁶³

Parochial organisations continued to meet during the First World War, despite difficulties not encountered in peacetime. Contributions to church expenses had declined, owing to collections being made for forces' charities and for the Red Cross, and the vicar expressed his concerns at the immoral behaviour of some young women when soldiers had been billeted in the town.¹⁷⁶⁴ During the Second World War the black-out caused problems when holding evensong: the windows of St Andrew's were too large to cover with blinds to comply with the regulations, and the time of evensong had to be changed.¹⁷⁶⁵ Petrol rationing later in the war restricted the provision of services at Tytherton Lucas.¹⁷⁶⁶ The church assisted evacuees who arrived in Chippenham from south coast towns after bombing raids in the

¹⁷⁵⁸ TNA, HO 129/253, 46–7.

¹⁷⁵⁹ WSA, 811/48, letter of 15 Nov. 1840 from Revd Lewis Purbrick to Church Commissioners.

¹⁷⁶⁰ WSA, 811/48.

¹⁷⁶¹ WSA, 137/88/7; BA, EP/A/22/Ch/1–9.

¹⁷⁶² *Chippenham Parish Mag.*, Oct. 1889.

¹⁷⁶³ WSA, 811/40, *Annual Report*, 1906.

¹⁷⁶⁴ WSA, 811/40, *Annual Report*, 1915.

¹⁷⁶⁵ WSA, 2568/18, *Chippenham Parish Mag.*, Oct. 1939.

¹⁷⁶⁶ WSA, 2568/18, *Chippenham Parish Mag.*, May 1942.

autumn of 1940, and, despite rationing, a knitting group was set up to provide woollen clothing for the troops.¹⁷⁶⁷

By 2016 the vicar was no longer supported by paid curates, but was assisted by two lay ministers.¹⁷⁶⁸ Said communion was celebrated at 8 a.m., with the main Sunday service at 10 a.m. A monthly Sunday afternoon service was held for young children, and a monthly Sunday evening service of blessing and healing, but there was no longer a regular service of Sunday evensong. A service of morning prayer or holy communion was held each weekday morning, except Friday.¹⁷⁶⁹

Registers of baptisms, marriages and burials begin in 1578 and are largely complete.¹⁷⁷⁰ An incomplete set of registers recording banns of marriage begins in 1798.¹⁷⁷¹

St Andrew's Church

No trace of a pre-conquest church survives. Norman fabric, possibly c.1120, can be seen in the present building, particularly the former chancel arch which was moved in the restorations of 1875–8 to become the arch to the north chapel or vestry. At the same time a Norman window from the north wall of the nave was re-set to the east of the arch.¹⁷⁷²

The west tower was built in early Decorated style, possibly with a spire. In the later 14th century chapels were added to the north and south of the chancel. The south chapel was reconstructed in 1442 by Walter, Lord Hungerford, to serve his chantry, and is now known as the Hungerford Chapel. At the same time Hungerford rebuilt the upper tower and spire. During this period the south nave chapel was added, and the south aisle may have been reconstructed.¹⁷⁷³

In 1505 Henry Webe, who requested burial in the parish churchyard left 3s. 4d. to the maintenance of the bells, 1s. to each of the three principal lights and 2d. to each of the other lights.¹⁷⁷⁴ In 1537 Nicholas Affernwell left 4d. to each of the 'eight principal lights' in St Mary's church and 3s. 4d. to repair the bells, despite requesting burial in the church of St Andrew.¹⁷⁷⁵ John Hollwey (d.1492) requested burial in the porch beside the chapel of Our Lady and left 6s. 8d. towards the 'new building' of the chapel.¹⁷⁷⁶

The over-enthusiasm of Chippenham's bell-ringers reputedly weakened the tower and steeple, so much so that in 1633 they were partially dismantled and rebuilt some 15 ft. lower. Rebuilding cost £320, excluding demolition, and was borne by a rate on the parishioners, and by a gift of £40 from Sir Francis Popham.¹⁷⁷⁷

¹⁷⁶⁷ WSA, 2568/18, *Chippenham Parish Mag.*, Oct. 1940, Nov. 1940, Oct. 1941.

¹⁷⁶⁸ <http://www.standrewschippenham.org.uk/contact/rodkey/> (accessed 24 Nov. 2016).

¹⁷⁶⁹ <http://www.standrewschippenham.org.uk/services/> (accessed 24 Nov. 2016).

¹⁷⁷⁰ WSA, 811/6–20, 26–30; 1663/1–7; 2568/19, 23–27.

¹⁷⁷¹ WSA, 811/21–25; 1663/8; 2568/20–22, 28.

¹⁷⁷² Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.* 219; J. Noyes, 'A Short Account of the Restoration and Alterations in the Parish Church, Chippenham, 1878', in WBR, B5600.

¹⁷⁷³ *Parish Church of St. Andrew*, 3–4.

¹⁷⁷⁴ TNA, PROB 11/14/801.

¹⁷⁷⁵ TNA, PROB 11/27/240.

¹⁷⁷⁶ TNA, PROB 11/9/260.

¹⁷⁷⁷ WSA, 415/6, ff. 18r–19r; Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.* ed. Jackson, 68; Daniell, *Chippenham*, 142–3.

During the 18th century flat ceilings were installed in the church, and at an unknown date an arcade of Norman arches dividing the nave from the south aisle was destroyed and replaced by plain square columns.¹⁷⁷⁸ In 1753 the bailiff and burgesses of the town negotiated with the vicar and churchwardens for a pew where they could sit as a body on Sundays and other holy days. Their rights to the seats allotted as the corporation pew were vigorously contested by some parishioners, and the bailiff was assaulted. The issue was resolved in 1756, when the bishop of Salisbury granted the bailiff and burgesses rights to the seats, which they had by then fitted out at their own expense, provided they continued to maintain them at their own expense.¹⁷⁷⁹ A new corporation pew was installed in 1847,¹⁷⁸⁰ but removed in 1963.¹⁷⁸¹

In 1875–8, during the incumbency of Canon John Rich, the church underwent substantial alterations, including the relocation of the Norman features. The flat ceilings were removed, the nave and chancel were rebuilt, including the present arcade with its five bays, and the north aisle added.¹⁷⁸² A later restoration saw the south nave chapel altered to serve as a baptistery, and in 1907 a choir vestry was added at the north-east corner of the north chapel.¹⁷⁸³

The church possesses a 13th-century vestment chest with panels flanked by geometric designs. The panels depict the Lamb of God between two doves bearing olive branches, a pair of unicorns, a fox preaching to fowls, a pair of leopards, a hound chasing a stag, and an owl mobbed by small birds.¹⁷⁸⁴

An organ loft of freestone, carved in remembrance of a sexton, existed c.1650 on the north side of the chancel, although the organ was sold to Lacock,¹⁷⁸⁵ either during the interregnum or earlier.¹⁷⁸⁶ A freestone façade set in the south wall of the chancel may be a fragment of this organ loft, relocated during the 1875–8 alterations.¹⁷⁸⁷ An organ built by a Mr Seed of Cirencester, probably of a Bristol family of organ builders, was installed in the west gallery in 1752, although the organ case has been dated c.1730.¹⁷⁸⁸ The organ was substantially rebuilt in 1879.¹⁷⁸⁹

A damaged sepulchral slab in the Hungerford Chapel carved with a female figure has been dated to the 13th century. In the same chapel is a large panelled altar-tomb of 1570 to Andrew Bayntun and his son and heir Sir Edward Bayntun. The south wall of the south aisle

¹⁷⁷⁸ *Parish Church of St. Andrew*, 4.

¹⁷⁷⁹ WSA, D1/41/4/18–19; D1/41/3/30; *Recs. Chippenham*, 320–1.

¹⁷⁸⁰ *Recs. Chippenham*, 167, 177.

¹⁷⁸¹ WSA, 3714/17.

¹⁷⁸² Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.* 219; *Parish Church of St. Andrew*, 4–5.

¹⁷⁸³ *Parish Church of St Andrew*, 4–5.

¹⁷⁸⁴ Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.* 219; *Parish Church of St Andrew*, 5, 7.

¹⁷⁸⁵ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.* ed. Jackson, 68.

¹⁷⁸⁶ C. Kent, *Organ of St. Andrew's Parish Church Chippenham* (1976), 5–6.

¹⁷⁸⁷ Kent, *Organ of St. Andrew's*, 5–6.

¹⁷⁸⁸ Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.* 219.

¹⁷⁸⁹ Kent, *Organ of St. Andrew's*, 6–10.

has a monument to Sir Gilbert Prynne (d. 1628); five of his seven children carry skulls indicating that they died in childhood.¹⁷⁹⁰

The rood screen of 1921, designed by F. E. Howard, incorporates tablets inscribed with the names of parishioners who fell in the First World War.¹⁷⁹¹ The Wilson window also commemorates three casualties of the war.¹⁷⁹²

St Paul's

Following the arrival of the railway and associated works during the 1840s, the population of the New Road area north of the line increased rapidly. Because of its distance from St Andrew's a new church was proposed to serve this part of the town,¹⁷⁹³ and Robert Ashe, rector and lord of Langley Burrell, gave land for the church and burial ground,¹⁷⁹⁴ and an endowment of £1,000, the interest to pay for a priest.¹⁷⁹⁵ In 1854 Thomas Augustus Strong became perpetual curate. The patronage passed from Ashe to the bishop of Gloucester and Bristol in 1855, and the perpetual curacy became a rectory in 1866.¹⁷⁹⁶

The new parish was created in 1855 from parts of the existing parishes of Chippenham, Hardenhuish, Kington St Michael and Langley Burrell. It included the hamlet of Allington, formerly part of Chippenham parish.¹⁷⁹⁷ Since it was being built in the parish of Langley Burrell, the church was referred to as St Paul's Langley Burrell, rather than St Paul's Chippenham.¹⁷⁹⁸

The foundation stone was laid in February 1854, and the consecration service held in April 1855.¹⁷⁹⁹ Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott in Early English Geometrical style,¹⁸⁰⁰ it was built in stone with a tiled chancel and an aisled nave with clerestory windows. The nave pillars are alternately round and octagonal in shape, with carved heads in the arches representing the twelve apostles. The chancel arch has figures of the Virgin Mary and St Joseph. The tower was completed in 1860, when the 176 ft. high spire was added. The clock was added the following year and the bells were installed between 1861 and 1875.¹⁸⁰¹

The incumbent and his family originally lived at Oxford Cottage in Langley Road.¹⁸⁰² Correspondence regarding a new parsonage house dates from at least 1864, but progress was slow.¹⁸⁰³ In 1872 Revd Strong conveyed 1 a. of land for a parsonage house, garden and glebe

¹⁷⁹⁰ Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.* 219; *Parish Church of St Andrew*, 5.

¹⁷⁹¹ Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.* 219; *Parish Church of St Andrew*, 9.

¹⁷⁹² Inf. From Mr R. Alder.

¹⁷⁹³ *St Paul's, Chippenham: Centenary Year 1855–1955* (1955), 9–10.

¹⁷⁹⁴ WSA, 2680/50.

¹⁷⁹⁵ WSA, 2680/23.

¹⁷⁹⁶ *Lond. Gaz.* 3 Apr. 1866, p. 2218; WSA, 2680/24, 50; *St Paul's, Chippenham: Centenary Year*, 9–10.

¹⁷⁹⁷ WSA, 2680/23.

¹⁷⁹⁸ WSA, 2680/23.

¹⁷⁹⁹ WSA, 2680/51 (ts. hist. of church, 'St. Paul's Church, Chippenham 1855–1980').

¹⁸⁰⁰ *St Paul's 1855–1955*, 10; Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.* 220.

¹⁸⁰¹ WSA, 2680/51.

¹⁸⁰² WSA, 2680/51.

¹⁸⁰³ WSA, 2680/27.

on the Malmesbury Road.¹⁸⁰⁴ The house was too large to manage without domestic staff, and in 1965 the new rector, Revd E.H. Waddleton, moved into a house in Greenway Park, which remained the rectory in 2016.¹⁸⁰⁵

In 1864 the incumbent's gross annual income, £220, was derived in part from an endowment of £1,200, towards which £1,000 had been given by Revd Strong. If he vacated the living he and his family would lose both the principal and the interest of the endowment.¹⁸⁰⁶ Strong remained at St Paul's for over 40 years until his death in 1898.¹⁸⁰⁷

The incumbency of Strong's successor, J. F. Griffiths, from 1899, saw extensive repairs undertaken to the church building, largely completed by Easter 1901 when the choir appeared in cassocks and surplices for the first time.¹⁸⁰⁸ Much of the stained glass was installed during his incumbency or soon after his departure in 1910; the Brockway memorial window of 1971 in the south aisle was the first stained glass window installed for 50 years.¹⁸⁰⁹ Revd Griffiths was also active in his pastoral mission; in 1906 he reported to a vestry meeting that in the preceding year he had preached 100 sermons at St Paul's, 28 at Hardenhuish and 77 at the workhouse.¹⁸¹⁰

The early history of the mission church in the hamlet of Allington is obscure, but there is a tradition that it was originally a barn belonging to Sir John Neeld, who, sometime before St Paul's opened in 1855, allowed its use by those who had difficulty travelling to services at St Andrew's.¹⁸¹¹ It was described as St Paul's Church in 1889, but there is no evidence for a dedication. A licence allowing services to be held in the building dates from 1911.¹⁸¹² By the mid-1960s services were only held four times a year, the last service on 1 January 1967. The mission church was sold in 1978.¹⁸¹³

St Paul's has been closely linked with those parishes from which it was formed. Revd Griffiths was minister of Hardenhuish as well as St Paul's.¹⁸¹⁴ The parish of St Paul's united with Langley Burrell in 1964 to become the parish of St Paul, Chippenham with Langley Burrell.¹⁸¹⁵ In 1979 a united benefice was formed from St Paul, Langley Burrell, and Hardenhuish, to be held in plurality with the benefice of Kington St Michael.¹⁸¹⁶ By 2016 the parish was part of the Greenways benefice, with the churches of St Peter at Langley Burrell and St Nicholas at Hardenhuish.¹⁸¹⁷

¹⁸⁰⁴ WSA, 2680/28.

¹⁸⁰⁵ WSA, 2680/51.

¹⁸⁰⁶ WSA, 2680/27.

¹⁸⁰⁷ *St Paul's, Chippenham: Centenary Year*, 13.

¹⁸⁰⁸ WSA, 2680/51.

¹⁸⁰⁹ WSA, 2680/51.

¹⁸¹⁰ WSA, 1488/22.

¹⁸¹¹ WSA, 2680/49.

¹⁸¹² OS Map 6", Wilts XX (1889 edn.); WSA, 2680/49.

¹⁸¹³ WSA, 1488/37; 2680/44, 45, 49.

¹⁸¹⁴ WSA, 2680/51.

¹⁸¹⁵ *Lond. Gaz.* 24 Nov. 1964, p. 10027; WSA, 2680/51.

¹⁸¹⁶ *Lond. Gaz.* 25 Oct. 1979, p. 13333.

¹⁸¹⁷ <http://www.bristol.anglican.org/our-churches/chippenham-deanery/> (accessed 4 Oct. 2016).

St Peter's

The church of St Peter in Lowden opened in 1886 to serve the then isolated area of Lowden, Sheldon Road and Parliament Street. The land had been purchased for £160, and the church, designed by Graham Awdry, was built at a cost of £1,095.¹⁸¹⁸ The church remained within the parish of Chippenham, and was served by the incumbent and his curates. Services were not always held on a Sunday, but from 1904–5 onwards full-time curates served the church, and regular services seem to have been held.¹⁸¹⁹ A parsonage house had been built in Sheldon Road by 1907,¹⁸²⁰ though a new clergy house was purchased in the same road in 1938.¹⁸²¹

The population of the area expanded after the First World War with heavy residential development. By 1936 the curate estimated the population of Lowden and Woodlands as in excess of 4,000 persons.¹⁸²² The church was licensed for marriages on 1 January 1955.¹⁸²³

In 1954 the question of forming a new parish was suggested. As part of these negotiations, St Peter's became a conventional district in 1954 (a preliminary to achieving parish status), and the curate became priest-in-charge.¹⁸²⁴ It was proposed that a double-decker church be built on land along Sheldon Road, with the church on the first floor and a church hall below. This plan was never realised, in part because of the limited space for expansion on the proposed site.¹⁸²⁵

Not until 1968 was a new church opened, on a site at the junction of Lords Mead and Frogwell which had been part of St Andrew's glebe land.¹⁸²⁶ This building, designed by architects Kenneth Nealan, Tanner and Partners, is six-sided, of brick and reconstituted stone with a copper roof and fibre-glass spire. It has no internal supports, to allow the congregation a clear view of the altar.¹⁸²⁷ A new parsonage house was built in Lords Mead in 1969.¹⁸²⁸ St Peter's became a separate parish in 1969, with the bishop of Bristol as patron, and the priest-in-charge, Revd Phillip Hughes, became vicar.¹⁸²⁹

In 1957 the church at Lowden had four services each Sunday, with an average attendance of 60 at the main morning service. By 1982 a questionnaire regarding worship at the new Lords Mead church gained 77 responses, of whom 57 said they attended the church weekly.¹⁸³⁰ The Lowden church closed and was sold c.1970 to Lowden Community Church.¹⁸³¹

¹⁸¹⁸ R.J.H. Garner, *St Peter's 1886–1986* (1986), 7.

¹⁸¹⁹ Garner, *St Peter's*, 8–9.

¹⁸²⁰ WSA, 2851/16.

¹⁸²¹ WSA, 3435A/25 (Dioc. Bristol Pastoral Committee report, 16 March 1960).

¹⁸²² WSA, 3435A/25 (C. R. Haslum, *A Short History of St. Peter's Church Lowden: 1886–1936*, 8).

¹⁸²³ Bristol Archives, EP/A/23/60.

¹⁸²⁴ Bristol Archives, EP/A/27/39; WSA, 3435A/25 (Diocese of Bristol Pastoral Committee report on proposed new parish church, 16 March 1960).

¹⁸²⁵ WSA, 3435A/25 (Dioc. Bristol Pastoral Committee report, 16 March 1960); Garner, *St Peter's*, 11.

¹⁸²⁶ WSA, 2851/15; WSA, 3435A/25 (letter 18 May 1962); Garner, *St Peter's*, 11–12.

¹⁸²⁷ Garner, *St Peter's*, 12–13.

¹⁸²⁸ WSA, 2851/18.

¹⁸²⁹ *Lond. Gaz.* 30 May 1969, p. 5657; Garner, *St Peter's*, 14.

¹⁸³⁰ WSA, 3435A/25.

¹⁸³¹ Garner, *St Peter's*, 2; New Testament Church of God, <http://www.ntcg.org.uk/> (accessed 29 Jun. 2015); below, Other churches.

PROTESTANT NONCONFORMITY

Early records of nonconformity in the town are found in 1605 and 1607, when two Chippenham weavers are recorded in marriage banns from a separatist church in Amsterdam. These may have been followers of the separatist preacher Thomas White, who was active in Wiltshire.¹⁸³²

Churchwardens' presentments from 1662 reported that a number of Chippenham parishioners absented themselves from divine service, and some had not brought their children to be baptised.¹⁸³³ In 1674 Henry Stephens and Ralph Gale were presented as 'sectaries' for disturbing the church service, and were among four men who refused to pay the church rate towards repairing the church.¹⁸³⁴ In 1676 the parish of Chippenham (probably including Tytherton Lucas) recorded 134 Protestant nonconformists.¹⁸³⁵ The parish of Kellaways, then held in plurality with Chippenham, recorded two Protestant nonconformists.¹⁸³⁶ A local tradition that the 17th-century religious radical Lodowick Muggleton was born in Chippenham has been disproved.¹⁸³⁷

A nonconformist burial ground was established along Wood Lane, probably after 1784 and certainly before 1840, when it was proposed that the parish church negotiate for burial spaces there to ease overcrowding in St Andrew's churchyard.¹⁸³⁸ A small mortuary chapel had been built by 1886.¹⁸³⁹ The burial ground later closed, and part was lost to development,¹⁸⁴⁰ while the chapel has been demolished. What remains survives as open space along Wood Lane.

Presbyterians and Independents

A Presbyterian congregation was meeting in the town in 1669, with Henry Stubbs, previously ejected from Wells (Som.) and Dursley (Glos.) as its preacher.¹⁸⁴¹ In 1672, under the short-lived Declaration of Indulgence for dissenters, a licence was applied for the house of Benjamin Flower to be used as a meeting place.¹⁸⁴² By 1690 Flower was preaching once a month at Chippenham,¹⁸⁴³ and in 1692 his house in the town was registered as a meeting

¹⁸³² VCH Wilts, III, 100; W.T. Whitely, 'English in Amsterdam about the time of John Smyth', *Baptist Quarterly*, 1.8 (October 1923), 368–72. For a detailed illustrated study of nonconformity in Chippenham see J. Holden, *Wilts. Nonconformist Chapel and Meeting Houses* (2022), 235–42.

¹⁸³³ WSA, D1/54/1/1.

¹⁸³⁴ WSA, D1/54/6/1.

¹⁸³⁵ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 128.

¹⁸³⁶ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 128.

¹⁸³⁷ WAM, 97, 99–105.

¹⁸³⁸ WSA, 811/48. It is not shown on Powell's map.

¹⁸³⁹ OS Map 25", Wilts. XXVI.2 (1886 edn.).

¹⁸⁴⁰ R. Marshall, *Chippenham Memories* (2005), 80.

¹⁸⁴¹ G.L. Turner (ed.), *Original Records of Early Nonconformity*, i (1911), 107; A.G. Matthews (ed.), *Calamy Revised*, 468–9; ODNB. Stubbes, Henry (1605/6–1678).

¹⁸⁴² Turner (ed.), *Original Records*, ii (1911), 1056.

¹⁸⁴³ A. Gordon, *Freedom After Ejection* (1917), 123.

place for Presbyterians,¹⁸⁴⁴ although it is not known where this was located, nor for how long it was used. In 1701 a new meeting house was erected at the backside of the Bell Inn.¹⁸⁴⁵ By c.1715 Chippenham Presbyterians had a congregation of 250 'hearers' (who were not necessarily full members), under their preacher Lawrence Maes. Although seven hearers were said to be worth at least £500 each, the congregation still received a grant of £4 annually from the Presbyterian Fund.¹⁸⁴⁶

After 1715 Presbyterianism in Chippenham is obscure. The 1701 meeting house is believed to have become Methodist by 1784, and to have been demolished in 1811.¹⁸⁴⁷ This does not necessarily indicate a decline as in 1773 the town had a Presbyterian congregation with a minister,¹⁸⁴⁸ and in 1783 the vicar of Chippenham reported that the Presbyterians had a preacher, Salter, who was licensed according to the law.¹⁸⁴⁹ The preaching of Calvinist Methodists in the 1760s has been credited as instrumental in founding a number of nonconformist churches in Wiltshire and East Somerset, not only Methodist,¹⁸⁵⁰ and if a congregation was not founded in Chippenham, the evangelism may have invigorated and inspired an existing Presbyterian congregation.

A new meeting house was built in Emery Lane in 1770.¹⁸⁵¹ The leading Calvinist Methodist George Whitefield was a trustee, and tradition has it that the building opened for public worship on the day of Whitefield's death.¹⁸⁵² It was not Methodist, but joined the Congregational movement, being among the founding members of the Association of Wilts. and East Somerset Congregational Churches in 1797, and remaining in membership when it was reorganised as the Wilts. and East Somerset Congregational Union in 1841.¹⁸⁵³

The meeting house was rebuilt in 1826,¹⁸⁵⁴ and was registered as a new meeting house in January 1828; known as the Tabernacle, it was described as an Independent church.¹⁸⁵⁵ On Census Sunday in 1851 it recorded an attendance of 260 persons at the morning service, 71 at the afternoon service, and 350 at the evening service, with 160 Sunday School scholars at the morning service and 170 scholars at the afternoon service.¹⁸⁵⁶ In 1889 the interior was extensively altered¹⁸⁵⁷ and further renovations followed in 1904–5.¹⁸⁵⁸ In 1912 89 persons were recorded as being in membership.¹⁸⁵⁹ The congregation joined the United Reformed Church

¹⁸⁴⁴ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 4.

¹⁸⁴⁵ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 11.

¹⁸⁴⁶ Dr Williams's Lib. MS 38.4.

¹⁸⁴⁷ *VCH Wilts*, III, 107.

¹⁸⁴⁸ *Trans. Congregational His. Soc.* v (1911–12), 375.

¹⁸⁴⁹ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 62.

¹⁸⁵⁰ A. Antrobus, *Hist. Wilts. & E Som. Congregational Union* (1947), 14–15.

¹⁸⁵¹ TNA, HO 129/253, 48.

¹⁸⁵² D. E. Evans, *Tabernacle Congregational Church Chippenham* (1970).

¹⁸⁵³ Antrobus, *Hist. Wilts. & E Som. Congregational Union*, 17–18, 25.

¹⁸⁵⁴ TNA, HO 129/253, 48.

¹⁸⁵⁵ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 28, 116; Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.* 221.

¹⁸⁵⁶ TNA, HO 129/253, 48.

¹⁸⁵⁷ C. Stell, *Inventory of Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting Houses in South-West England* (RCHM, 1991), 217.

¹⁸⁵⁸ WSA, 4332/2, f. 1r.

¹⁸⁵⁹ WSA, 4332/2, f. 12v.

(URC) in 1972. The cost of maintaining the historic building eventually proved beyond the congregation's resources, and the Tabernacle URC church closed in March 2016.¹⁸⁶⁰

Baptists

A group of Anabaptists was meeting in Chippenham in 1669,¹⁸⁶¹ but records of early Baptists in the town are sparse. A Baptist congregation, with a minister, was meeting in 1773,¹⁸⁶² and a Baptist church was apparently founded in 1788, according to a list published in 1827, although a 1798 list made no mention of it.¹⁸⁶³ In c.1790 Particular Baptists in the town published a declaration of their faith.¹⁸⁶⁴ Thus at least one Baptist church existed in Chippenham before 1800, but its dates remain uncertain; and it is unclear whether there was any connection between Chippenham's 18th-century Baptists and the 19th-century congregations.

A Strict Baptist congregation was founded in 1804 when the Revd John Paul Porter of Bath baptised five people in the Avon and later preached to a gathering said to be of 3,000 people.¹⁸⁶⁵ This congregation registered a meeting house in St Mary Street in 1804,¹⁸⁶⁶ and in 1810 moved to a chapel in a lane off the High Street.¹⁸⁶⁷ This chapel, in Gutter Lane, now Chapel Lane, is sometimes dated to 1804,¹⁸⁶⁸ but this is more accurately the foundation date for the congregation, rather than for the building. In the returns for Census Sunday in 1851 the building was dated to 1810.¹⁸⁶⁹ The congregation then averaged 130 at the morning service, 82 in the afternoon, and 160 at the evening service, including Sunday School scholars at the morning and afternoon services.¹⁸⁷⁰

A Baptist chapel, known as Avon Hall, was founded in Bath Road, c.1861.¹⁸⁷¹ The building was advertised for sale in 1863.¹⁸⁷² It continued to be used as a chapel, and is known to have been there in 1871.¹⁸⁷³ In town directories for the 1870s it is described as a 'Christian Church' rather than Baptist.¹⁸⁷⁴ It closed in 1877, in what appear to have been controversial circumstances.¹⁸⁷⁵

In 1854 an appeal was launched to build a new Baptist church on the corner of New Road and Station Hill; the estimated cost, including the land, was £1,200. The lack of spiritual

¹⁸⁶⁰ Inf. from Revd Sarah Simpson, URC minister for the North Wilts Pastorate, 18 Feb. 2016.

¹⁸⁶¹ Turner (ed.), *Original Records*, i, 107.

¹⁸⁶² *Trans. Congregational Hist. Soc.* v (1911–12), 375.

¹⁸⁶³ W. Doel, *Twenty Golden Candlesticks* (1890), 222–6.

¹⁸⁶⁴ WSA, 1769/68.

¹⁸⁶⁵ P. Cater, *Memoirs of the Life and Character of the Late Revd. John Paul Porter* (1834), 100–1.

¹⁸⁶⁶ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 59.

¹⁸⁶⁷ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 67.

¹⁸⁶⁸ Stell, *Inventory of Nonconformist Chapels*, 217.

¹⁸⁶⁹ TNA, HO 129/253, 49. NHLE, 1268156 dates the building to c.1834, but with no documentary evidence.

¹⁸⁷⁰ TNA, HO 129/253, 49.

¹⁸⁷¹ *Wilts. Independent*, 13 Mar. 1862, 3; 9 Oct. 1862, 3.

¹⁸⁷² *Salisbury & Winchester Jnl.*, 1 Aug. 1863, 4.

¹⁸⁷³ C.S. Hall and D.C. Sparkes, 'The Jnl. of W. J. Acomb', *Baptist Quarterly* 25.3 (July 1973), 115–43.

¹⁸⁷⁴ *Spinke's Dir. Chippenham* (1877, 1878 edns.).

¹⁸⁷⁵ WSA, 1418/13.

provision for the growing population of Chippenham was cited as the reason for the new church; there was no mention of any existing Baptist congregations in the town. The plans included space for future expansion, including a schoolroom.¹⁸⁷⁶ The new chapel was opened in 1856.¹⁸⁷⁷

By 1871 there were three Baptist churches in Chippenham, in Chapel Lane, Station Hill and Bath Road.¹⁸⁷⁸ After the Bath Road chapel's closure, the Chapel Lane and Station Hill churches remained in 1889.¹⁸⁷⁹ Another congregation, which may have split from Station Hill, was meeting in New Road by 1891 under the Revd H. B. Bardwell, minister of Station Hill from 1875–90. It continued until 1915 or later.¹⁸⁸⁰ The Station Hill church was still in existence in 2016, while the 1804 Strict Baptist congregation had become the independent and self-governing Old Baptist Chapel.

Quakers

Quakerism established itself strongly in Chippenham.¹⁸⁸¹ In 1656 George Fox travelled from Bristol to Marlborough, where he preached under the protection of Edward Stokes, a magistrate from Tytherton Lucas, though he does not appear to have preached in Chippenham itself.¹⁸⁸² However, a meeting was certainly established by January 1661, when soldiers pulled down the wall surrounding the Quaker's burial ground,¹⁸⁸³ and a meeting was recorded in the conventicle returns of 1669.¹⁸⁸⁴ Chippenham Friends were persecuted in the immediate aftermath of the passing of the Conventicle Act of 1670, and at one time Friends had to meet on the highway when they were kept from using their usual meeting place.¹⁸⁸⁵

Despite the persecution a meeting house was settled in 1670 on premises in High Street given by Thomas Neate on a thousand-year lease.¹⁸⁸⁶ After the Act of Toleration in 1689 it was registered as a meeting place in 1690,¹⁸⁸⁷ and rebuilt in 1733–4.¹⁸⁸⁸

Chippenham Particular (local) Meeting was a constituent of Chippenham Monthly Meeting, with the Particular Meetings of Brinkworth, Corsham, Kington, Lea and Slaughterford.¹⁸⁸⁹ The earliest known minute book dates from 1669, though in 1678 a schism within the meeting led to it being snatched by Nathaniel Coleman, a Quaker from Sutton Benger. A separatist meeting was established in the area, and, despite attempts to recover it,

¹⁸⁷⁶ WSA, 1112/139.

¹⁸⁷⁷ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.* 8 May 1856; *Trowbridge Advertiser*, 10 May 1856.

¹⁸⁷⁸ Hall and Sparkes, 'The Jnl. of W. J. Acomb', 115–43.

¹⁸⁷⁹ Doel, *Twenty Golden Candlesticks*, 224–6.

¹⁸⁸⁰ *Spinke's Dir. Chippenham* (1892, 1915 edns.).

¹⁸⁸¹ A full account of early Quakerism in north Wiltshire can be found in K. S. Taylor, 'Society, Schism and Sufferings: the first 70 Years of Quakerism in Wiltshire' (Univ. of the West of England PhD thesis, 2006).

¹⁸⁸² G. Fox, *Jnl. of George Fox*, ed. J. Nickalls, (Religious Society of Friends, 1997), 273.

¹⁸⁸³ WSA, 1699/17, 4–5.

¹⁸⁸⁴ Turner (ed.), *Original Records*, i, 107.

¹⁸⁸⁵ WSA, 1699/17, 21–2, 25.

¹⁸⁸⁶ WSA, 2269/44.

¹⁸⁸⁷ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 3.

¹⁸⁸⁸ WSA, 1699/81.

¹⁸⁸⁹ WSA, 1699/79.

the Chippenham book was not returned until 1705.¹⁸⁹⁰ The dispute was part of a wider controversy within the Quaker movement, the Wilkinson-Story schism.¹⁸⁹¹

Although after Toleration Quakers had liberty of worship in their registered meeting places, Friends continued to be prosecuted for non-payment of tithes, church rates and other dues to the Established Church which, on principle, they refused to pay. William Goodship of Chippenham was gaoled in 1693 for refusing to pay a tax imposed on preachers. Another Chippenham Friend was released from gaol in 1696 following several years' imprisonment for non-payment of church rate.¹⁸⁹²

By the beginning of the 19th century Chippenham Friends reported that Sunday meetings were generally well-attended, but attendance was thin at the weekday meetings.¹⁸⁹³ This suggested a declining attendance, and the meeting was eventually discontinued in 1812.¹⁸⁹⁴ The Quakers kept the building for several years, and in 1822 agreed to it being used as a school room for the education of women of any religious persuasion.¹⁸⁹⁵ The building was eventually sold in 1834 to Primitive Methodists for £180.¹⁸⁹⁶

The 1661 burial ground's location is unknown, but according to an 1870 record of property a burial ground had been established in 1700 on the Calne road, the last interment being in 1812.¹⁸⁹⁷ It lay across the road from the Pack Horse public house on what is now the London road.¹⁸⁹⁸ The land was sold in 1927 for £50, and later developed.¹⁸⁹⁹

A Quaker meeting was re-established in Chippenham in 1935. This closed in 1962, but another opened in the town in 1987.¹⁹⁰⁰ This met in a number of venues, until restoration of the former Primitive Methodist chapel on the Causeway in 2002 as The Cause discovered what were believed to be the meeting rooms of the pre-1834 Quaker meeting house. Chippenham Friends began to hold meetings for worship in that part of the building later that year, and continued to meet there in 2016.¹⁹⁰¹

Methodism

Early Methodist ministry in the Chippenham area was undertaken by John Cennick and George Whitefield. John Wesley passed through Chippenham on several occasions on his way to Bath and Bristol, but does not appear to have evangelised in the town.¹⁹⁰² John Cennick, initially a follower of Wesley but later of Whitefield, began preaching in the Chippenham area

¹⁸⁹⁰ WSA, 1699/79.

¹⁸⁹¹ W.C. Braithwaite, *Second Period of Quakerism* (1979 edn.), 317, 480–1; Taylor, 'Society, Schism and Sufferings'.

¹⁸⁹² WSA, 1699/17, 59, 64–5.

¹⁸⁹³ WSA, 854/88.

¹⁸⁹⁴ Inf. from Friends House Library, 18 Dec. 2015.

¹⁸⁹⁵ WSA, 854/40; above, education.

¹⁸⁹⁶ WSA, 2269/44.

¹⁸⁹⁷ WSA, 1699/106, 78.

¹⁸⁹⁸ OS Map 25", Wilts. XX.14 (1886 edn.).

¹⁸⁹⁹ WSA, 1699/107, 78a.

¹⁹⁰⁰ Inf. from Friends House Library, 18 Dec. 2015.

¹⁹⁰¹ http://www.chippenhamchurches.org.uk/main/html/coming_home.htm (accessed 18 Feb. 2016).

¹⁹⁰² *Jnl. of Revd. John Wesley* (1827), i. 342; ii. 22, 263; iv. 8, 318.

from 1740, sometimes in the company of Welsh evangelist Howell Harris. Despite opposition, his preaching resulted in the establishment of meeting houses in Brinkworth in 1741 and East Tytherton in 1743, but in 1745 Cennick left his mission work with Whitefield to join the Moravian church. The congregation at East Tytherton became Moravian.¹⁹⁰³ George Whitefield preached in Chippenham and the surrounding villages in 1743, and again in 1769.¹⁹⁰⁴

In 1783 there was a Methodist congregation in Chippenham, with one Moore as their teacher, though the vicar of Chippenham was unable to say if he was licensed or not.¹⁹⁰⁵ Powell's 1784 map of Chippenham shows a Methodist meeting house behind the Bell inn, possibly a former Presbyterian meeting house, which was demolished in 1811.¹⁹⁰⁶ A house in the Causeway was registered as a Methodist meeting place in 1801 and another in the town in 1811.¹⁹⁰⁷ They were probably superseded by the new Wesleyan Methodist chapel that opened on the Causeway in 1812.¹⁹⁰⁸

Primitive Methodists evangelised the area around Chippenham in the mid-1820s, but these endeavours did not prove fruitful, and it was not until a fresh missionary initiative in the early 1830s that Primitive Methodism became established in Chippenham.¹⁹⁰⁹ A dwelling house was registered as a meeting place in 1833, and by 1834 the congregation was sufficiently well-established to be able to purchase the former Friends Meeting House on the Causeway.¹⁹¹⁰

By 1851 there were two Methodist chapels on the Causeway; the Wesleyan of 1812, and the Primitive purchased in 1834. On Census Sunday that year the Wesleyans recorded 118 persons and 102 Sunday School scholars attending the morning service, while 300 persons attended the evening service.¹⁹¹¹ The Primitive Methodists recorded 96 people as attending the morning service, 194 at the afternoon service, and 207 at the evening service. The morning service was also attended by 85 Sunday School scholars, and 96 scholars also attended the afternoon service.¹⁹¹²

The latter half of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th saw Methodism expand in the town as chapels were built or rebuilt. A Primitive Methodist chapel opened in Lowden in 1855,¹⁹¹³ and Primitive Methodists were meeting at premises in Parliament Street by 1885, as part of the Lowden mission, but were no longer there by 1895.¹⁹¹⁴ The Primitive

¹⁹⁰³ P. Gentry and P. Taylor, *Bold as a Lion* (2007), 37–40, 46, 62. For Brinkworth see *VCH Wilts*, XIV, 24. For East Tytherton see below, 'Outer Chippenham' and 'Environs'.

¹⁹⁰⁴ L. Tyerman, *Life of the Revd. George Whitefield* (1877), ii, 61–2, 76–7, 560.

¹⁹⁰⁵ *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 62.

¹⁹⁰⁶ *VCH Wilts*, III, 107.

¹⁹⁰⁷ *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 57, 69.

¹⁹⁰⁸ WSA, 1907/16; TNA, HO 129/253, 51.

¹⁹⁰⁹ W.C. Tonks, *Victory in the Villages* (1907), 32, 50.

¹⁹¹⁰ WSA, 2269/44; *Wilts. Meeting House Certs.* (WRS. 40), 132, 136, 137.

¹⁹¹¹ TNA, HO 129/253, 51.

¹⁹¹² TNA, HO 129/253, 50.

¹⁹¹³ Below, Outer Chippenham (West), religious hist.

¹⁹¹⁴ WSA, 1640/24.

Methodist chapel on the Causeway was rebuilt in 1896.¹⁹¹⁵ A small temporary chapel was established by Wesleyans in the Woodlands area by 1903,¹⁹¹⁶ but was sold to raise funds for a new church that opened at Monkton Hill in April 1909.¹⁹¹⁷ This made the 1812 Causeway building redundant, and it became home to Spinke's printing works.¹⁹¹⁸ By 2016 it had been converted to private residences.

At the time of a 1993 report on Methodism in Chippenham there were three Methodist churches in the town; the town centre churches at Monkton Hill and the Causeway, and a third along Sheldon Road. The report recommended retaining the church at Sheldon Road to serve the new housing developments to the west of the town, and one church in the town centre to serve the eastern part of the town.¹⁹¹⁹ As a result the former Primitive Methodist chapel on the Causeway closed in 1996, and the congregation merged with that at Monkton Hill to become the Central Methodist Church.¹⁹²⁰ The vacant Causeway building was put on the market in 2000, and in 2002 became The Cause music and arts centre.¹⁹²¹

Salvation Army

The first attempt to establish a Salvation Army corps was made when the Army held a meeting in the town in December 1881.¹⁹²² A corps was established despite disruptions to its meetings and occasional violence from the townsfolk.¹⁹²³ It had several meeting places, including premises under the railway viaduct and the Temperance Hall in Foghamshire, before moving to a purpose-built Citadel Hall in Bath Road in 1903.¹⁹²⁴ This eventually proved unsuitable, being cramped and prone to flooding. In 1970 the corps purchased the Co-op Hall in Foghamshire, moving there the following year.¹⁹²⁵ It was meeting there in 2016. The former meeting place of Citadel Hall had by 2016 been converted into retail premises on the ground floor and a hall for hire on the first floor.

Brethren

Brethren, popularly known as Plymouth Brethren, emerged as an evangelical movement of spiritual renewal in Dublin and south-west England in 1827–31. In the 1840s the movement divided into two streams, which would become known as Open and Exclusive Brethren from their respective practices of admitting believers into fellowship.¹⁹²⁶ Further divisions within

¹⁹¹⁵ WSA, 3083/179.

¹⁹¹⁶ *Spinke's Dir. Chippenham* (1904 edn.).

¹⁹¹⁷ *100 Not Out! Central Methodist Church Chippenham, 1909–2009*.

¹⁹¹⁸ WSA, 2053/22.

¹⁹¹⁹ WSA, 3083/31.

¹⁹²⁰ *100 Not Out! Central Methodist Church Chippenham, 1909–2009*.

¹⁹²¹ <http://thecausemusicandarts.com/history-of-the-building/> (accessed 18 Feb. 2016).

¹⁹²² *War Cry*, 19 Jan. 1882, 3; 6 Jan. 1883, 2.

¹⁹²³ Souvenir Programme for Opening Weekend of the New Chippenham Citadel, 3 and 4 Apr. 1971.

¹⁹²⁴ *All the World*, Feb. 1908, 107–10; *War Cry*, 1 Aug. 1981, 6.

¹⁹²⁵ *Chippenham Salvation Army Corps History book, 1938–1974*, entries for 11 July 1968, 14–15 March 1970, 28 March 1971; *War Cry*, 1 Aug. 1981, 6.

¹⁹²⁶ T. Grass, *Gathering to His Name: the story of Open Brethren in Britain and Ireland* (Milton Keynes, 2006), 3.

the movement have occurred since the mid-19th century.¹⁹²⁷ Assemblies of Brethren have met continuously in Chippenham since the late 19th century.¹⁹²⁸

The oldest assembly of Exclusive Brethren in Chippenham is known by 1873. This assembly had a meeting place in Cook Street in 1877. The Brethren moved to premises on Station Hill in 1905. The association between this meeting place and the meeting room on Cocklebury Road is unclear, but the Cocklebury Road meeting room was still open in 2022. This assembly has become associated with the Raven-Taylor-Hales group of Exclusive Brethren.¹⁹²⁹

In 1966 Chippenham Brethren registered a charity, the Down Trust, to further their religious practices and to provide meeting houses,¹⁹³⁰ and in 1969 built a new hall along Goldney Avenue.¹⁹³¹ This appears to have been the same group as that meeting in Cocklebury Road, as by 2008 a planning application stated that the Brethren were meeting in Goldney Avenue and in two smaller halls at Hill Corner Road and Cocklebury Road. The Goldney Road facilities had become unsuitable, and Brethren applied for planning permission for a gospel hall on a former picnic site at Kington Langley.¹⁹³² Since 2012 the Raven-Taylor-Hales group of Exclusive Brethren has been known as the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (PBCC), and it was as a PBCC assembly that Brethren moved into the new premises at Kington Langley in 2015, having vacated the Goldney Road building some time previously.¹⁹³³ The Hill Corner Road meeting room had been registered in 1999 and was still open in 2022.¹⁹³⁴

Other Exclusive Brethren assemblies are known in Chippenham. An assembly of the Kelly group was meeting at Horley's Café, New Road, in 1948, but closed the following year. A group which left the Raven-Taylor group formed in 1970–1 and met in Greenway Lane. By 1985 it was meeting at a social centre in Wood Lane, but it is unclear what happened to it subsequently.¹⁹³⁵

Open Brethren in Chippenham date from the Second World War, developing into the congregation now known as the Ladyfield Evangelical Church. A history of Ladyfield Church traces its history back to the Hopgoods, a Brethren family who moved from London to Chippenham during the Second World War. The Hopgoods may have joined existing Brethren in the town, although they are credited with establishing a small Brethren

¹⁹²⁷ M. Introvigne, *The Plymouth Brethren* (New York, 2018), 61–89.

¹⁹²⁸ *Spinke's Dir. Chippenham* (1886, 1913 edns.); *Directory of Chippenham and District* (1933); *Directory of Chippenham* (1953 and 1957); inf. T. Grass, 12 Sept. 2022.

¹⁹²⁹ Inf. T. Grass, 12 Sept. 2022; Ladyfield Evangelical Church, *A Work of God in the Ladyfield Area of Chippenham* (2009).

¹⁹³⁰ <http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/showcharity/registerofcharities/RegisterHomePage.aspx> (accessed 7 Sept. 2016).

¹⁹³¹ Wilts CC planning application N/08/00631/FUL (14 Mar. 2008) <http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/Planning/Explorer/Home.aspx> (accessed 9 Sept. 2016).

¹⁹³² Wilts CC planning application N/08/00631/FUL (14 Mar. 2008) <http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/Planning/Explorer/Home.aspx> (accessed 9 Sept. 2016).

¹⁹³³ Inf. from Administrator, Emmanuel Church. 4 Mar. 2016; inf. T. Grass, 12 Sept. 2012.

¹⁹³⁴ Inf. T. Grass, 12 Sept. 2022.

¹⁹³⁵ Inf. T. Grass, 12 Sept. 2022.

congregation in Chippenham. This is said to have met at one time over a baker's shop at the bottom of Station Hill, although in 1943 it was meeting in a gospel hall in Dallas Road, and by 1951 in a building in Frogwell Road.¹⁹³⁶ The Ladyfield Church history states that the meeting was struck off as a recognised Brethren assembly for admitting persons of other religious persuasions to communion, and it continued instead as an independent fellowship, but there is evidence that it was still in Brethren circles, c.1959, subsequently becoming a Reformed Baptist congregation. Its missionary activity in Chippenham centred on the new housing estate in the Ladyfield area of Chippenham, and in 1954 it secured a site at the junction of Hungerdown Lane and Ladyfield Road. A prefabricated church building was opened in 1957. A flat-roofed extension was added in 1973 and a new church building in 1996. The old church and extension were replaced by new facilities in 2009.¹⁹³⁷ It is affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC).¹⁹³⁸

Other churches

The Emmanuel Church congregation dates from 2005. It originally met in the hall at Hardenhuish School, but in 2015 moved into the church building on Goldney Avenue vacated by the Brethren.¹⁹³⁹ Emmanuel is affiliated to FIEC.¹⁹⁴⁰

Several other churches were meeting in Chippenham by 2016. The Chippenham Christian Fellowship church, an Elim Pentecostal Church, had been at its Wood Lane premises for over 20 years.¹⁹⁴¹ The Lowden Community Church, a New Testament Church of God, met in the former St Peter's church, which they had bought c.1970.¹⁹⁴² The Redeemed Christian Church of God was meeting in the Rotary Hall along Station Hill.¹⁹⁴³ The evangelical Trinity Chippenham church, begun in 2014, was meeting on Sunday afternoons at the Olympiad leisure centre.¹⁹⁴⁴ Jehovah's Witnesses were meeting in their hall in London Road.¹⁹⁴⁵ Two churches not meeting in the town itself were affiliated to the umbrella organisation Chippenham Churches Together; the evangelical and charismatic Dayspring Church meeting in Lansdowne Hall in Derry Hill, and the Moravian Church in East Tytherton.¹⁹⁴⁶

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

¹⁹³⁶ Ladyfield Evangelical Church, *A Work of God in the Ladyfield Area of Chippenham* (2009); inf. T. Grass, 12 Sept. 2022.

¹⁹³⁷ Ladyfield Evangelical Church, *A Work of God*.

¹⁹³⁸ <https://ladyfieldchurch.co.uk/index.html> (accessed 31 Jan. 2024).

¹⁹³⁹ Inf. Administrator, Emmanuel Church. 4 March 2016.

¹⁹⁴⁰ http://www.chippenhamchurches.org.uk/main/html/the_churches.htm (accessed 26 May 2016).

¹⁹⁴¹ <http://www.chippenhamchristianfellowship.co.uk/> (accessed 18 Feb. 2016).

¹⁹⁴² <http://www.chippenhamchurches.org.uk/> (accessed 18 Feb. 2016).

¹⁹⁴³ <http://www.rccgchippenham.org.uk/> (accessed 18 Feb. 2016).

¹⁹⁴⁴ <http://trinitychippenham.org/who/> (accessed 7 September 2016).

¹⁹⁴⁵ <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/meetings/> (accessed 7 September 2016).

¹⁹⁴⁶ <http://www.dayspring.org.uk/>; <http://www.chippenhamchurches.org.uk/> (both accessed 18 Feb. 2016).

Chippenham was not a centre for Roman Catholicism in the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1676 no Catholics were recorded in the parish, nor in Kellaways, then held in plurality with Chippenham.¹⁹⁴⁷ By 1706 a single Catholic, Joane Procter, was resident in the parish.¹⁹⁴⁸ There is no record of other Catholics resident or owning property in the parish in the early 18th century, although in 1717 properties in Pewsham forest were owned by absentee Catholic landlords, Elizabeth, dowager countess of Castlehaven, and the Cary family of Torre Abbey, (Devon).¹⁹⁴⁹ No Catholics were recorded in Chippenham in the 1767 returns of papists.¹⁹⁵⁰

By 1780 the vicar, Thomas Weekes Dalby, reported that there were five papists in his parish, excepting French and Spanish prisoners on their parole.¹⁹⁵¹ In 1783 he reported one family of Catholics in the parish, relations of Lord Arundell, who had a private chapel with a resident priest, surnamed Smith.¹⁹⁵² Dalby described the occupant as 'Mr Arundell'; he was Thomas Arundell, natural son of Thomas Arundell, second son of the fifth Baron of Wardour, who had inherited the lease of a house at Rowden Hill. Revd John Smith, a secular Roman Catholic priest, was his chaplain, and also ministered to Catholics in Wootton Bassett.¹⁹⁵³

Despite the small numbers of Roman Catholics in north Wiltshire, Chippenham's burgesses opposed the perceived threat of Catholic emancipation with three petitions in the 1820s. In 1850 a public meeting was held objecting to the establishment of Roman Catholic bishoprics in England.¹⁹⁵⁴ In 1855 there were only ten Catholics resident in Chippenham, but the efforts of two recent converts, Richard Hungerford Pollen and Elizabeth Fellowes, were instrumental in establishing the first Roman Catholic church, St Mary's in St Mary's Place, which opened that year.¹⁹⁵⁵ In 1869 land was purchased on Station Hill,¹⁹⁵⁶ but a lack of funds and concerns about the suitability of the site delayed construction of a new church,¹⁹⁵⁷ although a presbytery was built on part of the site in 1901.¹⁹⁵⁸

The present church of St Mary's was opened on the Station Hill site in 1936.¹⁹⁵⁹ It was designed by Roberts and Willman of Taunton in Gothic style, and built at a total cost of £2,192.¹⁹⁶⁰ The old church was used as a church hall and was refurbished in 1991.¹⁹⁶¹ It was

¹⁹⁴⁷ *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 128.

¹⁹⁴⁸ WSA, D1/9/1/2.

¹⁹⁴⁹ WSA, A1/310–311; J.A. Williams, *Catholic Recusancy in Wilts. 1660–1791* (Catholic Record Society, 1968), 215–16.

¹⁹⁵⁰ E. S. Worrall (ed.), *Returns of Papists 1767*, ii, Dioceses of England and Wales, except Chester (Catholic Record Society, 1989).

¹⁹⁵¹ WSA, D1/9/1/4.

¹⁹⁵² *Bishop's Visitation Queries 1783* (WRS. 27), 61–2.

¹⁹⁵³ WSA, 2667/1/16/6, 2667/8/4, 2667/19/10; Williams, *Catholic Recusancy*, 117, 236 (where the house is wrongly named Bowden); *Wilts>Returns 1783* (WRS. 27), 244.

¹⁹⁵⁴ J. and N. Coggles, *St Mary's Parish 1855–1998* (1998), 5–6, 7, 101–8.

¹⁹⁵⁵ Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 10.

¹⁹⁵⁶ Clifton Dioc. Archives, Chippenham Mission n.d., 1854–1863.

¹⁹⁵⁷ Clifton Dioc. Archives, Chippenham Mission n.d., 1854–1863; Chippenham Mission n.d., 1875–1917.

¹⁹⁵⁸ Clifton Dioc. Archives, Chippenham Mission 1900–1902. Papers concerning the new presbytery.

¹⁹⁵⁹ *Wilts. Gaz.* 5 Mar. 1936, 12.

¹⁹⁶⁰ Clifton Dioc. Archives, 'The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Chippenham': architectural report on the church, (2015).

¹⁹⁶¹ Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 29, 41.

still in use as a hall in 2016. In 2005 the Roman Catholic parish of Chippenham numbered around 3,000 adherents.¹⁹⁶² By 2014 an average of 439 people each week attended Sunday Mass in St Mary's church.¹⁹⁶³

Two Roman Catholic female religious orders have been resident in Chippenham. The Order of the Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy was resident from 1866 until 1884, when they moved to Malmesbury.¹⁹⁶⁴ The Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God established a school on Rowden Hill in 1937.¹⁹⁶⁵ The last sister left Chippenham in 2003.¹⁹⁶⁶

Mary Stapleton Bretherton of Lackham, by a codicil to her will in 1882, left £3,000 to be invested for the maintenance at Chippenham of a Roman Catholic priest.¹⁹⁶⁷ The charity trust fund still existed in 1998.¹⁹⁶⁸ As the Stapleton Brethren fund, now augmented to just over £10,000, it was distributing £186 annually by 2016, although it was not among the charities registered with the Charity Commissioners.¹⁹⁶⁹

OTHER RELIGIONS

Historically, there is little evidence for non-Christian faiths in Chippenham. In 13th-century Wiltshire there were Jewish communities in Marlborough and Wilton, and possibly at Salisbury and Chippenham. The evidence for Chippenham appears to be that, during the reign of Edward I, Salomon, a Chippenham Jew, was accused of theft, but fled before he could be apprehended.¹⁹⁷⁰

In 2016, of the major world religions other than Christianity, only Buddhists and Muslims were meeting in Chippenham. Buddhist teachers from Bristol were holding meditation classes at The Cause.¹⁹⁷¹ Muslims were meeting for Friday prayers in the Rotary Club on Station Hill.¹⁹⁷²

¹⁹⁶² *Clifton Catholic News*, issue 111, July 2005, 6.

¹⁹⁶³ *Clifton Diocese Directory 2016* (Bristol: Clifton Diocese [2015]), 89.

¹⁹⁶⁴ Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 18–20, 80.

¹⁹⁶⁵ Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 80–1. See section on Education above/below.

¹⁹⁶⁶ *Clifton Catholic News*, issue 86, June 2003, 9.

¹⁹⁶⁷ *Endowed Charities, 1908*, 44–5; Clifton Dioc. Archives, Chippenham Mission 1884–1914: Papers concerning the Bretherton legacy.

¹⁹⁶⁸ Coggles, *St Mary's Parish*, 20.

¹⁹⁶⁹ Inf. from Revd Canon Dr Anthony Harding, Clifton Dioc. Archives, 14 March 2016;

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/registerhomepage.aspx> (accessed 27 Jan. 2016).

¹⁹⁷⁰ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1268* (WRS. 65), lxxx; *Recs. Chippenham*, xix.

¹⁹⁷¹ <http://www.meditationinbristol.org/meditation-classes/meditation-classes-in-chippenham/> (accessed 30 Aug. 2016).

¹⁹⁷² <http://www.islamicfinder.org/world/view-place/54368> (accessed 30 Aug. 2016).

OUTER CHIPPENHAM (WEST)

This account includes those parts of Chippenham ancient parish within the tithings of Allington and Chippenham, which lie to the west of the medieval and later town, principally Allington, Fowlswick, Lowden, Rowden and Sheldon. The 20th-century development of Lowden, Rowden and the Frogwell area of Sheldon, as they were absorbed into suburban Chippenham, is considered elsewhere;¹⁹⁷³ The history of Bolehyde is given with Kington St Michael, in which parish it lay until later than 1955.¹⁹⁷⁴ Manorial government is described with that of Chippenham.¹⁹⁷⁵

SETTLEMENTS AND BUILDINGS

Allington and Fowlswick

Lanhill long barrow, c.300 m. south of Sparrow Farm below Lanhill, is one of three Neolithic chambered tombs of the Severn-Cotswold Group in north-west Wiltshire. Investigated in 1909, 1936 and 1963, it was originally c.185 × 75 ft, trapezoidal and aligned east–west, with chambers on its north and south sides; part of a southern chamber is exposed. Skeletal remains of 22 individuals have been excavated, associated with Middle Neolithic pottery.¹⁹⁷⁶

Although neither Allington nor Fowlswick is recorded before the 13th century, the names of both appear to commemorate the farms of pre-conquest owners, Ælle and Fugol.¹⁹⁷⁷ Allington was one of six townships in Chippenham hundred which gave evidence about a murder in 1248,¹⁹⁷⁸ and was described again as a township in 1268.¹⁹⁷⁹ In the tax list of 1332 it was listed separately from the town of Chippenham, with 14 payers, and assessed at a value similar to Langley Burrell and Biddestone.¹⁹⁸⁰ In a 1539 muster it returned five able men, compared with four for Hardenhuish.¹⁹⁸¹ In 1657 there were 8 freeholders (not all resident), 8 copyholders, 2 leaseholders and 9 resiants (adult males who held no land or sub-let), so there was probably a resident adult male population of around 25 and total population of 75–100.¹⁹⁸² It was still regarded as a separate settlement in 1736, and for land tax, 1780–1831.¹⁹⁸³ In 1830 Allington was described as a tithing.¹⁹⁸⁴

¹⁹⁷³ Above, Chippenham borough, origins, growth and development.

¹⁹⁷⁴ Below, Kington St Michael.

¹⁹⁷⁵ Above, Chippenham borough, govt. and politics, manorial govt.

¹⁹⁷⁶ *Proc. Prehistoric Soc.*, n.s. iv (1938), 122–50; *VCH Wilts*, I (2), 311–12; Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts*, 104.

¹⁹⁷⁷ *PN Wilts*. (EPNS), 90, 91.

¹⁹⁷⁸ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1249* (WRS. 16), 260.

¹⁹⁷⁹ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1268* (WRS. 65), 118.

¹⁹⁸⁰ *Wilts. Tax List of 1332* (WRS. 45), 101.

¹⁹⁸¹ *L&P Hen. VIII*, XIV (1), p. 302.

¹⁹⁸² Somerset Heritage Centre, DD/WY/1/58/2.

¹⁹⁸³ *Wilts. Quarter Sessions and Assizes, 1736* (WRS. 9), 136; WSA, A1/345/100.

¹⁹⁸⁴ *Pigot's Dir. Wilts.* (1830 edn.), 794.

Allington village developed along a winding north–south lane, part of a route running from Malmesbury through Leigh Delamere to Corsham and beyond into Somerset.¹⁹⁸⁵ Manor Farm, Bolehyde Manor (in Kington St Michael parish until the 1950s) and several smaller houses abut this lane, and other farm complexes, including Fowlswick, stand separately further west. Lanhill Farm, of c.1835, is an estate farm in picturesque style, boasting a tall, thin bell tower.¹⁹⁸⁶ Allington was designated a conservation area in 1998, and this was extended in 2002. The buildings are mainly larger detached houses among farmsteads, and 14 had listed status by 2005.¹⁹⁸⁷

Fowlswick is a moated medieval farmstead comprising a farmhouse and loose courtyard formed by agricultural buildings on three sides.¹⁹⁸⁸ The estate was acquired by Malmesbury abbey after 1260, and the surviving medieval east range of the house, of rubblestone with stone-tiled roof supported on two base crucks, dates from the abbey's period of ownership; a cross-wing to its west, projecting northwards, may be of 1679, with later alterations.¹⁹⁸⁹

Lowden

The extent of Lowden is uncertain, although it occupied the rising ground immediately west of Chippenham town, between the river Avon, Ladyfield brook, Hardenhuish brook and Rowden Hill. In 1281, when lands at Sheldon and Lowden were listed together, Lowden was the smaller settlement.¹⁹⁹⁰ The name, meaning 'Lolla's hill',¹⁹⁹¹ was recorded as *Lolledon(e)* in 1281, 1307 and 1337,¹⁹⁹² and *Loldon* in 1469;¹⁹⁹³ it had become *Lowdon* in 1642.¹⁹⁹⁴

Lowden was mentioned as a settlement in 1268 and a hamlet in 1287 but does not appear to have had the status of a manor, tithing or taxation vill.¹⁹⁹⁵ At the latter date it included a capital messuage with garden and dovecote, and 180 a. arable with meadow and pasture.¹⁹⁹⁶ In the muster of 1539 Sheldon and Lowden together returned nine able men.¹⁹⁹⁷

A partially extant medieval farmstead remains at Lowden farm.¹⁹⁹⁸ Medieval pottery of the 13th and 14th centuries has been found in the driveway of Lowden Manor.¹⁹⁹⁹ Lowden Manor, the former farmhouse of Lowden farm, is a grade II listed manor house, 16th or 17th

¹⁹⁸⁵ This route was taken by John Leland in 1542: *Itinerary* (Toulmin Smith, ed.), I, 133.

¹⁹⁸⁶ Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.*, 104; WBR, B4755; NHLE, 1283429.

¹⁹⁸⁷ Wilts. CC Design & Estates Team, 'Conservation Area Description: Allington', October 2005, www.wiltshire.gov.uk/allington-2.pdf (accessed 6 Nov. 2018).

¹⁹⁸⁸ HER, MW166030.

¹⁹⁸⁹ Orbach and Pevsner, *Wilts.*, 103–4; NHLE, 317311.

¹⁹⁹⁰ TNA, SC 12/16/52.

¹⁹⁹¹ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 91.

¹⁹⁹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* V, pp. 14–15; VIII, pp. 68–9.

¹⁹⁹³ HMC, *Hastings MSS*, I, 290.

¹⁹⁹⁴ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 91.

¹⁹⁹⁵ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1268* (WRS. 65), 119; TNA, C 133/47/12; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* II, 382.

¹⁹⁹⁶ TNA, C 133/47/12; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* II, 382.

¹⁹⁹⁷ *L&P Hen.* VIII, XIV (1), p. 302.

¹⁹⁹⁸ HER, MW166143.

¹⁹⁹⁹ HER, MW15232.

century in date and remodelled in the early 19th century with additions c.1919. It is built of rubblestone with largely stone tiled roof.²⁰⁰⁰ It was sold in 1984 and acquired by developers who divided the original building into two properties.²⁰⁰¹

The Great Western Railway line bisected the area in 1841, and Lowden Lane was built up intermittently with houses by the later 19th century.²⁰⁰² The Ladyfield housing estate was built north-west of the line during the 1920s, and the Charter Road estate covered most land south of the Bath Road during the 1980s.²⁰⁰³

Rowden

Rowden lies south and west of Lowden, astride the Bath road and railway line. Richard de Reudon was a free tenant in Chippenham in 1208,²⁰⁰⁴ but other early forms of the place-name have the spelling *Rugh(e)-*, and ‘rough hill’ is the likely meaning, referring to Rowden Hill or Rowden Down (*Rosdensdowne* in 1561).²⁰⁰⁵

Excavations in 2017 in advance of development in Rowden Park, Patterdown, close to the Lacock border, discovered pits, ditches, burials and postholes of a possible structure, finds in the area extending from the Bronze age to Roman periods.²⁰⁰⁶

In the 16th century one man, designated an esquire, was listed among the taxpayers of Chippenham hundred for the benevolence of 1545.²⁰⁰⁷ Land granted by queen Mary’s charter of 1554 to the bailiff and burgesses of Chippenham included 120 a. of land and 21 a. of coppice at Rowden Down.²⁰⁰⁸

During the Civil Wars Rowden House (on the site later known as Rowden farm and Rowden Manor) was used as a Parliamentary garrison in the early weeks of 1645 in an attempt to secure the countryside near Malmesbury. It was besieged by Royalists and, after an unsuccessful attempt to relieve it, the garrison surrendered.²⁰⁰⁹ Earthworks of an entrenchment connected with this engagement survive.²⁰¹⁰

Besides Rowden House another major house, The Ivy, stands within Rowden and close to Chippenham town.²⁰¹¹ Land along the Bath road was developed for housing from the 19th century onwards. A brickyard adjacent to Rowden Lane in 1846 may have been promoted to serve Chippenham’s expansion after the railway arrived.²⁰¹² An 1857 auction advertised 43

²⁰⁰⁰ NHLE, 1268058.

²⁰⁰¹ Wilts. Mus., SC.45.16, SC.45.58.

²⁰⁰² OS Map 25”, Wilts. XX.14 (1886 edn.).

²⁰⁰³ Above: Chippenham, origins, growth and development.

²⁰⁰⁴ *Cur. Reg.* 1210–12, 227.

²⁰⁰⁵ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 91.

²⁰⁰⁶ HER, MW274353, MW175648–9, MW176403–11, MW177551–2; WAM, 111 (2018), 350–1.

²⁰⁰⁷ *Two Sixteenth Century Taxation Lists* (WRS. 10), 27.

²⁰⁰⁸ *Recs. Chippenham*, 270.

²⁰⁰⁹ T. MacLachlan, *Civil War in Wiltshire* (1997), 207–9; J. Wroughton, *An Unhappy Civil War* (1999), 279; J. Corbet, *An Historical Relation of the Military Government of Gloucester* (London: 1645), 125–6. The history of the house is described below, Outer Chippenham (West), landownership.

²⁰¹⁰ HER, MW15260.

²⁰¹¹ Described below, Outer Chippenham (West), landownership.

²⁰¹² *Bath Chronicle*, 28 May 1846, 1.

lots of potential building land at Rowden Hill suitable for villas or hunting boxes,²⁰¹³ and similar auctions were held in the late 19th century.²⁰¹⁴ Development continued into the 20th century, with new housing advertised at Rowden Hill in 1993.²⁰¹⁵

Sheldon

The village of Sheldon lay on the south-east slope of a clay ridge, and its position is probably reflected in its name, *Shyldune*, recorded in the 13th century,²⁰¹⁶ *Schuldon* in 1281, and *Sholdon* and *Shuldone* in the 14th,²⁰¹⁷ meaning 'hill on shelving terrain'.²⁰¹⁸ In 1287 there were 13 cottagers holding land at Sheldon,²⁰¹⁹ but it is not separately assessed in later taxation records.²⁰²⁰ It was probably abandoned during the later medieval period, and certainly by 1582, when only two farms remained.²⁰²¹ The substantial manor house, of c.1300 and later, survives.²⁰²² A hollow way running east-west south of Sheldon Wood has been interpreted as the main village street. House platforms have been located on the site. An area south of the main street may have been pastureland.²⁰²³

Those parts of Sheldon closest to Chippenham, around Frogwell, were heavily built over during successive housebuilding campaigns during the 20th century.²⁰²⁴ Vincients Wood, however, a 6 ha semi-natural broadleaved woodland, was preserved as a nature reserve in the care of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust from 1990.²⁰²⁵ In 2023, apart from Sheldon Manor and a few isolated farmhouses and cottages, Sheldon beyond Chippenham western by-pass remained largely unpopulated.

LANDOWNERSHIP

Allington Manor

William le Drueys held half a knight's fee in Allington in 1249.²⁰²⁶ The principal estate, which had formed part of greater Chippenham in 1086, was at some time before 1239 transferred by the Crown to the nuns of Marcigny, (Saône-et-Loire).²⁰²⁷ In 1276 the prior of Monkton

²⁰¹³ *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 25 Jun. 1857, 2.

²⁰¹⁴ *Wilts. Mus.*, SC.7.2.; *Devizes & Wilts. Gaz.*, 14 Apr. 1881, 2; *Wilts. Times*, 6 Oct. 1883, 4.

²⁰¹⁵ *The Times*, 5 Mar. 1994, 68.

²⁰¹⁶ *Reg. Malm.*, II, 122; *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 91.

²⁰¹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VIII, pp. 68–9; V, pp. 14–15; H. J. Ellis (ed.), *Index to the Charters and Rolls of the Department of Manuscripts British Museum*, II (1912), 154.

²⁰¹⁸ *PN Wilts.* (EPNS), 91; A. H. Smith, *English Place-name Elements*, I (EPNS 25, 1956), 138; II (EPNS 26, 1956), 115.

²⁰¹⁹ TNA, C 133/47/12.

²⁰²⁰ *VCH Wilts.*, IV, 298, 307–8, 314.

²⁰²¹ HER, MW12245; G. Brown, 'Sheldon Manor', *WAM*, 94, 209–17.

²⁰²² Described below, Outer Chippenham (West), landownership.

²⁰²³ NHLE, 1018428.

²⁰²⁴ Above: Chippenham, origins, growth and development.

²⁰²⁵ <https://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/vincients-wood> (accessed 28 June 2023).

²⁰²⁶ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1249* (WRS. 16), 131.

²⁰²⁷ Stephen may have been responsible for the transfer: J.E. Jackson, 'History of the Priory of Monkton Farley', *WAM*, 4, 272–5; A.S. Maskelyne, 'The priory of Marcigny and its connexion to Wiltshire', *WAM*, 35, 93–101.

Farleigh lost a legal dispute with the tenants of Allington, which he administered on behalf of Marcigny, over the status of the manor as ancient demesne.²⁰²⁸ In 1281 the prior and convent of Monkton Farleigh granted John, son of Adam Harding, 'le Breche' in Allington for rent and heriot.²⁰²⁹ Monkton Farleigh's holdings were not considered a manor in 1294.²⁰³⁰ Several large freeholds within Allington created a complex picture of landownership and seigneurial control. In 1428 Nicholas Alderlegh held lands and tenements formerly held by Robert Seleman as one knight's fee and John London held lands formerly held by Hugh de Caversham as a quarter of a fee the other three quarters of which was in Hartham.²⁰³¹ In 1467 the rents from Allington which Monkton Farleigh priory formerly paid to the nuns at Marcigny were transferred to Eton College.²⁰³²

Allington is first recorded as a discrete manor in 1307, when John la Warre was granted a licence to lease the manor to whomever he wished for ten years.²⁰³³ However Allington does not appear in John le Warre's inquisition, nor in that of his grandfather John de Tregoz, from whom he inherited most of his lands.²⁰³⁴

In 1384 John Abbotsbury of Preston, Thomas Gore and John Mareis paid £20 for a licence to transfer lands in Chippenham, Stanley, Allington and nearby to the prior and convent of Monkton Farleigh.²⁰³⁵ An exchange of parcels of land in these manors took place in 1392 when the prior paid £4 for a licence for John Marreys and John Gore to alienate in mortmain land in Slaughterford and two tofts and 48a. in Chippenham, Stanley, Langley Burrell, Cocklebury and Allington.²⁰³⁶ At her death in 1411 Joan, widow of Thomas Hungerford, held 100s. rent in Allington, Cholderton and Broughton Gifford assigned to her in dower by her husband and inherited by her son Walter.²⁰³⁷ The association with the Hungerford family was maintained, as in 1416 the Sheldon manorial account rolls include a section, left blank, for the lease of the demesne at Allington.²⁰³⁸ Later, in 1445, 'lands, tenements, rents and reversions' in Chippenham, Sheldon, Lowden, Allington and other places that had belonged to Lawrence Drue, were managed by Walter Hungerford on behalf of his son Thomas Drue.²⁰³⁹ Christopher and Thomas Tropenell held lands within Allington in 1504.²⁰⁴⁰ In 1536 the manor was worth £12 1s. 10*d.* of which £2 10s. was the annual rent of the demesne leased to Philip Smyth, £7 0s. 6*d.* from the rents of freehold, leasehold and customary tenants and 1s. 4*d.* from the profits of courts.²⁰⁴¹

²⁰²⁸ *VCH Wilts*, III, 264.

²⁰²⁹ *Tropenell Cart.* I, xxxiii.

²⁰³⁰ *VCH Wilts*, III, 264.

²⁰³¹ *Feudal Aids*, V, 253.

²⁰³² *Cal. Pat.* 1467–77, 62.

²⁰³³ *Cal. Pat.* 1301–7, 508.

²⁰³⁴ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* ix, 35–7.

²⁰³⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1381–5, 438.

²⁰³⁶ *Cal. Pat.* 1391–6, 97.

²⁰³⁷ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 162.

²⁰³⁸ WSA, 192/29A.

²⁰³⁹ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 90.

²⁰⁴⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m. Hen. VII*, II, no. 682.

²⁰⁴¹ TNA, E 315/398.

Edward Seymour, 1st duke of Somerset, and Anne his wife were granted the manors of Allington and Slaughterford following the suppression of Monkton Farleigh priory in 1537.²⁰⁴² In 1568 Anne and her second husband, Francis Newdigate, were defendants in an action brought by a former lessee of Monkton Farleigh priory.²⁰⁴³

The manor was acquired by Sir Gilbert Prynne in 1609, and he assigned it to his eldest daughter, Frances, on her marriage to Sir Francis Seymour in 1613, although courts continued to be held in his name until his death in 1627.²⁰⁴⁴ Frances (d. 1626) predeceased her father and courts were held in the name of her husband Francis between 1626 and 1639 when their son Charles (d. 1665) reached his majority.²⁰⁴⁵ Charles was succeeded by his widow Elizabeth until 1670, after which courts were held in the name of her son Charles Seymour, 6th duke of Somerset (d. 1748).²⁰⁴⁶ The manor passed to his son Algernon, 7th duke, who died without male heirs in 1749, then to his nephew Sir Charles Wyndham, 2nd earl of Egremont.²⁰⁴⁷ From Charles it descended to his third son Charles Wyndham in 1779 by an Act of Parliament dividing the Seymour estates.²⁰⁴⁸ Charles died without legitimate heirs and it returned to the 4th earl of Egremont, who sold the manor to Joseph Neeld in 1844.²⁰⁴⁹ Joseph's estates were inherited by his brother John (d. 1891),²⁰⁵⁰ and the manor passed in turn to his son Algernon (d. 1900) and his son Audley Dallas Neeld (d. 1941).

John Aubrey mentions no manor house at Allington, although his brother William visited Sir Gilbert Prynne's house there in 1683 and noted heraldic quarterings in the windows; the building was said in 1862 to be a barn.²⁰⁵¹ The remains of a manor house are marked in the field opposite Manor Farm on a map surveyed in 1885.²⁰⁵² Allington Manor Farm House is mostly 18th century, but incorporates 17th-century elements taken from a former house and the arms of Prynne in their original position above the central light, which must date from before 1627.²⁰⁵³

Chippenham with Sheldon and Lowden Manor

When Chippenham manor passed from the Crown to private hands is uncertain. In 1249 Walter de Godardeville held Chippenham borough and Sheldon by a quarter-part of a knight's fee worth annually £20.²⁰⁵⁴ Some land remained with the Crown in 1258 when Geoffrey de

²⁰⁴² *L&P Hen VIII*, XII (2), 227.

²⁰⁴³ TNA, C 78/42/12.

²⁰⁴⁴ *Wilts. Inq. p.m.* 1625–49, 53–4; for Prynne, *Wilts. Visitation Pedigrees 1623* (ed. G.D. Squibb), 156–7.

²⁰⁴⁵ Somerset RO, DD/WY/1/58/1; *Hist. Parl. Commons, 1660–1690*, III, 411.

²⁰⁴⁶ Somerset RO, DD/WY/1/58/1.

²⁰⁴⁷ *Complete Peerage*, v, 36–7.

²⁰⁴⁸ Confirming a partition of several estates in Wiltshire and Somerset between Charles William Wyndham, other devisees of Charles Edward Earl of Egremont and their issue, Charles Marquis of Granby and Charlotte Countess of Aylesford. Act 19 Geo. III, c.46 (Private Act); WSA, 9/16/240.

²⁰⁴⁹ HMC, *Principal family and estate collections L-W*, 150; WSA, 137/125/24.

²⁰⁵⁰ *Hist. Parl. Commons, 1820–1832*, VI, 475–7.

²⁰⁵¹ Aubrey, *Topog. Colln.* ed. Jackson, 71–3.

²⁰⁵² OS Map 6" sheet Wilts XX (1889 edn.).

²⁰⁵³ NHLE, 1022897.

²⁰⁵⁴ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1249* (WRS. 16), 193 and 266.

Sancto Marco's heir, Agnes, and minor son Henry held two mills, two virgates and several smaller plots within Chippenham manor directly from the king.²⁰⁵⁵

By 1281 Geoffrey de Gascelyn held the manor and conducted a survey to establish the rents and services of 46 tenants, including the abbot of Stanley, nine stall-holders and a smith, some of whom held arable and meadow in Westmead.²⁰⁵⁶ The survey, while headed Chippenham, included his lands in Sheldon, Lowden and Biddestone, and all had quite different arrangements for their tenants to pay rent, services and customary obligations. On Geoffrey's death in 1286 Chippenham, Sheldon and Lowden passed to his son Edmund with rights reserved to his widow Joan.²⁰⁵⁷ Edmund died in 1307 leaving the manors to his son, also Edmund, then aged 26.²⁰⁵⁸

The younger Edmund was granted the rights to hold a fair attached to the manor of Chippenham in 1310,²⁰⁵⁹ and a market and free warren in Chippenham, Biddestone and Great Cheverell in 1314.²⁰⁶⁰ These grants were consolidated in 1320 with two weekly markets and four yearly fairs granted to Edmund and Eleanor his wife at their manor of Chippenham, in a partial regrant that seemingly transferred the existing market rights from Sheldon manor to Chippenham manor while introducing an additional weekly market.²⁰⁶¹

Edmund's son Geoffrey inherited two-thirds of Chippenham and Sheldon in 1337 when aged 24,²⁰⁶² and the remainder in 1349 on his mother Eleanor's death, who had held it in dower.²⁰⁶³ Geoffrey was granted a licence to enfeof the manors to Peter de Sutton and Gilbert Prouet, vicar of Preston Candover (Hants.), in the same year, with them to be returned to himself and Elizabeth his wife in tail and with reversion to their heirs.²⁰⁶⁴ Geoffrey leased the manors, together with Chippenham hundred, to Thomas de Berkele, for life, for an increasing annual rent, in an agreement licensed by the Crown in 1351.²⁰⁶⁵

When Geoffrey died in 1375 the manor passed to his widow Elizabeth who held it in jointure.²⁰⁶⁶ In the same year the manors of Chippenham and Sheldon were stated to be held from the Crown by knight's service, having been recovered from Sutton and Prouet.²⁰⁶⁷ Geoffrey and Elizabeth's daughter Christina, wife of Richard Hales, inherited Chippenham and Sheldon on Elizabeth's death in 1394.²⁰⁶⁸ Edward Hales held a quarter of a knight's fee in Chippenham and Sheldon in 1402.²⁰⁶⁹

²⁰⁵⁵ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* I, 123.

²⁰⁵⁶ TNA, SC 12/16/52.

²⁰⁵⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* II, 382; extent TNA, C 133/47/12.

²⁰⁵⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* V, 14–15.

²⁰⁵⁹ *Cal. Chart.* III, 166; above, Chippenham, econ. hist. (Markets and Fairs).

²⁰⁶⁰ *Cal. Chart.* III, 239.

²⁰⁶¹ *Cal. Chart.* III, 427.

²⁰⁶² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VIII, 68–9.

²⁰⁶³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* IX, 188–9; extent TNA, C 135/96/18.

²⁰⁶⁴ *Cal. Pat.* 1334–8, 561.

²⁰⁶⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1350–4, 188.

²⁰⁶⁶ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XIV, 132–3.

²⁰⁶⁷ *Cal. Close*, 1374–1377, 130.

²⁰⁶⁸ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XVII, 193.

²⁰⁶⁹ *Feud. Aids*, V, 220.

In the later 14th century Chippenham, Sheldon and Lowden were managed together and usually referred to as a single manor in charters and inquisitions, although no manorial documents survive from this period. In the 15th century Sheldon and Lowden held their own court baron, while a court leet and court baron were held at Chippenham.²⁰⁷⁰ Sheldon demesne was in hand in the 15th century, and accounts prepared by a salaried bailiff survive from 1416, 1429, 1453 and 1460.²⁰⁷¹

The widowed Christina Hales sold Chippenham and Sheldon with Lowden to Walter Hungerford, 1st baron Hungerford, in 1424.²⁰⁷² He was succeeded in turn by his son Robert Hungerford (d. 1459), and Robert's son Robert who was attainted in 1461 and executed in 1464. Robert's son, known as Thomas Hungerford of Rowden, was allowed to inherit some of his father's attainted lands. Thomas was himself attainted and executed in 1469. Either in 1464 or 1469 Chippenham passed to Walter Hungerford (d. 1516) of Farleigh Hungerford (Som.) and then to his son Edward Hungerford (d. 1522), and his son Walter Hungerford, 1st baron Hungerford, of Heytesbury.

This Walter was granted licence to alienate the manors of Chippenham, Sheldon and Biddestone, with the hundred of Chippenham, in 1529.²⁰⁷³ However, he was in possession when he was attainted in 1538 and executed in 1542, ceding the manor of Chippenham to the Crown.²⁰⁷⁴ His son, Sir Walter Hungerford, gradually recovered the attainted lands and regained Chippenham in 1554, the year that the borough charter was granted.²⁰⁷⁵ When he died in 1596 his estates passed to his half-brother, Sir Edward Hungerford (d. 1607), and then via Sir Walter's daughter Lucy and her husband, Anthony Hungerford of Black Bourton (d. 1627), to their son Edward, who died without issue in 1648.²⁰⁷⁶ Edward may have gained title to the manor in 1619 when a court of survey was taken.²⁰⁷⁷ The demesnes of Sheldon were then farmed in two leases, one of 210 a. and the other 250 a. arable with meadow and pasture.

From Edward Hungerford the manor of Chippenham passed to his half-brother Anthony Hungerford (d. 1657) and to his son Edward Hungerford of Farleigh Hungerford Castle (Som.), who sold the manor to Richard Kent of London for £5,450 in 1684.²⁰⁷⁸ After Kent's death a survey of the 'manors of Chippenham and Sheldon' in 1695 included 16 freeholds, 16 copyholds and 21 leaseholds.²⁰⁷⁹ In 1698 the manor was sold, to cover Kent's debts, to Richard Hart of Hanham (Glos.) who in turn sold them to John Norris of Lincoln's Inn in 1710.²⁰⁸⁰ Courts were held in John's name, 1719–48, and then for his widow Elizabeth

²⁰⁷⁰ TNA, SC 2/209/56.

²⁰⁷¹ WSA, 192/29A-D.

²⁰⁷² *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 77; *Cal. Pat.* 1422–9, 269; *Hist. Parl. Commons*, 1386–1421, III, 446–53. This para: *Complete Peerage* online.

²⁰⁷³ *L&P Hen VIII*, IV (3), p.2687; *Recs. Chippenham*, 296.

²⁰⁷⁴ Hoare, *Mod Wilts.* I, 103–5; *Hist. Parl. Commons*, 1509–1558, II, 413–14.

²⁰⁷⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1553–4, 95

²⁰⁷⁶ *Complete Peerage*, II, 626.

²⁰⁷⁷ WSA, 490/1540.

²⁰⁷⁸ WSA, G19/150/112.

²⁰⁷⁹ WSA, 473/55.

²⁰⁸⁰ WAM, 3, 29.

until 1754.²⁰⁸¹ The manor then passed to William Norris (d. 1794), his son William (d. 1801) and his daughter Elizabeth Marshall (d. 1828).²⁰⁸² Elizabeth Marshall settled the manor on her children John Norris Marshall, Bouchier Marshall and Elizabeth Marshall,²⁰⁸³ and members of the Marshall family retained ownership until they sold the manor to Gabriel Goldney in 1861.²⁰⁸⁴

The Goldney family had a long association with Chippenham and were the direct descendants of the first bailiff of the borough after the grant of the charter in 1554. Gabriel himself had been steward in 1844 as had his father in 1833. A Gabriel Goldney was recorded as steward between 1776 and 1790. In 1900 Gabriel Goldney was succeeded as lord of the manor by his son Gabriel Prior Goldney.

Manorial courts were held occasionally, only 25 between 1698 and 1859, when there was a need to record conveyances of copyhold land.²⁰⁸⁵ An auction of copyhold and freehold estates was held in 1833, apparently to raise capital, as the nature of the tenures remained unaffected.²⁰⁸⁶ Quit rents were collected in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for sections of waste belonging to the manor and for the General Post Office to erect 185 telegraph poles on the verges beside the highways.

Lowden (reputed) manor

William de Pavely held Lowden by the King's gift in 1249,²⁰⁸⁷ and land at Lowden was held by Walter de Pavely at his death in 1256.²⁰⁸⁸ A ploughland, recovered by the king from Reginald de Pavely, was later granted to William de Turberville who quitclaimed it to William de Vallance, earl of Pembroke and brother of Henry III, in 1258.²⁰⁸⁹ William granted Lowden to Geoffrey Gascelyn for a pair of gilt spurs annually 1264–72.²⁰⁹⁰ In a 1281 extent and custumal it was held by Geoffrey Gascelyn and valued with his other lands in Chippenham.²⁰⁹¹ The rents and services owed were quite different to those of Chippenham and Sheldon, suggesting that Lowden had until recently been an independent entity.

Lowden was described as a hamlet (*hameletum*), and Sheldon a manor, in an inquisition held into the lands of Joan Gascelyn in 1287, when each was held from William de Valance for a quarter of one knight's fee. Lowden included a capital messuage with garden and dovecot, and 180 a. arable with meadow and pasture.²⁰⁹² Edmund de Gascelyn the elder apparently held the freehold with Aymer de Valance his tenant in return for a pair of gilt

²⁰⁸¹ BL, Add. Ms, 34566.

²⁰⁸² WSA, 415/391: pedigree of Norris, 1798–1824.

²⁰⁸³ WSA, G19/992/18.

²⁰⁸⁴ WSA, G19/992/18.

²⁰⁸⁵ WSA, 473/55; G19/992/18.

²⁰⁸⁶ WSA, 473/55.

²⁰⁸⁷ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1249* (WRS. 16), 193; *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 73 (no. 284).

²⁰⁸⁸ TNA, C 132/19/1.

²⁰⁸⁹ TNA, C 53/48; *Cal Chart.* 1257–1300, 7.

²⁰⁹⁰ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 73 (no. 287).

²⁰⁹¹ TNA, SC 12/16/52. *WAM*, 3, 33 and *Recs. Chippenham*, xv claim it was restored to the Pavelys who sold it to the Gascelyns of Sheldon in 1272.

²⁰⁹² TNA, C 133/47/12; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* II, 382.

spurs in 1307.²⁰⁹³ However, Edmund de Gascelyn the younger held a tenement in Lowden from the Pavely family, also in return for a pair of gilt spurs, in 1337.²⁰⁹⁴ Lowden remained with the Gascelyn family until it was transferred, with Sheldon and Chippenham, to the Hungerford family in 1424 and thereafter followed the descent of Chippenham manor.²⁰⁹⁵

Sheldon Manor

In 1249 Walter de Godarvill died seized of two ploughlands in the townships of Chippenham and Sheldon of the king's gift, for a quarter of one knight's fee and a virgate held for a bow, together worth £20 annually.²⁰⁹⁶ His holding passed to his two daughters who were both minors.²⁰⁹⁷ One married Godfrey Gascelyn, who acquired the manor of Sheldon together with other lands in Chippenham.²⁰⁹⁸

In 1280 Geoffrey Gascelyn provided evidence that he held Sheldon by the enfeoffment of a charter of 1231 in which Walter de Godarvill was granted the lands in Chippenham formerly held by William Beauvilain.²⁰⁹⁹ The manor passed to Geoffrey's widow, Joan, and then to their son Edmund in 1286.²¹⁰⁰ Thereafter the descent of Sheldon manor followed that of Lowden and Chippenham.

If they had ever been separate Sheldon and Lowden had been unified by 1476 when a joint court baron (*hallmote*) was held.²¹⁰¹ A hayward made presentments, the majority relating to repairs of tenements and roads. In 1476 there were at least ten freeholders, including the prior of Monkton Farleigh, the abbot of Stanley and the farmer of the demesne of Hardenhuish.

Sheldon Manor is a Grade I listed building with evidence of construction from the 13th century, and was a regular residence of the Gascelyns whose early 14th-century grants were made at Sheldon.²¹⁰² The porch on the south front is dated c.1300, and a staircase gable is dated c.1660. The north front was built in the early 18th century. On the manor site are a 15th-century chapel, an early 18th-century barn and a late 18th-century granary.²¹⁰³ In 1917 Sheldon Manor was purchased at auction, with 156 a.,²¹⁰⁴ by H.M. Gibbs for his son, W.O. Gibbs, and was inherited by his son, Martin Gibbs (d. 1994), in 1960, who with his wife Elsie restored the property, and opened it to the public from 1977.²¹⁰⁵

²⁰⁹³ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* V, 48–9.

²⁰⁹⁴ TNA, C 135/51/1; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* VIII, 69; *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 75.

²⁰⁹⁵ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 77.

²⁰⁹⁶ *Crown Pleas of the Wilts. Eyre, 1249* (WRS. 16), 193; *Cal. Inq. p.m.* I, 45.

²⁰⁹⁷ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* I, 45.

²⁰⁹⁸ *Recs. Chippenham*, xi.

²⁰⁹⁹ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 72–3; *Cal. Close, 1227–31*, 537.

²¹⁰⁰ *Cal. Inq. p.m.* II, 382.

²¹⁰¹ TNA, SC 2/209/56.

²¹⁰² *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 79–80, 84 and 89.

²¹⁰³ NHLE, 1022907.

²¹⁰⁴ Wilts. Mus., SC.10.4.

²¹⁰⁵ Wilts. Mus., SC.10.4.; WBR, B215 Sheldon Manor house (Obit. Major Martin Gibbs, *Daily Telegraph*, 12 Jul. 1994). *Independent*, 18 Jul. 1994.

Rowden Manor

Rowden manor was part of the pre-Conquest manor of Chippenham. The name first appears in 1208 when Richard de Reudon was a free tenant in Chippenham.²¹⁰⁶ A document of c.1190 seen by Jackson included a payment from Rowden of £7 10s per annum for Hodierna the nurse,²¹⁰⁷ and a lesser payment (£7) is recorded for the same purpose made by Chippenham, 1210–12.²¹⁰⁸

James Hussey (alias Heose) died seised of the manor of Rowden in 1249 and it passed to Agnes de Ruedon, widow of Geoffrey de St Maur (Seymour).²¹⁰⁹ In 1252 Henry III confirmed the grant, with a James Hussey holding the manor for life,²¹¹⁰ and again in 1263; on each occasion the rent of £7 10s. was specified.²¹¹¹ Rowden was not mentioned in Agnes's inquisition post mortem in 1263, so was presumably included with her Chippenham lands, which descended to her son Henry.²¹¹²

The escheator took Henry's lands following a murder in 1274 and reinstated them to his tenant Nicholas Hussey (de la Huse) in 1275.²¹¹³ Nicholas held the manor from the king for a yearly fee of £7 10s. and by service of a quarter of one knight's fee.²¹¹⁴

In 1280 Geoffrey Gascelyn was summoned to answer the king in a plea of *quo warranto* for the manors of Chippenham, Sheldon and Rowden, ancient demesne of the Crown. He produced a charter for the manors of Chippenham and Sheldon, dated 1231, but not for Rowden.²¹¹⁵

When Nicholas de la Huse died in 1307 Rowden passed to his nephew Peter.²¹¹⁶ It then included a capital messuage and dovecote, two water mills, two fulling mills, and in demesne 124 a. of arable, grazing and meadow.²¹¹⁷ It paid a rent of £7 10s. to the Crown, £5 of which was granted in 1331 to the canons of Ivychurch (Alderbury).²¹¹⁸ In 1332 Peter paid the second highest assessment for tax in Chippenham borough in which Rowden was assessed.²¹¹⁹

In 1392 the Husseys sold Rowden to Sir John Erleigh of Beckington (Som.).²¹²⁰ After Isabel, Sir John's widow, died in 1434 the manor was inherited by their daughter Margaret, wife of Sir Walter Sandys.²¹²¹ At that date the manor, held of the king in chief by service of £7

²¹⁰⁶ *Cur. Reg.* 1210–12, 227.

²¹⁰⁷ *WAM*, 3, 30; probably *Pipe R* 1189–90 (Rec. Com.), 175.

²¹⁰⁸ *Red Book Exch.* II, 489.

²¹⁰⁹ *TNA*, C 132/10/10.

²¹¹⁰ *Cal. Chart.* 1226–57, 376–7.

²¹¹¹ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* I, 97.

²¹¹² *Cal. Inq. p.m.* I, 123.

²¹¹³ *Cal. Close*, 1272–9, 152.

²¹¹⁴ *Cal. Inq. Misc.* I, 296. 1. *Cal. Inq. p.m.* II, 382.

²¹¹⁵ *Hungerford Cart. I* (WRS. 49), 73.

²¹¹⁶ *Cal. Inq. p. m.* iv, 284.

²¹¹⁷ *TNA*, C 133/126/2.

²¹¹⁸ *Cal. Pat.* 1330–4, 77.

²¹¹⁹ *Wilts. Tax List of 1332* (WRS. 45), 4.

²¹²⁰ *Recs. Chippenham*, xiv.

²¹²¹ *Cal. Fine*, 1430–7, 219–20; *Hist. Parl. Commons*, 1386–1421, IV, 303–4.