

Topography and the Built Environment

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COMMUNICATIONS

Roads [by David Viner]

In 1964, following the publication of the Ministry of Transport's report *Traffic in Towns*, the UDC approached Colin Buchanan & Partners for guidance on Cirencester's particular situation. This concluded that a new network of roads would be required, carefully sited to preserve the town's historic environment, which would require driver discipline and was likely to lengthen journeys.¹ Subsequent proposals to relieve traffic congestion and vehicle movement through the town culminated in the construction of an eastern by-pass and western relief road.² The increase in private car ownership, the loss of rail networks for freight, and the movement of heavy goods by lorry and transporter placed an impossible burden on the north-south and east-west movement of traffic constrained within residential areas with flow controlled by traffic lights and right-angled road junctions.

The new A417 by-pass on the eastern side of the town involved the construction of a dual carriageway about 1¾ miles in length, extending from the northern end of Grove Lane to the Cricklade Road, with a new roundabout at the Grove Lane/London Road junction and another at Watermoor at its junction with the A419. A new road bridge connected Beeches Road to the Beeches residential area and a new footbridge provided access to the New Mills estate. The roundabout to the south of the town provided the link with the western relief road which cut through Watermoor to link with the Tetbury Road and the A429 via three roundabouts. Work on the scheme began in September 1973 and was completed in 1975.³

The A417/A419 links the M4 near Swindon and the M5 near Gloucester, and within two decades the increase in traffic prompted calls for an outer by-pass for Cirencester and Stratton with the upgrading of the route to modern dual carriageway status.⁴ The project was one of the first major Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) road contracts in the UK.⁵ The existing route was detrunked in 1994.⁶ The new dual carriageway runs to the north of The Beeches and has a junction with the Fosse Way before crossing Hare Bushes. It opened in December 1997.⁷

Public Transport

Alexcars was established by Alec Hibberd at Baunton in 1946 before moving to Cirencester in 1957 and is still trading from Love Lane, with over 20 coaches operating daily contracts, private hire, day excursions, short breaks and coach holidays.⁸

¹ GA, RR79.36GS.

² GA, DA4/132/2, 1953-1972. GA, C/CH/Or/1/10/4. GA, C/CH/Or/1/11/1. GA, DA4 100/45, 6 Mar. 1973.

³ OS Map 1:50000, sheet 163 (1978 edn).

⁴ GA,, D12676/8/7/1.

⁵ NAO, *The Private Finance Initiative: The First Four Design, Build, Finance, Operate Roads Contracts* (1998).

⁶ GA, JR14.131eGS, JR14.131fGS

⁷ GA, D12676/8/7/3.

⁸ PSV Circle (2006), 32-40; <https://alexcars.co.uk/>.

The UDC first proposed a local bus, car and lorry park in Tetbury Road in 1958.⁹ The search for a suitable site for a bus station was resolved in the late 1960s by the use of the forecourt at the former GWR station in Tetbury Road.¹⁰ Subsequently, from the 1990s, increasing use was made of bus stops in the Market Place, Dyer Street, London Road and Tetbury Road, until 2017 when public transport was concentrated in South Way as a consequence of the Market Place regeneration scheme.¹¹

Car Parks

Post-war town centre re-development led to significant changes in the urban townscape and road pattern, with the need to ease traffic flow and create sufficient parking places to cater for an expanding population and growing tourist market. In 1947 it was proposed to develop land to the north of Dyer Street and the Market Place to include a car park and bus station, with a link road between Grove Lane and Gosditch Street across the Abbey Grounds.¹² In 1950 proposals to acquire land at the rear of Cirencester Brewery in Cricklade Street for a car park reached fruition in 1952.¹³ A car park on the Beeches Paddock provided parking for the general public as well as the Cirencester Association at The Beeches.¹⁴

The central area re-development scheme to the north of Lewis Lane included a new car park, police station and a new road system to relieve congestion in Dyer Street. Work on the Forum car park was judged 90% complete in June 1961.¹⁵ In the mid-1960s additional car parking was provided in The Waterloo, and the Abbey Grounds.¹⁶

Railways [by Nigel Bray and David Aldred]

GWR Cirencester Branch

In the 1950s freight on the branch remained sufficiently heavy to justify two trains each weekday from Cirencester Town, with several passenger trains also conveying wagons as required.¹⁷ Rebuilding of the station in 1956 was halted, as the future of rural branch lines remained unclear.¹⁸ The Cirencester and Tetbury branch lines were chosen for an experiment arising from the Modernisation Plan of 1955. Four diesel railbuses built by A.C. Cars and weighing only 11 tons were based at Swindon to work the two branches from February 1959. As they were equipped with retractable steps, they could serve cheaply built halts with platforms at rail level. One such halt was opened at Chesterton Lane.¹⁹ Following the recommendation in the Beeching report of 1963,²⁰ the Cirencester branch closed to passengers from 6 April 1964.²¹ Freight services to

⁹ GA, DA4/100/31, 30 Sept. 1958, 36-7.

¹⁰ *Wilts & Glos.*, 24 May 1968.

¹¹ See Urban Demolition and Renewal.

¹² GA, DA4/100/23, 29 Apr. 1947, 19-22 & 27 May 1947, 188.

¹³ GA, DA4/100/25, 23 May 1950, 87; DA4/100/26, 22 Apr. 1952, 81; DA4/100/26, 24 Jun. 1952, 95.

¹⁴ GA, DA4/100/28, 11 Oct. 1955, 63; DA4/100/29, 18 Dec. 1956, 27.

¹⁵ GA, DA4/100/29, 23 Oct. 1956, 49; DA4/100/30, 28 Jan. 1958, 94; DA4/100/34, 27 Jun. 1961, 108.

¹⁶ DA4/100/37, 26 Jan. 1965, 416-7; DA4/100/46, 31 Jul. 1973.

¹⁷ Photographs in N. Bray, *The Cirencester Branch* (Usk, 1998), 54, 56.

¹⁸ *Wilts & Glos.*, 23 June 1956.

¹⁹ *Glos. Echo*, 2 Feb. 1959; Bray, *The Cirencester Branch*, 70-1.

²⁰ British Railways Board, *The Reshaping of British Railways: Part 1 Report* (London, 1963) 106.

²¹ *Glos. Echo*, 6 April 1964.

Cirencester Town continued until 4 October 1965.²² The rails of the branch line were lifted by June 1966. The station site and trackbed to the southern boundary of the Urban District Council were bought by the council for £28,000 two years later.²³

Midland & South Western Junction line

After nationalisation in 1948 there were two semi-fast trains each way between Cheltenham and Southampton on a weekday, but no Sunday services north of Swindon.²⁴ There were also two express freight trains each way between Cheltenham and Southampton Docks, as well as paths for intermittent banana trains from that port. In 1956 some of the freight services ran in the late evening or small hours, requiring signal boxes to be open for most of the day.²⁵ In 1958 British Railways was ordered to make drastic cuts in working expenses. Three of the four Cheltenham-Southampton trains were withdrawn at the end of June, leaving one through train and two weekday only trains to Swindon.²⁶ Through freight trains were diverted to other routes and in November 1958 the layout of Lansdown Junction, Cheltenham was altered so that trains from the Cirencester direction could no longer access the Bristol-Birmingham main line.²⁷ In 1959 a decision was made to propose the route for closure. A survey taken in the week ending 19 November 1960 recorded a daily average of two passengers joining and two passengers leaving the through train at Cirencester.²⁸ There was little effective opposition because journey opportunities were now very restricted. The entire line from Andoversford to Andover Junction closed to passengers on 11 September 1961 and to all traffic north of Cirencester from the same date.²⁹ Cirencester Watermoor closed completely on 1 April 1964.³⁰

Urban Demolition and Renewal

In 1955 Cirencester UDC agreed to purchase Dyer Court and 48 Dyer Street in preparation for a redevelopment scheme to include a new police station and courthouse.³¹ The plan evolved to incorporate a car park and the relief of traffic congestion in Dyer Street, the Market Place and Cricklade Street, with a model being built in 1957.³² A list of properties to be acquired was drawn up by the UDC in 1959 and a tender was awarded for the first stage.³³ Land was sold to the county council for the police station in 1961 and further houses in Dyer Street were bought by the UDC in

²² Bray, *The Cirencester Branch*, 115.

²³ GA, DA4/140/108.

²⁴ *British Railways Passenger Services Western Region Timetable 23 May to 25 September 1949 inclusive*, Table 115.

²⁵ TNA, RAIL921/35 and RAIL921/59.

²⁶ C. G. Maggs, *The Midland & South Western Junction Railway* (North Pomfret, 1980), 89; *British Railways Passenger Services London (Paddington) Bristol, South and North Wales, Birmingham 15 June to 13 September 1958 inclusive*, Table 115.

²⁷ *Glos. Echo*, 5 Nov. 1958.

²⁸ Letter dated 6 March 1961 from the District Traffic Superintendent at Bristol to the clerk of Osbourne St George parish council at www.swindonsotherailway.co.uk, accessed 22 October 2019.

²⁹ *Glos. Echo*, 11 Sep. 1961.

³⁰ *Wilts & Glos.*, 3 April 1964.

³¹ GA, DA4/100/28, 11 Oct. 1955, 15 Nov. 1955.

³² GA, DA4/100/29, 23 Oct. 1956, 27 Nov. 1956, 18 Dec. 1956, 22 Jan. 1957.

³³ GA, DA4/100/31, 30 Sept. 1958, 25 Nov. 1958, 31 Mar. 1959, 28 Apr. 1959; DA4/100/32, 21 Sept. 1959,

1963.³⁴ The police station and magistrates' court, overlooking the new Forum car park, opened in 1965. The building cost £164,000.³⁵ Beeches Road was widened by the UDC during the early 1960s.³⁶ Redevelopment was also carried out in Black Jack Street and Castle Street.³⁷

In 1956 the UDC decided that 128 poor quality houses would be improved during the next five to ten years.³⁸ The scheme began with ten odd-numbered properties in School Lane and a clearance order for houses in Lewis Lane, with numbers 53 to 57 deemed unfit for human habitation.³⁹ In 1957 clearance orders were issued for houses in Dollar Street and Gloucester Street.⁴⁰ Pre-fabricated dwellings in Bowly Road and Masefield were demolished during the early 1960s and replaced with 52 new houses.⁴¹ Further slum clearance and re-housing was included as part of the central re-development scheme.⁴²

By 1962 properties were being cleared in Thomas Street, Chesterton Lane, Barton Lane, Gloucester Street, Thomas Street, the Waterloo and Midland Road.⁴³ From 1963 the slum clearance expanded into Cricklade Street, Gordon Place, Lewis Lane, Coxwell Street, Dollar Street, Gooseacre Lane, Cecily Hill, Querns Hill, Stepstairs Lane, Watermoor Road, Spitalgate Lane and Albion Street.⁴⁴ Several urban renewal schemes were realised in Gloucester Street between 1965 and 1970.⁴⁵ Barton Court was built in place of the cleared slums of Gloucester Street in 1966 and Elizabeth Place added in 1967.⁴⁶ Towards the end of the 1960s slums were cleared in Watermoor Road and Park Lane.⁴⁷ The UDC also redeveloped industrial sites and acquired Watermoor Station along with the goods yard and disused railway line in 1965.⁴⁸ To create further public parkland, the UDC agreed a plan in 1965 to open the Abbey grounds to the public.⁴⁹

Ashcroft House was demolished in 1966 and replaced by flats and houses.⁵⁰ In 1967 the UDC inaugurated the Triangle development scheme, in the middle of Thomas Street, Coxwell Street and Dollar Street.⁵¹ Later called St Clements Walk, the development was completed during the 1970s

³⁴ GA, DA4/100/33, 28 Feb. 1961, 9 Mar. 1961; DA4/100/35, 29 Jan. 1963, 28 Feb. 1963.

³⁵ GA, D10820/A1-1/I, f.58-61; DA4/100/39, 24 Jan. 1967.

³⁶ GA, DA4/100/33, 20 Mar. 1961; DA4/100/34, 30 Jan. 1962.

³⁷ GA, DA4/100/36, 24 Sept. 1963; DA4/100/37, 26 May 1964.

³⁸ GA, DA4/100/28, 7 Feb. 1956.

³⁹ GA, DA4/100/28, 27 Mar. 1956; DA4/100/29, 23 Oct. 1956, 27 Nov. 1956.

⁴⁰ GA, DA4/100/30, 28 May 1957, 17 Dec. 1957.

⁴¹ GA, DA4/100/34, 28 Nov. 1961.

⁴² GA, DA4/100/33, 28 Mar. 1961; DA4/100/34, 25 July 1961

⁴³ GA, DA4/100/34, 24 Apr. 1962; DA4/100/35, 26 Jun. 1962, 25 Sept. 1962, 30 Oct. 1962, 27 Nov. 1962, 29 Jan. 1963, 28 Feb. 1963, 26 Mar. 1963; DA4/100/36, 28 May 1963, 25 Jun. 1963.

⁴⁴ GA, DA4/100/36, 30 July 1963, 29 Oct. 1963, 31 Mar. 1964; DA4/100/38, 30 Nov. 1965; DA4/100/39, 28 Jun. 1966, 13 Dec. 1966.

⁴⁵ Cotswold District Council, *CA2: The Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan* (2008), 46–7.

⁴⁶ Cotswold District Council, *CA3: Cirencester Town Centre Character Appraisal and Management Plan* (2008), 36.

⁴⁷ GA, DA4/100/41, 24 Sept. 1968, 15 Apr. 1969.

⁴⁸ GA, DA4/100/38, 19 Oct. 1965.

⁴⁹ GA, D10820/A1-1/I, f.84.

⁵⁰ GA, DA4/100/38, 17 May 1966;

⁵¹ GA, DA4/100/39, 24 Jan. 1967, 7 Mar. 1967, 18 Apr. 1967.

and won the council a Civic Trust award.⁵² Other 1970s developments garnered less praise; Jobbins Court off Cricklade Street being described in a conservation report as a disappointing space with buildings of mediocre character.⁵³ Flats were also built in the Avenue in 1973 by Eric Cole and Partners.⁵⁴ Homeberry House in Ashcroft Gardens, built by McCarthy & Stone at in 1984, provided 60 sheltered housing flats with a resident warden. The design incorporated the former maltings in Cricklade Street, preserving the landmark twin chimneys.⁵⁵ Further sheltered housing was provided by Minerva Court in Tower Street, built on the former Royal Nursery.⁵⁶ The Cirencester Civic Society maintained a watching brief on the town's development in relation to conserving its unique features.⁵⁷

Several shopping centres were built in the centre of town during the 1990s.⁵⁸ The CDC's local development plan for 2001–11 identified space for 175 dwellings to be built on previously developed sites in Cirencester from 2004 until 2011 with the TA headquarters on Somerford Road and a hotel on Lewis Lane given specific mention.⁵⁹ Small residential developments were built on brownfield sites at Mill Place off Barton Lane in 2004 and Admiralty Row off Trafalgar Road in 2006.⁶⁰

Archaeological Research

A section of Roman pavement found in Lock's timber yard in Victoria Road was moved to the Corinium Museum in 1947.⁶¹ A human skeleton, also thought to be Roman, was found at Watermoor in 1950.⁶² Excavations were carried out on the Roman defences of the town during the early 1950s and various finds catalogued.⁶³ The Ministry of Works mandated an excavation before a sewer was built in Watermoor in 1952.⁶⁴ A section of Roman wall was discovered in Beeches Road in 1953.⁶⁵ In 1954 human remains and Roman pottery were uncovered at Hope's foundry in Watermoor Road and six skeletons from the site were presented to the museum.⁶⁶ Richard Reece carried out excavations at Quern's Lane House in 1955–6.⁶⁷

The Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society (CAHS) was formed in 1955.⁶⁸ In 1957 the

⁵² Cotswold District Council, CA3, 47, 55.

⁵³ Cotswold District Council, CA3, 60–1.

⁵⁴ Cotswold District Council, CA3, 36.

⁵⁵ *Financial Times*, 29 Nov. 1983; Cotswold District Council, CA3, 47.

⁵⁶ Verey & Brooks, *Glos.* I, 275; OS Map 1:25000, LI (1902).

⁵⁷ GA, D10820/A1-3/x.

⁵⁸ See Economic Activity, Trade.

⁵⁹ Cotswold District Council, *Cotswold District Local Plan 2001–2011* (2006), section 3.3.9, policy 20.

⁶⁰ Cotswold District Council, CA3, 35–6.

⁶¹ GA, DA4/100/23, 23 Sep. 1947.

⁶² GA, DA4/100/25, 26 Jun. 1950.

⁶³ GA, DA4/100/26, 27 May 1952.

⁶⁴ T. Darvill & N. Holbrook, 'Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008' in N. Holbrook (ed.), *Excavations and Observations in Roman Cirencester, 1998–2007* (Cirencester, 2008), 2.

⁶⁵ GA, DA4/100/26, 24 Mar. 1953, 27 Apr. 1953.

⁶⁶ GA, DA4/100/26, 25 May 1954; DA4/100/27, 22 Mar. 1955.

⁶⁷ Darvill & Holbrook, 'Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008', 1.

⁶⁸ GA, DA4/100/27, 25 Jan. 1955, 22 Feb. 1955 and 26 Apr. 1955; DA4/100/28, 24 May 1955 and 28 Jun. 1955.

society acquired a room at Abberley House to exhibit non-Roman artefacts. This opened to the public in 1962.⁶⁹ New finds also continued to flow into the museum in the late 1950s, some from sites in Cirencester, including excavations at City Bank in 1956.⁷⁰ More material came from surrounding areas such as Fairford, Stratton and Bagendon.⁷¹ Redevelopment in the centre of Cirencester allowed new excavations to take place, as at Dyer Court in 1957.⁷² Work was led by Graham Webster, funded by the Ministry of Works and aided by CAHS volunteers.⁷³

The Society of Antiquaries sponsored the formation of an excavation committee in 1958 to direct emergency excavations in the area of the Roman city, encouraged by local archaeologist Mary Rennie. Following the appointment of Katherine Richardson as the first director of excavations,⁷⁴ work began at a site in Watermoor Parsonage field.⁷⁵ The remains of a Roman house were found under a clinic in Watermoor Road in a separate excavation overseen by Rennie.⁷⁶ Major excavation works began in the Abbey Grounds and in 1960 the remains of the town wall, East gate and a guard house were uncovered.⁷⁷ These finds inaugurated 14 years of annual summer excavations in Cirencester with interim reports published in the *Antiquaries Journal*.⁷⁸ In 1961 the British Summer School of Archaeology was held in Cirencester.⁷⁹ That summer excavations were carried out in Leaholme Gardens where Roman public buildings including a basilica and a military fort were found.⁸⁰

The first research excavation – not necessitated by urgent situations related to building or development – took place at the amphitheatre to the west of town in 1962 and 1963. Sites around the town, including the King’s Head Yard and Lloyds Bank in Silver Street, were investigated in 1963 and 1964.⁸¹ From 1964 the proposed development of the Abbey grounds concentrated efforts there. The Chester-Master family gifted the Saxon arch in the Abbey grounds to the town in 1964, which then needed repairs partly funded by the county council.⁸² Excavations in the Abbey grounds in 1965 made it possible to reconstruct the entire plan of the Abbey in the 12th century and revealed an earlier Saxon church on the same site.⁸³ Further work took place on a Roman wall with a unique tower (which the Ministry of Works demanded be retained) and the Saxon church in

⁶⁹ GA, DA4/100/30, 28 May 1957; DA4/100/34, 25 July 1961, 27 Feb. 1962, 27 Mar. 1962.

⁷⁰ GA, DA4/100/28, 27 Mar. 1956; DA4/100/29, 22 May 1956.

⁷¹ GA, DA4/100/29, 22 Jan. 1957, 19 Mar. 1957; DA4/100/30, 28 May 1957; DA4/100/34, 19 Dec. 1961.

⁷² GA, DA4/100/30, 28 May 1957 and 25 Feb. 1958.

⁷³ Darvill & Holbrook, ‘Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008’, 2.

⁷⁴ Darvill & Holbrook, ‘Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008’, 2–4.

⁷⁵ GA, DA4/100/31, 25 Nov. 1958 and 30 Dec. 1958.

⁷⁶ GA, DA4/100/32, 26 Jan. 1960; Darvill & Holbrook, ‘Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008’, 2.

⁷⁷ GA, DA4/100/33, 23 Feb. 1960 and 26 Apr. 1960; DA4/100/33, 31 Jan. 1961.

⁷⁸ Darvill & Holbrook, ‘Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008’, 5.

⁷⁹ GA, DA4/100/34, 23 May 1961; *Birmingham Daily Post*, 9 Feb. 1961.

⁸⁰ GA, DA4/100/34, 30 Jan. 1962; Darvill & Holbrook, ‘Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008’, 5.

⁸¹ Darvill & Holbrook, ‘Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008’, 5.

⁸² GA, DA4/100/36, 28 Apr. 1964; DA4/100/37, 27 Apr. 1965; DA4/100/39, 31 May 1966, 1 Nov. 1966; DA4/100/40, 27 Feb. 1968; DA4/100/41, 10 Dec. 1968.

⁸³ GA, D10820/A1-1/l, f.92; DA4/100/37, 30 Mar. 1965; DA4/100/38, 27 July 1965, 11 Jan. 1966.

1966.⁸⁴ In 1965 John Wacher, the director of excavations from 1960, was replaced by joint directors David Brown and Alan McWhirr, the latter taking sole charge in 1967.⁸⁵

During the late 1960s McWhirr oversaw excavations across numerous development sites, including the Station Yard by Sheep Street and at the Waterloo.⁸⁶ From 1969 to 1976 the work of the Cirencester Excavation Committee was focussed on three major excavations. First, construction of the western relief road spurred on excavations at the Bath Gate cemetery. The Department of the Environment took over the site in 1973.⁸⁷ Two town houses were unearthed at Beeches Road from 1970, where the famous hare mosaic preserved at the Corinium Museum was found. Finally an excavation of a strip at St Michael's Field known as Admiral's Walk uncovered evidence of Roman houses, shops and military activity.⁸⁸ These and excavations at other sites in the early 1970s, including Castle Street, School Lane and Watermoor Road, uncovered Roman artefacts ranging from tombstones to roads, and provided further new material for the Corinium Museum.⁸⁹ The areas of excavation undertaken by the Cirencester committee between 1958 and 1976 were carried out across 37 sites, ranging just north of Coxwell Street down to Watermoor Station and a little beyond.⁹⁰ Another newly established organisation, the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon Gloucestershire and Somerset carried out excavations in Cirencester in 1976. Comparatively short-lived, the organisation went into voluntary liquidation in 1986.⁹¹

After 1976 the Cirencester Excavation Committee largely concentrated on publishing the results from its extensive finds during a difficult funding environment for archaeology. In 1989 the committee was reconstituted as a company with charitable status, overseen by the Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT), and was formally dissolved in 1997. CAT was immediately employed providing archaeological assessments for the unrealised Corinium development of the Brewery carpark. The Trust had to look more widely for commissions around Gloucestershire and beyond in the early 1990s, but continued to publish works on Cirencester with the help of grants from English Heritage. The company was renamed Cotswold Archaeology in 2002.⁹²

More recent excavations in Cirencester, include the investigation of an *insula* at the Cotswold Mill in 1998-9, of town defences between School Lane and Stepstairs Lane in 2003-5 and further work at the Roman cemetery on the Old Tetbury Road in 2004-6.⁹³ The seventh instalment of the Cirencester Excavations series was published in 2017 covering investigation of the old Bridges Garage, Tetbury Road, between 2011 and 2015 and revealing yet more about the western cemetery.⁹⁴

⁸⁴ GA, DA4/100/38, 5 Aug. 1966; DA4/100/39, 31 May 1966, 13 Dec. 1966.

⁸⁵ Darvill & Holbrook, 'Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958-2008', 15.

⁸⁶ Darvill & Holbrook, 'Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958-2008', 7.

⁸⁷ GA, DA4/100/42, 3 Jun. 1969; DA4/100/43, 15 Dec. 1970, 9 Mar. 1971; DA4/100/44, 27 July 1971, 9 Nov. 1971; DA4/100/46, 22 May 1973.

⁸⁸ Darvill & Holbrook, 'Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958-2008', 7-9.

⁸⁹ GA, DA4/100/43, 16 Jun. 1970; DA4/100/44, 27 July 1971, 28 Sept. 1971, 18 Apr. 1972; DA4/100/45, 25 July 1972; DA4/100/46, 8 Jan. 1974.

⁹⁰ McWhirr, *Cirencester*, fig. facing p.1.

⁹¹ Darvill & Holbrook, 'Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958-2008', 10-11.

⁹² Darvill & Holbrook, 'Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958-2008', 11-13.

⁹³ N. Holbrook (ed.), *Excavations and Observations in Roman Cirencester, 1998-2007* (Cirencester, 2008), v, ix.

⁹⁴ N. Holbrook et al, *The Western Cemetery of Roman Cirencester* (Cirencester, 2017).

Housing Estates and Urban Expansion

Licences were granted by the UDC for 100 houses (including 78 council houses) to be built at the London Road and Beeches site in 1946 and a second housing programme began there in 1948.⁹⁵ The council bought a further 21 a. from Col. Chester-Master to extend the site and put out a tender for 22 houses in 1949, when roads on the estate were named.⁹⁶ A proposal by the Cirencester Conservative Benefit Society to build a further 57 houses and 24 flats at the Bowling Green was approved in 1948, when a tender was put out to extend Bowling Green Road.⁹⁷ As more housing was needed, the UDC suggested converting the defunct prisoner of war camp at Cranhams Farm into civilian accommodation.⁹⁸ A plot was acquired by the council in Querns Lane to build 12 houses for the elderly, completed in 1951.⁹⁹

The UDC formed a Housing Society in 1949, which applied for loans to build housing and completed several projects in the next few years.¹⁰⁰ The Territorial Association also built housing on allotment land in Somerford Road.¹⁰¹ The council continued to acquire land for housing, including the remainder of New Mills Farm from Col. Chester-Master in 1949.¹⁰² Building was commenced in Shepherds Way towards the end of the year.¹⁰³ A third stage of building at the Beeches and London Road Estate began in 1951 with a further 56 houses, when a development plan was also put in place.¹⁰⁴ The Minister of Housing requested that savings be made on the fourth stage of building.¹⁰⁵ The council owned 623 pre-war and 423 post-war houses by 1953.¹⁰⁶

Work on the fifth stage of the Beeches and London Road housing estate was suspended until a bridge over the railway was completed in 1954.¹⁰⁷ Roads in the estate were named in 1954.¹⁰⁸ In the same year, the council's housing programme was declared temporarily complete.¹⁰⁹ The Housing Society continued developing new projects including a block of flats on the Whiteway/Shepherds Way development and roads were named at Whiteway in 1958.¹¹⁰ Plots were sold at the New Mills development during the mid-1950s, with a show home being unveiled in 1955.¹¹¹ Houses continued to be built on the New Mills Private Enterprise Development Scheme until the end of the 1950s.¹¹² The three distinct estates of Chesterton, the Beeches and Bowling

⁹⁵ GA, DA4/100/23, 2 Aug. 1946, 24 Sept. 1946; DA4/100/24, 27 Apr. 1948, 25 May 1948, 22 Jun. 1948, 27 July 1948.

⁹⁶ GA, DA4/100/24, 27 July 1948, 22 Feb. 1949, 26 Apr. 1949.

⁹⁷ GA, DA4/100/23, 23 Sept. 1947, 27 Jan. 1948; DA4/100/24, 22 Jun. 1948.

⁹⁸ GA, DA4/100/23, 28 Oct. 1947.

⁹⁹ GA, DA4/100/23, 23 Dec. 1947; DA4/100/25, 19 Dec. 1949, 23 Jan. 1951.

¹⁰⁰ GA, DA4/100/25, 6 Sept. 1949, 22 Nov. 1949, 19 Dec. 1949; DA4/100/26, 19 Feb. 1952.

¹⁰¹ GA, DA4/100/26, 19 Feb. 1952.

¹⁰² GA, DA4/100/25, 26 Sept. 1949, 28 Nov. 1950.

¹⁰³ GA, DA4/100/25, 19 Dec. 1949; DA4/100/26, 24 July 1951.

¹⁰⁴ GA, DA4/100/25, 16 May 1950, 23 Jan. 1951, 19 Feb. 1951, 27 Mar. 1951, 24 Apr. 1951, May 1951.

¹⁰⁵ GA, DA4/100/26, 28 Oct. 1952.

¹⁰⁶ GA, DA4/100/26, 24 Mar. 1953.

¹⁰⁷ GA, DA4/100/27, 28 May 1953, 1 Feb. 1954.

¹⁰⁸ GA, DA4/100/27, 25 May 1954.

¹⁰⁹ GA, DA4/100/27, 26 Oct. 1954.

¹¹⁰ GA, DA4/100/27, 22 Sept. 1953, 22 Jun. 1954; DA4/100/31, 28 Oct. 1958.

¹¹¹ GA, DA4/100/27, 27 Apr. 1954, 25 Jan. 1955, 22 Feb. 1955; DA4/100/29, 25 Sept. 1956.

¹¹² GA, DA4/100/31, 28 Oct 1958, 27 Jan. 1959.

Green encircled the historic town centre and Watermoor by 1959.¹¹³

In 1960 Col. Chester-Master proposed developing the Abbey House and grounds, including an offer to the council to acquire some of the land, and a mixed development of houses, flats and shops was confirmed in 1963.¹¹⁴ A planning application was submitted in 1964.¹¹⁵ The Bathurst estate also planned a residential development in Chesterton between the Tetbury Road and the Kemble railway line in 1963.¹¹⁶ The UDC set up an estates committee in 1961, inaugurating another phase of council housing schemes.¹¹⁷ A contract was signed for a new development in Chesterton in 1963, including 18 dwellings for old people and 60 homes.¹¹⁸ To the south of the town developments were planned off the Cricklade Road and at Sperringate, and to the north at the Whiteway.¹¹⁹

The UDC established a housing programme for 1965-8 covering: Gloucester Road; Siddington Road; an extension to Sperringate; the triangle of Dollar Street, Thomas Street and Coxwell Street; the Waterloo; Midland Road; and Somerford Road.¹²⁰ A second phase of the Abbey grounds development was planned in 1966 and construction began in 1968, partly undertaken by the Cirencester Housing Society.¹²¹ New streets were also constructed at Ashcroft House and housing built at Cranhams Lane/Countess Liliias Road.¹²² The second phases of the Waterloo and Fairfax (to be named Gibson Court) developments advanced in 1969 as the UDC purchased land and signed contracts for construction.¹²³ Houses were also built on the site of the old bacon factory in Mount Street.¹²⁴

Work on a large development in Sheep Street and Phoenix Way began in 1970, including new roads, houses, a leisure centre, bus station, a hotel and an industrial estate with office space.¹²⁵

The town continued to grow with residential units built on Watermoor Nursery in Siddington Road and an estate of 132 houses with new roads and sewers off Cranhams Lane in 1972.¹²⁶ The lack of major developments on the outskirts of Cirencester following the completion of the inner ring road in the late 1970s and 1980s left its outline largely unchanged.¹²⁷ Development during the 1990s and 2000s included smaller amounts of housing in the City Bank area of Watermoor.¹²⁸

Cirencester was identified as the main site for new housing in the local development plan for the period 2001 to 2011, with 63% of planned growth in the Cotswolds from 2004 to be in the town.

¹¹³ OS Map 1:25000, SP 00 (1959 edn).

¹¹⁴ GA, DA4/100/32, 23 Feb. 1960, 31 Mar. 1960; DA4/100/33, 28 Mar. 1961; DA4/100/36, 30 July 1963.

¹¹⁵ GA, DA4/100/37, 22 Dec. 1964.

¹¹⁶ GA, DA4/100/36, 17 Dec. 1963.

¹¹⁷ GA, DA4/100/34, 23 May 1961.

¹¹⁸ GA, DA4/100/35, 30 Oct. 1962, 25 Jun. 1963.

¹¹⁹ GA, DA4/100/36, 24 Sept. 1963, 29 Oct. 1963, 28 Jan. 1964.

¹²⁰ GA, DA4/100/37, 30 Mar. 1965; DA4/100/39, 31 May 1966, 28 Jun. 1966, 9 Aug. 1966, 20 Sept. 1966, 1 Nov. 1966.

¹²¹ GA, DA4/100/39, 20 Sept. 1966, 1 Nov. 1966, 13 Dec. 1966, 18 Apr. 1967; DA4/100/40, 5 Dec. 1967, 16 Jan. 1968.

¹²² GA, DA4/100/38, 17 May 1966; DA4/100/39, 1 Nov. 1966.

¹²³ GA, DA4/100/41, 21 Jan. 1969, 4 Mar. 1969.

¹²⁴ GA, DA4/100/42, 23 Sept. 1969.

¹²⁵ GA, DA4/100/42, 10 Mar. 1970; DA4/100/43, 28 July 1970; DA4/100/44, 7 Mar. 1972; DA4/100/45, May 1972.

¹²⁶ GA, DA4/100/44, 28 Sept. 1971, 18 Apr. 1972.

¹²⁷ OS Map 1:50000, sheet 163 (1978 edn); OS Map 1:25000, SP 00/10 (1986 edn).

¹²⁸ A. Thomas, *10, City Bank Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Excavation & Watching Brief* (Cirencester, 1997), 6; Cotswold District Council, *Cotswold District Local Plan 2001–2011* (2006), section 7.3.5.

Space for 175 dwellings on brownfield sites and 489 dwellings on greenfield sites was identified.¹²⁹ The major greenfield sites identified were Kingshill north and south, with space for a minimum 477 dwellings.¹³⁰ Planning applications for both sites were submitted in 2006¹³¹ and work began in 2009.¹³² An application for a substantial extension of the site was submitted by Pegasus Planning Group in 2016.¹³³ A planning application from Bathurst Development Ltd for a large new estate of 2,350 homes at Chesterton Farm was being considered by the Cotswold District Council in 2017.¹³⁴

Local Government

Francis Boorman

Urban District Council

The UDC committees for 1945 were general purposes, streets, water, rating, housing sub-committee, civil defence, horticultural, joint ambulance and post-war public works.¹³⁵ By 1946 the civil defence committee had been discontinued and a road safety committee established.¹³⁶ In 1945 representatives were sent to the Cirencester and Tetbury joint planning committee, the Cirencester guardians committee and the disablement advisory committee.¹³⁷ In 1946 representatives were also sent to the Cirencester infectious diseases joint hospital committee, Cotswold District joint superannuation committee, Cirencester Grammar School and the Royal Agricultural College.¹³⁸

In a sign of wartime governance coming to an end, a victory parade was held to coincide with a royal visit in 1946.¹³⁹ Similarly, the post-war public works committee was wound up, although the Council was heavily involved in providing housing following the war, building estates in the Beeches and London Road.¹⁴⁰ By 1948 205 of 500 planned houses were completed and occupied.¹⁴¹ The Council established a Housing Society in 1949.¹⁴²

Capital expenditure by the Council included a sewage works, abattoir, bus station and water works.¹⁴³ The Ministry of Food decided to close the British Restaurant in 1947, but the Council took it over for one year to provide school meals.¹⁴⁴ A local food committee was also appointed in 1946

¹²⁹ Cotswold District Council, *Cotswold District Local Plan 2001–2011*, section 3.3.9.

¹³⁰ Cotswold District Council, *Cotswold District Local Plan 2001–2011*, section 7.3.5.

¹³¹ *Wilts & Glos.*, 11 Apr. 2007.

¹³² *Glos. Echo*, 30 Nov. 2009.

¹³³ *Wilts & Glos.*, 17 Aug. 2016.

¹³⁴ *Wilts & Glos.*, 14 Sep. 2017.

¹³⁵ GA, DA4/100/23, f.1–2.

¹³⁶ GA, DA4/100/23, f.77–80.

¹³⁷ GA, DA4/100/23, f.1–2, 34.

¹³⁸ GA, DA4/100/23, f.77–80.

¹³⁹ GA, DA4/100/23, f.93.

¹⁴⁰ GA, DA4/100/23, f.18, 39, 43, 55, 67, 121.

¹⁴¹ GA, DA4/100/24, f.285 (insert, f.4).

¹⁴² GA, DA4/100/25, f.20–1.

¹⁴³ GA, DA4/100/23 II, f.25.

¹⁴⁴ GA, DA4/100/23 II, f.128, 152–3.

and a committee to discuss erecting a war memorial was established in 1947.¹⁴⁵ In 1948 representatives were appointed to the Divisional Administration Committee for the National Health Insurance Act.¹⁴⁶ A special sub-committee was also set up to consider the question of extending the council boundaries into surrounding parishes covered by the Rural District Council such as Baunton and Siddington.¹⁴⁷ A committee for civil defence was re-established in 1949 and reports on recruits were delivered later in the year and in 1950.¹⁴⁸

The Council decided to reduce expenditure in 1950 so that the rate could be kept level at 17s. 6d in the pound, rising to 18s. 8d. by 1951, 20s. 6d. by 1952 and £1 3s. 9d. in 1953.¹⁴⁹ The housing committee issued a detailed *Tenants' Handbook* in 1951, recognising the UDC's ever-increasing role as a landlord.¹⁵⁰ A tender was accepted for a sewage disposal scheme in 1951, stretching from the Horse and Drill in Watermoor to the end of Abbey Way.¹⁵¹ New sewage works were opened in July that year.¹⁵² The Council secured the right to drainage in Golden Farm from the owner, Col. Chester-Master.¹⁵³ At the end of the year the former control centre at the municipal offices was to be repurposed for civil defence use and by 1952 the civil defence force numbered 150.¹⁵⁴ In the same year the Cirencester and District Squadron of the Air Training Corps was revived, having lapsed at the end of the war.¹⁵⁵ Also in 1952, the High Steward called a meeting in the Corn Hall to discuss coronation celebrations.¹⁵⁶

In 1953 the UDC had a landmark of its own when Councillor Cambray became chair of the public health committee, the first woman to chair a council committee in Cirencester.¹⁵⁷ The council appointed a fuel overseer and purchased a refuse lorry in 1954.¹⁵⁸ Controversy surfaced in the same year, when a dispute arose over a Territorial Army parade through the town.¹⁵⁹ A civil defence rally was also held in the Bingham Hall.¹⁶⁰ An 'emergency committee' was established, which would only be activated when necessary.¹⁶¹ Scandal came to Cirencester in 1955 when the council investigated misappropriation of income from the public conveniences in Silver Street.¹⁶²

In the same year the council reviewed the provision of allotments, as usage was declining.¹⁶³ The

¹⁴⁵ GA, DA4/100/23 II, f.135, 222.

¹⁴⁶ GA, DA4/100/24, f.271.

¹⁴⁷ GA, DA4/100/24, f.282, 284–5.

¹⁴⁸ GA, DA4/100/25, f.39, 49, 77, 103, 108, 116–7, 121–2.

¹⁴⁹ GA, DA4/100/25, f.78–9 and 161; DA4/100/26, f.82, 186.

¹⁵⁰ GA, D10820/L3-1/n.

¹⁵¹ GA, DA4/100/26, f.18, 38.

¹⁵² GA, DA4/100/26, ff.19–20.

¹⁵³ GA, DA4/100/26, f.32.

¹⁵⁴ GA, DA4/100/26, f.49 and 66.

¹⁵⁵ GA, DA4/100/26, f.139.

¹⁵⁶ GA, DA4/100/26, f.135 and 144.

¹⁵⁷ GA, DA4/100/26, f.154.

¹⁵⁸ GA, DA4/100/27, f.116 and 128.

¹⁵⁹ GA, DA4/100/27, f.144–5.

¹⁶⁰ GA, DA4/100/27, f.152.

¹⁶¹ GA, DA4/100/27, f.164.

¹⁶² GA, DA4/100/27, f.199.

¹⁶³ GA, DA4/100/27, f.210.

council also oversaw the Churn Valley scheme, providing a water supply to the rural district area.¹⁶⁴ Tenders were put out for a pumping plant and agreement was reached to dig a new reservoir in Gloucester Road, with the scheme becoming operational in 1956.¹⁶⁵ The Cotswold Water Board took over water supply from 1961, leading to the abolition of the water committee, although representatives were sent to it from the UDC.¹⁶⁶ The UDC also decided to convert the street lights from gas to electric lighting in 1955, with the scheme approved in 1957.¹⁶⁷ Further stages were approved in 1961.¹⁶⁸

By the middle of 1956, concern was expressed at the quantity of capital expenditure that the council was incurring.¹⁶⁹ A special meeting in 1957 was held to discuss ways of reducing expenditure, leading to an investigation and reorganisation of the council's administration.¹⁷⁰ Nevertheless, capital projects continued apace, as approval was granted for an occupational centre and health clinic to be built on land adjoining Watermoor parsonage.¹⁷¹ Discussions were held in 1958 about a merger between the UDC and the Rural District Councils of Cirencester, North Cotswold and Northleach.¹⁷² In 1963 the Cirencester Disablement Advisory committee was subsumed into the larger Stroud and district area.¹⁷³ The UDC purchased the fire station in 1964, with provision made for a new site.¹⁷⁴ The council also purchased 23 acres of land in the abbey grounds in 1965 for £49,000.¹⁷⁵ In the same year the council started using land adjacent to the old canal in Ewen as a refuse tip.¹⁷⁶

There were fears in 1966 that the council might lose its identity and Cirencester its urban status.¹⁷⁷ A site on the Love Lane industrial estate was sold to GCC for a new fire station in 1966.¹⁷⁸ A special meeting of the council in 1969 stated their intention to lease an office block at the Southern Electricity Board premises, with the option to buy in three years.¹⁷⁹ Waste management continued to be an issue and the council also started using the abandoned canal as a refuse tip.¹⁸⁰

A special meeting was held in December 1971 to discuss the reorganisation of local government in the area.¹⁸¹ Application was made to the county council in 1972 to introduce wards within the

¹⁶⁴ GA, DA4/100/27, f.191

¹⁶⁵ GA, DA4/100/27, f.216 and 218; DA4/100/28, ff.44–5, 131 and 139; DA4/100/29, f.8 and 34–5.

¹⁶⁶ GA, DA4/100/33, f.330, 380 and 487.

¹⁶⁷ GA, DA4/100/28, ff.22–5, 41 and 43–4; DA4/100/30 f.27, 31 and 73.

¹⁶⁸ GA, DA4/100/34, f.128 and 210.

¹⁶⁹ GA, DA4/100/28, f.143–4.

¹⁷⁰ GA, DA4/100/30, f.54; DA4/100/31, f.55–7.

¹⁷¹ GA, DA4/100/30, f.46 and 103.

¹⁷² GA, DA4/100/30, f.109 and 119.

¹⁷³ GA, DA4/100/36, f.89.

¹⁷⁴ GA, DA4/100/37, f.311.

¹⁷⁵ GA, DA4/100/37, f.441.

¹⁷⁶ GA, DA4/100/38, f.229.

¹⁷⁷ GA, DA4/100/39, f.53, 62–3.

¹⁷⁸ GA, DA4/100/39, f.144; K46/177.

¹⁷⁹ GA, DA4/100/42, 3 Jun. 1969.

¹⁸⁰ GA, DA4/100/42, 29 July 1969.

¹⁸¹ GA, DA4/100/44, 7 Dec. 1971.

urban district.¹⁸² Towards the end of the year, plans were made to dissolve the UDC and to put in place a town council, with the new division of responsibilities decided in 1973.¹⁸³

The Urban District Council appointed members to its committees for the final time in 1973; estates, public health, highways, housing, finance and general purposes. Representatives were appointed on a further 17 committees, including those related to planning, road safety, health and various local schools and charities. The newly elected councillors for the Cirencester Ward of the Cotswold District Council were invited to attend future committees. The Urban District Councillors took on the dual role of town councillors until the abolition of the UDC. The council noted that their first meeting in 1895 was held in the town hall in the church porch and made plans for their final meeting to be held in the same place.¹⁸⁴ The final meeting of the council was held in March 1974.¹⁸⁵

Cotswold District Council

The Cotswold District Council (CDC) was formed in 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972, by a merger of Cirencester Urban District, Cirencester Rural District, North Cotswold Rural District, Northleach Rural District and Tetbury Rural District. Watermoor Hospital, previously the Cirencester workhouse, was converted to bring the whole council's operations into one building. The offices were officially opened in 1981,¹⁸⁶ when the CDC governed 441 square miles with a population of around 69,000. It proudly stated that it was a non-political local authority and that only 12 of the 45 councillors elected in 1979 referred to a party political affiliation in their nomination papers.¹⁸⁷ Cirencester sent nine representatives to the CDC, two each from four wards and one from Chesterton Ward.¹⁸⁸

As of 1980, the CDC had a chief executive and departments of administration, planning, technical services, housing, environmental health and finance, all based in Cirencester, with a branch office in Moreton-in-Marsh.¹⁸⁹ The largest department in terms of staff in 1984-5 was administration, employing 52 people. The council employed a total of 206 people. The largest areas of expenditure as a percentage of council spending were planning and transportation (19%), improvement grants (19%), housing (15%), recreation and leisure (12%) and refuse collection (11%).¹⁹⁰ Notable leisure facilities the council provided in Cirencester included the Corinium Museum, the Cotswold Sports Centre and the Corn Hall.¹⁹¹ Street cleansing was a special expense chargeable only to the parish in which it was carried out. Cirencester had the highest annual charge in the Cotswold District of £2,489 in 1984-5.¹⁹²

Cotswold District Council followed an independent political tradition for the remainder of the 20th

¹⁸² GA, DA4/100/45, 25 July 1972.

¹⁸³ GA, DA4/100/45, 7 Nov. 1972; 19 Dec. 1972; 10 Apr. 1973.

¹⁸⁴ GA, DA4/100/46, 22 May 1973.

¹⁸⁵ GA, DA4/100/46, 26 Mar. 1974.

¹⁸⁶ GA, D10820/L3-1/r; *Newcastle Journal*, 22 May 1981.

¹⁸⁷ GA, D10820/L3-1/p.

¹⁸⁸ GA, D10820/L3-1/x.

¹⁸⁹ GA, D10820/L3-1/q.

¹⁹⁰ GA, D10820/L3-1/ac.

¹⁹¹ GA, D10820/L3-1/ac.

¹⁹² GA, D10820/L3-1/ac.

century,¹⁹³ In 2003 the Conservatives were the first party to take overall control of the council,¹⁹⁴ and in 2007 they held 7 out of the 10 seats in Cirencester.¹⁹⁵ Following an electoral review the number of seats on the council was reduced. The Conservatives won the subsequent election in 2015 by 24 seats to 10, but all 7 Cirencester seats were won by Liberal Democrats.¹⁹⁶

The arms of the council depict fleeces, representing the woollen industry in the town and a wavy blue section, representing Cirencester's place at the head of the Thames.¹⁹⁷

Cirencester Town Council

Cirencester Town Council is a parish council formed in 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972. In 1973 numbers 53 and 55 Dyer Street were reserved for use as parochial council offices.¹⁹⁸ The council was made up of five wards, each electing three members: Abbey, Beeches, Chesterton, Stratton and Watermoor. It had a mayor and deputy mayor chosen from amongst the councillors, and its staff were a clerk, clerk's assistant and a secretary. In 1983-4 the council committees were finance and general purposes, planning, and estates advisory. The council had representatives with 15 other bodies and 9 schools.¹⁹⁹ Cirencester was twinned with Itzehoe, Germany in 1983 and more recently, St-Genis-Laval in France.²⁰⁰ The burgermeister of Itzehoe participated in the mayor of Cirencester's annual reception in 1984.²⁰¹

In 2013-14 the council directly provided the following services: allotments, bus shelters, CCTV and community safety, charter and farmers' markets, Christmas in Cirencester, civic functions, the closed church yard, a customer information point, grant aid, grass cutting, a guide book and maps of Cirencester, hanging baskets and floral tubs, the Kingshill Lane Sports and community facility, public conveniences in the Abbey grounds and St Michael's Park, the mop fair, a newsletter and public notice boards, the Norman arch and cottage, the Ozone youth project, public seating, riparian and sluice gate operation, town centre regeneration, town and youth websites and the youth town council. It also maintained or supported the provision of cycle racks, planning and licensing consultation, open spaces, play parks and recreational facilities, the Play Rangers and Summer off the Streets schemes and winter maintenance.²⁰² The ward structure was changed for the 2015 election, so that there were 15 councillors across 8 wards: Abbey, Beeches, Chesterton, Four Acres, St Michael's, Stratton and Watermoor each had two representatives, and New Mills one.²⁰³ Following the election there were 13 Liberal Democrat councillors and 2 Conservatives.²⁰⁴

The mayor is chairman of the council and serves for a maximum of 2 years at a time. Norman Whereat, who was a councillor from 1995 to 2007 and served as mayor 1999-2001 and 2005-7,

¹⁹³ *Birmingham Post*, 30 Apr. 1999; *Western Daily Press*, 30 Nov. 1999.

¹⁹⁴ Glos. & Wilts Counties Publications, 7 May 2003.

¹⁹⁵ *Wilts & Glos.*, 4 May 2007.

¹⁹⁶ *Wilts & Glos*, 8 May 2015.

¹⁹⁷ GA, D10820/L3-1/t.

¹⁹⁸ GA, DA4/100/46, 31 July 1973.

¹⁹⁹ GA, D10820/L3-1/x.

²⁰⁰ GA, D10820/L3-1/w; *Wilts & Glos.*, 19 Apr. 2007 & 22 Jan. 2016.

²⁰¹ GA, D10820/L3-1/ab.

²⁰² *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report (2013/14)*.

²⁰³ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report (2015/16)*;

²⁰⁴ *Wilts & Glos.*, 14 May 2015.

becmae Cirencester's first Honorary Freeman in 2012.²⁰⁵ Elected in 2013, 20-year-old Liberal Democrat Joe Harris became the youngest mayor in Britain. He also held seats on the Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council.²⁰⁶

The council crest includes images of a phoenix rising from the flames, a Roman column found in the Abbey grounds and a scythe representing agriculture, and particularly the Royal Agricultural University.²⁰⁷

Parliamentary Representation

William Morrison continued to represent the Cirencester and Tewkesbury constituency through the years of Labour government from 1945, and the constituency and its replacements continued to elect Conservative candidates up to the present. Morrison received over 51 per cent of votes in the 1950 general election²⁰⁸ and nearly 60 per cent in 1951, when he only had a Labour opponent.²⁰⁹ He became Speaker following the general election of 1951, in the first election for that position since 1895. Failure to reach agreement by Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee led to a contest with the Labour MP Major Milner, which Morrison won by 318 votes to 251.²¹⁰ Morrison won his seat in the 1955 general election with over 67 per cent of the vote against an Independent Socialist candidate.²¹¹ He did not stand in the election of 1959 due to ill health. He was ennobled as Viscount Dunrossil and appointed Governor-General of Australia. He arrived there in 1960 but died in 1961.²¹²

In 1959 there were 60 candidates to be the Conservative candidate for the 'safe seat' of Cirencester and Tewkesbury, the contest being won by Nicholas Ridley, the younger son of Viscount Ridley of Seaton Burn (Northumb.).²¹³ He won the subsequent election, beating his Labour opponent by a margin of just under 27%.²¹⁴ He represented the constituency until the end of his Commons career in 1992. Ridley was junior spokesman in various fields in opposition and rose to become Under-Secretary for Trade and Industry during Heath's administration. A committed Thatcherite, he served as a minister in all three of her governments, including as Transport Secretary, Secretary of State for the Environment and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Frequently a controversial figure, he resigned from government in 1990 after giving an interview on Europe that dismissed the French as poodles and name-checked Hitler. He was ennobled in 1992 as Lord Ridley of Liddesdale. Ridley died of cancer in 1993.²¹⁵

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (b.1953) was selected as the Conservative candidate for the Cirencester and Tewkesbury constituency in 1991.²¹⁶ He already had links with Cirencester, having graduated

²⁰⁵ *Wilts & Glos.*, 22 Mar. 2012.

²⁰⁶ *Wilts & Glos.*, 23 Apr. 2015.

²⁰⁷ GA, D10820/L3-1/u.

²⁰⁸ *Glos. Echo*, 25 Feb. 1950.

²⁰⁹ *Tewkesbury Register*, 20 Oct. 1951.

²¹⁰ *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, 1 Nov. 1951.

²¹¹ *Tewkesbury Register*, 28 May 1955.

²¹² *The Times*, 3 Feb. 1961.

²¹³ *Tewkesbury Register*, 27 Mar. 1959.

²¹⁴ *Evesham Standard*, 16 Oct. 1959.

²¹⁵ ODNB, Ridley, Nicholas, Baron Ridley of Liddesdale (1929–1993); *The Times*, 6 Mar. 1993.

²¹⁶ *Sunday Times*, 31 Mar. 1991.

from the then Royal Agricultural College in 1975 with a diploma in rural estate management.²¹⁷ Clifton-Brown's family had a history of Parliamentary service and he had five former MPs in his family including a Speaker of the House of Commons.²¹⁸ He was elected MP in 1992, with a majority of over 16,000. The Liberal Democrat candidate came second with around a third of the vote.²¹⁹

The Cirencester and Tewkesbury constituency was abolished and Cirencester became part of Cotswold constituency in 1997 which Clifton-Brown continued to represent, winning with a majority of nearly 12,000 despite the nationwide Labour landslide.²²⁰ He retained the seat in 2001 with a similar majority, the Liberal Democrats remaining in second.²²¹ Clifton-Brown won the seat again in 2005 and in 2010, when the constituency was renamed The Cotswolds.²²² He won again in the election of 2015 with a huge majority of over 21,000 and the announcement of his seat gave the Conservatives a parliamentary majority.²²³ A supporter of the campaign for Britain to leave the EU, Clifton-Brown was reelected to stand in the general election of 2017 when he increased his majority to over 25,000.²²⁴ In 2015 the Liberal Democrats came second, UKIP third and Labour fourth, but in 2017 Labour increased their share of the vote by almost 9% to come second with the Liberal Democrats third.²²⁵ Clifton-Brown served in a number of front bench positions and on a dozen Select Committees, with a particular interest in foreign affairs, local government, environment and agriculture, leading to his receipt of a knighthood in the 2018 New Year Honours.²²⁶

Economic Activity

Francis Boorman

Trade, Markets, and Service Industries

Trade

National retail chains expanded their presence in Cirencester in the post-war period. A plan was approved in 1947 for Currys to open a cycle and radio shop in Cricklade Street and the Woolworth's store already there was extended in 1951 and again in 1965.²²⁷ Woolworth's eventually closed in 2009 with the collapse of the chain.²²⁸ Following redevelopment of the Forum and Dyer Street in the mid-1960s, new retail opportunities were created and Tesco leased a new

²¹⁷ *Wilts & Glos.*, 1 Aug. 2014.

²¹⁸ *Western Daily Press*, 18 May 2002.

²¹⁹ *The Times*, 11 Apr. 1992.

²²⁰ *The Times*, 3 May 1997.

²²¹ *Worcestershire, West Midlands, Herefordshire, and Shropshire Counties Publications*, 8 June 2001.

²²² *Evening Standard*, 8 June 2005; *Cotswold Journal*, 7 May 2010.

²²³ *Wilts & Glos.*, 8 May 2015.

²²⁴ *Wilts & Glos.*, 10 May 2017.

²²⁵ *Wilts & Glos.*, 8 May 2015; *The Guardian*, 9 June 2017.

²²⁶ *Wilts & Glos.*, 4 Jan. 2018.

²²⁷ GA, DA4/100/24, 24 Jun. 1947; DA4/100/25, 24 Apr. 1951; DA4/100/38, 19 Oct. 1965.

²²⁸ *Wilts & Glos.*, 29 June 2009.

shop front opening onto the latter in 1965.²²⁹ Cirencester Garage created an open air display and sales office at the Forum in 1967.²³⁰

Cirencester's retail trade remained relatively strong throughout the 1980s and early 1990s; vacancy rates of ground floor retail premises in Cirencester between 1984 and 1994 averaged 7.8%, against a UK average of around 12%.²³¹ Out of town shopping was introduced when a Tesco store opened at Kingsmeadow in 1994.²³² The Woolmarket courtyard development of small retail units opened in the early 1980s.²³³ The Woolmarket was bought by the P H Gillingham Group in 1996 and subsequently redeveloped.²³⁴ Bishops Walk, a covered shopping centre linking Cricklade Street and the rest of the high street with one of the town's main car parks, opened in 1990.²³⁵ In 2018 it was sold along with 18-26 Cricklade Street for over £6 million.²³⁶ Waitrose moved from Dyer Street to Phoenix Way in 1995 and part of its old site was taken up by Argos in 1996.²³⁷ Difficulties for the town's retail businesses, identified in a report of 1994, included congestion in the town centre, particularly Castle Street and Dyer Street, and a lack of variety in the retail offering including a low representation of multiples.²³⁸ Nevertheless, Cirencester dominated the Cotswold region as a commercial and industrial centre, containing 73% of available industrial floorspace and 69% of available office space in the CDC area in 1996.²³⁹

Markets

Regular market days continued to be held in Cirencester and different stallage tolls for local and non-resident traders were introduced in 1950.²⁴⁰ These continued to be held on Mondays and Fridays, except for occasional changes due to holidays such as Christmas, which adjustment drew complaints in 1952.²⁴¹ Four additional stalls were added to the market in 1953.²⁴² The West Market Place improvements of 1962-3 were a collaboration between the UDC and Cirencester chamber of commerce.²⁴³ In 1962 the Mop Fair was held at the Forum as a trial and it was continued there for the next three years, extending for another three years in 1966.²⁴⁴ A new open air market was held from 1973 at Cirencester Town Football Club, Chesterton Lane.²⁴⁵

The Charter Market was held in the Market Place in the 21st century and received funding from the Town Council, which also ran a marketing campaign, although the Monday market experienced

²²⁹ GA, DA4/100/38, 19 Oct. 1965; *Birmingham Daily Post*, 16 Jan. 1965.

²³⁰ GA, DA4/100/39, 1 Nov. 1966, 24 Jan. 1967.

²³¹ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy* (Cirencester, 1996), 86.

²³² Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 135.

²³³ *The Estates Gazette*, 255 (1980), 12.

²³⁴ Wilts & Glos., 30 Mar. 2007.

²³⁵ *Glos. Echo*, 21 Dec. 2011.

²³⁶ *Wilts. & Glos.*, 20 June 2018.

²³⁷ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 86.

²³⁸ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 125-6.

²³⁹ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 77.

²⁴⁰ GA, DA4/100/25, 28 Nov. 1950.

²⁴¹ GA, DA4/100/26, 23 Dec. 1952; 27 Jan. 1953; 24 Feb. 1953; DA4/100/27, 23 Mar. 1954.

²⁴² GA, DA4/100/27, 24 Nov. 1953; 22 Dec. 1953

²⁴³ GA, D10820/A1-1/j, *Cirencester Association Beeches Community Centre Magazine*, Mar. 1963.

²⁴⁴ GA, DA4/100/34, 27 Feb. 1962; DA4/100/35, 25 Sept. 1962; DA4/100/38, 11 Jan. 1966.

²⁴⁵ GA, DA4/100/46, 25 Sept. 1973.

declining footfall between 2010 and 2012.²⁴⁶ The Mop Fair was organised by the Town Council, which also supported a farmers' market.²⁴⁷ A new Christmas market was established in 2010, expanding in 2013.²⁴⁸ The Town Council took over direct management of the Charter and farmers' markets in 2014 when a markets and events officer was hired.²⁴⁹ The market was moved next to the church in 2015/16, when a youth market was also established.²⁵⁰ After moving to different locations around the town for several years, the Mop Fair returned to the Market Place in 2015.²⁵¹ Redevelopment of the Market Place was a long-running project in the 2010s to open up public space in front of the church.²⁵² Following a successful public consultation in 2013-14, the improvement work was completed in 2016.²⁵³

New uses were embraced for the cattle market following the war and it was employed as a Car Mart for one day a week from 1947.²⁵⁴ However, the cattle market was not flourishing and the UDC proposed its purchase from the Bathurst Estates in 1952.²⁵⁵ Discussions were also held about modernising the cattle market in 1953, including a proposal for a new sales ring, and a loan was approved for the purpose.²⁵⁶ The UDC took over the lease of the cattle market from Earl Bathurst in 1954 and leased it to Mr Radway in 1955 for £875 per annum.²⁵⁷ A new incinerator was purchased for the cattle market in 1960.²⁵⁸ The UDC agreed to acquire the cattle market outright in 1961 and further land adjoining it the next year, completing the purchase with the bull ring in 1964.²⁵⁹ The cattle market closed in 2004, but a purpose-built market and agricultural centre was opened the next year at Fosse Farm, Driffield.²⁶⁰

The UDC proposed buying the Corn Hall for £10,000 in 1949.²⁶¹ Following a public enquiry, the Minister of Health approved the plan and the purchase was completed in 1951.²⁶² Discussions were held on alterations to the Corn Hall, carried out by 1954.²⁶³ The Corn Hall offices were then rented out to the King's Head Hotel and Moore, Allan and Innocent.²⁶⁴ Plans were made to move the

²⁴⁶ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report* 2009/10, 13; 2011/12, 13.

²⁴⁷ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report* 2009/10, 10.

²⁴⁸ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report* 2010/11, 8; 2013/14, 16.

²⁴⁹ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report* 2014/15, 4, 19.

²⁵⁰ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report* 2015/16, 16-7.

²⁵¹ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report* 2015/16, 18.

²⁵² *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report* 2009/10, 6; 2010/11, 13, 20.

²⁵³ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report* 2013/14, 7; 2016/17, 7.

²⁵⁴ GA, DA4/100/24, 24 Jun. 1947.

²⁵⁵ GA, DA4/100/26, 25 Nov. 1952.

²⁵⁶ GA, DA4/100/27, 28 July 1953; 22 Dec. 1953.

²⁵⁷ GA, DA4/100/27, 7 Dec. 1953; 23 Nov. 1954; 22 Mar. 1955.

²⁵⁸ GA, DA4/100/33, 27 Sept. 1960.

²⁵⁹ GA, DA4/100/33, 9 Mar. 1961; 20 Mar. 1961; DA4/100/34, 30 Jan. 1962; DA4/100/35, 29 May 1962; DA4/100/36, 31 Mar. 1964.

²⁶⁰ *Western Daily Press*, 1 Nov. 2005.

²⁶¹ GA, DA4/100/25, 19 Dec. 1947, 28 Feb. 1950; 21 Mar. 1950; 23 May 1950

²⁶² GA, DA4/100/25, 11 Oct. 1950, 27 Feb. 1951; DA4/100/26, 23 Oct. 1951.

²⁶³ GA, DA4/100/26, 18 Dec. 1951; DA4/100/27, 23 Nov. 1954.

²⁶⁴ GA, DA4/100/27, 21 Dec. 1954, 25 Jan. 1955.

Friday market from the Market Place to the Corn Hall in 1966.²⁶⁵ The same move was mooted for the Monday market in 1970, when attendances were declining.²⁶⁶ The Corn Hall and the King's Head were redeveloped in the early 2000s adding an arcade of shops.²⁶⁷

Service Industries

The Town Station was converted into offices in 1969 and Jay Plastics Ltd agreed a tenancy there.²⁶⁸ The Phoenix Way development added 60,000 sq ft of office accommodation to Cirencester by 1972 and companies such as Christian Brann Ltd, a marketing agency, and Eric Cole Design Group, architects, moved operations there in the early 1970s.²⁶⁹ By 2002 Brann's was Cirencester's biggest company, employing 2,000 people.²⁷⁰

From the 1980s the council encouraged the conversion of the historic building stock to provide office space. Farm buildings at the then Royal Agricultural College and at Whiteway Farm had been converted to business use by 1996, offering 12 and 11 units respectively.²⁷¹ The Cecily Hill Barracks was converted to provide offices for money.co.uk, opened in 2017.²⁷²

The financial services firm J. Rothchild's employed 100 people at its headquarters in Dollar Street in 2000. In 2008 the company, renamed St James's Place, moved 300 staff into a new £12.5 million headquarters of 45,000 sq. ft on Tetbury Road.²⁷³ A branch of Handelsbanken opened on the Love Lane industrial estate in 2016.²⁷⁴

The 2011 census listed occupations for 9,562 residents. Of these, 1,088 were managers, directors and senior officials; 1,565 were professionals; 1,123 had associate professional or technical occupations; 1,048 were administrative or secretarial workers; 1,234 were in skilled trades; 937 were in caring, leisure and other service occupations; 870 worked in sales and customer service; 575 were process plant and machine operatives; and 1,122 had elementary occupations.²⁷⁵

Tourism and Hospitality

Tourism

History and heritage were major attractions for visitors to Cirencester, including sites such as the parish church, Cirencester Park and the Roman remains in the area, many displayed in the Corinium Museum. The economic importance of the town's history to its economy was recognised by the UDC and later the CDC through their support for archaeology in the area.²⁷⁶ When the Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society held an exhibition of post-Roman remains in

²⁶⁵ GA, DA4/100/39, 13 Dec. 1966, 24 Jan. 1967.

²⁶⁶ GA, DA4/100/43, 10 Mar. 1970, 28 July 1970.

²⁶⁷ *Wilts & Glos.*, 24 Apr. 2007 & 27 Nov. 2008.

²⁶⁸ GA, DA4/100/42, 3 Jun. 1969; 23 Sept. 1969.

²⁶⁹ GA, DA4/100/45, 26 Sept. & 7 Nov. 1972, 23 Jan. 1973.

²⁷⁰ *Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Counties Publications*, 9 Jan. 2002.

²⁷¹ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 88.

²⁷² *Wilts & Glos.*, 18 Jan. 2017.

²⁷³ *Western Daily Press*, 8 Jan. 2000; *Wilts & Glos.*, 27 Feb. 2008.

²⁷⁴ *Wilts & Glos.*, 13 Sep. 2016.

²⁷⁵ *Census*, 2011.

²⁷⁶ T. Darvill & N. Holbrook, 'Excavation Committee and Cotswold Archaeology, 1958–2008' in N. Holbrook (ed.), *Excavations and Observations in Roman Cirencester, 1998–2007* (Cirencester, 2008), 7.

Abberley House in February 1957, it had to stay open until late in the evening and for an extra week to accommodate more than 1,000 visitors. Media outlets including the BBC and the *Manchester Guardian* sent reporters to cover the exhibit.²⁷⁷ A profusion of tourism guides in several languages was published in the late 20th century to encourage visitors to Cirencester and the Cotswolds, all emphasising the history of the town.²⁷⁸

Cotswold District Council acknowledged tourism as the most important source of employment in the Cotswolds in its local plan for 2001 to 2011. It pledged to promote tourism whilst minimising its environmental impact. Hotel provision in the area was found to be adequate.²⁷⁹ The Town Council developed a new website in 2009-10, in part to provide better tourist information.²⁸⁰ They also ran a customer information point in Bingham House in collaboration with Cotswold Volunteers, receiving a then-record number of enquiries with 521 from tourists/visitors coming in September 2013;²⁸¹ 5,227 tourist enquiries were received in 2015.²⁸² The Cirencester Community Development Trust was launched in 2012.²⁸³ In 2017 it played a major role in the organising and publicising the events surrounding Abbey 900 festival in 2017.²⁸⁴ In 2008 the Visitor Information Centre moved from the Corn Hall, where it had been housed for three decades, to the Corinium Museum in Park Street.²⁸⁵

Hospitality

Changing social habits following the Second World War led to the closure of many pubs and inns in Cirencester. The Barley Mow in Castle Street closed in 1954, when Bill Butler was its landlord.²⁸⁶ Donald Cole was licensee of the Bull Inn for 38 years until his retirement in 1948. He died in 1950 and the Bull was closed in 1963.²⁸⁷ George Keys was proprietor of the Bull when it closed and he moved on to the Swan in the West Market Place, which itself closed in 1969.²⁸⁸ Closures continued into the 20th century, including the White Lion in Gloucester Street, the Queen's Head in Watermoor Road in 2008, and the Oddfellows Arms in Chester Street in 2016.²⁸⁹

However, many of Cirencester's historic inns, pubs and hotels were refurbished and still in operation in 2017, particularly around the Market Place and Dyer Street. The King's Head was advertised in 1960 as 'completely refurbished' and proudly stating that many rooms had private baths.²⁹⁰ Developer Wildmoor bought the King's Head in 2006, acquiring the adjoining Corn Hall

²⁷⁷ D.A. Denning, 'The founding of the Cirencester Archaeological and Historical Society', *Cirencester Arch. & Historical Society Newsletter* 22 (1980), 5-9.

²⁷⁸ GA, R79.385GS; D10820/B8-2/m; J. Welsford, *Cirencester: a History and Guide* (1987).

²⁷⁹ Cotswold District Council, *Cotswold District Local Plan 2001–2011* (2006), section 3.5.16–8.

²⁸⁰ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report 2009/10*, 19.

²⁸¹ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report 2013/14*, 21.

²⁸² *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report 2015/16*, 24.

²⁸³ *Glos. Echo*, 30 Mar. 2012.

²⁸⁴ *Wilts & Glos.*, 1 Feb. 2016.

²⁸⁵ *Glos. Echo*, 28 May 2008.

²⁸⁶ Additional information provided by Philip Griffiths and Linda Viner, 'The inns and public houses of Cirencester', ongoing draft.

²⁸⁷ *Glos. Echo*, 9 Nov. 1950; additional information provided by Philip Griffiths and Linda Viner.

²⁸⁸ Additional information provided by Philip Griffiths and Linda Viner.

²⁸⁹ Additional information provided by Philip Griffiths and Linda Viner.

²⁹⁰ *Tatler*, 6 Apr. 1960.

from CDC in 2007. The hotel was closed for refurbishment, with the assembly rooms reopening in 2009²⁹¹ and the modernised 45-bed hotel in 2014.²⁹² The Fleece in the Market Place became part of the Trust House Forte Group, which was accused of defacing a listed building following redecoration attempts in 1982.²⁹³ Thwaites Inns acquired the Fleece in 2011 and carried out a £750,000 refurbishment, restoring original features to 28 bedrooms. The adjacent Sun Inn was also incorporated into the building.²⁹⁴ The Bear in Dyer Street had its east gable rebuilt as part of the Forum development during the 1960s. It was in danger of closing in 2012, but was refurbished and eventually acquired by the Butcombe Brewing Company.²⁹⁵ The Nelson Inn in Gloucester Street closed in 2019.²⁹⁶

Manufacturing

The Urban District Council discussed proposals for an industrial site at Love Lane soon after the Second World War.²⁹⁷ Love Lane industrial site was leased to the County Council for 99 years in 1948.²⁹⁸ Land to the east of Love Lane was acquired in 1950.²⁹⁹ Plans were approved for businesses building in the industrial estate through the 1950s, including factories for G I B Precision, Agrell Machine Co Ltd, Radiomart and British Tabulating Machine Co Ltd, as well as a bakery for Paterson's Bakeries of 16 Dollar Street.³⁰⁰

In 1953 the Navy, Army and Airforce Institutes (NAAFI) proposed setting up a bakery in Cirencester which would employ 120 people.³⁰¹ The plan was approved and NAAFI purchased land in Humphrey's Field, Chesterton Lane.³⁰²

In 1966 the council proposed selling part of the Love Lane Industrial Estate and plots were sold to Messrs Stephens & West and later Camerons.³⁰³ Work began on an extension to the estate in the same year.³⁰⁴ Mycalex and TIM Ltd began manufacturing synthetic mica at their premises in Love Lane in 1967 and the next year had plans approved to extend their factory.³⁰⁵

Following the closure of Cirencester's railway stations in the mid-1960s, the empty sites were taken over by businesses. Spencer Harris Ltd, which already had a site at Love Lane, opened offices

²⁹¹ *Western Daily Press*, 18 May 2009.

²⁹² *Western Daily Press*, 1 Nov. 2014; additional information provided by Philip Griffiths and Linda Viner.

²⁹³ *Wilts and Glos.*, 29 Apr. 1982.

²⁹⁴ *Wilts and Glos.*, 6 Oct. 2011.

²⁹⁵ *Wilts and Glos.*, 28 Sep. 2012 & 29 Jan. 2015; *Swindon Advertiser*, 22 May, 2018. Additional information provided by Philip Griffiths and Linda Viner.

²⁹⁶ *Wilts & Glos.*, 16 July 2019.

²⁹⁷ GA, DA4/100/23, 22 Oct. 1946.

²⁹⁸ GA, DA4/100/23, 27 Jan. 1948.

²⁹⁹ GA, DA4/100/25, 21 Mar. 1950.

³⁰⁰ GA, DA4/100/25, 23 Jan. 1951; DA4/100/27, 28 July 1953, 23 Mar. 1954, 5 July 1954; DA4/100/30, 23 July 1957, 26 Nov. 1957; DA4/100/31, 24 Jun. 1958.

³⁰¹ GA, DA4/100/26, 27 Jan. & 24 Mar. 1953.

³⁰² GA, DA4/100/27, 28 July &, 22 Dec. 1953.

³⁰³ GA, DA4/100/38, 11 Jan. & 22 Feb. 1966; GA, DA4/100/41, 21 Jan. 1969.

³⁰⁴ GA, DA4/100/39, 20 Sept. 1966.

³⁰⁵ GA, DA4/100/39, 24 Jan. 1967; DA4/100/40, 27 Feb. 1968.

at Watermoor Station in 1966 and bought land there in 1967.³⁰⁶ A J M Lee planned a factory at Love Lane and workshops for plastics machinery at Cirencester Town Railway Station in 1968.³⁰⁷ Buildings were demolished at the industrial site at Watermoor Station in the same year.³⁰⁸ Development began in the Sheep Street area in the late 1960s, where Clark's shoes acquired a site.³⁰⁹ The council wanted tenants of the Town Station land, including its coal depots, to move to Love Lane or Sheep Street, where the intention was to build small factories.³¹⁰

Dirty or noisy businesses were increasingly unwelcome in residential areas. Cole and Lewis stopped slaughtering pigs at their bacon factory in Mount Street in 1966 and complaints were raised about Ritchings scrapyards in Watermoor in 1967.³¹¹ Some industry remained near the centre of town: GIB Precision Ltd installed a furnace at its factory in the old waterworks building in Lewis Lane in 1969.³¹² It had another site at Barton Lane, which was expanded in 1971.³¹³ A builders' yard in the Avenue was taken over by light engineering firm Probe Engineering.³¹⁴

The council agreed to purchase just over 9 a. of land in 1971 for £43,000 and extended the Love Lane Industrial Estate as far as the Watermoor railway line.³¹⁵ The site was obtained in 1972, when the UDC compiled a report on potential uses of the Sheep Street (later Phoenix Way), Watermoor and Love Lane industrial sites.³¹⁶ Planning permission was granted for a railway cutting adjacent to Chesterton Lane to be used for light industry, and a plot at Watermoor was used as an ambulance station.³¹⁷ By 1972 Love Lane was also home to a retail distribution centre.³¹⁸

Expansion to the Mycalex factory in Ashcroft Road took place in 1955 with the addition of a machine shop.³¹⁹ The Mycalex Group employed 1,270 people in 1978-79, but a fall in demand led to major redundancies in the late 1980s and early 1990s.³²⁰ Mycalex Co Ltd, manufacturers of electro-mechanical devices, relocated from the Love Lane industrial estate to a new site in Stroud in 1994 citing the level of business rates as a reason for the move, and taking 100 jobs with it.³²¹

Small scale craft manufacturing continued to flourish in Cirencester in the 1980s. The Cirencester workshops consisted of 17 workshops for local craftspeople including a blacksmith, potters and jewellers. They were based in the old brewery south of Cricklade Street in an arts centre with a

³⁰⁶ GA, DA4/100/39, 20 Sept. & 1 Nov. 1966, 18 Apr. 1967.

³⁰⁷ GA, DA4/100/41, 2 July 1968.

³⁰⁸ GA, DA4/100/41, 30 July 1968.

³⁰⁹ GA, DA4/100/41, 4 Mar. 1969.

³¹⁰ GA, DA4/100/41, 15 Apr. 1969.

³¹¹ GA, DA4/100/39, 9 Aug. 1966, 7 Mar. 1967.

³¹² GA, DA4/100/41, 11 Nov. 1969

³¹³ GA, DA4/100/44, 29 Jun. 1971.

³¹⁴ GA, DA4/100/44, 9 Nov. 1971.

³¹⁵ GA, DA4/100/44, 29 Jun. & 27 July 1971.

³¹⁶ GA, DA4/100/44, 25 Jan. 1972.

³¹⁷ GA, DA4/100/44, 7 Mar. 1972.

³¹⁸ GA, DA4/100/45, 25 July 1972.

³¹⁹ GA, DA4/100/27, 27 Apr. 1954, 22 Feb. 1955.

³²⁰ *The Macmillan Guide to the United Kingdom 1978-79* (London and Basingstoke, 1979), 252; Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 26.

³²¹ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 30.

gallery, craft shop, coffee house and study room.³²² In 1984 Hillary Genillard, a leatherworker, Michael Smith, a basketmaker, Paul Spriggs, a chairmaker, Margaret Windsor-Stevens, a textile artist and Sylvia Witts, a potter, were all Cirencester-based members of the Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen.³²³ After a £2.7 million refurbishment the New Brewery Arts reopened in 2008.³²⁴

The industrial estates in Cirencester continued to grow during the 1990s, attracting high technology manufacturers. The Corinium Centre, Love Lane developed 3 hectares of offices and warehouses between 1991 and 1996.³²⁵ Sonix Communications Ltd, a designer and manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, was founded in 1992, in office space in Highgrove Court. It grew rapidly and was taken over by American firm 3COM in 1995. In 1996 it was still based in the Love Lane industrial estate and employed 70 people.³²⁶ Corin Medical Ltd, a manufacturer of orthopaedic implants, moved from its premises on Chesterton Lane to the Love Lane industrial estate in 1993, more than quadrupling its floorspace.³²⁷ Acoustic Energy, a Malaysian loudspeaker manufacturer, relocated to the Love Lane industrial estate in 1995 bringing 12 jobs.³²⁸

In 2017 the Chamber of Commerce listed four Cirencester-based manufacturers as members: jeweller Atlantis Gems, printer Corinium Continuous Ltd, Faradair Aerospace Ltd and South Western Specialised Tapes.³²⁹

Agriculture and Rural Industries

The acreage under cultivation continued to grow during the 20th century, rising by more than 1,000 a. between 1926 and 1956 and then increasing by another 200 a. to 4,851 a. in 1986. The number of farms between which this land was divided fell dramatically from 46 in 1956 to 14 in 1986. This contraction occurred through the consolidation of many smallholdings. There were 27 holdings under 15 a. in 1956, but only six under 24 a. by 1986.³³⁰

The 30 years to 1956 saw a huge rise in the quantity of land given over to barley, at 952 a., when there were just over 250 a. each of wheat and oats. Large quantities of land were used for grazing, producing hay, and for fodder. By 1986 the area of pasture land had fallen to 1,409 a. and crop production was concentrated on 2,027 a. wheat and 1,409 a. barley. The acreage of rape had risen nearly tenfold between 1956 and 1986 from 26 a. to 240 a. Apart from 37 a. of peas, there were very few other crops growing in Cirencester by 1986.

The number of cattle in the area continued to increase, with those in milk and calf (including some for beef) rising to 577 by 1956 and 623 in 1986. Cattle under two years old also increased in numbers, but in 1986 there were only five cows over two. Sheep under one year increased in numbers to 1,211 in 1956, but reduced to only 299 in 1986. Sheep over one reduced in number to 229 by 1986. The number of pigs rose to 826 by 1956, then fell to 627 by 1986. Poultry farming

³²² GA, D10820/A1-3/i.

³²³ GA, D10820/A1-2/ac.

³²⁴ *Western Daily Press*, 8 Feb. 2008.

³²⁵ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 92.

³²⁶ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 29, 84.

³²⁷ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 30.

³²⁸ Cotswold District Council, *Study of the Cotswold Economy*, 30.

³²⁹ http://www.cirencesterchamber.org.uk/members/wpbdp_category/manufacturing/, accessed 10 Oct. 2017.

³³⁰ TNA, MAF 68/4553 and MAF 68/6005. Data in the 1986 return was provided in hectares but has been converted to the nearest acre for ease of comparison.

collapsed in Cirencester, from over 5,000 chickens in 1956 to just over 100 in 1986.

The total number of farm workers fell to 118 by 1956. The largest groups were the 67 men between 20 and 65 and 25 men aged over 65. There were 54 farm workers in 1986, of whom 20 were hired men.

Chesterton Farm continued to operate as a mixed arable, beef and dairy farm until the 21st century, but was slated for housing development in the Local Plan.³³¹ Cirencester Park Farms Limited was set up in 1963 by the 8th Earl Bathurst to farm the Bathurst Estate, passing to his son in 1988. In 2017 the company farmed 4,800 a.³³² Cirencester has a strong connection with equestrianism, not least because of the polo club in Cirencester Park, reflected in the numerous saddlers trading in the town in 2017.³³³

Nurseries

Jeffries and Son nursery opened the Kingsmeadow garden centre in Cirencester in 1980 and the business was taken over by Country Gardens PLC in 1985.³³⁴ It subsequently became the site of a Tesco store.³³⁵ Their seed warehouse in Tower Street was built over by Minerva Court in 1983.³³⁶

Abattoirs

In 1950 the UDC proposed building a public abattoir.³³⁷ The plan took several years to come to fruition and in 1954 the butchers' association took over the two slaughterhouses in the town, in Dyer Street and Black Jack Street, whilst the public abattoir was arranged.³³⁸ Mason's and Gillett's bacon factory closed in 1964.³³⁹ Cole and Lewis ceased slaughtering pigs at their Mount Street factory in 1966.³⁴⁰

Dairies

Planning consent was granted to Cirencester Dairy to build a new dairy in Ashcroft Road in 1949, which was built in 1950.³⁴¹ The dairies in Cirencester in 1952 were Warrens Gorse Dairy in Gooseacre Lane, Gloucestershire Dairy Company and Cirencester Dairy, both in Ashcroft Road, and the New Swindon Industrial Co-op Society.³⁴² The Gooseacre Lane dairy was due to become a bakery in 1965.³⁴³ In 1985 Warrens Gorse Dairy transferred its business to Gloucestershire Dairy & Creamery Ltd.³⁴⁴ There was one dairy farm in Cirencester in 1986.³⁴⁵

³³¹ See Topography: Housing Estates & Urban Expansion.

³³² <https://www.cirencesterpark.co.uk/about-us/farming-on-the-bathurst-estate/>, accessed 20 Nov. 2017.

³³³ E.g. <http://www.sydneyfree.co.uk/>; <http://www.cirencestersaddlers.com/>, accessed 21 Nov. 2017.

³³⁴ GA, D6464.

³³⁵ See Trade.

³³⁶ See Topography, Urban Demolition and Renewal.

³³⁷ GA, DA4/100/25, 25 Apr. 1950, 23 May 1950.

³³⁸ GA, DA4/100/26, 24 July & 25 Sept. 1951; GA, DA4/100/27, 23 Mar., 27 Apr., 25 May, 22 Jun. & 5 July 1954.

³³⁹ *Glos. Echo*, 3 Apr. 1964.

³⁴⁰ GA, DA4/100/39, 9 Aug. 1966.

³⁴¹ GA, DA4/100/24, 22 Mar. 1949; DA4/100/25, 25 July, 26 Sep. & 20 Dec. 1950.

³⁴² GA, DA4/100/26, 23 Sep. 1952.

³⁴³ GA, DA4/100/38, 27 July 1965.

³⁴⁴ GA, D10820/B8-4/u.

³⁴⁵ TNA, MAF 68/6005.

Social History

Francis Boorman

Population and Social Structure

After the Second World War the population began to rise, as housing development took place on the periphery of the ancient town centre. From 8,130 in 1951 it rose to 11,190 in 1961 and 12,570 in 1971. From this time the basis of census figures has changed and comparisons depend on the definition of the area; the figure for the urban area defined as a built-up area in 1981 was 13,783 and growth has continued. The 2001 figure for those usually resident in Cirencester 'parish', as analysed by the Office for National Statistics, was 18,324 and in 2011 it was 19,076.

The 1951 census provides a statistical picture of post-war Cirencester Urban District. The 11,190 residents lived in 3,451 households, of which 1,977 had all five key amenities of piped water, a cooking stove, a kitchen sink, a water closet and a fixed bath. Of 3,758 men aged 15 and over, by far the most were in skilled occupations, labelled as social class 3 (2,116). 147 men were in social class 1, professional occupations. A table of occupations gives a higher total of occupied men aged 15 or over at 3,898, of which 485 were retired and 43 unemployed. The largest occupational groups were workers in metal manufacture and engineering (655), workers in commerce or finance (396), employed in transport (333), agricultural occupations (256), builders and contractors (250) and workers in unskilled occupations (234). Of 4,640 women aged 15 and over only 1,337 were in occupations, while 3,303 were classed as retired or not in paid employment. The largest female occupational groups were persons engaged in personal service (479), workers in commerce (260), clerks, typists etc. (236) and nurses, teachers and midwives (191).³⁴⁶

Following the Second World War small numbers of immigrants settled in Cirencester and reference was made by the UDC to Polish families who had settled in the town in 1953.³⁴⁷ However, Cirencester remained ethnically homogenous even into the 21st century. Of the 19,076 people resident in Cirencester parish recorded in the census of 2011, 17,794 were born in the United Kingdom (93.3 per cent). The largest other groups were 416 from the EU (excluding Ireland) and 100 from Ireland. 97 per cent of residents were ethnically white.³⁴⁸ Despite being well connected by road, according to the CDC Local Plan 52% of the economically-active population travelled less than 3 miles to work, although around 780 residents commuted to work in Swindon in 2001.³⁴⁹ There was an average of 2.2 people per household, lower than the average for England and Wales of 2.4.³⁵⁰

The population of Cirencester was significantly older than the UK population, with 19.5 per cent of residents aged 65 and above compared with 16.4 per cent. The median age in Cirencester was 42, compared with 39 in England and Wales. The popularity of Cirencester as a place to live for retirees was also reflected in the 13.3 per cent of the adult population, who were retired in 2011. Of those who were economically inactive in Cirencester, 7.3 per cent of the working-age population were students, many of whom attended Cirencester College and the Royal Agricultural University.

³⁴⁶ *Census*, 1951.

³⁴⁷ GA, DA4/100/26, 27 Jan. 195, 27 Apr. 1953.

³⁴⁸ *Census*, 2011.

³⁴⁹ Cotswold District Council, *Cotswold District Local Plan 2001–2011* (2006), section 7.1.13.

³⁵⁰ *Census*, 2011.

Cirencester had a low unemployment rate of 4.4 per cent of economically active people aged 16 or over, compared to a rate of 7.4 per cent in England and Wales. There were still pockets of deprivation in the town, particularly in Watermoor.³⁵¹ Cirencester Watermoor ward had a higher rate of unemployment (6.7 per cent) in 2011 than Cirencester as a whole.³⁵²

The 2011 census listed occupations for 9,562 residents. Of these, 1,088 were managers, directors and senior officials; 1,565 were professionals; 1,123 had associate professional or technical occupations; 1,048 were administrative or secretarial workers; 1,234 were in skilled trades; 937 were in caring, leisure and other service occupations; 870 worked in sales and customer service; 575 were process plant and machine operatives; and 1,122 had elementary occupations. The major industries residents worked in were wholesale and retail trade or repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (19.3 per cent), human health and social work activities (10.8 per cent), education (9.9 per cent), manufacturing (9 per cent), construction (7.7 per cent) and professional, scientific and technical activities (7.1 per cent).³⁵³

Welfare Provision

The Cirencester Hospitals' Management Committee first met in May 1948 to act as agent of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board and manage the day to day administration of hospitals in the area as part of the National Health Service. House Committees were established, initially for the Memorial Hospital and Maternity Hospital, and then for the Isolation Hospital and County Infirmary.³⁵⁴ Committees were also established for Northleach Hospital and Fairford Hospital as they came under the purview of the Management Committee.³⁵⁵ Medical appointments from 1950 were often made jointly with Swindon and external services were provided there, rather than in cities to the west as previously.³⁵⁶ The Management Committee took over administration of Burford Cottage Hospital in 1956.³⁵⁷ Plans to site a new general hospital at Grove Lane near Whiteway Farm were abandoned in 1959, in favour of building near the maternity hospital. By this time, Watermoor Hospital had 152 beds, Cirencester Memorial Hospital had 68 beds and Cirencester Maternity Hospital 18 beds.³⁵⁸

Maternity hospital

Plans were approved by the UDC for a maternity hospital at the Querns, Tetbury Road, in 1948.³⁵⁹ Completion of the conversion of the Querns into a Maternity Hospital was rushed through to ensure that the new institution was taken over by the Ministry of Health when the NHS was established in 1948.³⁶⁰ The main house was converted into the hospital, whilst two stable blocks and a coach house were adapted for use as accommodation.³⁶¹ A project team was convened for

³⁵¹ Cotswold District Council, Cotswold District Local Plan 2001–2011 (2006), section 7.1.6.

³⁵² *Census*, 2011.

³⁵³ *Census*, 2011.

³⁵⁴ GA, HA2/1/1, 18 May & 21 Jun. 1948.

³⁵⁵ GA, HA2/1/1, 20 Aug. 1948, 18 Feb. & 18 Mar. 1949.

³⁵⁶ GA, HA2/1/1, 19 May 1950.

³⁵⁷ GA, HA2/1/2, 21 Sept. 1956.

³⁵⁸ GA, HA2/9/2.

³⁵⁹ GA, DA4/100/23, 24 Feb. 1948.

³⁶⁰ GA, HA2/5/1.

³⁶¹ GA, DA4/100/24, 27 Apr., 25 May & 26 Oct. 1948.

the building of the new general hospital in 1963 and extensions to the Maternity Hospital were put on hold as it would be replaced during the first phase of construction.³⁶² An ante-natal clinic was planned for the hospital in 1966.³⁶³ The building was extended, including the addition of a geriatric hospital, and became Cirencester Hospital in 1975.³⁶⁴ In 2007 Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust entered negotiations with UK Specialist Hospitals for the company to take over the running of Cirencester Hospital.³⁶⁵ In 2015 the hospital was being run by Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.³⁶⁶

Memorial hospital

In 1947 work began on an outpatients department, which was unofficially opened in 1949 as other clinics were overcrowded.³⁶⁷ The hospital was taken over by the Ministry of Health in 1948.³⁶⁸ The Memorial Hospital became a complete training hospital for nurses in 1949/50, when the lease of Dunstall House was acquired for nurses' accommodation.³⁶⁹ A new medical block was opened at the Memorial Hospital in 1954, with space for 14 patients.³⁷⁰ An ambulance bay was added to the Memorial Hospital in 1957 and a sterilizing room for the children's ward in 1959.³⁷¹ Work commenced on a dispensary and vegetable store in 1960.³⁷² A new X-ray set was installed in 1961.³⁷³ The Cirencester Memorial Hospital Guild was established in 1966.³⁷⁴ Land to the south of the hospital's property on the west side of Sheep Street was acquired in 1967 and used for car parking.³⁷⁵ During the 1970s a large extension was built to the south of the main hospital. The District Health Authority sold the property to the east of Sheep Street in 1988.³⁷⁶ The hospital closed in 1990 and was used as offices until 2013 when it fell into disuse.³⁷⁷ The building was demolished in 2019 to make way for car parking.³⁷⁸

Isolation hospital

The Isolation Hospital, little used for its original purpose after the Second World War, became an overflow for, then annexe to, the Memorial Hospital in 1949.³⁷⁹ It was renamed the Hospital

³⁶² GA, HA2/1/3, 29 May 1963.

³⁶³ GA, DA4/100/39, 1 Nov. 1966.

³⁶⁴ GA, HO14/27/1.

³⁶⁵ *Wilts & Glos.*, 21 Mar. 2007.

³⁶⁶ *Wilts & Glos.*, 30 Oct. 2015.

³⁶⁷ GA, D10820/P5-1/k; HA2/1/1, 19 Aug. 1949.

³⁶⁸ GA, D10820/P5-2/a.

³⁶⁹ GA, HA2/5/1, Report of the Cirencester & District Hospital Management Committee for the Twelve Months Ended 31st March, 1958.

³⁷⁰ GA, HA2/1/2, 15 Jan. 1954, 19 Feb. 1954; HA2/5/1.

³⁷¹ GA, DA4/100/29, 23 Apr. 1957; DA4/100/32, 24 Nov. 1959.

³⁷² GA, HA2/1/3, 28 Dec. 1960.

³⁷³ GA, HA2/1/3, 29 Nov. 1961.

³⁷⁴ GA, D10820/P5-2/a.

³⁷⁵ S. Clews, *Cirencester Memorial Hospital: a brief history of the site and buildings* (1988), 28.

³⁷⁶ Clews, *Cirencester Memorial Hospital*, 4.

³⁷⁷ Cotswold Archaeology, *Old Memorial Hospital, Sheep Street, Cirencester: Heritage Statement* (2016), 6-7.

³⁷⁸ *Wilts & Glos.*, 19 Aug. 2016 & 14 Aug. 2019.

³⁷⁹ GA, HA2/1/1, 21 Jan. 1949, 18 Feb. 1949, 22 Mar. 1949.

Annexe, Bridge Road.³⁸⁰ The Hospital Annexe was closed in 1954 due to a lack of patients, but reopened for the winter.³⁸¹ Plans to remodel the Annexe Nurses' Home into self-contained flats were finalised in 1957.³⁸² The Hospital Annexe itself was also used as staff accommodation during the early 1960s, until it was sold to the UDC to extend the adjacent industrial estate in 1965.³⁸³ The isolation hospital building was let to Chaselex Manufacturing Company in 1967, with new tenants moving in the following year.³⁸⁴ Its sale to Transtrip Ltd was agreed in 1973.³⁸⁵

Watermoor Hospital

The building was a Public Assistance Institution known as the County Infirmary until 1948. The Cirencester Hospitals' Management Committee took over administration of the County Infirmary from 5 July 1948, renaming it Watermoor Hospital.³⁸⁶ A new pathological laboratory in Watermoor House was equipped in 1952, but was soon moved again to the Memorial Hospital.³⁸⁷ The Watermoor Hospital League of Friends was begun in 1958.³⁸⁸ Planning began in 1960 to resite Watermoor Hospital to a new building in the grounds of the Maternity Hospital, instead of carrying out extensive building works.³⁸⁹ Nearly 2 a. of unneeded land at the hospital were disposed of to the UDC for housing in 1963.³⁹⁰ Plans for a day room at the hospital were approved by the UDC in 1967.³⁹¹ However, the hospital and adjacent land was due to be vacated by the hospital board in 1972.³⁹² It was eventually closed in 1975 and converted into flats and offices to be occupied by Cotswold District Council in 1979.³⁹³

Education

This section is incomplete.

Cirencester Grammar School

Thomas Frazer, head of the Grammar School for 30 years, died in office in 1945.³⁹⁴ A memorial library, paid for by subscription, was opened in 1949.³⁹⁵ The previous year's Education Act and a series of six heads in the following 20 years brought about significant change. The Shubbery, was used for the sixth form and Headmaster's office.³⁹⁶ The governors opted for Voluntary Controlled

³⁸⁰ GA, HA2/1/1, 20 May 1949.

³⁸¹ GA, HA2/1/2, 17 Sept. 1954, 18 Feb. 1955.

³⁸² GA, HA2/1/2, 29 Oct. 1957.

³⁸³ GA, HA2/1/3, 25 Nov. 1964, 23 Dec. 1964, 27 Jan. 1965.

³⁸⁴ GA, DA4/100/40, 30 May 1967; DA4/100/41, 29 Oct. 1968.

³⁸⁵ GA, DA4/100/45, 23 Jan. 1973.

³⁸⁶ GA, HA2/1/1, 21 Jun. 1948, 20 Aug. 1948; HO49.

³⁸⁷ GA, HA2/1/2, 15 Aug. 1952, 15 Nov. 1957.

³⁸⁸ GA, D10820/P5-2/b.

³⁸⁹ GA, HA2/1/3, 28 Dec. 1960.

³⁹⁰ GA, HA2/1/3, 27 Feb. 1963, 26 Jun. 1963.

³⁹¹ GA, DA4/100/39, 7 Mar. 1967.

³⁹² GA, DA4/100/41, 4 Mar. 1969; DA4/100/42, 3 Jun. 1969.

³⁹³ TNA, Hospital Records Database: Watermoor Hospital, Cirencester; GA, HA17/2; K1036/1/4; K1183/2/9.

³⁹⁴ *Glos. Echo*, 9 Mar. 1945.

³⁹⁵ *Glos. Echo*, 4 Mar. 1949.

³⁹⁶ Cuss, *Looking Back at Cirencester Grammar School*, 40

rather than Voluntary Aided status, largely on financial grounds.³⁹⁷ All fees were abolished and the school became fully co-educational. The kindergarten, already a semi-autonomous department, was closed. A fire took five classrooms out of use in 1947-8. In the early 1950s extra playing field space was made available at St Michael's field.³⁹⁸ Miss Peach, senior mistress for 37 years, retired in 1955. The school's Quincentenary was celebrated in July 1958, with a visit from Princess Alexandra who opened the refurbished Frazer Memorial Library and unveiled a commemorative plaque during the Foundation Service.³⁹⁹ Peter Maxwell-Davies, composer and Master of the Queen's Music, was Director of Music 1959- 62.⁴⁰⁰ At the end of the decade a new science block was provided and an art block erected, largely funded by the CC but built by staff and pupils.⁴⁰¹ The debate about the future of secondary education in the town began in the early 1960s, the county council expressing a preference for comprehensive education. An LEA working party was set up and recommended the merger of the two secondary schools and the grammar school on the Deer Park site. Cirencester School opened in September 1966 under Mrs M Davis, previously Head of the girls' school.⁴⁰²

Oakley Hall Preparatory School

Aerial photographs from 1947 show a large central building, a range of outbuildings, a swimming pool and well-tended gardens and playing fields, the setting near allotments and bounded by open country.⁴⁰³ Richard Francis Bonnor Letts (1928- 2011) took over from his father in 1962, when the school occupied a 17-acre site and the roll was approximately 115.⁴⁰⁴ He was headmaster for 30 years, retiring in 1992.⁴⁰⁵ His successor, John Rawlinson, adverted for pupils in a Russian financial newspaper, which yielded 18 pupils.⁴⁰⁶ A recruitment trip in 1994 yielded some interest.⁴⁰⁷ Nevertheless, the school closed soon after and in 1998 the main building was divided into flats and houses built on the grounds by Redrow Homes.⁴⁰⁸

Ingleside Parents National Educational Union (PNEU) school.

In 1962 the school, catering for 5-15 year-olds, had extensive grounds including a large garden and tennis courts.⁴⁰⁹ Shortly after that it moved to the former Beeches House⁴¹⁰, under its long-serving Head, Miss Denly. In 2006/7, its final year, it had just over 100 pupils and fees were £3225-£3597.⁴¹¹

³⁹⁷ GA, S86/1 4/1; DA4/100/25, 4.

³⁹⁸ GA, S86/1 4/1; Cuss, *Looking Back at Cirencester Grammar School*, 176

³⁹⁹ *Birmingham Daily Post*, 24 July 1958.

⁴⁰⁰ *The Guardian*, 14 Mar. 2016.

⁴⁰¹ GA, S86/1 4/1; Cuss, *Looking Back at Cirencester Grammar School*, 107

⁴⁰² GA, GCC/EDU/2/1/8/86/6/2.

⁴⁰³ www.britainfromabove.org.uk, image EAW007015-24. Accessed Mar. 2018.

⁴⁰⁴ GA, K1519 3/3.

⁴⁰⁵ *Daily Telegraph*, 19 Jan. 2011.

⁴⁰⁶ *The Independent*, 28 Oct. 1993.

⁴⁰⁷ *The Independent*, 22 May 1994.

⁴⁰⁸ *The Independent*, 19 Sept. 1998.

⁴⁰⁹ *Kellys Directory* (1938); GA, K1519 3/3.

⁴¹⁰ See Culture.

⁴¹¹ Gabbitas Thring, *Independent Schools Guide 2006/7*.

Our Lady's Convent

In 1954 two wings were added to the original house, to provide an assembly hall and additional classrooms. The number on roll averaged 150, boys up to age 9 and girls to 18. Boarding capacity was around 50 girls. In the 1960s the school was described as standing in pleasant grounds with large playing fields including two tennis courts.⁴¹²

During this period the local education plan included a Roman Catholic primary school on a site at the Beeches estate, which would have taken potential convent pupils.⁴¹³ In the later 1960s the school was at capacity but the number of nuns was decreasing. At the same time new regulations and educational developments would have necessitated considerable expenditure. Faced with these challenges, first the museum building was sold for £3700 and some years later the Order decided to withdraw from Cirencester, closing the school and convent.⁴¹⁴

Querns School

In the wake of the 1944 Education Act the Grammar School's kindergarten department moved, initially to the Masonic Hall and then to Querns Lane House. Miss Kathleen Goodworth, the head of the preparatory department, bought the house with her sister Winifred and opened the school in September 1946 with 56 pupils on roll.⁴¹⁵ The school was described as having 'a gracious frontage' on Querns Lane, with around 2 a. of gardens. An inspector's report of 1950 mentioned 72 pupils in 4 classes, with termly fees for full-time attendance of 10 guineas for under-eights and 12 for those over eight.⁴¹⁶ Pupils were prepared for 11 plus and common entrance exams.⁴¹⁷ The sisters retired in 1959, when the roll was 91, though the school continued until 2002 when it moved to Westonbirt, becoming Querns Westonbirt. In 2008 this school in turn was amalgamated as Rosehill Westonbirt.⁴¹⁸

Sporting and Cultural Activities, Social Club, Library**Sport**

Cirencester Town FC won the Cheltenham league in the 1948–9, 1954–5 and 1955–6 seasons.⁴¹⁹ The club moved in and out of the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, but finished as runners up in 1965–6 and then won consecutive titles in 1966–7 and 1967–8.⁴²⁰ In 1969 the club was using land in Chesterton where it planned to erect new facilities.⁴²¹ The club was a founder member of the Gloucestershire County League in 1968–9, but joined the Hellenic League Premier Division the next season. Relegated to division one in 1972, it was promoted again as champions in 1974. Following another relegation and promotion, the club was crowned champion of the Hellenic League in 1995–6. Cirencester Town joined the Southern League Southern Division in 1996–7 and

⁴¹² GA, K1519 3/3

⁴¹³ GA, DA4/100/34, 229.

⁴¹⁴ GA, DA4/100/45, 7 Nov. 1972.

⁴¹⁵ GA, D12498/5/2; D12498/1/1.

⁴¹⁶ GA, D12498/5/6

⁴¹⁷ GA, D12498/5/3.

⁴¹⁸ GA, D12498/5/3

⁴¹⁹ <http://www.cheltenhamleague.co.uk/div1hist.html>, accessed on 4 July 2017.

⁴²⁰ <http://www.nonleaguematters.co.uk/nlmnet/Aarg3EC/GNSL46.html>, accessed on 4 July 2017.

⁴²¹ GA, DA4/100/42, 23 Sept. 1969.

then switched to the Western Division in 1999-2000. It was promoted to the Premier Division in 2003-04, but relegated to the Division One South and West in 2007-08. The club moved twice up and down between these divisions before 2017.⁴²² The club moved to the Corinium Stadium on Kingshill Road in 2002.⁴²³ Other football clubs included Cirencester Victoria Football Club, which used St Michael's field from the winter of 1970,⁴²⁴ and Chesterton Rovers FC, which used Four Acres field from 1971.⁴²⁵

Cirencester Rugby Football Club was established in 1949 and had plans approved for a clubhouse at the Whiteway in 1969.⁴²⁶ The Cirencester Tennis Club was due to close in 1950, but was given a grant by the UDC which kept it running.⁴²⁷ A new 30 year lease with the Bathurst Estate for the site of the club began in 2016, allowing development of the clubhouse and courts.⁴²⁸

Polo playing was discontinued during the Second World War. The Ivy Lodge ground in Cirencester Park was ploughed up for planting and was only reinstated in 1952. It continued to attract players from the highest social circles, including Prince Philip.⁴²⁹ This was still true in the 21st century when Princes Charles, William and Harry played there, in part because of the club's proximity to Prince Charles' Highgrove Estate.⁴³⁰ The two Vale of the White Horse hunts (Earl Bathurst's and Cricklade) were amalgamated in 1964.⁴³¹

A new indoor swimming pool was under construction on the site of a paddock, which was part of the lease of the cattle market, in 1971. Building work continued into 1973 as part of the Phoenix Way development.⁴³² The town council was not able to take over management of the open air swimming pool in 1973 and a voluntary committee was formed.⁴³³ A new main building was opened in 2016, including changing rooms and a function room.⁴³⁴ In 2017 the Cirencester Town Council website listed 25 sports clubs and 3 dance clubs.⁴³⁵

Culture

Following animated discussions in 1947, the Council decided to allow the two cinemas in the town to open on Sundays.⁴³⁶ In 1951 Earl Bathurst proposed holding a Cotswold Tradition Exhibition in the old museum and Cirencester Park to coincide with Festival of Britain.⁴³⁷

Plans were approved for an extension to the Corinium Museum in Park Street in 1972 and

⁴²² <http://www.fchd.info/CIRENCET.HTM>, accessed on 4 July 2017.

⁴²³ <http://www.cirentownfc.com/corinium-facilities/>, accessed 3 Oct. 2017.

⁴²⁴ GA, DA4/100/43, 15 Dec. 1970.

⁴²⁵ GA, DA4/100/44, 25 May 1971.

⁴²⁶ https://www.facebook.com/pg/CirenRugby/about/?ref=page_internal, accessed 2 Oct. 2017; GA, DA4/100/42, 16 Dec. 1969.

⁴²⁷ GA, DA4/100/25, 26 Jun. 1950; 25 July 1950.

⁴²⁸ <http://cirentennis.net/members-information/club-development/>, accessed 3 Oct. 2017.

⁴²⁹ GA, D10820/A1-1/I, f.17.

⁴³⁰ *The Times*, 14 Jan. 2009.

⁴³¹ *The Times*, 6 Sept. 2004.

⁴³² GA, DA4/100/43, 26 Jan. 1971; DA4/100/44, 9 Nov. 1971; DA4/100/45, 10 Apr. 1973.

⁴³³ GA, DA4/100/45, 7 Nov. 1972; <http://www.cirenopenair.co.uk/>, accessed 2 Oct. 2017.

⁴³⁴ *Wilts & Glos.*, 17 May 2016.

⁴³⁵ <http://cirencester.gov.uk/new-societies-clubs/>, accessed 3 Oct. 2017.

⁴³⁶ GA, DA4/100/23 II, f.169–71, 174, 183, 190, 222.

⁴³⁷ GA, DA4/100/25, 27 Feb. 1951.

agreement was reached to use the old museum in Tetbury Road as a museum store.⁴³⁸ Redevelopment began in 1973 and the museum reopened in 1974.⁴³⁹

The UDC continued to nominate trustees to the Bingham Library after the Second World War and increased their grant to £300 in 1947.⁴⁴⁰ Gloucestershire County Council took over responsibility for library provision in 1960.⁴⁴¹ A new art gallery called the Lait Gallery was opened at the library in 1964.⁴⁴² Plans were made for a purpose-built library on a site behind Bingham House as part of the redevelopment of The Waterloo during the 1970s.⁴⁴³ The Cirencester Bingham Library was opened in 1975. The Bingham Gallery created a space to show the art collected by the Library Trust when it opened in 2005.⁴⁴⁴

The Bingham Hall emerged from the Second World War in financial difficulty, but slowly resumed regular use in the following decades.⁴⁴⁵ Redevelopment of the Hall was planned in 1973 to create a cultural centre that still incorporated shooting and archery facilities.⁴⁴⁶

The Urban District Council decided to purchase the Beeches in 1946 and councillors were appointed to an oversight panel.⁴⁴⁷ The Beeches Hall was officially opened in 1950.⁴⁴⁸ The Cirencester Arts Club was established in 1947, affiliated to the Cirencester Association and accommodated at the Beeches.⁴⁴⁹ The club's constitution set out its aims to encourage interest in the arts, provide members with studio space and sponsor lectures, exhibitions and other events.⁴⁵⁰ Membership fluctuated between 71 and 110 during its first 10 years. Annual exhibitions were held of members' work during the 1940s '50s and '60s.⁴⁵¹ Also at the Beeches, the Cirencester film club screened seasons of mostly foreign films from 1957.⁴⁵² The Beeches Barn Players put on numerous plays during the 1950s and 1960s.⁴⁵³

From 1949 to 1954 *Beeches Leaves* was published as a magazine for members of the Beeches community centre. It was revived in 1963 as the *Beeches Magazine* and the editor hoped to interest a public beyond members of the Cirencester Association. Notices from numerous clubs and societies were published, including the Beeches revue company, the chess club, the Barn Theatre players, the table tennis club, the arts club, the Ciceter players, the theatre club, the ballet club, the Barnardo helpers' league, the transatlantic brides and parents association, the camera club, the Cirencester and district cage bird society, the Cirencester and district young farmers club,

⁴³⁸ GA, DA4/100/45, 25 July & 7 Nov. 1972.

⁴³⁹ GA, DA4/100/45, 10 Apr. 1973; DA4/100/46, 22 May 1974.

⁴⁴⁰ GA, DA4/100/23, 26 Nov. 1946, 24 June 1947.

⁴⁴¹ GA, DA4/100/32, 26 May 1959.

⁴⁴² GA, DA4/100/37, 29 Sept. 1964.

⁴⁴³ GA, DA4/100/44, 9 Nov. 1971; GA, DA4/100/45, 20 June. 1972, 10 Apr. 1973.

⁴⁴⁴ <http://binghamlibrarytrust.org.uk/aboutandfacilities/daniel-george-bingham>, accessed 2 Oct. 2017.

⁴⁴⁵ <http://binghamhall.org.uk/about.php>, accessed 3 Oct. 2017.

⁴⁴⁶ GA, DA4/100/45, 23 Jan. 1973.

⁴⁴⁷ GA, DA4/100/23, 16 & 23 July, 2 Aug. , 24 Sep. & 4 Oct. 1946.

⁴⁴⁸ GA, DA4/100/25, 25 Apr. 1950.

⁴⁴⁹ GA, D10820/A5-3/1.

⁴⁵⁰ GA, D10820/A1-2/f.

⁴⁵¹ GA, D10820/A5-14; D10820/A5-13.

⁴⁵² GA, D10820/A5-14.

⁴⁵³ GA, D10820/A5-2/m.

the Beeches air rifle club, the jazz club and the operatic society. The Guides issued an extensive bulletin, the East Gloucester Division having hosted the county conference in the Bingham Hall. The Beeches was redecorated and expansion was planned in 1963. There were 16 'internal' group classes and 23 further education classes held there by the end of the year.⁴⁵⁴

The Beeches was known as the Phoenix Centre from 1972 and was taken over by the Cotswold District Council. In 1960 Ingleside School sought temporary accommodation at the Beeches and by 1979 it was using five rooms, as well as the theatre and gardens. The Cirencester Association was disbanded in 2000 and the school took on the head-lease at the Beeches. The school closed in 2007 and the site was redeveloped as a wedding venue and conference centre called Ingleside House, which opened in 2009.⁴⁵⁵ The Barn Theatre was also refurbished and was due to reopen late in 2017.⁴⁵⁶

The Barn Theatre players were part of an active dramatic community in Cirencester, with the Ciceter drama club and the Royal Agricultural College dramatic society also staging plays during the 1950s.⁴⁵⁷ The Cirencester choral society performed *Messiah* in 1973.⁴⁵⁸ Other musical performers included the boys' choir and the St Peter's singers.⁴⁵⁹ The parish drama group performed a play in 1985.⁴⁶⁰

A group called the Fosseway Artists was established in Cirencester in 1965 to exhibit members' paintings at venues along the old Roman road.⁴⁶¹ In 2017 the Cirencester Town Council website listed four arts and theatre clubs or societies and another 11 dedicated to music, including the Cirencester band founded in 1919, the Cirencester Philharmonia and the Cirencester Hand Bell Ringers.⁴⁶²

Social and civic clubs

The Cirencester Rotary Club was founded in 1929 and remained active throughout the 20th century, holding a dinner to celebrate its diamond jubilee in 1989.⁴⁶³ It still operated in 2017.⁴⁶⁴ The Cirencester Soroptimist Club was established in 1948 and held a 30th anniversary luncheon in 1979.⁴⁶⁵ A new Ranger Company was founded in Cirencester in 1950, the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Girl Guides.⁴⁶⁶ There were three Scout groups in Cirencester in 1963: the Oakley Hall School Group, the 1st Cirencester (St. John the Baptist) and the 2nd Cirencester (Corinium).⁴⁶⁷

⁴⁵⁴ GA, D10820/A1-1/j.

⁴⁵⁵ <http://www.inglesidethehouse.com/PDFs/InglesideHistory.pdf>, accessed 3 Oct. 2017.

⁴⁵⁶ <http://barntheatre.org.uk/about-us/>, accessed 3 Oct. 2017.

⁴⁵⁷ GA, D10820/A5-2/n.

⁴⁵⁸ GA, D10820/A5-2/h.

⁴⁵⁹ GA, D10820/A5-2/j, /k

⁴⁶⁰ GA, D10820/A5-2/i.

⁴⁶¹ GA, D10820/A1-1/l, f.63.

⁴⁶² <http://cirencester.gov.uk/new-societies-clubs/>, accessed 3 Oct. 2017.

⁴⁶³ GA, D10820/A1-3/y.

⁴⁶⁴ <https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=595>, accessed 20 Jun. 2017; GA, D10820/A1-2/d; D10820/A1-2/o; D10820/A1-3/g.

⁴⁶⁵ GA, D10820/A1-2/c, /u.

⁴⁶⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 740 (Aug. 1950).

⁴⁶⁷ GA, D10820/A1-1/j, Mar. 1963.

A new troop hall for the Corinium Scouts was erected in 1968.⁴⁶⁸ The Cirencester W.I. held a golden jubilee dinner in 1965.⁴⁶⁹ The Chesterton and District W.I. first met in 1973 at Mrs Janet Green's home in Cricklade Street.⁴⁷⁰ The Corinium W.I. was formed in 1976 and the Cirencester Afternoon W.I. in 1989.⁴⁷¹

The range of social societies in Cirencester continued to expand. The Cirencester gramophone and music club was set up in 1976.⁴⁷² Many associations continued to operate into the 1980s, including the operatic society and the renamed Phoenix revue company.⁴⁷³ The Cirencester Camera Club was still active in 1983 and held numerous slide and print competitions.⁴⁷⁴ The Cirencester Philatelic Society remained active in 1983-4.⁴⁷⁵ Mr Wynn Lloyd established a Scrabble Club in 1985.⁴⁷⁶

The Old Brewery Store was converted into an arts centre to enrich the lives of older people in Gloucestershire following a bequest from Dr William Niccol and further fundraising in 1983. The Niccol Centre was built by the trustees of the Centre for Policy on Ageing, with a grant from the UDC.⁴⁷⁷ Donations were also given by Colt Cars and many others. Numerous classes from calligraphy to computing were held there, as were performances and other events.⁴⁷⁸ The Niccol Centre merged with the adjoining Cirencester Workshops to form New Brewery Arts in 1990. Following extensive refurbishment, the centre opened new galleries, workshops, a shop and café in 2008. Guest accommodation was added in 2016.⁴⁷⁹

Associations active in Cirencester with a civic or charitable focus included the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship, the Citizens Advice Bureau (with Fairford and Tetbury extensions), F.O.C.U.S. (Fresh Outlook for Cirencester's Unemployed Scheme), the Hard of Hearing Club, the Cirencester Lions (established in 1967), Round Table, Ladies' Circle, the Club of Social Medicine and the Cirencester and District Volunteer Bureau.⁴⁸⁰ The British Legion Cirencester branch held a diamond jubilee thanksgiving service in 1984.⁴⁸¹ Formed in 1966, the Cirencester Civic Society held meetings and lectures in the Bingham Library and summer visits around the county.⁴⁸² Cirencester Town Council listed 18 civic or social societies and clubs in 2017, including the Civic Society.⁴⁸³

⁴⁶⁸ GA, DA4/100/40, 27 Feb. 1968.

⁴⁶⁹ GA, D10820/A1-1/l, f.83.

⁴⁷⁰ GA, D2933/B/86/3/1/1.

⁴⁷¹ GA, D2933/B/86/4/1/1; D2933/B/86/2/1/1.

⁴⁷² GA, D10820/A5-2/f.

⁴⁷³ GA, D10820/A5-2/b, /c, /g.

⁴⁷⁴ GA, D10820/A1-2/h.

⁴⁷⁵ GA, D10820/A1-2/e.

⁴⁷⁶ Gloucestershire Echo, 13 Apr. 1985.

⁴⁷⁷ GA, D10820/A1-2/i.

⁴⁷⁸ GA, D10820/A1-3/e; D10820/A1-3/e/h.

⁴⁷⁹ <http://www.newbreweryarts.org.uk/our-story/>, accessed 2 Oct. 2017.

⁴⁸⁰ GA, D10820/A1-2/j, /k, /l, /q, /r, /v, /s; D10820/A1-3/f, /j, /w.

⁴⁸¹ GA, D10820/A1-2/w.

⁴⁸² GA, D10820/A1-3/k; DA4/100/39, f.136.

⁴⁸³ <http://cirencester.gov.uk/new-societies-clubs/>, accessed 3 Oct. 2017.

Religious History

Francis Boorman

Established Church

Annual meetings of the vestries for the parish and Watermoor churches continued after the war. The 16 members of the PCC were also elected annually, with 11 representatives for the parish church and 5 for Watermoor.⁴⁸⁴ The Cirencester Ringers continued their annual meeting, ringing for Sunday services and various other events of local and national import, including Earl Bathurst's coming of age.⁴⁸⁵ The parish participated enthusiastically in the year of the Forward Movement in 1949.⁴⁸⁶ The Cirencester Deanery held a missionary exhibition in the Bingham Hall in 1950, which precipitated the formation of the Deanery Missionary Association and a Deanery Missionary Festival.⁴⁸⁷ A tablet was dedicated in memory of Canon Westmacott and fixed on the south wall of the Garstang chapel in 1951, when Ronald Sutch also became Archdeacon of Cheltenham.⁴⁸⁸ Also in 1951 the Youth Fellowship took full possession of Barton Hall and by 1952 it was oversubscribed, so started a waiting list.⁴⁸⁹ The parish was in surplus for the decade before 1947, but operated at a significant deficit between 1947 and 1951.⁴⁹⁰ Adding a further financial burden, the eleventh bell of the parish church cracked and was recast in 1952.⁴⁹¹

Extensive use of the canteen in the steam laundry at Chesterton for social activities and Sunday school during the 1940s led to a search for a dedicated site in that area of Cirencester.⁴⁹² During 1949, the Chesterton Women's Guild were fundraising for a new church hall and had amassed £1,000 by 1951.⁴⁹³ Agreement was reached with R.A. Berkeley in 1950 to build the Chesterton Mission Church and Hall for £5,276 10s., although work was temporarily held up by the lack of a building licence.⁴⁹⁴ A loan of £2,000 was taken out to pay for the work to be completed.⁴⁹⁵ The church and hall of St Lawrence were dedicated in a ceremony by the Bishop of Gloucester in October 1951.⁴⁹⁶ From 1953, one representative to the PCC was elected for St Lawrence's, replacing one for the parish church.⁴⁹⁷ The last of the debt for St Lawrence's was paid with a £300 gift from Florence Lawrence.⁴⁹⁸

⁴⁸⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 723 (Mar. 1949).

⁴⁸⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 724 (Apr. 1949).

⁴⁸⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 728 (Aug. 1949).

⁴⁸⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 739 (July 1950); 744 (Dec. 1950); 756 (Dec. 1951).

⁴⁸⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 748 (Apr. 1951); 751 (July 1951); 752 (Aug. 1951).

⁴⁸⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 749 (May 1951); 760 (Apr. 1952).

⁴⁹⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 761 (May 1952).

⁴⁹¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 766 (Oct. 1952), 768 (Dec. 1952).

⁴⁹² GA, DA4/100/24, f.288 (insert), 28 Sept. 1948; *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 755 (Nov. 1951).

⁴⁹³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 725 (May 1949); 747 (Mar. 1951).

⁴⁹⁴ GA, DA4/100/25, f.67, 28 Feb. 1950; *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 740 (Aug. 1950).

⁴⁹⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 748 (Apr. 1951).

⁴⁹⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 754 (Oct. 1951); 755 (Nov. 1951).

⁴⁹⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 773 (May 1953).

⁴⁹⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 785 (May 1954).

Repairs were made to the roof of Watermoor church in 1950.⁴⁹⁹ In 1951 plans were made to install a Lady Altar in Watermoor to mark the church's centenary, for which event an Octave of services and celebrations were held.⁵⁰⁰ Cosmetic improvements, including placing a curtain in front of the organ and beautifying of the sanctuary, were made to Watermoor in 1952-53 for the continued commemoration of its centenary, completed by the gilding and colouring of the reredos.⁵⁰¹ The priest-in-charge at Watermoor, P.E. Keightley, was replaced by Rev. H.C. Trevor Lewis in 1953, who moved on himself in 1955.⁵⁰² Services were held in Cirencester's three churches, followed by a procession, to mark the Queen's coronation in 1953.⁵⁰³

Edith Cator bequeathed £1,000 for the beautification of the parish church in 1954, which was used to renovate the St Katherine's chapel.⁵⁰⁴ Work was carried out in 1954 to repair the St John's Chapel roof and to clean and repair the south porch.⁵⁰⁵ Two panels were added to the south porch to commemorate local people who died in the Second World War.⁵⁰⁶ The new Bishop of Gloucester, Dr Askwith, made his first official visit to Cirencester that year.⁵⁰⁷ The colours of the newly formed Chesterton Guide Company were blessed at St Lawrence's in 1955.⁵⁰⁸ Reconstruction of the parish church organ was also completed.⁵⁰⁹ A new priest-in-charge of Watermoor, David Vickers, was appointed in 1956, moving to the Diocese of Borneo in 1959.⁵¹⁰ A new amplifying system was installed in the parish church in 1959.⁵¹¹

George Reginald Lait bequeathed £1,000 towards maintenance of the parish church organ in 1960 and a share of his estate to the church.⁵¹² David Yerburch was ordained at the parish church, where he served as curate, the same year.⁵¹³ A new chapel for Watermoor hospital was dedicated in 1961.⁵¹⁴ The parish magazine was relaunched in July 1961, with a new design and a newly constituted editorial board.⁵¹⁵ Repairs were made to the roof of the Lady Chapel in the parish church.⁵¹⁶ The vicar of Cirencester Ronald H. Sutch resigned in March 1962 after 21 years in the post. He was temporarily replaced by John A. Skues, priest-in-charge of Watermoor, who also left

⁴⁹⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 739 (July 1950); 741 (Sept., 1950).

⁵⁰⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 752 (Aug. 1951), 754 (Oct. 1951), 755 (Nov. 1951), 756 (Dec. 1951); *Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard*, 9 Nov. 1951, 16 Nov. 1951.

⁵⁰¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 769 (Jan. 1953); 770 (Feb. 1953); 778 (Oct. 1953).

⁵⁰² *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 779 (Nov. 1953); 800 (Aug. 1955).

⁵⁰³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 773 (May 1953); 774 (Jun. 1953); 775 (July 1953).

⁵⁰⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 781 (Jan. 1954); 826 (Oct. 1957); 832 (Apr. 1958); 836 (Aug. 1958); 837 (Sept. 1958).

⁵⁰⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 787 (July 1954); 794 (Feb. 1955).

⁵⁰⁶ GA, DA4/100/27, f.157, 26 Oct. 1954; *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 791 (Nov. 1954).

⁵⁰⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 790 (Oct. 1954).

⁵⁰⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 794 (Feb. 1955).

⁵⁰⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 801 (Sept. 1955).

⁵¹⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 808 (Apr. 1956); 813 (Sept. 1956); 845 (May 1959).

⁵¹¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 843 (Mar. 1959).

⁵¹² *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 854 (Mar. 1960); 866 (Mar. 1961).

⁵¹³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 855 (Apr. 1960).

⁵¹⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 872 (Aug. 1961).

⁵¹⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 871 (July 1961).

⁵¹⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 875 (Nov. 1961).

in 1962. The following year Revd. Canon Rowland Edward Hill was appointed to the parish church⁵¹⁷ and John E. Forryan at Watermoor.⁵¹⁸ In 1963 the Cirencester branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society held a thanksgiving service to celebrate their 150th year⁵¹⁹ and the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the parish church.⁵²⁰ The stone of the parish church tower was also repaired, costing £4,000.⁵²¹

The heating in the parish church and the roof in the nave of Watermoor were repaired in 1964 and a Stewardship Renewal Campaign was launched to make up the deficit incurred.⁵²² The vicar of Cirencester was responsible for the combined parishes of Preston and Siddington from 1965.⁵²³ Maintenance work on Watermoor parsonage was needed by 1971, so the trust which had previously looked after it was re-formed to help increase the amount of money available.⁵²⁴ A garden of remembrance was planted by Watermoor church for the burial of cremation ashes.⁵²⁵ A separate Watermoor Sunday School was set up.⁵²⁶ As the Watermoor mission room in Cricklade Street was in a state of disrepair, it was sold. The proceeds used to build a new church hall in the grounds of the church, which opened in 1972.⁵²⁷ The parish church hosted the BBC programmes Songs of Praise in 1971 and Sunday Half-Hour in 1972.⁵²⁸

From 1972 Watermoor's finances were dealt with separately, as they had been before c.1960.⁵²⁹ In the same year the chancel screen was lowered in the parish church.⁵³⁰ Repairs were made to the spire of Holy Trinity church in 1973, which required significant fundraising.⁵³¹ Sunday services at St Lawrence's were suspended.⁵³² Horace G. Phillips left as priest-in-charge of Watermoor in 1974 after five years and was replaced by Raymond A. Waterson.⁵³³ A parish missionary group was founded.⁵³⁴ The church joined the town's 1900th anniversary celebration in 1975 with a flower festival, attended by the Duke of Edinburgh.⁵³⁵ The Friends of Cirencester Church was inaugurated in 1976.⁵³⁶ To commemorate the centenary of the Mothers' Union, services of thanksgiving for

⁵¹⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 880 (Apr. 1962); 885 (Sept. 1962).

⁵¹⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 879 (Mar. 1962); 887 (Nov. 1962); 891 (Mar. 1963).

⁵¹⁹ GA, D10820/A1-1/c.

⁵²⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 894 (Jun. 1963); 895 (July 1963).

⁵²¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 896 (Aug. 1963); 902 (Feb. 1964).

⁵²² *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 902 (Feb. 1964); 905 (May 1964) 910 (Oct. 1964).

⁵²³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine*, 912 (Dec. 1964).

⁵²⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jan. 1971).

⁵²⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Feb. 1971).

⁵²⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (July. 1971).

⁵²⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Mar. 1971); (Apr. 1971); (Aug. 1971); (Sept 1971); (Apr. 1972); (May 1972).

⁵²⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1971); (Jun. 1971); (July 1971); (Aug. 1971); (Sept. 1972).

⁵²⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jan. 1972).

⁵³⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jun. 1972).

⁵³¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Nov. 1973); (Dec. 1973).

⁵³² *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1973).

⁵³³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Apr. 1974); (July 1974).

⁵³⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jun. 1974).

⁵³⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (July 1975); (Aug. 1975).

⁵³⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1976).

marriage were held.⁵³⁷ The floor of Watermoor church was renewed that year.⁵³⁸

Restoration of the Trinity Chapel in St John the Baptist, which had been without an altar since the Renaissance, was undertaken in 1973.⁵³⁹ The floor was relaid in 1974, when it was dedicated, and a credence table was donated by the Weavers' Company in 1976 to complete the restoration.⁵⁴⁰ A memorial tablet to past incumbent Ronald Huntley Sutch was installed in the parish church in 1977.⁵⁴¹ A hall management committee was formed for St Lawrence's following the establishment of youth clubs there and at Watermoor.⁵⁴²

Rowland Hill had a heart attack in 1977 and was replaced as vicar by J.A. Lewis in 1978.⁵⁴³ Raymond Waterson was replaced as priest-in-charge of Watermoor by Adrian Berry, made senior assistant curate with responsibility for Watermoor in 1979.⁵⁴⁴ Berry moved on in 1983 and was succeeded by David Humphries.⁵⁴⁵ Repairs were commenced to the fabric of the town hall in 1980 with grants of £19,000 and completed in 1981.⁵⁴⁶ A new vicarage was purchased at 23 Chesterton Park in 1980, replacing 25 Sheep Street.⁵⁴⁷ Refurbishment of the organ was carried out in 1981.⁵⁴⁸ Harold Moss was ordained in the parish church towards the end of the year.⁵⁴⁹

An international appeal was launched in 1983 to fund restoration of the church bells.⁵⁵⁰ A gift of £30,000 was received in 1984 allowing work to begin and a total of £70,000 reached later that year.⁵⁵¹ The bells were completed and rededicated in 1985.⁵⁵² Sunday services were reintroduced to St Lawrence's in 1984.⁵⁵³ Donations were made in 1986 to help fund a chapel for the newly relocated Querns Hospital.⁵⁵⁴ The Trinity chapel roof was re-leaded that year.⁵⁵⁵ Songs of Praise was again broadcast from the parish church in 1986.⁵⁵⁶ David Humphries left in 1987 and was replaced by Mark Warrick.⁵⁵⁷ Canon Hedley Ringrose became the new vicar for Cirencester in 1988, when

⁵³⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1976).

⁵³⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Nov. 1976).

⁵³⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Apr. 1973); (May 1973); (Sept. 1973).

⁵⁴⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Feb. 1974); (July 1974); (Mar. 1976).

⁵⁴¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1977).

⁵⁴² *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Oct. 1977); (Nov. 1977).

⁵⁴³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jan. 1979).

⁵⁴⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (July 1979).

⁵⁴⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Apr. 1983)

⁵⁴⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Apr. 1980); (July/Aug. 1981).

⁵⁴⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Nov. 1980).

⁵⁴⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (July/Aug. 1981).

⁵⁴⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Dec. 1981/Jan. 1982).

⁵⁵⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (July/Aug. 1983).

⁵⁵¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1984); (Dec. 1984/Jan. 1985).

⁵⁵² *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Mar. 1985).

⁵⁵³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1984).

⁵⁵⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1986).

⁵⁵⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jun. 1986).

⁵⁵⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Oct. 1986).

⁵⁵⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Mar. 1987); (May 1987).

John Lewis was made an archdeacon.⁵⁵⁸ The parish church tower was refurbished in 1989.⁵⁵⁹ A St Lawrence church committee was also appointed that year to improve organisation and repair the church.⁵⁶⁰ The bells of Holy Trinity church were restored, six of them having been installed a century before.⁵⁶¹ The garden of remembrance at Watermoor was also refurbished.⁵⁶²

The vicarage was relocated in 1990 to properties at 1 Dollar Street and 1 Coxwell Street, complete with offices and counselling rooms.⁵⁶³ Cirencester parish was twinned with Walton-on-the-Hill in Liverpool.⁵⁶⁴ A parish administrator and bookshop manager was appointed in 1991, when a parish shop was opened.⁵⁶⁵ Mark Warrick departed as priest-in-charge of Watermoor, with no direct replacement; instead, the team of clergy covered the whole parish.⁵⁶⁶ St Lawrence's church was refurbished and the Bishop of Gloucester attended a service to celebrate the 40th anniversary of its dedication.⁵⁶⁷ The interior of the town hall was refurbished in 1992.⁵⁶⁸ The church committees were restructured in 1993 so that three congregational committees were formed from each church's PCC members, with a further 10 members at the parish church and Holy Trinity and 8 at St Lawrence's.⁵⁶⁹ A service was held to celebrate the centenary of the dedication of the organ at Holy Trinity.⁵⁷⁰ The spire of Holy Trinity was repaired in 1993.⁵⁷¹ Cirencester PCC voted for the parish to ordain women to the priesthood in 1994, allowing deacon Fiona Stewart-Darling to become the first female priest for the parish.⁵⁷²

The parish bought the former Unitarian Church in Gosditch Street for use as a church hall for the parish church in 1995.⁵⁷³ Refurbishment of Watermoor church hall was also completed that year.⁵⁷⁴ Two further episodes of Songs of Praise were recorded at the parish church in 1995 and 2004.⁵⁷⁵ A new curate's house at 54 Alexander Drive was acquired in 1996.⁵⁷⁶ Hedley Ringrose was appointed Archdeacon of Cheltenham in 1998, with senior curate Justin Lewis-Anthony leaving in the same year.⁵⁷⁷ Michael St. John-Channell was instituted as the new vicar in 1999.⁵⁷⁸ Following extensive

⁵⁵⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (July/Aug. 1988).

⁵⁵⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jun. 1989).

⁵⁶⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Sept. 1989); (Oct. 1989).

⁵⁶¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Nov. 1989); (Feb. 1990).

⁵⁶² *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Nov. 1989).

⁵⁶³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Feb. 1990); (Jun. 1990); (Sept. 1990).

⁵⁶⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (July/Aug. 1990).

⁵⁶⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Mar. 1991).

⁵⁶⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jun. 1991).

⁵⁶⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Sept. 1991).

⁵⁶⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (July/Aug. 1992).

⁵⁶⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Apr. 1993); (June 1993).

⁵⁷⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1993).

⁵⁷¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Oct. 1993).

⁵⁷² *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Apr. 1994).

⁵⁷³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jun. 1995).

⁵⁷⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jun. 1995).

⁵⁷⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Dec. 1995/Jan. 1996); (Jul./Aug. 2004).

⁵⁷⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (May 1996).

⁵⁷⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Feb. 1998); (Sept. 1998).

⁵⁷⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Feb. 1999).

fundraising and refurbishment, the parish church centre was opened in 2000.⁵⁷⁹ A parish website was launched in 2001.⁵⁸⁰ There was a fire in Holy Trinity Watermoor that year, when sesquicentennial celebrations were also held.⁵⁸¹ St Lawrence celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.⁵⁸² The PCC appointed an architect to extend St Lawrence church, adding a large meeting room and an office.⁵⁸³ Cirencester Mother's Union celebrated its centenary in 2003.⁵⁸⁴

A £5 million restoration of the parish church was considered following the preparation of an archaeological appraisal by Warwick Rodwell in 1997.⁵⁸⁵ Plans included restoration of the organ and an open glass lobby at the south door, and were updated and revised over the course of several years.⁵⁸⁶ In the meantime, several smaller conservation and maintenance projects were undertaken, including the preservation of medieval paintings on the east wall, as detailed in the quinquennial report of 2003.⁵⁸⁷ The Diocesan Advisory Committee approved the major restoration plans in 2005 and the first phase, including construction of a sanctuary platform, was completed by the end of the year.⁵⁸⁸ Emergency repairs to the exterior fabric of the tower were necessary in 2006 and a new stone floor for the tower was trialled in 2007.⁵⁸⁹ The £1.2 million restoration was officially unveiled in the early spring of 2012.⁵⁹⁰

James Butterworth became vicar of Cirencester in 2006, but retired due to ill health in 2008.⁵⁹¹ Leonard Doolan was appointed in his place later that year and made an honorary Canon in 2012.⁵⁹² Founded in 2010 and held in the parish church, the Cirencester Organ Festival became an international event from 2013.⁵⁹³ The parish church welcomed 137,971 visitors in 2013.⁵⁹⁴ A Men's Group was established in 2015.⁵⁹⁵ Canon Leonard Doolan left Cirencester in 2017 to become Senior Chaplain of the Greater Athens Chaplaincy.⁵⁹⁶ In the same year the parish celebrated the 900th anniversary of the founding of Cirencester Abbey.⁵⁹⁷

Protestant Nonconformity

TBD

⁵⁷⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Feb. 2000); (May 2000).

⁵⁸⁰ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Mar. 2001).

⁵⁸¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Jun. 2001); (Oct. 2001); (Dec. 2001/Jan. 2002).

⁵⁸² *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Sept. 2001); (Oct. 2001).

⁵⁸³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Dec. 2001/Jan. 2002); (Apr. 2004).

⁵⁸⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Apr. 2003).

⁵⁸⁵ GA, GDR/A17/15/19/90.

⁵⁸⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Sept. 2001); (Dec. 2002/Jan. 2003); (Apr. 2004); (Apr. 2005).

⁵⁸⁷ GA, GDR/A17/15/19/90.

⁵⁸⁸ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Dec. 2005/Jan. 2006); (Feb. 2006).

⁵⁸⁹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Sept. 2006); GA, GDR/A17/15/19/90, *Quinquennial inspection and report* (2008).

⁵⁹⁰ *Wilts & Glos.*, 17 Feb. 2012.

⁵⁹¹ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Sept. 2006); *Wilts & Glos.*, 26 Mar. 2008.

⁵⁹² *Wilts & Glos.*, 26 Nov. 2008, 27 May 2012.

⁵⁹³ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Feb. 2013).

⁵⁹⁴ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Apr. 2014).

⁵⁹⁵ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Sept. 2015).

⁵⁹⁶ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Mar. 2017); (Apr. 2017); *Wilts & Glos.*, 5 Mar. 2017.

⁵⁹⁷ *Cirencester Parish Magazine* (Oct. 2016); (Feb. 2017).

Roman Catholicism

Celebrations were held for the golden jubilee of the church on 29 June 1946, the feast day of Sts Peter and Paul.⁵⁹⁸ The first post-war mission was held at St Peter's later in the year.⁵⁹⁹ A newsletter, *St Peter's Chronicle*, was published from 1949 under the editorship of Mrs Hourihane.⁶⁰⁰ In 1951 work was started to turn Coxwell House into a home for retired members of the Sisterhood of Mercy.⁶⁰¹ Father Staunton, the parish priest of 20 years, died in 1952 and was replaced by Father O'Donnell.⁶⁰² A new parish hall was built adjacent to the church in 1953, which hosted numerous events in the following years, including meetings of the Catholic Women's League.⁶⁰³ The hall was officially opened in February 1954.⁶⁰⁴ Bishop Rudderham opened a new wing of the convent school towards the end of the year.⁶⁰⁵ By 1969 annual baptisms in the parish averaged nearly 35.⁶⁰⁶ The church interior was redecorated in 1970 and a free-standing altar under the chancel arch was installed following the Second Vatican Council.⁶⁰⁷ The convent school was massively undersubscribed and despite various efforts to save it, it was eventually closed in 1973.⁶⁰⁸

St Peter's parish council was established in 1978 and its constitution was amended in 1979 to increase the number of members from 10 to 12, and to ensure representation of the St Peter's Ladies Guild and Altar Flower Group, and St Augustine's in Cricklade.⁶⁰⁹ The Council set about raising a development fund for renovating the church, presbytery and hall, estimating that £25,000 would be needed. The first repairs were made in 1982.⁶¹⁰ In 1983 there were an estimated 975 Catholics in Cirencester and 470 attended mass. There were 19 baptisms, 3 converts and 14 marriages that year.⁶¹¹ Father O'Donnell celebrated the golden jubilee of his inauguration in 1987 but, having served the parish for 34 years, died that October.⁶¹² Following an interregnum in which the parish was served by the Carmelite Friars of Charlton Kings, Father John Blacker was appointed parish priest.⁶¹³ He introduced parish meetings to replace the defunct parish council.⁶¹⁴ Sunday evening mass at St Peter's was discontinued in 1991.⁶¹⁵ Rev. John Fothergill became the first Permanent Deacon for the parish in 1992, based in Northleach.⁶¹⁶

⁵⁹⁸ *Wilts & Glos*, 6 July 1946.

⁵⁹⁹ *Wilts & Glos*, 14 and 28 Sept. 1946.

⁶⁰⁰ J. K. Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish* (1995), 42.

⁶⁰¹ GA, DA4/100/26, f.31.

⁶⁰² *Wilts & Glos*, 8 Nov. 1952.

⁶⁰³ GA, DA4/100/26, f.20; *Wilts & Glos*, 16 Jan. & 8 May 1954.

⁶⁰⁴ *Wilts & Glos*, 6 Mar. 1954.

⁶⁰⁵ *Wilts & Glos*, 11 Dec. 1954.

⁶⁰⁶ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 45.

⁶⁰⁷ *Wilts & Glos*, 20 Nov. 1970.

⁶⁰⁸ *Wilts & Glos*, 17 Mar. 1972; Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 45-6.

⁶⁰⁹ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 47.

⁶¹⁰ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 48-9.

⁶¹¹ *Clifton Diocesan Directory* (1985), 98

⁶¹² *Wilts & Glos*, 15 May 1987 and 6 Nov. 1987; *Clifton Diocesan Directory* (1989), 165.

⁶¹³ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 50.

⁶¹⁴ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 51.

⁶¹⁵ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 50-1.

⁶¹⁶ *Clifton Diocesan Directory* (1993), 76; Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 51.

A redevelopment working group estimated that necessary repairs to the church and a redesign to increase capacity and improve the circulation of people within it would cost at least £250,000. Such a sum was beyond the means of the parish and so a plan was made to carry out the work in three stages.⁶¹⁷ 'Gift days' were held during Lent in 1992 and 1993 to help fund the works.⁶¹⁸ The first stage, involving re-roofing large parts of the church and other external works, began in August 1992 and was finished the next month.⁶¹⁹ Stage 2 involved repointing and improvements to the stonework, which a parish meeting agreed should begin immediately. Work began in the spring of 1993 and costs were lower than initially feared.⁶²⁰ An English baroque pipe organ, acquired for £3,000 from a redundant Methodist Chapel in Leonard Stanley, was blessed in March 1993.⁶²¹ Father John Blacker celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination on the feast of Sts Peter and Paul in June 1993.⁶²²

Stage 3 of the improvement works was begun in 1995, the sesquicentenary of the foundation of the Cirencester mission, involving renewal of the lighting, flooring and internal redecoration.⁶²³ The church was closed in July 1995 and services temporarily transferred to the church hall to allow renovations to continue. Much of this final stage of work was paid for by an appeal fund.⁶²⁴ The congregation of the church grew from 180, when funds were being raised to build it, to nearly 420 in 1995.⁶²⁵ St Peter's was not consecrated when it was first built and so this took place when works were finished in 1996.⁶²⁶ As of 2011, Cirencester remained in the Stroud Deanery under Revd David Ryan VF. The parish priest was Revd Michael Davies and mass was celebrated on Saturday at 6 p.m. and on Sunday at 9.30 and 11 a.m. In 2009 239 people attended mass in Cirencester and there were 9 baptisms and 3 marriages.⁶²⁷

Non-Christian Religions

There were still very few people in Cirencester belonging to religions other than Christianity in the early 21st century. Of 19,076 people covered in the 2011 census in Cirencester, 12,375 were Christians, 4,981 had no religion and none was stated for 1,437. There were 58 Buddhists, 41 Hindus, 25 Jews, 59 Muslims and 99 people of other religions.⁶²⁸ The Order of Buddhist Contemplatives held a meditation group in Cirencester in 2017.⁶²⁹

⁶¹⁷ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 51.

⁶¹⁸ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 52.

⁶¹⁹ *Wilts & Glos*, 16 Aug. 1992.

⁶²⁰ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 52.

⁶²¹ *Wilts & Glos*, 4 Feb. 1993 and 1 Apr. 1993.

⁶²² *Wilts & Glos*, 10 June 1993 and 8 July 1993.

⁶²³ *Wilts & Glos*, 9 Nov. 1995.

⁶²⁴ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 54.

⁶²⁵ Vose, *Cirencester, Post-Reformation Catholicism and St Peter's Parish*, 50.

⁶²⁶ *Clifton Diocesan Directory* (1996), 143.

⁶²⁷ *Clifton Diocese Directory* (2011), 37, 57, 94.

⁶²⁸ *Census* 2011.

⁶²⁹ <http://obcon.org/blog/2012/08/31/cirencester-meditation-group/>.