

VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Churchill

Social History

Social Character and Communal Life

The Middle Ages

Considerable disruption may have followed the Norman Conquest, which saw King Harold (d. 1066) replaced as lord of Churchill by a new Norman overlord and mesne tenant. By 1086 only 12 out of 20 ploughlands were under cultivation, suggesting a steep contraction of arable farming and possibly a decline in the tenant population. Unusually, no slaves were recorded on the manorial demesne.¹ Both manor and parish subsequently recovered, and by 1279 the population had doubled, most of the increase resulting from the arrival of numerous free tenants, who held varying amounts of land for modest rents in cash and kind. Their local influence was demonstrated c.1254, when 18 of them ratified an agreement between the lord, the rector, and Bruern abbey.² Churchill's unfree yardlanders were more heavily burdened, owing extensive labour services on the lord's demesne, and carting services from Wychwood forest. Wychwood was also a source of illicit venison and (probably) firewood, some poachers being allegedly harboured by Churchill's rector Reginald de Hulmo (1262–78).³

By 1334 the parish was rated as the second wealthiest in the hundred behind Chipping Norton,⁴ although early 14th-century tax assessments suggest wide inequalities in individual wealth, with a quarter of taxpayers in 1316 paying only 12*d.*–18*d.*, more than two fifths paying 2*s.*–2*s.* 10*d.*, and the remaining third 3*s.*–17*s.* 9*d.*⁵ Cottagers and unfree villeins may have been concentrated around the manorial enclosure near the church, with some of the better-off free tenants living further away, including at the mills and by the green adjoining the Chipping Norton road.⁶ Migration probably contributed to the village's

¹ DB, f. 157; above, landownership; econ. hist. (medieval); cf. above, vol. overview (Table 1).

² *Rot. Hund.* II, 746; *St Frideswide's Cart.* II, p. 274; above, landscape etc. (popn); landownership (other estates); below, local govt.

³ *Rot. Hund.* II, 745; Schumer, *Oxon. Forests*, 71; cf. *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 273, 280.

⁴ Glasscock (ed.), *Subsidy 1334*, 236.

⁵ TNA, E 179/161/8 (an average of 3*s.* 1½*d.* and a median of 2*s.* 4*d.*); cf. *Oxon. Eyre*, 1241, no. 644 (calling inhabitants 'poor').

⁶ *Cal. Close* 1296–1302, 311–12; above, landscape etc. (medieval and later settlement).

expansion, bynames suggesting incomers from Chadlington, Epwell, Fulbrook, Heythrop, Taynton, Westcote (Glos.), and (in Warws.) Long or Little Compton and Warwick. Emerging family groups included the Chaggess, Olives, and Mayhews, four of whom were freeholders in 1279.⁷

The resident Nowerses occupied the manor house throughout the 13th and 14th centuries, dominating village life as lord and chief landowner, as church patron (until the 1170s), and in some cases as employer. Roger Nowers (d. c.1340) inherited in 1298 aged under two, and came of age c.1316–17, his mother Joan (then married to John de Harcourt) remaining a prominent landholder and taxpayer.⁸ In 1318 Roger was granted free warren in the manor (entitling him to hunt small game), and in 1327 he established a weekly market and annual fair,⁹ while in 1329 he tried unsuccessfully to recover the advowson, possibly encouraging his followers to occupy the parish church.¹⁰ In the 1320s–30s he and his sons appear to have led a local gang involved in assault, theft, and illicit recovery of impounded livestock, prompting repeated orders to arrest them,¹¹ and the family were also drawn into violent conflict with the lord of neighbouring Kingham Ralph Chastilun, who was accused of murdering Roger Nowers's hayward Richard le Ferour of Churchill.¹² Some other contemporary criminal activity may have been related to the feud, although by 1359 the families were sufficiently reconciled for John Nowers to buy a flock of the Chastiluns' sheep.¹³

The Black Death and later outbreaks of plague reduced population and disrupted established patterns of village life, although the long-term impact seems to have been more limited than in many parishes, and though turnover of tenants was high some late 13th- and early 14th-century families may have survived into the 15th, amongst them the Byots and Kings.¹⁴ Further change came with the Nowerses' replacement by the non-resident Barentins (based in Chalgrove and Little Haseley in the Chilterns), although the Barentins continued to hold manor courts, and visited occasionally with their steward and servants.¹⁵ By the 1440s they were reducing rents in an effort to fill tenancies, and attempted to maintain redundant buildings either by compensating tenants or by repairing the buildings

⁷ *Rot. Hund.* II, 745–6; TNA, E 179/161/8–10.

⁸ Above, landownership; below, relig. hist.; TNA, E 179/161/8; E 179/161/10.

⁹ *Cal. Chart.* 1300–26, 375; 1327–41, 8.

¹⁰ Below, relig. hist.

¹¹ *Cal. Close* 1333–7, 698; 1337–9, 127–8, 141; *Cal. Pat.* 1324–7, 233; 1334–8, 35, 360. For the problem of early 14th-cent. criminal gangs, e.g. S.L. Waugh, *England in the Reign of Edward III* (1991), 161–2.

¹² *Cal. Close* 1333–7, 597; *Cal. Pat.* 1334–8, 354–5; 1340–3, 447; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* II, p. 530; below, Kingham, landownership.

¹³ *Cal. Close* 1339–41, 74; *Cal. Pat.* 1340–3, 529; 1354–8, 414; *Cal. Inq. Misc.* III, p. 132.

¹⁴ *Rot. Hund.* II, 745–6; TNA, E 179/161/8–10; Northants. Archives, FH 358; FH 361.

¹⁵ Northants. Archives, FH 361; *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 129–31, 244–5; above, landownership.

themselves. Few holdings seem to have remained vacant for long, however, and entry fines and heriots were occasionally levied. Wealthier tenants were able (as elsewhere) to accumulate formerly separate holdings, thereby widening inequalities. Smaller holdings also persisted, however, and as in the 16th century most late medieval inhabitants were probably only moderately prosperous.¹⁶

1500–1800

Sixteenth-century lords (the Barentins and their successors the Hattons) continued to be non-resident, and in the 17th and 18th centuries the Walters, Rolles, and Langstons all lived in neighbouring Sarsden.¹⁷ Early 16th-century enclosure and conversion of arable to pasture, promoted by William Barentin (d. 1549), resulted in the dereliction of at least three houses, and in 1540 a total of 15 tenants were presented at the manor court for allowing timber and thatched buildings to fall into ruin.¹⁸ Repeated orders were also given to maintain fences, scour ditches, remove obstructions, control livestock, and protect the remaining common fields, pasture, heath, and wood from enclosure and trespass, perhaps reflecting greater individualism in farming practices.¹⁹ Churchill nevertheless remained a relatively populous parish, with a range of wealthy, middling, and poorer inhabitants. Around a quarter of those assessed for taxation in 1524 and 1543 paid the minimum labourers' or servants' rate of 4*d.*, while assessments on goods and wages ranged from £1 to £45 in 1524 and from £1 to £20 in 1543.²⁰

Amongst the wealthiest inhabitants were the demesne lessee John Hacker (d. 1548), who also leased the rectory estate, and Bruern abbey's lessee William Salcombe (d. 1544).²¹ Both men appeared before the manor court accused of infringing common rights, Hacker by not removing his hay ricks, and Salcombe by grazing more than the permitted number of sheep.²² In the absence of resident lords, several later landholders also assumed a dominant role in local society. The gentleman John Gostwick (d. 1618), who collected the parish's tithes as lay impropriator or lessee, employed several servants including Hacker's grandson Thomas, who wore Gostwick's livery, and who oversaw the subletting of Churchill mill on Gostwick's behalf. Tithes from the mill (initially waived by Gostwick) were sought through the church courts following interventions by Gostwick's wife Judith and disputes with

¹⁶ Northants. Archives, FH 358–362; below (1500–1800).

¹⁷ Above, landownership; below, Sarsden.

¹⁸ I.S. Leadam (ed.), *Domesday of Inclosures 1517–18* (1897), I, 359–60, 384–5; Northants. Archives, FH 366; above, econ. hist. (16th cent. to parl. enclo.).

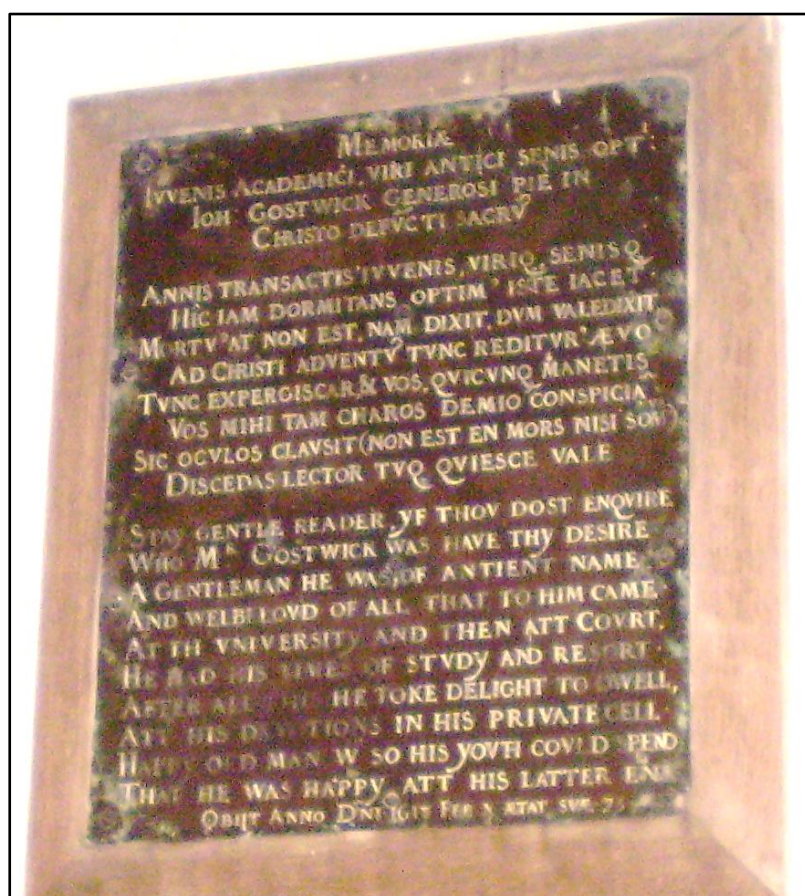
¹⁹ Northants. Archives, FH 362–366.

²⁰ TNA, E 179/161/170; E 179/161/177; E 179/162/227; above, landscape etc. (popn).

²¹ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 179.3; 179.270; above, landownership (other estates).

²² Northants. Archives, FH 365–366.

the tenant, whom Gostwick accused of dishonest conduct.²³ Gostwick himself is commemorated by a brass plaque in the church, inscribed with an elaborate epitaph, while Judith (d. 1629) left the considerable sum of £350 in goods and money owed her.²⁴ Other memorials commemorated the similarly wealthy George Dodford (d. 1639) and George Morecroft (d. 1649), who withheld church taxes, and high-handedly used the law to overawe their neighbours, in Dodford's case 'so that no man durst meddle with him'. Their recalcitrance towards the churchwardens encouraged other inhabitants to act similarly, though Dodford was reportedly hated in the village.²⁵



Memorial to John Gostwick (d. 1618) in Churchill's Heritage Centre (the former church).

Wealthy incomers such as Gostwick, Dodford, and Morecroft were far from typical of the majority of Churchill's inhabitants in the 16th and 17th centuries, however, many of whom were moderately prosperous yeomen and husbandmen belonging to long-standing families such as the Bridgeses, Hackers, Medcrofts, Minchins, Mullingtons, Sessionses, and Whitleys. Few left goods worth more than £100, the average value of probate inventories

²³ *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1609–16*, pp. 39–40; TNA, PROB 11/133/295; above, econ. hist. (milling).

²⁴ *Par. Colln*, I, 94, 96; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 26/1/6; surviving memorial in Heritage Centre.

²⁵ *Par. Colln*, I, 95–6; *Cal. SP Dom.* 1635–6, 307–8; 1639–40, 466–7; below, relig. hist. (relig. life).

doubling from £26 in the 1540s–90s to £52 in the 1600s–40s,²⁶ and a similar range of wealth is reflected in mid 17th-century hearth tax assessments. Thirty-nine households were assessed on one or two hearths in 1662, 11 on three hearths, and only seven on between four and seven hearths, suggesting that most houses were relatively modest. Joan Mullington (d. 1664), assessed on two hearths, occupied a hall, kitchen, buttery, and three chambers, and rooms such as parlours remained rare, except in larger houses such as that (assessed on six hearths) belonging to the Morecrofts.²⁷ Avoidance of hearth tax (or the cost of fuel) contributed to the village fire of 1684, when an ‘old woman’ working as a baker used a funnel connected to a neighbour’s chimney to heat her oven. The conflagration raged for four hours, destroying 15–20 houses and killing four people, two by falling ruins and two burnt to death. In all, 187 bays of building (worth £1,800) were affected, the individual losses of 21 villagers ranging from 30s. to £209. Money was borrowed to fund the rebuilding, although 100 bays remained unfinished in 1692.²⁸

For much of the Civil War Churchill lay in Royalist-controlled territory, and in 1650 11 inhabitants were threatened with fines for fighting against Parliament or for sending horses, men, and supplies in support of the king. One was Thomas Sessions, who in 1643 provided the Royalists with four muskets, while the following year the parish supplied the king’s forces with grain, presumably under duress.²⁹ The Sessionses were particularly prominent around that time: six members of the family swore the obligatory protestation oath in 1642, and it was probably one of their houses (called ‘Sessions House’) which hosted a roughly contemporary gathering of the county’s quarter sessions.³⁰ William Sessions was churchwarden in the 1630s during the dispute with Dodford and Morecroft, and in that role came into conflict with the newly established lord of Churchill William Walter, then serving as a justice of the peace.³¹ The Walters’ consolidation of their position by purchasing the manor’s freeholds (including that of the Morecrofts) may have precipitated the Sessionses’ departure from the parish by the late 17th century, though as the Walters still lived outside the parish long-standing families such as the Hackers remained influential.³²

²⁶ OHC, Churchill wills and inventories, passim. The median values increased from £17 to £29 over the same period, the increase partly but not entirely due to inflation.

²⁷ TNA, E 179/255/4; *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 174–5; OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 44/4/20; 44/4/14.

²⁸ ‘A full account of a bold and barbarous murder ... with the further account of a lamentable fire that happened in a town called Church-Hill ... the 30th July last’ (1684): copy in Bodl. Ashm. F 5 (113); OHC, Cal. QS, III, 314–15.

²⁹ *Cal. Cttee for Compounding*, III, 2208–9; I. Roy (ed.), *Royalist Ordnance Papers* (ORS 43, 49, 1963–75), I, 99; M. Toynbee (ed.), *Papers of Capt. Henry Stevens* (ORS 42, 1962), 26; N&Q, 12th ser. XI, 527–8.

³⁰ *Prot. Retns.* 85; M.S. Gretton (ed.), *Oxon. Justices of the Peace in the 17th Century* (ORS 16, 1934), p. lxxxvi.

³¹ *Cal. SP Dom.* 1637–8, 470; 1639–40, 112; above, landownership.

³² OHC, par. reg. transcript; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. d 558, f. 152; above, landownership.

The Walters were paternalistic but not domineering, and Churchill remained open to incomers, among them tenants removed from the Walters' more tightly controlled village of Sarsden.³³ Newcomers included the Anglican clergyman James Butterworth (d. 1710),³⁴ while other resident clergy, serving benefices elsewhere, included Penyston Hastings (d. 1752) and his son Penyston (d. 1743). They were respectively the grandfather and father of the colonial administrator (and first governor-general of Bengal) Warren Hastings (d. 1818), who was baptized in the parish church in 1732 and attended the village school.³⁵ Also educated in the village was the geologist William Smith (1769–1839), son of the blacksmith John Smith (d. 1777) and his wife Ann (d. 1807), and uncle of another celebrated geologist, John Phillips (1800–74).³⁶ Social activities for the wider population included a village wake held by the early 18th century on the Sunday after All Saints (1 November), the church's patronal feast, while Whitsun ales (which had reportedly lapsed in the 1620s) were revived, held in May or June.³⁷ The village's morris dancers performed at one in 1721, for which they were collectively paid 6s.,³⁸ and by the 1750s there were also two public houses, of which the surviving Chequers was so called by 1779.³⁹ Cases of illegitimacy, assault, and theft or poaching were reported occasionally, and in one instance a prisoner was enabled to escape custody, while problems of poverty may have increased following loss of common rights at enclosure in 1788.⁴⁰ An anonymous lampoon written c.1787 attacked the lord Denys Rolle and his attorney George Bulley for their role in the enclosure, denigrating Rolle for his 'tyranny', and characterizing Bulley ('the chieftan whom Rolle appointed over the people') as a man of 'low cunning' and 'iniquity'.⁴¹

Since 1800

By the 19th century Churchill and Sarsden were increasingly socially connected. The Langstons of Sarsden House (who succeeded the Walters in 1791–2) continued to buy up

³³ Below (educ.; welfare); Sarsden, social hist. (1500–1800) (Nath. Cliff).

³⁴ TNA, PROB 11/515/181; <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk> (accessed June 2023). Butterworth was a former curate of Sarsden, and rector of Longborough (Glos.) 1680–1706, and Steppingley (Beds.) 1707–10; cf. L. Rose, *The History of Churchill* (1934), 35; R. Mann, *The History of Churchill and Sarsden* (2013), 48, mistakenly suggesting Butterworth was Churchill's vicar.

³⁵ OHC, par. reg. transcript; ODNB, s.v. Warren Hastings; below (educ.).

³⁶ OHC, par. reg. transcript; ODNB, s.v. Wm Smith; John Phillips.

³⁷ *Par. Colln*, I, 94; *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1634–9*, p. 7; Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 55–6, 78.

³⁸ K. Chandler, *Morris Dancing in the English South Midlands, 1600–1900* (1993), 152–3.

³⁹ OHC, QSD/V/1–2; *ibid.* Lo. VI/1, p. 273; Lo. VI/4, p. 24; below (since 1800).

⁴⁰ OHC, Cal. QS, I, 7b, 27b, 141, 183b, 184, 286b; II, 6b, 47b, 53b; above, econ. hist.; below (welfare).

⁴¹ OHC, P423/H/1 (lampoon written on copy of the 1786 Oddington Enclosure Act); cf. *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 178; Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 68–71.

freeholds in Churchill,⁴² and the benefices of Churchill and Sarsden, held in plurality from 1817 by James Langston's brother-in-law Charles Barter, were formally united in 1851.⁴³ In 1814 the parishes jointly celebrated the defeat of France with an outdoor dinner for 600 mostly poor inhabitants, while a joint Friendly Society established in 1841 continued until 1909, its annual feast day (moved from July or August to Whit Thursday) marked by a procession, church service, dinner, sports, and dancing.⁴⁴ Social activities were often also held at the village schools.⁴⁵ An architect-designed reading room was provided by the Langstons in 1870, replacing an earlier reading room in the boys' school,⁴⁶ whilst a recreation ground adjoining the parish church replaced an earlier 'football ground' bought by James Langston in 1856.⁴⁷ Both the reading room (which in the 1950s became the village hall) and the recreation ground were presented to the parish council by Langston's granddaughter Lady Eversley in 1922.⁴⁸ A cricket club established by the 1850s continued until the 1950s (and was revived in the 1980s),⁴⁹ while an amateur dramatic society existed in the 1860s. In the following decade the village also hosted a Band of Hope, and an annual flower show was supported by the Langstons.⁵⁰



*Churchill's
village hall,
built in 1870.*

Churchill's population peaked in 1821, when almost three quarters of families were directly dependent on agriculture. Ten years later a similar proportion of adult men worked

⁴² OHC, Fi. III, passim; above, landownership; below, Sarsden.

⁴³ Below, relig. hist.; Sarsden, relig. hist.

⁴⁴ *Oxf. Jnl*, 16 July 1814; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 27 May 1891, 23 May 1894, 13 June 1900, 13 June 1906; *Oxon. FS*, p. 110.

⁴⁵ e.g. *Oxon. Weekly News*, 14 May 1879, 3 Dec. 1884 (mentioning boys' and girls' schs); below (educ.).

⁴⁶ *Wilb. Visit.* 37; *Oxf. Jnl*, 28 May 1864, 11 Feb. 1865; above, landscape etc. (built character).

⁴⁷ OHC, Fi. III/xxxiv/1; *Oxf. Jnl*, 30 Aug. 1890.

⁴⁸ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 16 and 30 Aug. 1922. Both continued in 2024.

⁴⁹ *Oxf. Jnl*, 9 Aug. 1851; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 15 Aug. 1923; *Oxf. Times*, 17 Aug. 1962; OHC, RDC9/3/F7/2 (mentioning pavilion); *Roundabout* [Churchill and Sarsden par. newsletter] (Apr. 1983): copy in OHC, SZ CHURb/052.

⁵⁰ *Oxf. Jnl*, 28 May 1864, 11 Feb. 1865, 30 Aug. 1890; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 20 Sept. 1876, 24 Oct. 1877; below, Sarsden, social hist. (since 1800).

as agricultural labourers.⁵¹ Earlier patterns of migration continued, although in 1851 almost two thirds of inhabitants (409 out of a total of 645) were still native to the parish. Less than a fifth came from outside Oxfordshire, amongst them a Lancashire schoolmistress, a Cornish painter and glazier, and three Warwickshire farmers.⁵² Agricultural depression probably contributed to increased turnover and an overall 20 per cent fall in population between 1861 and 1901, by which time those born in Churchill had fallen to 43.5 per cent of the total,⁵³ and in 1878 the rector lamented the 'bad fashion of a continuous shifting of quarters' amongst the parish's farm workers. A branch of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union was established around that time, in which the Churchill labourer Charles Pearce was actively involved.⁵⁴ The Chequers remained the village's only pub, along with the licensed Langston Arms Hotel (opened in 1880) at the railway station.⁵⁵ Petty criminal activity included drunkenness, theft, and poaching, the latter policed by gamekeepers employed by the Langstons to protect game for the local Heythrop Hunt.⁵⁶ A police constable was resident in the village from the 1850s until the late 20th century, whilst other resident police officers were separately employed on the railway.⁵⁷

During the First World War c.70 inhabitants served in the armed forces, of whom 11 were killed in action. A square, limestone ashlar memorial, with a pyramidal cap and circular corner shafts topped by ball finials, was erected by the roadside north of the recreation ground in 1923, designed by the Sarsden estate's land agent James Blair, who served also as chairman of Churchill parish council. The names of five men killed in the Second World War were subsequently added.⁵⁸ In 1918 the rector observed an 'awakening of generosity in all classes', both for war purposes and church missions overseas, although children were 'less happy than usual', and boys entering the labour market were 'sensible of their own importance'.⁵⁹ The sale and break-up of the Sarsden estate in 1922 (in Churchill mostly to sitting tenants) brought the Langstons' long period of paternalism to an end, and ushered in greater self-reliance amongst the inhabitants. Population continued to fall (to 431 by 1931), but money was raised locally for improvements, and new societies included a branch of the

⁵¹ *Census*, 1821 (104 out of 141 families); 1831 (128 out of 180 men aged 20 and above).

⁵² TNA, HO 107/1732 (63.4% born in Churchill, 17.5% born outside Oxfordshire).

⁵³ *Census*, 1861–1901; TNA, RG 13/1398 (also recording 28.5% born outside Oxfordshire).

⁵⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 344, f. 358; P. Horn (ed.), *Agric. Trade Unionism in Oxon. 1872–81* (ORS 48, 1974), 36–7, 53. For Pearce (b. 1835), TNA, RG 10/1456, no. 64.

⁵⁵ Above, landscape etc. (railway; built character).

⁵⁶ OHC, Cal. QS, II, 298b; IX, 158; *Oxf. Jnl*, 6 May 1871, 18 Dec. 1886; *VCH Oxon.* II, 354–6.

⁵⁷ TNA, HO 107/1732; *ibid.* RG 9/910; RG 10/1456; RG 11/1519; RG 12/1178; RG 13/1398; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1895–1928 edns); *Oxf. Times*, 17 Aug. 1962.

⁵⁸ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 9 May, 31 Oct. 1923; L. Rose, *The History of Churchill* (1934), 70–1, 76–7; NHLE, no. 1198275 (accessed May 2023); memorial plaques; cf. below, Sarsden, social hist. (since 1800).

⁵⁹ *Gore's Visit.* p. 523.

Women's Institute (established by 1925).⁶⁰ A flourishing social scene persisted after the Second World War, albeit catering mostly for older residents: one teenager complained in 1962 that 'Churchill isn't really much of a place for young people', and many left to live elsewhere.⁶¹ Even so several children's and youth groups and a successful football team existed by the 1970s,⁶² although thereafter several local amenities were lost, including the village shop in 1977, the primary school in 1982, and the post office in 1994.⁶³



Memorial to the geologist William Smith (left) and the war memorial (right).

The population climbed above 500 by the early 21st century, by which time the parish's social complexion had changed radically, with 66 per cent of those in work employed in managerial, professional, or administrative occupations, and an average commuting distance of 31 km, while the median age (48) was moderately high for the area.⁶⁴ Despite concerns at the purchase of houses by 'weekenders', who contributed little to the community,⁶⁵ residents supported local projects including the preservation of the old church and its conversion into a heritage centre, which opened in 2001 and was re-opened with new facilities ten years later. The Langston memorial fountain was restored in 2018, and a parish archive was maintained in the village hall,⁶⁶ while a monthly newsletter for Churchill and

⁶⁰ Rose, *Hist. of Churchill*, 69–71; *Banbury Advertiser*, 25 Jan. 1923; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 20 Jan. 1926; *Tewkesbury Reg.* 29 Dec. 1945; above, landownership.

⁶¹ *Cheltenham Chron.* 16 Sept. 1950; *Tewkesbury Reg.* 29 Dec. 1961; *Oxf. Times*, 17 Aug. 1962.

⁶² *Roundabout* [Churchill and Sarsden par. newsletter]: copies (1974–98) in OHC, SZ CHURb/052.

⁶³ Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 128; above, landscape etc. (carriers and post); econ. hist. (non-agric.); below (educ.).

⁶⁴ *Census*, 2001–11, incl. online datasets.

⁶⁵ OHC, OXO000706 (LT_672-6), broadcast interview with Peter Wildman, 21 Mar. 1987 (online at <https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk>); cf. *Census*, 2011, mentioning 38 houses not permanently occupied.

⁶⁶ O. Green, 'The Churchill and Sarsden Heritage Centre, Churchill, Oxfordshire', *Geological Curator* vol. 9.9 (2013), 487–9; plaque at village fountain; info. on archive from Julia Ayres and Christine Gowing (Apr. 2023).

Sarsden (established in 1970) continued in 2024.⁶⁷ Notable incomers included Lt Col. Robert Heywood-Lonsdale (d. 2009), Vice-Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire 1989–96,⁶⁸ and the rock musician Alex James (of the band Blur), who bought Churchill Heath farm in 2003, and in 2011 inaugurated an annual music and food festival.⁶⁹

Education

Churchill's vicar Humfrey Bowyer (d. 1583) left 1*d.* to every 'scholar' at his burial, suggesting some local teaching,⁷⁰ and the Oxford-educated Israel Tonge (d. 1680) taught in the village during the Civil War.⁷¹ Provision was put on a firmer footing in the early 18th century, when the Walters established an endowed school for girls and another for boys, on separate sites; both continued until 1907, when they were merged at the then girls' school opposite the church. The new mixed school continued (latterly as a C of E primary) until its closure in 1982, having meanwhile absorbed a separate infants' school established by James Langston in 1854. Further 19th-century provision came from Anglican and Dissenting Sunday schools, Anglican evening and bible classes, and (in the 1840s–50s) from a small dame school, while a short-lived private boarding school was advertized by John Laskey in 1818.⁷²

Schools to 1907

Endowed Girls' School Anne Walter (d. 1707) left £600 to fund the education of poor girls born in Churchill and Sarsden until the age of 20, when they were to be confirmed into the Church of England and given £10 each from the endowment.⁷³ In 1712 her trustees bought 23 a. of land in Shipton-under-Wychwood, producing £24 10s. a year in 1738 and £67 by 1871,⁷⁴ and in 1716 a schoolhouse was opened on the Sarsden road in Churchill village, built on land given by Anne's nephew Sir John Walter (as lord of the manor) the previous

⁶⁷ *Roundabout* [Churchill and Sarsden par. newsletter]: copies (1974–98) in OHC, SZ CHURb/052; *ibid.* OXO000706 (LT_672-3), broadcast interview with Isobel Harman, 21 Mar. 1987.

⁶⁸ *Who's Who*; OHC, OXO000706 (LT_672-7), broadcast interview with Robert Heywood-Lonsdale, 21 Mar. 1987.

⁶⁹ A. James, *Bit of a Blur* (2007), 248–51; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alex_James_\(musician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alex_James_(musician)) (accessed July 2023).

⁷⁰ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 3/1/48; below, *relig. hist.* (*relig. life*).

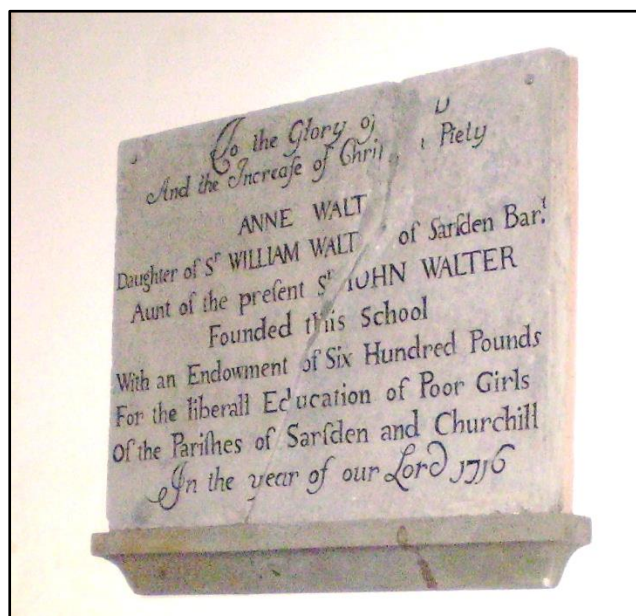
⁷¹ *ODNB*, s.v. Israel Tonge.

⁷² Below (to 1907); for boarding school, *Oxf. Univ. & City Herald*, 29 Aug. 1818; Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 112.

⁷³ TNA, PROB 11/496/112.

⁷⁴ OHC, O71/1/D1/2–4; *Secker's Visit.* 45; *Educ. of Poor Digest*, p. 721; *Char. Digest*, pp. 52–3.

year.⁷⁵ In the 18th century up to 30 girls were admitted for seven years from the age of five, and were taught to work, read, and say the catechism. They were also clothed annually so far as the endowment allowed.⁷⁶



Plaque commemorating the school established by Anne Walter (d. 1707), now in Churchill's Heritage Centre (the former church).

By the early 19th century the number of girls was fixed at 24, who were admitted aged seven to nine, and remained for four years. Subjects included reading, writing, accounting, knitting, and needlework. The mistress was paid 20 guineas (£21) a year, and £20 was spent on clothing including gowns and bonnets, with the remainder spent on books and repairs. On leaving, each girl was presented with a bible and prayer book, though the endowment was insufficient to provide the £10 intended by Anne Walter.⁷⁷ By 1815 James Langston paid for a further 12 girls to be admitted as 'day scholars', and an additional teacher was employed.⁷⁸ Attendance increased to 90 girls from the two parishes by 1835, fluctuating thereafter between 50 and 80.⁷⁹

By the 1850s the school was affiliated to the National Society, and was run by the long-serving mistress Alice Howorth, who oversaw a change of premises (below) and retired

⁷⁵ OHC, O71/1/D1/5–7; *12th Rep. Com. Char.* (Parl Papers 1825 (348), x), p. 277; Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 41; plaque dated 1716 in Heritage Centre; the site was that of the later boys' school. Building work may have started in 1714: sch. trustees' acct bks 1714–1850 (in possession of Joy Timms).

⁷⁶ *Secker's Visit.* 45; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 139; d 558, f. 154; d 561, f. 147; b 37, f. 43v.

⁷⁷ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 8, f. 146v.; d 576, f. 75v.; d 707, f. 44; *12th Rep. Com. Char.* pp. 277–8; *Educ. of Poor Digest*, p. 721; VCH Oxon. I, 487.

⁷⁸ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 433, f. 60; b 38, f. 62 (mentioning 30–40 girls in 1831); *Educ. Enq. Abstract*, p. 744. No evidence of boarding has been found.

⁷⁹ *Educ. Enq. Abstract*, p. 744; *Wilb. Visit.* 37, 126; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 180, f. 982; c 332, f. 380v.; c 335, f. 341v.; c 338, f. 359v.; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1903–7 edns).

in 1876. Born in Rochdale (Lancs.), she was commemorated on her death in 1889 by a stained glass window in Churchill parish church.⁸⁰ Her successors rarely stayed long, and though the school was generally reckoned to be performing well, by the early 20th century inspectors judged the teaching ‘weak’, and recommended merging the girls’ school with the boys’.⁸¹

The schoolhouse of 1716 was built at a cost of ‘more than £130’, and included an adjoining teacher’s house and garden.⁸² It was ‘enlarged’ at James Langston’s expense before 1829, and in 1857 was replaced by the surviving building, designed by John Plowman junior in Cotswold vernacular style, with projecting gables and stone-mullioned and transomed windows under hoodmoulds.⁸³ The rector estimated the cost at £900.⁸⁴ Soon afterwards it was decided that the girls’ and boys’ schools should exchange premises, the girls transferring to the recently enlarged boys’ schoolhouse opposite the church. Possibly those arrangements were finalized in 1863, the date of the earliest surviving school log books,⁸⁵ and the girls’ school continued there until the schools merged in 1907.⁸⁶



*The schoolhouse
on Sarsden road
built in 1857.*

⁸⁰ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 179, f. 342v.; TNA, HO 107/1732; *ibid.* RG 9/910; RG 10/1456; RG 11/1519; plaque in church.

⁸¹ *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1877); *Kelly’s Dir. Oxon.* (1883–1907 edns); OHC, CC4/53/15; *ibid.* S66/1/A2/1–2.

⁸² *12th Rep. Com. Char.* p. 277; cf. L. Rose, *All Saints’ Church, Churchill* (c.1960s), 10 (reckoning £138 7s.); Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 41 (estimating £164 19s. 4d.). Those figs have not been confirmed.

⁸³ Sch. trustees’ acct bks 1714–1850 in possession of Joy Timms (19 Aug. 1828, 3 Oct. 1829); OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 41, ff. 193v.–194; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 265 (for date and attribution); NHLE, no. 1367790 (accessed May 2023) (reckoning mid 19th cent.); above, landscape etc. (built character).

⁸⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 70, p. 201 (giving a date of 1860).

⁸⁵ *Ibid.* O71/2/D1/2; *ibid.* S66/1/A2/1; S66/1/A3/1.

⁸⁶ Below. Cf. Stephen Graham (2001) in <https://churchillschool.info/history/> (accessed Feb. 2023), noting the confusion caused by the change of bldgs.

Endowed Boys' School By 1738 Sir John Walter's widow Elizabeth Harcourt (d. 1748) was paying for ten boys to be taught to read, say the catechism, and in some cases to write. She provided £10 10s. a year, out of which the boys were clothed, and (on leaving) were given a bible, a book of common prayer, and the 17th-century devotional work *The Whole Duty of Man*.⁸⁷ After Elizabeth's death John Rolle Walter (d. 1779) continued the provision, the children (then including some girls) drawn from Churchill, Sarsden, and possibly the wider Sarsden estate.⁸⁸ No permanent school building is known at that date, although teaching was probably based in Churchill when Warren Hastings (b. 1732) and William Smith (b. 1769) attended in the 1730s and 1770s.⁸⁹

Provision may have lapsed in the late 18th century before being revived in the early 19th, and by 1817 a day school supported by James Langston was affiliated to the National Society, attended by 70 children paying 2s. each a week.⁹⁰ By then there was a schoolhouse on the site of a former barn and stable, opposite where the new church was later built.⁹¹ By 1835 the school taught 62 boys, and in 1845 it was endowed with £2,000 by Langston's sister Henrietta Maria (d. 1844).⁹² Long-serving masters included Jeremiah Beezley (d. 1853) and George Orford (d. 1910), who in 1859 advertized to take one or two boarders for Greek, Latin, algebra, geometry, music, and drawing.⁹³ By the 1860s, when 50–60 boys attended, the school received government grants, though the funding was shared with the girls' school, which was treated together with the boys' in parliamentary reports. In 1874–5 their combined annual income of £292 derived from voluntary contributions (£109), Anne Walter's and Henrietta Langston's endowments (£94), government grants (£65), and school pence (£24), out of which £227 was spent on teachers' salaries.⁹⁴

The schoolhouse was rebuilt by James Langston in 1839 and enlarged in 1854 at a cost of £1,000, adopting a Tudor-Gothic Cotswold style incorporating gables, hoodmoulds, and tall diamond-shaped chimney stacks.⁹⁵ The school remained there until the exchange of premises with the girls' school c.1863, operating thereafter from the nearby Sarsden Road site until the merger of 1907.⁹⁶

⁸⁷ *Secker's Visit.* 45–6.

⁸⁸ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 557, f. 11v.; d 558, f. 154v.; d 561, f. 147v. (mentioning £6 a year to teach poor boys and girls). Possibly incl. Lyneham: *VCH Oxon.* XIX, 180.

⁸⁹ Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 60, 75; cf. below, Sarsden, social hist. (educ.).

⁹⁰ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 433, ff. 60, 170; d 578, f. 69v.; d 579, f. 57v.; *Educ. of Poor Digest*, p. 721.

⁹¹ OHC, Lo. VI/4 and VI/9, no. 208; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.1 (1881 edn).

⁹² *Educ. Enq. Abstract*, p. 744; TNA, PROB 11/2010/392.

⁹³ TNA, HO 107/878; HO 107/1732; *ibid.* RG 9/910; RG 10/1456; RG 11/1519; *Oxf. Jnl.*, 17 Dec. 1859; OHC, par. reg. transcript; *ibid.* S66/1/A3/1.

⁹⁴ *Retn Public Elem. Schs* (Parl. Papers 1877 [C 1882], lxvii), pp. 212–13.

⁹⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 70, p. 201 (incl. dates and cost); cf. Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 265 (giving c.1845); Stephen Graham (2001) in <https://churchillschool.info/history/> (suggesting 1850); above, landscape etc. (built character).

⁹⁶ Above (girls' sch.); OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.1 (1881–99 edns).



The schoolhouse opposite the church built in 1839.

Infants' School In the 1840s–50s infants were probably taught at a dame school run by Mary Searle (in 1841) and later by Rhoda Birnam and Ann Butler. Around 20 children attended in 1854, when James Langston provided a new school building adjoining the then boys' school opposite the church.⁹⁷ Attendances increased to 40–50 pupils aged under six, and the building was improved in 1874. Few teachers remained long, however, and by the early 20th century the school, though 'well carried on', was not attaining a 'very high standard'. It remained on the same site until 1907.⁹⁸

Sunday Schools and Evening Classes In the 18th century the vicar or curate catechized children at Lent.⁹⁹ A Sunday school for boys (supported by John Langston) existed by 1799, and separate boys' and girls' Sunday schools continued throughout the 19th century, teaching c.60 boys and 50 girls in the 1850s–70s.¹⁰⁰ By the 1880s they were run largely by the rector's own family.¹⁰¹ Adult evening classes were provided by the boys' schoolmaster in the 1850s, and continued (specifically for boys) in the 1860s–70s.¹⁰² Adult evening and bible

⁹⁷ TNA, HO 107/878; HO 107/1732; *Wilb. Visit.* 37, 126; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 70, p. 201; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.1 (1881–99 edns).

⁹⁸ OHC, CC4/53/14; *ibid.* S66/1/A1/1; S66/1/A2/1; below.

⁹⁹ *Secker's Visit.* 45; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 139; d 558, f. 154; d 561, f. 147.

¹⁰⁰ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 8, f. 146; b 15, f. 88; b 41, ff. 193v.–194; c 332, f. 380v.; c 338, f. 359v.; *Ch. and Chapel, 1851*, no. 110.

¹⁰¹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 350, f. 351; c 356, f. 359; c 365, f. 351v.

¹⁰² *Wilb. Visit.* 37, 126; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 332, f. 380v.; c 338, f. 360; c 344, f. 358; *ibid.* S66/1/A3/1.

classes resumed in the 1880s, when they were run by the clergy, and were broadened to include lectures on church history, evolving by the early 20th century into lessons on art and science.¹⁰³ In 1914 the bible classes lapsed, though Anglican Sunday schools continued until c.1991.¹⁰⁴ A school was also attached to the Primitive Methodist chapel built in 1853, its Sunday school continuing in the 1990s, when it attracted many Anglicans.¹⁰⁵

Schools from 1907

In 1907 the girls' and boys' schools were amalgamated at the premises opposite the church, under a scheme of 1905 proposed by the schools' managers and approved by the Board of Education.¹⁰⁶ Its six staff taught c.105 pupils in all, led by the long-serving headmaster William Anson (d. 1944), who had earlier taught the boys' school. Inspectors generally judged it favourably, and a temporary fall in standards prompted by staff turnover and illness was quickly reversed in the 1920s.¹⁰⁷ Children from Cornwell (and briefly Kingham) also attended, and additional accommodation was provided in the parish reading room (later the village hall), where cookery classes were held before being transferred to Kingham's purpose-built cookery centre.¹⁰⁸ In 1923 the school also assumed responsibility for the infants' school, which in 1907 had moved to the schoolhouse on Sarsden Road, where a single room was partitioned into classrooms for older and younger children. Inspectors reported considerable progress there, and the infants remained at the site until transferred to the main school in 1948.¹⁰⁹ On William Anson's retirement in 1929 the new headmaster Charles Blake brought 'youthful ardour and enterprise' to the combined school, maintaining 'smooth discipline', although one former pupil remembered him caning the 'senior boys' on the 'flimsiest of excuses'. The school then taught pupils aged 5 to 15, a few winning scholarships to Chipping Norton grammar school at age 11.¹¹⁰

In 1947 the school's older children were transferred to Chipping Norton, and the following year the juniors moved to Kingham, leaving Churchill with only the infants' class (which moved to the main school). The juniors returned in 1952, when the school was given

¹⁰³ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 347, f. 368; c 350, f. 351; c 353, f. 363; c 368, f. 345v.

¹⁰⁴ *Gore's Visit*. pp. 272–3; Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 120; OHC, PAR66/3/A/3; *ibid.* O71/3/C1/3 (mentioning its 'recent' closure in 1991).

¹⁰⁵ OHC, Pellatt XI/i/1; *ibid.* O71/3/C1/3; *Roundabout* [Churchill and Sarsden par. newsletter] (Mar. 1988): copy in *ibid.* SZ CHURb/052; below, *relig. hist.*

¹⁰⁶ OHC, CC4/53/3–4.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.* CC4/53/12; CC4/53/17–18; *ibid.* S66/1/A3/1–2.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.* CC4/53/1; CC4/53/13; CC4/53/17–19; *Banbury Guardian*, 25 Apr. 1912; below, Cornwell and Kingham, *social hist. (educ.)*.

¹⁰⁹ OHC, CC4/53/2–5; CC4/53/12; CC4/53/17; CC4/53/19; *ibid.* S66/1/A1/1–2; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.1 (1922 edn); below.

¹¹⁰ OHC, CC4/53/18; *ibid.* S66/1/A3/2; S66/1/A7/2; Lena Mitchell (née Souch) (1998) in <https://churchillschool.info/history/> (accessed Feb. 2023), remembering the 1930s.

Aided status as a Church of England primary school, teaching up to c.60 children aged 5–11 in two classes. Pupils displayed a wide range of ability, and numbers fluctuated depending on agricultural workers' employment.¹¹¹ In 1980, when fewer than 30 children attended, the teaching staff was reduced to one, and two years later (when only 12 attended) the school closed, the remaining pupils being transferred to Kingham or Chipping Norton, and the buildings being converted into private houses.¹¹² The former infants' schoolroom on Sarsden Road was converted into a parish hall by the 1950s, the adjoining teacher's house being occupied by the primary school's assistant (and later head) mistress. Both were also sold as private residences in the 1990s.¹¹³

Welfare

In the 16th and 17th centuries small bequests to Churchill's poor were common, often in the form of money, grain, bread, or wood.¹¹⁴ The parish was also relatively well served by endowed charities, which collectively built up a poor's stock totalling £115 by 1738 and £120 later in the century, when it yielded £5 8s. for annual distribution.¹¹⁵ The earliest known endowment was 20s. left by Clement Tappan (d. 1617), who ordered a distribution of interest on Good Friday, while Sir John Walter (d. 1630) of Sarsden left £20 'to raise a stock' for poor relief.¹¹⁶ An earlier gift by Walter, of land worth c.20s. a year in support of the church and poor, was re-appropriated by his successor by 1633.¹¹⁷ Later contributions to the poor's stock included £10 left by Thomas Hix (d. 1673), £5 (specifically for poor widows) by Amy Bridges (d. 1674),¹¹⁸ and £50 from Edmund Wansell (d. 1699), a London gentleman born in Sarsden. By 1738 the identities of many donors had been forgotten, however, and a £20 bequest attributed to Richard Hacker (d. 1715) of Kingham probably included £10 left by Elizabeth Hacker (d. 1697), since Richard's will mentioned only £10.¹¹⁹ By 1759 the combined interest was distributed by the churchwardens and overseers on St Thomas's Day

¹¹¹ OHC, S66/1/A7/1–2.

¹¹² Ibid. S66/1/C1/5; *ibid.* O71/3/C1/1; Mann, *Hist. of Churchill and Sarsden*, 128; undated newspaper cuttings in Churchill parish archive.

¹¹³ OHC, O71/3/A1/1; O71/3/C1/2–3; *ibid.* S66/1/D1/2; *ibid.* OXO000706 (LT_672-3), broadcast interview with Isobel Harman, 21 Mar. 1987 (online at <https://heritagesearch.oxfordshire.gov.uk>).

¹¹⁴ OHC and TNA, Churchill wills, *passim*.

¹¹⁵ *Secker's Visit.* 46; *12th Rep. Com. Char.* p. 248; below.

¹¹⁶ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 65/4/21; TNA, PROB 11/158/448.

¹¹⁷ *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1629–34*, pp. 69–70.

¹¹⁸ TNA, PROB 11/342/280; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 6/5/3.

¹¹⁹ *Secker's Visit.* 46; TNA, PROB 11/449/302; OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 133/5/1; 34/5/17. The stock's derivation reported in *Char. Don.* 980–1 is incorrect.

(21 December), and by 1774 the capital was secured on a mortgage of tolls of local turnpike roads.¹²⁰ Offertory money was also distributed amongst the poor.¹²¹

Other relief came from the poor rates, although in 1636 it was claimed that the wealthy incomer George Morecroft (d. 1649) had paid nothing for 19 or 20 years, and that the overseers were obliged to make up the shortfall.¹²² By 1776 parish expenditure stood at £110, including £11 spent on a poor house whose running was initially put out to tender, but which by 1831 was managed entirely by the vicar.¹²³ Costs increased to £121 a year in 1783–5, rising sharply (perhaps in part because of enclosure) to £410 by 1803, when 12 people were maintained in the poor house, 19 adults and 34 children received permanent outdoor relief, and 150 people were relieved occasionally, in all around two fifths of the population.¹²⁴ Spending reached £609 in 1813, falling to £533 in 1815 when c.8 per cent of inhabitants were helped (11 in the poor house, 30 outdoors, and 10 occasionally). Thereafter economic slump after the Napoleonic wars increased expenditure to £698 in 1816, falling to £388 by 1834.¹²⁵ The following year Churchill became part of the new Chipping Norton Poor Law Union, from whose workhouse several former parishioners were returned for burial.¹²⁶

Additional charities were established by William Harvey (d. 1805) of Kingham and his brother Joseph (d. 1812), who each left £100 laid out at 5 per cent interest. That, along with the interest on the existing poor's stock, produced a total of £14 9s. 7¼d., which was distributed at Christmas in sums ranging from 1s. to 7s.¹²⁷ By the 1840s the charities also benefited Sarsden, although annual interest fell to £9 17s. 2d. by 1871, when a further 3s. a year was received from a fund endowed with £100 by Thomas Davis (d. 1860).¹²⁸ A separate endowment of £100 by Emily Jennings (d. 1885) produced £2 15s. a year in 1890.¹²⁹ Other initiatives included James Langston's purchase of 20 tons of coal for the poor in 1838, and in 1842 Robert Atkins gave £84-worth to Churchill and Sarsden jointly,¹³⁰ while church collections raised £27 for the parish's charities in 1872, and a poor box was mentioned in 1885.¹³¹

¹²⁰ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 139v.; d 564, f. 122v.; d 566, f. 81v.; *12th Rep. Com. Char.* p. 248.

¹²¹ *Secker's Visit.* 46; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 139v.; d 558, f. 155; d 561, f. 148; d 564, f. 123.

¹²² *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns 1629–34*, p. 69; *Cal. SP Dom.* 1635–6, 308; above (1500–1800).

¹²³ *Poor Abstract, 1777*, p. 437; *Oxf. Jnl Syn.* 2 Jan. 1790; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, f. 62; cf. *ibid.* Lo. VI/9, no. 298 (calling it a workhouse).

¹²⁴ *Poor Abstract, 1787*, p. 655; *1804*, pp. 400–1; cf. *Census*, 1801–11.

¹²⁵ *Poor Abstract, 1818*, pp. 354–5; *Poor Rate Retns, 1822*, p. 136; *1825*, p. 171; *1830–1*, p. 159; *1835*, p. 154.

¹²⁶ *Oxon. Atlas*, pp. 144–5; OHC, par. reg. transcript, s.a. 1838, 1841, 1843, 1847, 1849–50 etc.

¹²⁷ *12th Rep. Com. Char.* pp. 248–9; TNA, PROB 11/1427/95; PROB 11/1533/441.

¹²⁸ OHC, PAR230/5/F/2; *Char. Digest*, 20–1.

¹²⁹ *Char. Digest* (Parl. Papers 1890 (247), lv), pp. 6–7.

¹³⁰ OHC, PAR230/5/F/1; PAR230/5/F/3.

¹³¹ *Ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. c 338, f. 359v.; *ibid.* PAR66/2/A/1.

A school clothing club was wound up in 1939,¹³² by which time the parish's charities as a whole distributed £13 6s. 8d. a year at Christmas and Easter.¹³³ They were amalgamated under a scheme of 1972 as the Churchill and Sarsden Relief in Need charity, which yielded c.£14 a year by 1979 and £73 by 2015. That was wound up the following year and its funds transferred to the Walter and Langston Charitable Trust (established in 1994), the successor to Anne Walter's and Henrietta Langston's educational endowments, which in 2021–2 spent £1,200 out of an income of £1,568 in supporting the education of residents under the age of 25. In the same year the Churchill and Sarsden Religious Education Fund (registered in 1995) spent £2,007 out of an income of £6,653.¹³⁴ Churchill was also one of several parishes benefiting from a charity for the poor established by Ada Margarette Reynolds-Moreton (d. 1944), daughter-in-law of the 3rd earl of Ducie, although in 2021 it spent none of its £47 income.¹³⁵ Other charities were set up to support the village hall and the preservation of the old church.¹³⁶

Medical treatment was available in nearby towns.¹³⁷ A French doctor was resident in 1841, and in 1879 the parish friendly society was one of several served by the surgeon Mowbray Jackson,¹³⁸ while a sick and poor fund was mentioned in 1926.¹³⁹ The Langston Arms Hotel was converted into a private care home for the elderly in 1985, serving a much wider area than the parish.¹⁴⁰

¹³² Ibid. PAR66/3/A/3, s.a. 1939.

¹³³ L. Rose, *The History of Churchill* (1934), 74; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1939).

¹³⁴ Char. Com. website (Oct. 2023), nos. 256699, 1043298, 1050665; Kimber Rep.; OHC, O71/3/A1/1; above (educ.).

¹³⁵ Kimber Rep.; Char. Com. website, no. 237776.

¹³⁶ Char. Com. website, nos. 286710, 1014686.

¹³⁷ For payment to a Stow-on-the-Wold surgeon in 1683, OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 77/2/20.

¹³⁸ TNA, HO 107/878; *Oxon. FS*, pp. 104–5, 108–10.

¹³⁹ OHC, PAR66/3/A/3, s.a. 1926.

¹⁴⁰ www.thelangston.uk (accessed Oct. 2023) incl. Care Quality Com. rep. (3 Sept. 2019).