

## ALL SAINTS CHURCHILL

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### CHURCHILL, THE VILLAGE

Five thousand years ago, this neighbourhood was inhabited by people of the New Stone Age. A remarkable collection of flint artefacts found in Sarsden was assembled by Lord Ducie (of nearby Sarsden House), and presented to the Bristol City Museum where they are now preserved. They include well over one hundred flint arrowheads ranging from the leaf-shaped to beautiful finished examples of barbed-and-tanged arrowheads, and several hundred flint scrapers of every variety. As flint is not a local stone, these artefacts must have been brought from afar, and indicate the presence of a settled community of hunters rather than farmers. There are round barrows at several points within the village, and a hill-fort at Knollbtry. The Romans, too, settled here. As recently as 1983, whilst farming the fields just to the west of Churchill Grounds Farm (West), a shallow Roman grave was uncovered, containing a stone coffin, complete with skeleton. This, together with other artefacts found in the same area, is in the keeping of Woodstock Museum. Included in the collection from Churchill Grounds Farm are underfloor heating tiles, and Roman coins found close to the well which served the farm until recent times. The presence of a Roman villa, looking towards Kingham Hill, seems most likely.

Angles and Saxons began to penetrate the South Midlands during the fifth century, and most of our villages began as farms cleared by Saxon settlers. In this area the settlers belonged to the Hwicce tribe. It has been suggested that the name Wychwood is a derivative of Hwicce (i.e. Hwiccewood). It is possible that the Hwicce absorbed a large part of the former Romano-British population of the area, amongst whom Christianity already existed. The Christian message was brought to the region by an Irish missionary, Diuna, who as a young man left his home to join St. Aidan, with whom he travelled extensively.

The Norman Conquest of 1066 imposed a new military and social ruling class of Norman knights, and Domesday Book (1086) says that Churchill was held by Walter de Vemon, together with lands in Cheshire, and who therefore probably installed a deputy in Churchill. Prior to 1066, Domesday records that Earl of Wessex had held Churchill. The village included twenty-four villien and fourteen families, giving a population of over two hundred. The resident Norman knight was probably Henri de Chaldri, who would be expected to build his parish church in stone in the Norman style and to have the right to choose a priest or rector. This may have been on the site of Churchill Old Church, but there are no records available. Likewise, there are no records suggesting that there was any previous church in Churchill, but undoubtedly there would be places of worship at Daylesford and the much larger village (as it was then) of Sarsden. At this lime Churchill parish formed part of the Archdeaconry of Oxford, within the enormous diocese of Lincoln, until Henry VUI created five new Dioceses (including Oxford) in 1542.

The village of Churchill was situated near the foot of what is now known as Hastings Hill, and indeed the outlines of the foundations of the old cottages can be clearly seen as undulations in the pasture field behind the existing graveyard.

During the 14th century, Sir Roger de Newers, at the age of twenty-four inherited the manors of Churchill and Wymington. He is notable, amongst other things, in dial in 1327 he secured royal charters permitting a weekly market and an annual fair to be held in Churchill, thus enhancing the status and value of his manor.

The de Newers family sold the manor of Churchill in 1447, and from that time it passed through the ownership of the Barantynes and Hattmis, until ultimately it was acquired by Sir John Walters of Sarsden in the early 17th Century, Since that time the two villages have remained closely connected, and the owner of Sarsden House has normally been the Lord of the Manor of Churchill, The Walters family presided over the village for four generations, until 1731. The House itself was destroyed by fire in 1689, and rebuilt soon thereafter.

Anne Walters, granddaughter of Sir John and daughter of Sir William, convinced she would die an unnatural death, left £600 in her will to be expended in apprehending her murderer. Since she did in the event die through natural causes, the money was used in accordance with her alternative instructions, "...for the maintenance and education of poor girls,...born in the villages of Churchill and Sarsden..." This was the origin of the Anne Walters Trust, founded in 1705, and the Churchill school for girls, built in 1716, at a cost of £126. It might be noted that the schoolmistress at that time received a salary of £10 per year, with a house and a fuel allowance! Later, Henrietta Maria Langston founded a further trust by her will of 1844, the income from which was applied to the support and maintenance of the Top (or Boys) School. Both of these funds (the Anne Walters Trust and the Henrietta Langston Trust) were combined by the Charity Commission in 1994, as the Walters and Langston Charitable Trust, The Girls School was closed in 1947. and the Top School in 1982.

Churchill appears to have avoided disturbance during the Civil War period, although its sympathies are evident, Thomas Session of Churchill supplied four 'muskets' to the royalists in 1643, and in 1650 Anne Hacker was fined the sum of £25 for lending a horse to the royalists during the second Civil War of 1648,

On Wednesday, 30th July 1684, a disastrous fire swept through die old village: a strong wind carried the flames through densely-packed houses, probably timber-framed and thatched. Twenty houses were destroyed, as well as barns and outbuildings. The fire was allegedly caused 'by the Covetousness of an Old Woman, who to save the expenses of Chimney-money, and being by trade a Baker. had made a Funnel from her Oven into another Chimney. The fire lasted four hours and four "People were Kill'd, two by falling of the R nines, and two Burnt". The village was subsequently rebuilt in stone closer to the crest of the hill.



The acquisition of the Sarsden Estate in 1792 by John Langston, a wealthy London merchant and Director of the Bank of England, heralded important changes in the social and economic pattern of the district, but it was his son James Haughton Langston (1796-1863) who was to become perhaps the greatest benefactor the district had known in more recent times. He is quoted by Pevsner as "The most outstanding patron of architecture amongst 19th century Oxfordshire landowners." Amongst his many projects were an extension to St. James Church, Sarsden, the building of Chipping Norton town hall, the remodelling of Sarsden House, building and where appropriate rebuilding farmhouses on his Estate, promoting the branch railway from Kingham to Chipping Norton by providing the land at little more than its agricultural value, providing a reading room for Churchill (now the Village Hall), and schools at Chadlington, Milton-under-Wychwood, and Idbury.

In 1824, James Haughton Langston married Lady Julia Frances Moreton (1806-1869), the daughter of the Earl of Ducie, and in the following year had Sarsden House remodelled by H. Repton. A memorial fountain, to James Haughton Langston, was erected on the Green in the centre of the village by his daughter, Countess of Ducie. It is described by Pevsner as "...memorably ugly. A squat, square tower with obelisks and Hying buttresses carrying a dummy spire. The water drips from a rude spout at die side."<sup>1</sup>

The last regular service of worship was held at St. James Church, Sarsden, on the 25th November, 1990, although the church was used again when the restoration work was being earned out on All Saints, Churchill, during 1989-90 (q.v.), and during the structural alterations of 1999, St James's was finally made redundant in October 1992. although it remains consecrated and may still be used for private worship.



## THE OLD CHURCH

The medieval church, which was dedicated to "All Saints", was situated towards the lower part of Hastings Hill, surrounded by the old village of Churchill. There was certainly a building there by 1170. Evidence suggests that Churchill church was reconstructed in the early fourteenth century in the Decorated style, when it consisted of a nave, chancel, south aisle and porch, with a central tower; the outlines of this structure can still be faintly discerned in the graveyard. There were four bells, cast or recast in 1630 by James Keene of Woodstock.

Several interesting memorial inscriptions in the old church belong to the seventeenth century, and were recorded by a Dr. A. Hntton in his 'Oxfordshire Monumental Inscriptions'<sup>1</sup>. The best known of these is the delightful epitaph in verse to John Gostwick, Gent., who died aged 75 on 10th February 1618; this was on a brass plate fixed to a plain white stone under the Communion Table, but was subsequently refixed to the east wall of the old chancel:

Stay gentle reader yf thou dost enquire  
Who Mr. Oostwick was Have thy desire.  
A gentleman he was, of antient name  
And welbelov'd of all that to him came.  
At th<sup>1</sup> University and then at Court  
He had his times of study and resort.  
After all this he toke delight to dwell  
At his devotions in his private cell.  
Happy old man w'ch so his youth could spend  
That he was happy at his latter end.

In 1825, according to the Chipping Norton Deanery Magazine of July 1882, "the church having fallen into a ruinous state, a faculty was granted.....to the Rev. Charles Barter, the Vicar, by the Rt. Rev, Edward Legger, then Bishop of Oxford, for pulling down the old church in question and building a new one in a more central position", Skelton's sketch of the old church, made during the demolition shows little sign

of dilapidation, but tells us that the medieval church had been attractive, and substantial. There is no record of the fate of the interior furnishings and fittings, but it seems unlikely that the stone fabric of the old church was re-used in the construction of the new. Only the chancel of the church was retained, containing a handful of the former twenty-three memorials.

In 1869, Mrs. Elizabeth Barter (widow of Rector Charles Barter) had the old chancel restored. A lancet window by C.C. Rolfe was set in the blocked arch of the old Decorated east window. The 13th century chancel arch was retained as the frame for a new west doorway, and the bell turret was erected at the west end of the roof. Inside, the chancel was fitted with pine pews, and was provided with a new oak communion table. Some of the early memorial inscriptions, including that of John Gostwick, have been preserved in the church. The church was again restored in the 1960's. The graveyard was further extended, and the new lychgate, in memory of the 2nd Baron Wyfold, was dedicated in 1953,

The Old Church was made redundant in 1985, but continues to be maintained under the care of the Old Church Preservation Society, which is responsible for fund-raising to ensure the memorials and fabric of the building are kept in good order. Plans are well advanced to develop the building as a local museum, which will display archival material, and a collection of artefacts depicting life in Churchill through the ages. The graveyard is still in use.

### THE NEW ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The new church was built at the sole expense of James Haughton Langston (1791-1833), the architect being Mr. John Plowman of Oxford. It was consecrated in 1827, and is an interesting example of the Gothic Revival in England. The site selected for the new church was most appropriate, prominent and central to the life of the village, and high on the skyline. It is interesting that in an appeal for funds for the restoration of the tower in 1975, which elicited the support of Sir John Betjeman. Sir John wrote:



Approaching Churchill from Kingham Station

'It is a beautiful landmark and has .... been an eye-catcher for miles around, and a delightful one. I am sure it was built with this object in view. Although the style is English Perpendicular Gothic, the Tower is in great tradition of English landscape gardening. Its disappearance would be a grave loss to a rolling wooded landscape.'

Certainly the style is derivative: the tower is a slimmer version of Magdalen College, Oxford, reduced to two-thirds size. It has eight crocketed pinnacles and a frieze with carved heads and a pierced parapet. The hammerbeam roof of the nave is patterned on Christ Church Hall, Oxford, and the buttresses bear a resemblance to those on New College Chapel. The church was built with a west end gallery, and a noticeable feature, derived from the Magdalene tower, is the external staircase leading to the ringers' chamber, with its associated outside pulpit, and which originally gave access to the gallery. The stone tracery is in a different style in each of the five main windows, and not all are in an orthodox Perpendicular style. Five of the windows, which were originally of plain glass, were replaced by stained



The Old Church, Churchill

glass in the late 19th century. The east window, executed by Messrs. O'Connor of London, was given by 'A Grateful Tenantry' as a memorial to James Haughton Langston, who died in 1863. The upper part contains the symbols of the Trinity, surrounded by emblems of the four Evangelists. The major part of the window depicts four stories to illustrate the proper use of power and wealth by God's faithful servants: Abraham and Melchizedek; David and Araunah; Zacchaeus; Jesus and the tribute money. The north-east window, by Clayton and Bell, was dedicated in memory of Elizabeth Barter who died on 20th October

1878, It depicts three of our Lord's miracles over death in the stories of Jairo's daughter, the widow of Nain's son, and Lazarus. The north-west window, installed as a memorial to Canon W.E.D, Carter in 1903, shows our Lord as the Good Shepherd. The south-east window, also by Clayton and Bell, a memorial to John Davis 1874, shows the Ascension. The south-west window, in memory of Alice Howorth, teacher at the village school, shows three episodes in the nativity story. The stone tracery in all the windows of the nave is copied from various windows in Oxford, all of them, however, being in the Perpendicular character.

The church was built of local stone, but the pulpit and altar-table were wood. These latter items were later replaced in Caen Stone. The pews are of polished oak with elm seating. Local masons were employed in the construction, and when the lower was completed. Mr. Stokes, one of the masons, climbed to the top of a pinnacle and drank a stoup of ale to the health of all who had helped to build the church! Music was originally provided (as was the custom of the time) by a small band, accommodated in the gallery together with the choir, and when singing the congregation would turn around to face the gallery. Hence the expression "to face the music". It is not known at what date the organ was introduced in the gallery. A silver service of chalice, paten, paten on foot, and tankard flagon, hallmarked 1826 by Paul Storr, was presented by James Haughton Langston, now preserved in Christ Church Cathedral. The wrought-ironwork on the inner doors of the church is discreetly stamped with the name of the craftsman; W. Keen.

In 1826, the bells were removed from the old church, recast in the original metal by Robert Taylor of Oxford, and eventually hung in the new church. Two new bells were added to make a peal of six. The clock was also made by Robert Taylor of Oxford,

All Saints Church was consecrated for divine service on Saturday 20th October 1827 by Bishop Lloyd, the Rector being the Revd. Charles Barter (1817-1868). Although no-one knew it at the time, the consecration coincided with the Battle of Navarino, a resounding naval victory for the Allies (Great Britain, France, and Russia (leading to Greek independence from the occupying Turks.



The interior of the church was substantially altered in 1884 in the manner of the Victorian age. The gallery at the west-end was removed, and the organ sited in its present position adjacent to the choir stalls.

Little is known of the early days of the organ, and various competent authorities agree to differ as to its history, except that it was built by Bishop, probably in 1827. Langwill and Boston, in their learned treatise on Barrel-Organs, quote Churchill All Saints as having a barrel and finger organ by Bishop. (In the 19th century, church organists were not readily available, and so organs were frequently equipped to play "barrels".) This would, of course, be a single manual instrument. One of the "barrels" from the All Saints organ has been preserved, and is on display in the Old Church. From existing records, it is not clear as to whether this organ was replaced during the works of 1884, or whether it was moved in 1884 and the scope enhanced by the addition of a second manual and pedal board.

The choir stalls were relocated in the east-end near the chancel arch, in their present position. At the same time, a redecoration of the Sanctuary was undertaken by Clayton and Bell, the leading stained-glass artists and decorators of the period. The carved stone reredos and a stone altar-table were installed. The painting on the ceiling and on the stone work was in oil, direct on to the stone. On either side of the altar at the east end of the Sanctuary, the wall was specially prepared with plaster and painted in oils with the gilding in gold leaf. When the church was redecorated in 1965-6, these painted panels at the east end needed such expensive specialist treatment that they were left in their original condition. Although the decoration may not be compared with the work of Clayton and Bell in cathedrals and major churches of the time, it is still a significant example of the Gothic Revival style, and is entirely appropriate in its setting.



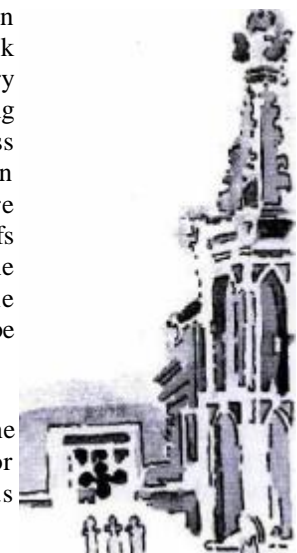
In 1957 the organ was restored by Norman and Beard and the bells re-hung. It was at last possible to complete the peal by adding two new bells cast by Taylor of Loughborough, which were dedicated on the 9th May, 1957, by the Bishop of Oxford. An architects survey in 1971 revealed that the upper stonework of the tower had begun to crumble, and that there were serious cracks below the top windows. No work had been carried out on the

tower since 1826, and the iron ties fitted to secure the stone were rusting, had expanded, and were allowing the stones to move, making those on the parapet particularly dangerous. An appeal was launched and a Tower Festival Week held in 1974. The required sum of £10,000 was raised and the work completed in 1975. Sadly, some ten years later, the fabric of the church again caused serious concern, and further immediate action was necessary. One particular pinnacle, above the nave, was found to be rocking on its base in gale force winds.

A restoration fund was then launched to raise £250,000. This target was surpassed, with the help of English Heritage and various other organisations, together with the considerable efforts of the villagers themselves. A village fete was held to raise funds, and this has been perpetuated as an annual "event". The event takes place in June, in the form of a fete one year, and a classic car rally (which has now achieved national acclaim) the following year. In 1998, some 450 vintage and classic cars attended from throughout the UK and a sum of over £11,600 was raised on this one day, for the Church, and various local charities.

Major works were put in hand, when the pinnacles and upper stone work were repaired or replaced as necessary on the nave and lower. The remaining iron pins were replaced by stainless steel, using the most modern techniques and materials to secure them. The tower and south vestry roofs were renewed, and other parts of the roof repaired as required. One hammer-beam in the nave, found to be rotting, was replaced.

Pause for a moment or two to examine our kneelers. When the major restoration of 1989-1990 was completed - the church having been



closed for eighteen months - the RC.C decided to launch a project to create new kneelers, as part of a refurbishment of the interior of the building. The project, from conception to completion, took almost exactly three years. The kneelers were designed and made by the villagers of Churchill, and many commemorate former members of our community. Some depict local scenes and buildings, while others show designs taken from the windows, tiles, and interior of All Saints. Flowers and wildlife of the surrounding countryside are included, bringing together a unique representation of our church and community. A commemorative book, recording each kneeler, is displayed in a glass case at the west end of the nave.

In May 1995 the three PCCs within the Benefice (Churchill, Kingham, and Daylesford) identified the need to develop a central facility, to be based on Churchill Church as the largest church building. A small working party was set up to consider how the development could be tailored to meet the needs of our vision of the future: to make worship a welcoming and fulfilling experience, and to make the church more inviting and able to meet the needs of generations to come. With this in mind, and to mark the Millennium, the All Saints Millennium Project was inaugurated in October 1998, to raise the necessary funds, and the target of £100,000 was exceeded by June 1999.

Extensive alterations to the west end of the church were undertaken during the summer of 1999. These included the reinstatement of the west-end gallery, which in turn provides accommodation for various rooms below. The area under the gallery is separated from the nave by double doors providing access to the body of the church. The rooms thus formed include a kitchen, W.C., and most importantly a meeting room. This latter is used for children's activities, by study groups, by the PCC, and for other activities of the church family. The font, originally sited at the head of the nave, and moved in 1884 to the west end, was replaced close to its original position at the east end. The reinstatement of the gallery and other work was carried out by Groves, the same firm having undertaken the work of 1884. when the original gallery was dismantled!

## SOME CHURCHILL PERSONALITIES

Richard Baguley; who became Vicar of Churchill in 1581, found himself in serious trouble in the Archdeacon's Court three years later. Enquiries in the village revealed rumours of immorality between vicar and one Emma Nash of Churchill. Appearing in the Archdeacon's Court, and in her defence, Emma Nash denied "that ever he had to doe with her neither that he did attempt the same, but saith upon occasion goinge for some salve at master vicar's request she was searched by divers honest women of Churchill whether she had burned him or not; and whether she was sound." The vicar managed to clear himself, but Emma Nash was not so fortunate, and was excommunicated, and Richard Baguley was required to carry out the sentence.

Thomas Barlow (1607-1691); Lecturer of Churchill was Bodley's Librarian in 1652, became Provost of Queen's College (1657), Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity (1660) and Bishop of Lincoln in 1675, (The term 'Lecturer' recurs from time to time in place of 'Rector' in 18th Century Churchill records, and refers to the appointment by Parliament, on recommendation of the parishioners, of an unordained minister. Lecturers were paid by the parishioners.)



All Saints Church. Churchill

Warren Hastings; born in Churchill on 6th December 1732, took his mother's maiden name - Warren - as his Christian name. The Hastings family were from nearby Daylesford, and left for Churchill, apparently, after quarrelling with the Lord of the Manor, The family acquired the property near the top of what is now known as Hastings Hill; the house itself is known as Warren Hastings House, and is adorned with a plaque recording its illustrious inhabitant. His mother



The William Smith Memorial

died within a week of his birth, and, strangely, he was baptised on the same day as his mother's funeral. Abandoned by his father, the Rev. Permiston Hastings, Vicar of Bledington, (who spent the rest of his life in Barbados as Rector in a parish of slaves and sugar cane) Warren Hastings was brought up in his infancy by a wet-nurse and foster-mother, Mary Ellis of Churchill. In later years Warren was to refer to his period of his life as "...literally dependant upon those whose condition scarcely raised them above the pressure of absolute want". The remainder of his childhood was spent, with his sister Anne, in the home of his grandfather, a hapless spendthrift who lived in a world of antiquarian unreality. He attended school in the village, presumably made possible by the charity of Lady Harcourt. He went on, however, to make a career in the East India Company, finally becoming Governor General of India in 1774. Sadly, his opponents contrived to have him impeached and tried in the House of Lords for serious irregularities in his administration. The trial consumed his private fortune, although he succeeded in buying back Doylesford and its estates - thus fulfilling a childhood dream - where he died on the 22nd August 1818. His tomb bears, on one side, the simple wording "Warren Hastings".

**William Smith;** born in Churchill on 23rd March 1769, the son of a blacksmith, attended the village school in Churchill where he learnt to read and write, and acquired the rudiments of arithmetic "...as far as the rule of three". He remained at school until he was eleven, after which he went to London for two years. On his return to Churchill in 1788, his father's brother, a farmer in Hook Norton, encouraged him to take up surveying, and involved him in schemes for drainage and land improvement.

At the age of 18 he became assistant to Edward Webb of Stow, Surveyor, and together they surveyed Churchill and Sarsden for the Enclosure Act of 1788. He applied himself enthusiastically to this career, and his interest in direction and topography was stimulated when he traversed the country on foot, covering prodigious distances. During these long walks, William Smith's awareness of different soil and rock formations began to crystallise into a theory of stratification. While still only in his twenties he formulated the theory that related the classification of fossils to the rocks in which they were found, and thus identified the geological sequence of the strata. From 1800. William Smith became well-known as a Civil Engineer responsible for land drainage and irrigation, but his main preoccupation was the preparation and production of a series of detailed geological maps of England, for which he is rightly regarded as the Father of English Geology. He died at Northampton on 28th August 1839,

In 1891, the Earl of Ducie erected a monument in Churchill (which can be seen at the top of Hastings Hill) to the memory of William Smith, consisting of a monolith standing on a double base. The monument is formed of huge Oolitic stones from the district - the name Oolite having been given by William Smith to the rocks that form the higher grounds in the locality.

**The Rev. Charles Barter, Rector 1817-1868;** married Elizabeth Catherine, elder sister of James Haughton Langston. G.S. Repton had been commissioned to design an elegant Rectory - now Sarsden Glebe - built at a cost of £5,000 in 1818. Here, Charles and Elizabeth brought up their family of ten children, with the help of ten residential servants.

(the house having been enlarged in 1834) in a style appropriate to relatives of the squire. Barter was much involved in the building of the new All Saints Church during his first decade as Rector.

Barter was somewhat overshadowed by his better known younger brother, Robert Speccotl Barter. Fellow of New College, and Warden of Winchester. Warden Barter was of legendary physical prowess, and there is a delightful story of him associated with Sarsden, Setting out to walk from Oxford to Sarsden - a distance estimated to be eighteen miles - he overtook die Bishop of Oxford's carnage at Woodstock.

"Where are you going?" called the Bishop.

"To Sarsden, my Lord."

"I am going there, too: can I give you a lift?"

"No thank you; I am rather in a hurry".

Barter replied.

Continuing on his way, he arrived at some time before the Bishop!

**The Rev. Charles Barter**, Rector of Churchill-cum-Sarsden and Cornwell, and Rural Dean of Chipping Norton, died on the 24th of June, 1868.

**Canon William Edward Dickson Carter**: Rector of Sarsden cum Churchill 1868-1903, was one of ihe Chipping Norton magistrates who sentenced sixteen Ascott women to ten days in the Oxford House of Correction for picketing a farm at Ascott-under-Wychwood, during die agricultural labourers' strike of 1873.



The Annual Heralding of Mayday, 1999, All Saints, Churchill

## Incumbents of the Parish of Churchill

INSTITUTION	VICAR OF CHURCHILL	LECTURER OF CHURCHILL
1235	John, deacon of Oxford David	
1262	Reginald Richard	
1278	Richard de S Freyeswyda	
1291	Oliver de Sutton	
1340	John Gylmyrn	
1350	William Folebrok	
1395	John Grigge	
1397	William Grome	
1398	William Nichol	
1409	John Fitz	
1420	Richard Hawkeslowe	
1427	John Grainger	
1433	John Dome	
1448	Thomas Brynkworth	
1448	Thomas Bekke	
1450	Thomas Kyxton (or Kyxley)	
1457	William Hackere	
1462	Willaim Boner	
1505	Maurice Sew alias Johns or Joyns	
1515	William Worcetur	
1520	Robert Ruthyn Robert Kitson	
1551	Thomas Wylcocks	
1555	Humphrey Bower	

## Incumbents of Churchill (cont.)

INSTITUTION	VICAR OF CHURCHILL	LECTURER OF CHURCHILL
1581	Richard Baguley	
1601	Edmond Glynne	
1643	Benjamin Glynne	
1652		Thomas Barlow
1662	Benjamin Gynne <i>re-instated</i>	
1667		Stephen Penton
1697	James Butterworth	
1712	John Griffin	
1710	George Vernon <i>Rector of Sarsden</i>	
1720	Nathaniel Sturges	
1760	Walter Thomas	
1783	Charles Tahourdin	
1786	Arthur Saunder	
1817	Charles Barter <i>Rector of Sarsden-cum-Churchill</i>	
1868	William Edward Dickson Carter	
1903	Edmund Johnson	
1922	Martin Spearing	
1945	S.H. Newton	
1948	Arthur Holmes	
1964	A. Attwood-Evans	
1969	Paul John le Seur	
1974	Roger Morgan	
1979	Nigel John Bennett	
1986	David Arthur Streater	
1992	John Elfric Andrews	

**Transcript of a Petition for a Faculty 21 June 1884**  
**Right Reverend Wm Edward Dickson Carter, Rector of**  
**Sarsden with Churchill.**

*That the parish church of Churchill is, at the present time, in need of a rearrangement of the interior and your parishioners are therefore desirous of making alterations in accordance with the plans and specifications which have been prepared by Alfred Groves of Milton under Wychwood, Oxon, Builder, to whom the proposed works are to be entrusted.*

*That at a Meeting of the Parishioners of Churchill held after due Notice, on the sixteenth day of June instant it was resolved that the aforesaid plans should be adopted and that the several works enumerated therein should be carried out and completed and that application should be made for obtaining (the requisite Faculty for that purpose. That the cost of the proposed works is intended to be defrayed by means of private Donations.*

*Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that a Licence or Faculty may be granted authorizing them to take down and alter present Sittings and entirely re-seat the Church with the same materials, to construct a Heating Apparatus in same, to remove the Pulpit, Reading Desk and Organ from their present positions within the Church, to replace Sittings of the Choir near to the Chancel Arch and to build or adapt space for a second Vestry to repair and restore such other parts of the Fabric of the Church (both internal and external) requiring repair and restoration and generally to do and perform all such other works and operations, as may be fairly implied in fully carrying out the aforesaid plans and specifications although not specifically mentioned or set forth.*

*And Your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray etc.*