

Cheltenham Non-Conformist Chapels and Churches

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Baptist

Bethel Chapel (Baptist)

The first Baptist Chapel in Cheltenham was built in 1703 on Manchester Walk. This chapel was run by the Tewkesbury Baptist Chapel. The Bethel Chapel was created when Cheltenham Baptists separated from their mother church at Tewkesbury in 1753. However the chapel had no permanent pastor until 1768, so many continued to attend the Church in Tewkesbury. The arrival of Mr Dunscombe in this year as the first pastor stabilised church. The congregation slowly grew, but by the 1810s the chapel was again pastorless and numbers were falling. Again a new pastor arrived in 1819 and a new church was built in 1820 on Knapp Road. The growth of the town led to a growth in the number of visiting worshippers. Arguments over the direction of the church led to a split, and many members joined the Highbury Chapel. More disagreements led to another split in 1835, this time the popular Rev James Smith led away part of the congregation to form Salem Baptist Church. When the church closed in 1951, its leftover funds went to the Hesters Way Baptist Church, via Cambray and Salem.

After the Baptist Church ceased in 1951, the chapel was subsequently used by the Mormons and the Christadelphians; it is now (2012) the Christadelphian Hall.

**No registers for Bethel Baptist Chapel have been deposited.
However the following items may be of interest.**

Other Records

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Minutes | 1899-1934 | Church Meetings D10033 (Uncatalogued) |
| Memorial Inscriptions | Up to 1991 | GAL/K3/42610GS |
| History | B403/47548GS | Cambray Baptist Church 1843-1993 (Covers period until formation of Salem Chapel in 1835) |

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Related Items | See D4944/10/4/1 and D7063/Box 8/1 |
|---------------|------------------------------------|

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Cambray Baptist Church (Baptist)

The Church was formed in 1843 when 41 members of the Salem Chapel resigned and formed a new church. The first chapel was in the Ebenezer Chapel on King Street, which was formerly used by Methodists. After much persuasion, the popular Rev. James Smith, who had previously preached at Salem, returned as pastor in 1851, which helped revive the church. It was agreed that the church would move to a new Chapel, and purchased some land in the Cambray area. The church moved in 1855, but was left with a considerable debt. Although the congregation was large, the church was not a wealthy one. The debt stayed with the congregation until the 1860s when Rev Jackson took a more active approach to reducing the debt. The Church prospered in the late 19th century, although there were disputes between the Church and the Sunday School. Cambray was linked with Charlton Kings Baptist Church, with the pastor taking oversight for the church at various times, the link ended in 1952. During WW1 the church held joint services with Salem or Highbury Chapel. A new manse was built in 1952, as housing was at a shortage. Together with Salem, Cambray helped create and build the Hesters Way Baptist Church, which opened in 1957.

**No registers for Cambray Baptist Chapel have been deposited.
However the following items may be of interest.**

Other Records

| | | |
|---------|--------------|---|
| Minutes | D2766/1 | See catalogue for full list. Includes Church and Deacons' Meetings |
| History | B403/47548GS | Cambray Baptist Church 1843-1993 |
| | D5435/4/18 | The Jubilee of Cambray Baptist Chapel, Cheltenham, 1855-1905 |

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Related Collections | See D2766 |
|---------------------|-----------|

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Ebenezer Chapel (Baptist)

The Ebenezer Chapel on King Street was originally occupied by Methodists. However after they moved to premises on George Street, the breakaway group from the Salem Baptist Church rented the chapel between 1844 and 1855. They then moved on to a new chapel at Cambray. It appears that Primitive Methodists then used the Chapel. The building has now been converted into flats.

For Baptist records see **Cambray Chapel (Baptist)**

For Methodist records see **King Street (Primitive Methodists)**

Gas Green Chapel (Baptist)

The Chapel on Russell Street began life as a Primitive Methodist mission in 1838. In 1847 the Methodists had no further use of the building and it was sold by auction to members of the Congregational Union. The new trustees had a link with Highbury Congregational Church. In the 1855 Town Plan on Cheltenham, the chapel was known as the Albert Street Congregational Chapel. Four years later the chapel was sold to Septimus Pruen, a local business man. Meanwhile a school was built on the adjacent land, which became the Baker Street British School. The chapel was then sold in 1864 to a congregation which had been using an old school building near Gas Green as a mission chapel since 1949. The group, which consisted of members of the Salem Baptist Church moved into the Albert Street chapel and changed the name to the Gas Green Chapel. The school was closed in 1907 by the Education Committee. The chapel celebrated its centenary in 1949 and 150 years in 1999. The chapel is still open (2012), although it split from Salem Baptist Church in 1964, and became a separate Baptist Church.

No records for Gas Green Baptist Chapel have been deposited.

Other Sources to try

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Related Churches | See <u>King Street (Primitive Methodists)</u> for 1838-1847 See <u>Highbury Chapel (Congregational)</u> for 1847-1864. See also <u>Salem Baptist Chapel</u> between 1864 and 1964. |
|------------------|---|

| | |
|---------|---|
| History | B602/48605GS Gas Green Story 1849-1999, a chronicle of 150 years of Christian witness |
|---------|---|

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Hesters Way Baptist Church (Denomination)

The building of the church was sponsored by Cambray and Salem Baptist Churches who formed a joint committee in 1954 to manage the project. Building began in 1956 and the foundation stone (which can be seen to the right of the main doors) was laid on 1st December that year. The opening service was held on 1st June 1957. (Taken from the Church's website: <http://www.hestersway.org/baptist/index.php> 31 Jan 2012)

No records for Hesters Way Baptist Church have been deposited.

Other Sources to try

Related Churches See Cambray Baptist Church and Salem Baptist Church

Providence Chapel (Baptist)

The Chapel appears to have been built in 1870 by John Smith, a local Butcher, at a cost of £802. Smith purchased the land from Charles Liddell in 1871 for £450. The land and church was then left to trustees upon John's death in 1888. The church is still open today and is located on Naunton Parade, off Exmouth Street.

**No registers for Providence Chapel have been deposited.
However the following items may be of interest.**

Other Records

| | | |
|----------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Accounts | D5435/4/5 | Chapel account books: 1883-1888 |
|----------|-----------|---------------------------------|

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Related Collections | See also D5435/4. These records are part of the collection of the Holliday family of Bishops Cleeve and Cheltenham. The Hollidays were related by marriage to John Smith. Some records relate to the above chapel, whereas some are just about religious topics. |
|---------------------|--|

Salem Baptist Church (Baptist)

Salem Church began in 1835 when Rev James Smith led a large group away from the Bethel Chapel. At first the congregation worshipped at a gallery in Clarence Street, however they quickly moved to premises in Regent Street, which opened 1st Jan 1836. The new chapel could only seat 600, but within 2 years the congregation had grown to 1200. In 1841, after a dispute with the Sunday School, a large number of members of the church resigned and formed a new church, which later became known as Cambray Baptist Church. However Salem soon recovered and opened a new church on Clarence Parade in 1844. During WW1 the church held joint services with Cambray Baptist Chapel. Together with Cambray, Salem helped create and build the Hesters Way Baptist Church, which opened in 1957. Salem was closed by 1998 and converted into a pub, it is now (2012) a bar.

**No registers for Salem Baptist Chapel have been deposited.
However the following items may be of interest.**

Other Records

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--|
| History | B403/47548GS | Cambray Baptist Church 1843-1993 (Covers period until formation of Cambray Chapel in 1843) |
|---------|--------------|--|

Other Sources to try

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Related Collections | There are various individual items relating to this church. Search the catalogue for "Salem" | |
| Books/Pamphlets | PR2.10GS | Organs of Salem baptist chapel, Cheltenham |
| | PR2.8GS | Salem Baptist Church, Cheltenham, Annual Report 1986 |

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Snow's Chapel (Baptist-Calvinist)

Thomas Snow came to Cheltenham around 1816, initially to preach at Robert Capper's new Chapel on North Place (See [Portland Chapel, Countess of Huntingdon](#)). Due to a disagreement over infant baptism, Snow left the chapel less than a year later. He and some fellow worshippers met at his house in Prestbury Road, which was licensed in 1817. In the same year Harriet Wall, a wealthy local, built a chapel for Snow in Grovesnor Street (then known as Gyde's Terrace), which opened in 1818. Snow only stayed 4 years and the chapel closed in 1822. Snow later went back to the Church of England elsewhere. The chapel reopened in 1827 as the [Highbury Congregational Church](#).

**No registers for Snow's Chapel have been deposited.
However the following items may be of interest.**

Other Records

| | | |
|---------|----------------|--|
| History | GAL/G5/41070GS | Cheltenham Local History Society Journal 25; 'Thomas Snow and the Western Schism' by Alan Munden; 2009 pp 57 – 63. Gives more information about Snow and the Chapel. |
|---------|----------------|--|

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Related Collections | See also D12407 for records relating to Highbury Congregational Church |
| Books/Pamphlets | P2.42GS Sermon preached at Cheltenham on the day of the funeral of H.R.H. the Princess Charlotte 1817 by Thomas Snow |

Zoar Baptist Church

This church was located on Suffolk Street, just off Bath Road and began around 1909. It appears in the 1912 directory of Cheltenham and appears to have been short lived.

No records for the Zoar Baptist Church, Cheltenham have been deposited.

Church of Christ

Portland Tabernacle (Church of Christ)

Not to be confused with the [Portland Chapel](#) on North Place.

This Church seems to have been founded in 1885. The first meetings were held in the Corn Exchange, and the minutes date back to 1889. In 1898 the church purchased Handel Hall in Portland Street and became this became Portland Tabernacle. The Tabernacle closed by the early 1970s.

**No registers for the Portland Tabernacle have been deposited.
However the following items may be of interest.**

Other Records

| | | |
|------------|-----------|--|
| Minutes | D3906/3/1 | Members' church meeting minutes, 1889-1926 |
| Membership | D3906/2/1 | Application for transfer of membership to various Baptist churches 1921-1948 |

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Related Collections | See D3906 for full list of records |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|

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Congregationalist

Albert Street Congregational Chapel

See [Highbury Chapel \(Congregational\)](#)

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Cheltenham Chapel, later St Andrews Presbyterian Church (Independent, Congregational or Presbyterian)

Cheltenham Chapel, situated between High Street and St George's Place, was opened in 1809 by Rev Rowland Hill and was described as being independent. Ministers of various denominations conducted services. From 1851, the chapel became linked with the Bristol and Gloucestershire Congregational Mission. However, under this new affiliation, the finances of the chapel foundered and the chapel was forced to close for services in 1857. In 1859, the church reopened as St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. In 1874, St Andrew's became responsible for the management of the nearby Gotherington Chapel. With the numbers of communicants continually rising, it was felt that a new church was needed and so from 1875-1886 the main activities of the chapel centred on raising funds for the 'New Church' project. The new church opened in 1886, on Montpelier Street near Bayshill. The old chapel, then called Central Hall, was offered for sale to the Salvation Army in 1894 and the burial ground in the High Street was closed in the same year. The sale fell through, but the Salvation Army continued to rent the hall. The Hall was finally sold in 1904 to Messrs Dicks & Co. Ltd. as a warehouse. In October 1972, the Church became part of the United Reformed Church and its name then became St. Andrew's United Reformed Church.

The following pages contain the references to registers of Cheltenham Chapel/St Andrews Presbyterian Church. There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1810-1837 | | 1815-1837 | | MF1266 | |
| 1837-1853 | | 1837-1889 | | | D7755/1/1 |
| 1880-1997 | | | | | D7755/1/3 |
| | | 1858-1899 | | | PR2.12GS (Copy of Original) |
| | | | 1864-1893 | | D7755/2/1 |
| | | | 1911-1942 | | D7755/5/7 (Seat Letting) |
| | | | 1957-1968 | | D7755/2/2 |

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Other Records

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Minutes | D7755/3 | Includes Deacons and Sessions Minutes. See Catalogue for full list. |
| Memorial Inscriptions | GAL/K3/42613/GS | Cheltenham Chapel graveyard, St. George's Place, Cheltenham 1986 |
| History | P2.91GS | History of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cheltenham |

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Related Collections | See D7755 for full list of records. See also <u>Highbury Congregational Church</u> D12407 |
| Pamphlets | Pamphlet compiled to commemorate the centenary anniversary of the church, 1985 (D7755/6/1) PR2.12GS Contains a plan of the Old Chapel made 21 January 1986. |

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Highbury Chapel (Congregational)

Highbury Congregational Church was established in 1827 when Thomas Wilson of Highbury, London and Rev Burder of Stroud bought Snow's Chapel. As Wilson supplied most of the money, the chapel was named after his home and the location of the College where many of the. The congregation was made up of non-conformists from all over Cheltenham, who found the other chapels in the Town too restricting. In 1830 the first membership was formed with 8 members. The most prominent minister at Highbury was Andrew Morton Brown (1843-1879) who was heavily involved in the spiritual and moral life of the community. He also contributed to the building of the chapel which would become the Gas Green Baptist Chapel. In 1850 it was decided that a new chapel was needed. Some land was purchased on Winchcombe Street and the new chapel opened two years later. The old chapel became Highbury British School. The chapel founded the Prestbury Congregational Church in 1866. In the 1890s the chapel suffered from debt, mainly due to the upkeep of the school. However it had bounced back by 1913. The church moved again in 1932 to Priory Walk. Both the chapel on Winchcombe Street and the School Buildings on Grosvenor Street were sold in that year. The chapel was demolished and an Odeon Cinema was built in its place. The school kept going for a while after the sale, but it is now a Youth Centre.

The following pages contain the references to registers of Highbury Chapel.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Communion/ Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1828-1837 | | | | MF1257 | |
| | | | 1889-1890s | | D12407/1/2 |
| | | | 1901-1909 | | D12407/1/6 |
| | | | 1903-1911 | | D12407/1/7 |
| | | | 1911-1912 | | D12407/1/8 (List of Pew Holders) |
| | | | 1912-1943 | | D12407/1/9 |
| | | | 1967 | | D12407/1/12 |

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Other Records

| | | |
|--------------|------------|---|
| Church Books | D12407/1/3 | 'The Year Book of Highbury Congregational Church' 1891 |
| | D12407/1/5 | 'Highbury Congregational Church, Manuals' 1897-1938 (incomplete coverage) |
| Minutes | D12407/2/ | Includes Church Meetings 1882-1958 and Deacons Meetings 1885-1987. See catalogue for full list. |
| History | P2.33GS | One Hundred Years of Congregationalism in Cheltenham |

Other Sources to try

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Related Collections | See D12407 catalogue for full list of documents See also D6026 for Gloucestershire Congregational Union Records | |
|---------------------|--|--|

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Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion

Portland Chapel, North Place (Countess of Huntingdon)

Not to be confused with the [Portland Tabernacle \(Church of Christ\)](#).

The Chapel in North Place was originally built in 1816 by Robert Capper for Rev Thomas Snow. However Snow stayed for less than a year, moving to another new Chapel in Gyde's Terrace, known as [Snow's Chapel](#). In 1818 the minister was John Tucker. The next year, however, Capper passed the Chapel over to the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection. The Church was also known as North Place Evangelical Church at times. The first British School in Cheltenham opened in 1820 in a Sunday school room beneath the Chapel. In 1858-59 the school moved into new premises in Dunalley Street. The Chapel closed in the late 20th Century. The building is now a day spa known as Chapel Spa.

The following pages contain the references to registers of Portland Chapel.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1820-1837 | | 1820-1837 | | MF1265 | |

Other Sources to try

Related Collections See also [S78/7](#) for records of the School

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Free Evangelical

Cheltenham Evangelical Free Church (Walker Memorial) (Presbyterian/Baptist/Evangelical)

This began life as a Presbyterian Church of Scotland church, founded by James Walker in 1877. The first church was a portable metal church located on Whaddon Lane/Prestbury Road, and was known as the 'Scots Church'. After Walker's death the church and its land was purchased by trustees for the congregation, and the name of the Church became The Walker Memorial Hall. The church then moved towards a more Baptist/Evangelical outlook.

No records for Cheltenham Evangelical Free Church have been deposited.

Jewish

Cheltenham Synagogue (Jewish)

The early 1800s saw a modest increase in Jewish families moving into the booming spa town of Cheltenham. In 1823 they established the Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation and in 1824, land was purchased in Elm Street for a cemetery; this is still in use. In 1837, a young local architect, William Hill Knight, was commissioned to design and build a Synagogue which was consecrated on 14th May 1839. The Synagogue had some 75 members in 1845 – 50 but this number declined until, in 1903, the Synagogue closed. However, in 1939, it re-opened due to an influx of evacuees, refugees and members of the armed forces including many from local American Bases. The Synagogue has remained open ever since. (Taken from <http://www.cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk/History.htm>)

The following pages contain the references to registers of Cheltenham Synagogue.
There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Deaths | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 1869-1895 | | | D3883 Uncat. Accn. 10846 |

Other Records

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Subscriptions | D3883/2/5 | Accounts of subscriptions received from individual members of the congregation c.1837-1891 |
| Memorial Inscriptions | GAL/K3/42612GS GAL/K3/53085GS | Jewish burial ground, Elm Street Jewish synagogue (Contains only 10 memorials) |
| History | PA 78/95 | The Hebrew community of Cheltenham, Gloucester and Stroud (1989) |

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Other Sources to try

Related Collections See D3883 for full list of records.

Some related records are held at the Hartley Library, Archives and Special Collections Department, University of Southampton (archives@soton.ac.uk) Ref: MS 161. Contains:

 Combined Ledger and Minute Book 1800-1896

 Offerings book for festivals of the Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation c. 1840

Books/Pamphlets Cheltenham Jews in the nineteenth century (PQ21.41GS)

Methodist

Albion Street (Wesleyan Methodist)

See St Matthews (Wesleyan/United Methodist)

Arle (Wesleyan Methodist)

The Methodist meeting place at Arle was relatively short lived. It first appears on the Cheltenham circuit of preaching places in 1847. It is understood that it was given up by the 1860s.

The following pages contain the references to registers of Arle Methodist Preaching Place; however the following pages contain the references to registers of Cheltenham Methodist Circuit, which should contain entries from all churches in the Cheltenham circuit.

There is also a list of other sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1847-1860 | | | | | D3418/1/1/17 |

Other Records

Ecclesiastical Census D3418/2/7/1/1 Ecclesiastical census return, 1851

Bethesda (Wesleyan Methodist)

Around 1828 meetings were held in Bath Road area by Rev Newstead of the Wesleyan Ebenezer Chapel. The popularity of these missionary meetings prompted the group to take some rooms on St Phillips Street. Shortly after this they group moved again to larger premises in a nearby old Blacksmith Shop, but a chapel was needed. In 1830 land was bought on Great Norwood Street and the new chapel opened in the summer of 1830, after only 6 weeks of building. The church continued to grow in popularity, and again a bigger chapel was needed. The Bethesda chapel (also on Great Norwood Street) was opened on January 16th 1846. The old chapel was demolished and the land was used for the old St James' Church of England School (now residential properties known Old School Court). By 1865 the church had 154 members, and the school buildings were enlarged in 1871. In 1881 the church began mission meetings on Lansdown Bridge, which went on to form St Mark's Methodist Church. In 1989 Bethesda joined with members of the St Matthew's Methodist congregation.

No registers for the Bethesda Chapel have been deposited; however the following pages contain the references to registers of Cheltenham Methodist Circuit, which should contain entries from all churches in the Cheltenham circuit. There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1846-1983 | | | | | D3418/1/1/17 |
| | | | 1919-1922 | | D3418/1/1/12 |

Other Records

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| Minutes | D3418/2/8/1/ | See catalogue for full list. |
| Sunday School | D3418/2/8/5/ | See catalogue for full list. |
| History | P2.30GS | Origin and progress of Wesleyan Methodism in Cheltenham and district (1912) |

Other Sources to try

Related Collections See also D3418/2/13 for records of Wesley Chapel and St Matthew's.

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Ebenezer, King Street

1813-1840 Wesleyans, see St Matthews (Wesleyan/United Methodist)

1843-1855 Baptists who went on to form Cambray church, see Cambray Baptist Church (Baptist)

1859-1934 Primitive Methodists, see King Street (Primitive Methodist)

King Street (Primitive Methodist)

For previous churches that used this building see St Matthews (Wesleyan/United Methodist) for 1813-1840. Between 1843 and 1855 the chapel was used by the Cambray Baptists, before they moved to Cambray.

The first primitive Methodist chapel in the town appears to have been on Russell Street, which began life as a Primitive Methodist mission in 1838. In 1847 the Methodists had no further use of the building and it was sold by auction to members of the Congregational Union (later becoming Gas Green Baptist Chapel). In 1851 the Primitive Methodists seemed to be revived in Cheltenham and took on a meeting place in Fairview Street, where they remained until they purchased the Ebenezer Chapel on King Street in 1859. The church closed in 1934, upon the merging of the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists. It was later restored, and converted into flats in the mid-1990s, and is now known as 'Kings Court'.

The following pages contain the references to registers of King Street (PM) Chapel.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1860-1929 | | | | | D3418/1/1/18 |

Other Records

| | | |
|---------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Minutes | D3418/2/9/1/1 | Trustees' meeting, 1859-1870 |
| | D3418/2/9/1/2 | Trustees' meeting, 1913-1935 |

History

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Related Collections | See other records under D3418/2/9. See catalogue for full list. D5130/83, D2318/1/8 and D11659 for deeds of the chapel/meeting house. |
|---------------------|--|

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Books/Pamphlets | See B602/48605GS Gas Green Story 1849-1999 for history of the Russell Street Chapel |
|-----------------|---|

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Meakings Passage Chapel (Wesleyan Methodist)

See **St Matthews (Wesleyan/United Methodist)**

Royal Well/Bethany Chapel (Wesleyan Free Methodist)

The Bethany (or Regent) Chapel on Regent Street was opened around 1840, and is described as being Wesleyan Association. This chapel was then closed in 1865 and the congregation moved to the Royal Well Chapel, on the corner of Chapel Walk with St George's Road, in 1865. The Regent Street chapel was used by the Brethren, known as Regent Hall but is now used as retail units. The new chapel could seat up to 600 people. This chapel remained open until the Methodists united in the 1930s. The chapel was sold in 1936 and the proceeds granted to St Mark's Methodist Chapel. The building appears to have been demolished and replaced with housing.

The following pages contain the references to registers of Royal Well/Bethany.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1865-1893 | | | | | D3418/2/10/1/1 |
| 1898-1931 | | | | | D3418/2/10/1/2 |

Other Records

| | | |
|---------|----------------|--|
| Minutes | D3418/2/10/2/1 | Quarterly meeting with church and leaders' meetings, 1920-1930 |
|---------|----------------|--|

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Related Items | See also D5678/2 for the deeds of the Bethany Chapel D3418/2/16/2/5 Photograph of chapel c.1936 D4337/2/1 "Special Trust" schedules for Royal Well chapel and schoolroom, and minister's house 1925-1934 |
|---------------|--|

St Mark's (Wesleyan Methodist)

St Mark's began in 1881, when Missionaries from Bethesda held open air meetings on the Lansdown railway bridge. By 1889 the group had started meeting behind a Coffee Tavern on the junction of Queen's Road and Gloucester Road. In 1890 land was purchased on Gloucester Road for the purpose of building a new chapel. The church was opened on May 14th 1891. The church shared its minister with others on the circuit, mainly Bethesda, only gaining its own in the 1953. This church quickly became too small, and land was purchased in 1909 on the north side of Gloucester Road for a much larger church. The new church was opened on November 15th 1911. The old church was kept as a Sunday School Building. On June 12th 1944 an electrical fault caused a fire which damaged the church. For the next 2 years services were held in the old church premises. The renovated church was opened on April 7th 1949. In 1965 St Mark's became a stewardship church. Between 1967 and 1972 a Sunday School was opened in Hatherley. A new school building was built behind the church and opened on May 11th 1974.

No registers for St Mark's have been deposited; however the following pages contain the references to registers of Cheltenham Methodist Circuit, which should contain entries from all churches in the Cheltenham circuit.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-------------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| c.1891-1983 | | | | | D3418/1/1/17 |
| | | | 1907 | | D3418/1/1/11 |
| | | | 1919 | | D3418/1/1/12 |

Other Records

| | | |
|---------|----------------|---|
| Minutes | D3418/2/12/1/ | Includes Trustees, Society and Leader's meetings. See Catalogue for full list. |
| | D3418/1/2/ | Circuit minutes. See Catalogue for full list. |
| History | D3418/2/12/6/1 | 'A century of Methodism in St. Mark's', by Rev. R. Wilson; order of service, St. Mark's centenary anniversary |

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Other Sources to try

Related Collections See D3418/2/12 Catalogue for full list of items.
See also D3418/2/8 for records of Bethesda Church
See also D12083/14 - Slides on the design and opening of St Marks Methodist church (1910-1911)

Books/Pamphlets

St Matthew's (Wesleyan/United Methodist)

The Methodist congregation which shared church premises with St Matthews has its roots in the 18th century. George Wesley first preached in Cheltenham in 1744 and by 1757 Methodism had established itself in the form of societies. Around 1764 the Methodists were using a chapel on Albion Street, which was across the road from Pate's Alms Houses. At first the chapel was part of the large Bristol Circuit, until 1770 when the Gloucestershire Circuit was formed. Around this time, however, the congregation began to decline as many of the leaders left the town. The chapel appears to have been used by the Countess of Huntingdon's preachers and then alternated between Baptist and Methodist preachers. By the 1800s the Albion Street chapel was becoming too dilapidated, so the congregation moved to the chapel on Meakings Passage, roughly where Pittville Street is now. The occupation of this building was short lived (1810-1813), as the congregation decided to build their own chapel. The King Street or Ebenezer Chapel was opened on Sept 16th 1813. Around this time, the Gloucestershire circuit split, leaving Cheltenham at the head of its own circuit which included Gretton and Winchcombe amongst other smaller preaching places.

By the 1830s Ebenezer was becoming too small, and in 1837 the decision to build a new church was made. Wesley Church on St George St was opened August 21st 1840. Ebenezer was sold to the Baptists who would later found Cambray Baptist Chapel. Although popularity of the church increased, major losses to the circuit were made due to the number of emigrants and the split of the Reformers in 1850. However many of these returned in the 1860s, boosting numbers. By 1865 there were 280 members at Wesley. The chapel remained popular through the 19th and early 20th century, despite the opening of several other chapels in the town. In 1932 the Wesleyans joined with the Primitive Methodists to form the United Methodists. Wesley Chapel remained open until 1971, when falling numbers forced it to close. (It is now known as Wesley House and is used by Cheltenham and District Housing Association Limited.) The congregation relocated to shared premises with St Matthew's Church of England Church on Clarence Street. This agreement appears to have ended in 1989. The Methodist congregation merged with that of Bethesda Methodist Church.

The following pages contain the references to registers of St Matthew's and its predecessors.
There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|------------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1812-1837 | | | | MF1264 | |
| 1837-1983* | | | | | D3418/1/1/17 |

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| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | | 1840-1918 | | | D3418/2/13/1/1 |
| | 1858-1899 | | | | D3418/2/13/1/11 |
| | | | 1834 | | D3418/2/13/1/3 (Part 1) |
| | | | c.1902 | | D3418/2/13/1/4 |
| | | | 1907-1916 | | D3418/1/1/11 |
| | | | 1919-1922 | | D3418/1/1/12 |
| | | | 1939-1983 | | D3418/2/13/1/3 (Part 2) |

*Covers the whole Cheltenham Circuit

Other Records

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| Minutes | D3418/2/13/2/ | See catalogue for full list. |
| | D3418/1/2/1/ | Circuit Minutes. See catalogue for full list. |
| Memorial Inscriptions | GAL/K3/42619 | 1987 Survey of the Graveyard at Wesley Chapel |
| Sunday School | D3418/2/13/6/ | See catalogue for full list. |
| History | P2.93GS | Early history of Methodism in Cheltenham, 1739-1812 |
| | P2.30GS | Origin and progress of Wesleyan Methodism in Cheltenham and district (1912) |

Other Sources to try

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Related Collections | See D3418/2/11 (Wesley) and D3418/2/13 (St Matthews & Predecessors). See P78/9 for records of St Matthews Church of England Church. D5130/83, D2318/1/8 Deeds of Ebenezer Chapel | |
|---------------------|---|--|

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Swindon Road Chapel (Wesleyan Methodist)

A preaching place on Stanhope Street was first listed in 1852 in a small cottage. Over the next ten years attendance numbers grew, and the Sunday School was particularly popular. The decision was made in 1864 to build a new school/chapel. The Swindon Road Chapel was opened on November 20th 1864. The church was free from debt when the new chapel opened, this was partly due to the money received from the sale of the Golden Valley (Staverton) Methodist Chapel but also due to the church's popularity. The chapel appears to have been sold to the Salvation Army in 1965 and renamed William Booth Hall.

The following pages contain the references to registers of Swindon Road.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1897-1963 | | | | | D3418/2/15/1/1 |
| | | | 1907-1916 | | D3418/1/1/11 |
| | | | 1919-1922 | | D3418/1/1/12 |
| | | | 1939-1954 | | D3418/2/13/1/3 (Part 2) |

Other Records

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---|
| Minutes | D3418/2/15/2/ | See catalogue for full list. |
| Sunday School | D3418/2/15/5/ | See catalogue for full list. |
| History | P2.30GS | Origin and progress of Wesleyan Methodism in Cheltenham and district (1912) |

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Wesley Chapel (Wesleyan Methodist)

See **St Matthews (Wesleyan/United Methodist)**

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Whaddon Estate/St Michaels (United Methodist)

Whaddon Methodist Chapel was opened in 1940. Money from the sale of the Primitive Methodist's King Street Chapel was used to purchase the land on Mersey Road. An act of arson in 1995 resulted in the burning down of the chapel. The congregation were forced to move earlier than planned to occupy shared premises with St Michael's Church of England Church, forming the United Church of St Michael.

The following pages contain the references to registers of Whaddon/St Michaels.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|----------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | 1944-1955 | | | | D3418/2/16/6/1 |
| | 1955-1977 | | | | D3418/2/16/6/2 |
| | | | 1954-1969 | | D3418/2/13/1/3 (Part 2) |
| | | | 1970-1990 | | D3418/2/16/6/3 |

Other Records

| | | |
|---------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Minutes | D3418/2/16/1/ | See catalogue for full list |
|---------|---------------|-----------------------------|

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Related Collections | See also P78/17 for the records of St Michael's Church of England Church. See D3418/1/2/3/7 for minutes of the Whaddon Estate church committee, 1935-38 |
|---------------------|--|

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Presbyterian

St Andrews Presbyterian or United Reformed Church (Presbyterian)

See Cheltenham Chapel, later St Andrews Presbyterian Church (Independent, Congregational or Presbyterian)

Quakers / Society of Friends

Cheltenham Society of Friends Meetings (Quakers)

The first meetings in Cheltenham took place around 1660. After the 1689 Toleration Act made non-conformist meetings legal, Elizabeth Sandford signed over some land for use as a Quaker Meeting House. This Meeting House stood in Manchester Place and was licensed at Michaelmas Quarter Sessions in 1703. In 1836 when the old building fell into a state of disrepair it was sold and a new building was erected close-by on Manchester Walk, now Clarence Street. In 1902 North House was purchased and a new Meeting House on Portland Street was built in the grounds. The house was then resold. The Portland Street Meeting House was demolished in 1983 to make way for a road development. The meetings then moved to a site on Warwick Place where new premises were built in 1985, where meetings are held today (2012).

The following pages contain the references to registers of the Cheltenham Meetings.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| PREPARATIVE MEETINGS (Cheltenham) | | | | | |
| 1842-1861 | | | | | D1340/C4/R1 |
| 1862-1864 | | | | | D1340/C4/R2 |
| | | 1829-1838 | | | D1340/C4/R3 |
| | | 1840-1861 | | | D1340/C4/R4 |
| | | 1862 | | | D1340/C4/R5 |
| MONTHLY MEETINGS (Gloucester) | | | | | |
| | | 1862-1868 | | | D1340/B2/R1 |
| | | 1868-1872 | | | D1340/B2/R2 |

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| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | | | 1820-1838 | | D1340/B2/Z1 |
| | | | 1837-1900 | | D1340/B2/Z2 |
| MONTHLY MEETINGS (Gloucester & Nailsworth) | | | | | |
| | | 1867-1958 | | | D1340/B2/R3 |
| | | 1897-1898 | | | D1340/B2/R4 |
| 1865-1870 | | | | | D1340/B4/R1 |
| | | 1872-1881 | | | D1340/B4/R2 |
| 1870-1877 | | | | | D1340/B4/R3 |
| 1877-1897 | | | | | D1340/B4/R4 |
| 1897-1905 | | | | | D1340/B4/R5 |
| 1905-1909 | | | | | D1340/B4/R6 |
| | | | 1899-1962 | | D1340/B4/Z2 |
| QUARTERLEY MEETINGS (Gloucestershire) | | | | | |
| 1642-1837 | | | | | D1340/A1/R1 |
| | 1656-1836 | | | | D1340/A1/R2 |
| | | 1655-1837 | | | D1340/A1/R3 |
| 1647-1750 | 1658-1704 | 1658-1756 | | | D1340/A1/R4 |
| | | 1865-1908 | | | D1340/A1/R5 |

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| Baptisms | Marriages | Burials | Church Roll | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|----------|-----------|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | 1838-1958 | | | | D1340/A1/R6 |

Other Records

| | | |
|---------|-------------|---|
| Minutes | D1340/C4/M2 | Preparative Meetings 1904-1946 |
| | D1340/C4/M1 | Minutes of Cheltenham Preparative Meeting 1947-1978 |

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Related Collections | See D1340 for full list of items. See also D6518 |
|---------------------|--|

Roman Catholics

St Gregory's (Roman Catholic)

The first Catholic services in Cheltenham were held by visiting Priests and the Gloucester Priest. The first Cheltenham Parish Priest was Fr Augustine Birdsall, who was sent from Douai Abbey in 1809. He quickly set about building a chapel, at his own personal cost, which opened on Sunday 10 June 1810. The congregation grew quickly and by 1854 the chapel was too small. In 1854 Fr Ambrose Cotham laid the foundation stone of the present church, the east end of which was opened by Bishop Clifford of Clifton on May 26, 1857. The tower was built in 1864 and the spire completed in 1871, at first unconnected to the main church until the nave was completed joining the two sections in 1876. The whole building was consecrated by Bishop Clifford on November 7, 1877. The street on which the church stands is called Ambrose Street in commemoration of Fr Ambrose Cotham. The parish was in the care of the English Benedictines from 1809, and was assigned to the Douai monastery at Upper Woolhampton (Berkshire) in 1899. The control of the parish was handed from the Douai Abbey to Clifton Diocese due to the declining number of Monks. In 2008 the church joined with St Thomas More's Church and Sacred Hearts, Charlton Kings to form the Roman Catholic Parish of Cheltenham.

The following pages contain the references to registers of St Gregory's.

There is also a list of other major sources relating to the church, which may be of interest.

| Baptisms | Marriages | Deaths | Confirmations | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1809-1855 | | 1810-1829 | | MF1568 | |
| | | 1851-1855 | | MF1568 | |
| 1856-1886 | | | | MF1560 | |
| 1886-1898 | | | | MF1564 | |
| 1898-1908 | | | | MF1568 | |
| 1908-1923 | | | | MF1564 or MF1627 | |
| | 1856-1932 | | | MF1560 | |

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| Baptisms | Marriages | Deaths | Confirmations | Microfilm Reference | Original Register |
|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | | 1856-1869 | | MF1560 | |
| | | 1869-1895 | | MF1560 | |
| | | 1895-1964 | | MF1564 | |
| | | | 1858-1918 | MF1564 | |

Other Records

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Church Notice Books | D4290/PP/3/1-20 | Includes times and details of services, names of members of the congregation sick or dead, banns of marriage, and other notices to the congregation, 1913-1965. See Catalogue for full references. | |
| Memorial Inscriptions | | | |
| Mass Intentions | D4290/PP/2/1 | 1913-1916 | Record date, name of person for whom mass was said and initials of officiating minister, |
| | D4290/PP/2/2 | 1916-1924 | |
| | D4290/PP/2/3 | 1924-1952 | |
| Catholic Census 1921 | D4290/PP/4/3 | Incomplete record of whether individual parishioners were married, baptised, and confirmed. Also includes remarks on education of children and attendance at church | |
| History | GAL/G5/41070GS | Catholic mission at Cheltenham 1799-1809 Cheltenham Local History Society journal, 10, 1993/1994, p. 15-19 | |

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Other Sources to try

Related Collections See D4290 for full list of items
See also D10307: Printed subscription list towards the costs of building Cheltenham St Gregory's Roman Catholic Church 1853
See also Q/SR/1799/C Application for a Catholic Church, Cheltenham 1799

Books/Pamphlets D4290/PP/4/11 Some account of St. Gregory's Catholic church, Cheltenham 1877 (Describes the architecture and items of interest in the church.)

St Thomas More (Roman Catholic)

The original church was built in 1967 on Princess Elizabeth Way. Since 2008, the church has joined with [St Gregory's](#) and [Sacred Hearts, Charlton Kings](#) to form the Roman Catholic Parish of Cheltenham. The original church was demolished in 2011, but the congregation will continue to worship in the adjoining Hall, which is also use by community groups.

**No registers for St Thomas More have been deposited.
However the following items may be of interest.**

Other Records

| | | |
|-------|---------------|---|
| Plans | CBR/C5/6/3/15 | Plans of the St Thomas More's Roman Catholic church, Princess Elizabeth Way, 1964 |
|-------|---------------|---|

Other Sources to try

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Related Collections | See also D4290 for Records of St Gregory's |
|---------------------|--|

Unitarian

Bayshill, Royal Well (Unitarian)

The original Bayshill Unitarian Church was built around 1843 on what is now Chapel Walk. The main church is now no longer used for religious purposes and the Unitarian congregation meet in the old Church Hall, which is situated on Royal Well Lane behind the old church. Both properties do however have Listed Building status. From 1956 the chapel shared a minister with Barton Street Unitarian church in Gloucester. The old chapel currently houses an Auction Company (2012).

**No registers of Bayshill Unitarian Church have been deposited at Gloucestershire Archives.
However, the following items may be of interest.**

Other Sources to try

Related Collections See also D10172

Books/Pamphlets Antiquity of man: a sermon delivered in the Bayshill Unitarian church, Cheltenham, 27 March 1892 (SR39/3165.10GS)

"Jesu, Mercy." Prayer for the dead: a sermon, preached in Bayshill Unitarian chapel, 10 Oct. and suggested by a discussion in the Cheltenham town council on 4 Oct. 1880 (P2.57GS)
