

### Other Information

In the south west corner is a model of Christ Church by Thomas Hewson to 1/100 scale made from 6845 matchsticks and balsa wood.

The weathercock formerly topped the spire. It carries several bullet holes allegedly made by soldiers 1939-1945 using it for target practice.

On the wall in the north west corner of the church is a list of the Vicars of the Parish of Swindon 1301 to the present day.

In 2017 the interior of Christ Church underwent major refurbishment to make it accessible and fit for future generations. The side pews and some in the Nave were removed. The central Nave pews remain but are moveable. This makes the whole space more flexible for events. A new oak floor was laid to provide a level surface. Also new heating and lighting were installed along with audio visual equipment. 2019 saw an entire new roof of Welsh slate and major repairs to the main South Transept window. All of these projects were made possible by several generous bequests and donations to the church for the care and upkeep of the building.

**St. Mary's in the Mall** - In 1929 Fitzroy Pleydell Goddard gave a site in Commonweal Road, off Goddard Avenue, for a church to serve the area there. In 1926 a temporary church was erected and lasted until 1977 when a permanent brick building replaced it.

**\*Holy Rood** - the remains of the original Parish Church of Swindon dating from medieval times can be seen in the Lawn Park. Its chancel is still used for occasional services.

Photography—Janet French



**The Friends of Christ Church**  
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**Y**our peal of ten ring over then  
this town,  
Ring on my men nor ever ring  
them down.

John Betjeman

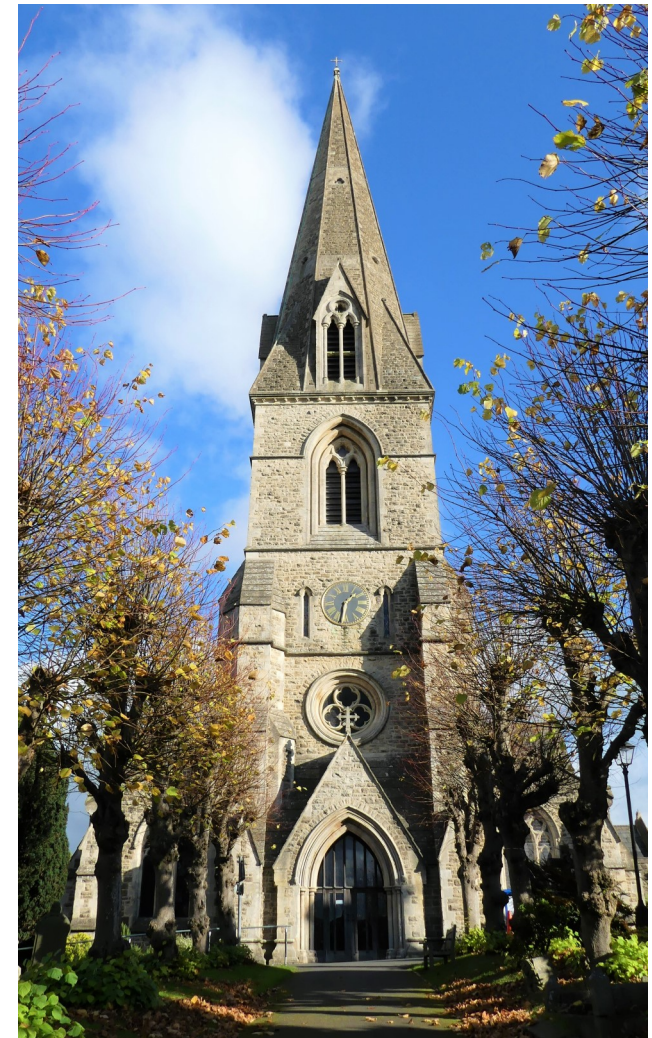
From "On hearing the full peal of ten bells from Christ Church, Swindon Wilts" Collected Poems



## The Friends of Christ Church, Swindon

# Welcome to Christ Church

## with St Mary's

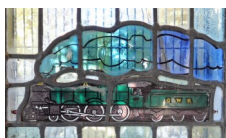


# VISITORS GUIDE

Christ Church was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the Midlands Decorated style. It was opened in 1851. The building replaced the original medieval parish church of Holy Rood\* on the Lawn Manor Estate which, by the 1850's, was woefully inadequate for the growing population of Swindon. The hillside site in Cricklade Street was donated by Ambrose Goddard Lord of the Manor. The funds for the building were raised by public subscription.

1. Above the West Door is the tower of three stages. The gabled porch with corner buttresses, broach spire and tower was based on the 13th century church of Buckworth near Huntingdon. The clock of 1843 on the west front was brought from Holy Rood Church along with its six bells. The present peal of ten bells was immortalised in a poem by Sir John Betjeman.

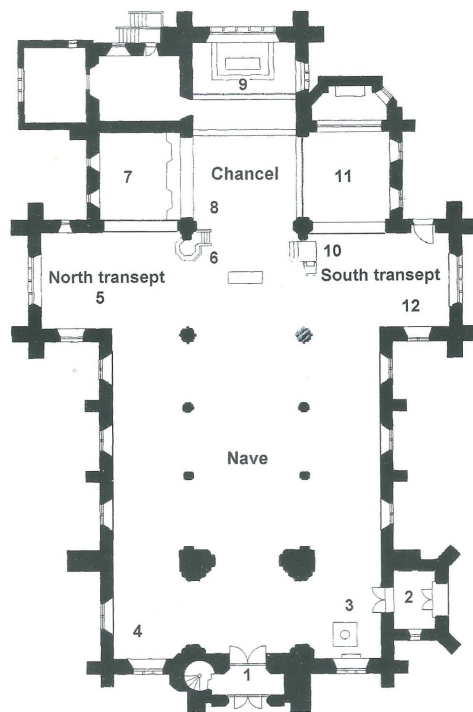
2. The South Porch of 1916, erected in memory of Henry and Harriet Kinneir, has a stained glass window depicting the Great Western Railway coat of arms and a GWR steam engine. The window was donated in 1975 by Christ Church bell ringer Nancy Davis.



3. After passing through the glass doors with the etched bells design note, in the left corner, the marble and alabaster 1914-18 War Memorial commemorating those from the Parish who were killed in the conflict. In front of this stands the font of the same material. It was donated in 1905 by Edward Hesketh Goddard in memory of his late wife Dulcie. The elaborate cover of wrought iron carries their initials in the decoration.

4. In the north west corner is the Canon Thomas Corner named after Canon Lewis Thomas (1894-1972). The area provides a quiet place for prayer, reflection or just meeting. A bookcase here holds a selection of bibles in many different languages.

5. The North Transept contains a unique stained glass window by M. Travers 1931. It is in memory of Fitzroy Pleydell Goddard—the last Lord of the Manor to live at The Lawn (manor house of the Goddard family). It depicts the Downs and Liddington Hill through an array of hollyhocks and butterflies - the view seen everyday from the house window. It also displays the coat of arms of the family and of Christ Church, Oxford. Look carefully to spot a green parrot -the favourite pet of Fitzroy Goddard.



6. The marble and alabaster pulpit of 1906 matches the font, war memorial and reredos and was presented by Pleydell and Jessie Goddard in memory of their parents. It carries the carved figures of Christ and some of his apostles.

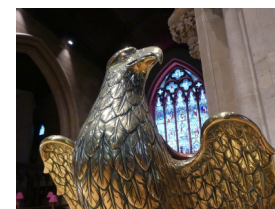
7. The organ is a fine instrument. Significant maintenance work was carried out on it in 1951, 1970 and 1998. Then in 2019 major refurbishment and rebuilding works took place to ensure it will be working at its full potential for many years to come.

8. On the north wall of the Chancel is a memorial plaque to Henry Bailey, Vicar from 1847-1885 whose drive and energy were mainly responsible for the building of Christ Church. The plaque gives the date of the dedication of the building on 7th November 1851.

9. Behind the High Altar, below the East Window, is the marble and alabaster Reredos of 1891, erected in memory of Ambrose Ayshford Goddard, the brother of Fitzroy and Jessie. Carved in the marble are two biblical scenes- The Expulsion from the Garden of Eden and the Annunciation.

The East Window was given by the widow of James Grooby, Vicar of Swindon 1823-1847, in memory of her husband and Col. Vilett, her brother. It depicts some well known scenes and parables from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The image of the feast to celebrate the return of the Prodigal Son has been put in a central position to give the impression of The Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples.

10. The brass eagle Lectern is dated 1881. It was a gift from Henry and Harriet Kinneir in memory of their son Henry Jnr.



11. The Lady Chapel was created in 1935, designed by Harold Breakspear. The exterior of the building features a canopied figure of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Note the modern window by John Hayward (1987) depicting The Annunciation –when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary. This window replaced one previously vandalised although the top lights remain from the original. The chapel is used for a daily service of worship and prayer and provides a place for quiet prayer and reflection throughout the day.

12. On the west wall of the South Transept is a WW2 Roll of Honour from the Boys High School in Bath Road placed here when the school closed in 1979.

Other stained glass in the church not mentioned above mainly dates from 1855-1860 and 1891-1902.