

Common Ground and Sacred Space



Gloucester Cathedral Precincts

A Handbook for Guides

Common Ground and Sacred Space

Why 'Common Ground and Sacred Space'?

Soon after the dissolution of the Benedictine monastery of St Peter and the creation of Gloucester Cathedral in 1541, many of the buildings and grounds that passed into the hands of the newly formed College of Canons were in 'Common' usage or ownership. Amongst others, there was the Common Orchard, the Common Kitchen, the Common Dining Hall and the Common Orchard.

This 'Common Ground', has been a 'Sacred Space' since the first abbey was established here in AD679

This Handbook has been produced from a much larger and far more detailed study and is meant for the interested reader who wants to know more about this fascinating part of Gloucester but does not wish to spend time trawling through the existing literature.

Over time, errors and omissions will come to light as this handbook gets read. It is intended to be a living document ready to be updated and corrected on a regular basis.

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It is an educational study for internal use

Richard Auckland
Spring 2019

Common Ground and Sacred Space

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THE PRECINCT BOUNDARY

After the Abbey's closure in 1540 and the creation of Gloucester Cathedral, its walled boundary changed little, and much of this can still be seen, either the original stonework, or a later wall following the line of the original.

The aerial view below outlines in red the Cathedral's precincts as they are today and has been annotated to show the location of the buildings and ground which are discussed in this handbook.

The northern boundary wall travels along Pitt Street, the western wall along St Mary's Square / Street, the remains of the southern wall run behind the houses of upper and lower College Green. To the east, the line of the old wall is not clear but most likely ran along what is now St John's Lane and part of Hare Lane.

Parts of the old southern wall can still be seen as the garden walls of the houses in College Green.



A BRIEF HISTORY

Gloucester, situated at the lowest crossing of the River Severn, has always been an important location. The Roman army established a fortress here, and even before then, prehistoric tribes established a crossing of the river.

In 679, some years after the departure of the Roman legions from Gloucester, Osric, an Anglo Saxon prince from the Hwicce tribe, established an Abbey somewhere near the North-Western corner of the old Roman walled town.

Ever since then, this site was occupied by a religious community, culminating in the establishment of a large Benedictine monastery and construction of the beautiful Abbey Church of St Peter, which, in 1541, became the Cathedral Church for the newly formed Diocese of Gloucester.

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After the dissolution of the monastery in 1540, many of its buildings were initially occupied by the new Cathedral clergy, who were collectively known as the 'College of Canons', hence the naming of College Green and College Street.

The turbulent times of the reformation in the late sixteenth century and the civil war during the middle of the seventeenth century left their marks on the Cathedral Church, the old monastery buildings and the surrounding area.

Increasing prosperity in Gloucester during the eighteenth century and the resultant construction of properties within the old monastery perimeter, altered the appearance of the southern, western and northern parts, though the east remained largely untouched.

Whilst it may appear that change has been sporadic, it has, in fact, been continual on and around this site since the construction by Osric of the first Abbey in AD679.

The dissolution of the Benedictine monastery, the conversion of the Abbey Church into the Cathedral of the newly created Diocese of Gloucester and the appointment of John Wakeman as its Bishop started changes to the Abbey's precincts that continue to the present day.

For the previous five hundred years or so Benedictine monks had lived, worked, studied and worshiped in their cloistered community. They were safe in the knowledge that the lay world was firmly outside the monastery's boundary and any incursion into their regular and ordered life was under their control.

Now this had all changed, the community of monks had been dispersed - though some were retained as priests serving the new cathedral.

Replacing them there was now a 'College of Canons' (some known as Prebendary Canons¹) occupying not only the monk's buildings but also their Quire² stalls.

Probably not much changed regarding the daily liturgy, after all England was still primarily a Catholic country, albeit no longer offering allegiance to the Pope.

But before long a new wave of religious thought would sweep the country bringing an upheaval that would have a dramatic and significant impact on, not only the fabric of the newly formed Cathedral, but also on the people who worked and worshipped there.

Initially little happened structurally, the cathedral precincts were still entirely surrounded by the walls that had been built in the days of Abbot Peter (1104-13), but gradually the buildings and ground surrounding the Cathedral changed.

The encroachment onto the old monastery ground was slow but insidious.

The land surrounding the east end of the church became known as The Common Orchard and was divided into parcels of land that were leased. Although tenants were not allowed to build on this area it gradually became scruffy and poorly maintained.

Reflecting the presence of the College of Canons that were now residing in the precincts, the Lay Cemetery was initially called Upper College Churchyard and eventually became known as Upper College Green; The Great Court was referred to as Lower College Churchyard and subsequently Lower College Green.

¹ For a discussion on Canons and Prebendary canons see the section at the end of this document

² The Quire is the place in which a choir sings.

The Boundary

The lay graveyard perimeter wall that stretched from what is today the corner of the garden of No 6 to the south west corner of the church and which separated the upper and lower churchyards was not taken down until 1768.

Around this time these two areas, which came to be called College Green, were landscaped with walks around the two central lawns. The main paths and roadways were gravelled or paved and lined with lime trees. The drainage system improved.

The Inner Court eventually became known as Miller's Green, though by then the Abbey Mill was abandoned and in some state of disrepair.

Soon after the dissolution, the abbey's fields had been sold off and the mill was therefore no longer required.

Being the entrance to the Bishop's Palace, this was also known as Palace Yard until relatively recent times.

By the middle years of the seventeenth century the precincts had seen modest housing developments, especially in both the Upper Churchyard and Miller's Green.

However, in the eighteenth-century, Gloucester was promoted as a Spa and its new-found wealth from trade led to the building of fine houses in various parts of the city. This was reflected around the cathedral where several the houses date from the latter half of this century.

The brook and the medieval drain running beneath the complex of housing¹ that had sprung up around the old infirmary continued to create problems for those living in and around these tenements and work was undertaken to improve the drainage in this area.

For many years, the main gates leading into the cathedral precincts from the city streets had been manned by porters. However, in 1762, soldiers caused disturbances and damage in the precincts, and so in order to preserve the peace, King Edward's Gate, St Mary's Gateway and the infirmary gate leading into Pitt Street were ordered to be shut by the porters at 11 o'clock at night and opened again at 6 o'clock in the morning. However, this ruling did not please everyone living around the precincts. One night in 1766 the infirmary gate was broken down by John Pitt and he was subsequently charged in the Court of the King's Bench. He was a prominent resident of the precincts, an attorney and later Member of Parliament.

Even though there had been a 'constable of the precincts' for some time, disturbances were to continue, with frequent outbreaks of trouble right up to the 1780s.

The middle of the 1800s saw the old Abbot's Palace being replaced by a new Bishop's Palace (the building that is now used by King's School) and the area round the old infirmary cleared of all the ramshackle tenements that had given the area a disreputable reputation.

So, by the end of the 1800s all major development had ceased and the 1900s saw the precincts settle into a genteel post-Victorian slumber.

Finally, the completion in 2018 of Project Pilgrim's reordering of Upper College Green returns the area to the tranquillity that must have existed there when the monks finally left, and the Abbey was no more.

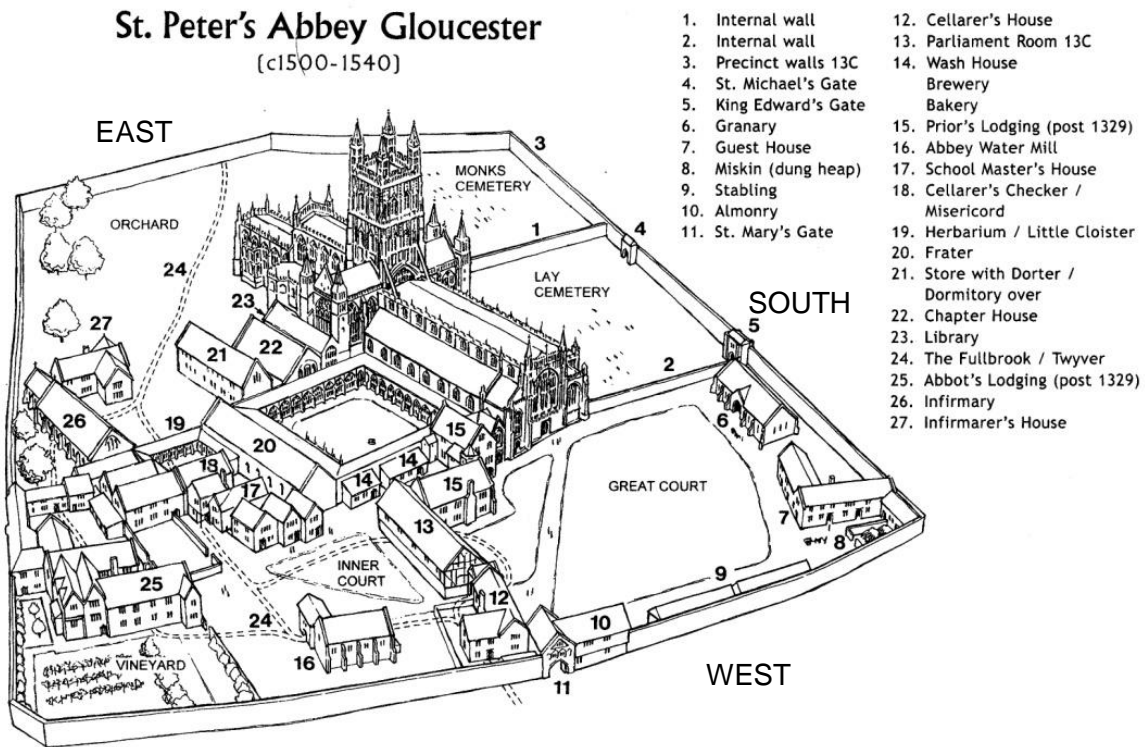
¹ See the section on the Infirmary and Babylon.

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THE ABBEY

THE ABBEY BUILDINGS

The drawing, below, shows the Abbey as it most likely appeared at the time of its dissolution in 1541.



What is clearly evident is the substantial number of buildings surrounding the Abbot's Palace complex to the north.

The two 'internal' walls either side of the Lay Cemetery (1 & 2) isolated this from the remainder of the Abbey grounds. Only the King Edward (5) and St Michael's (4) gateways allowed access to this area from the town.

Although some of the monastery's buildings remain today, the area round the Great Court (Lower College Green), Inner Court (Miller's Green), Lay Cemetery (Upper College Green) and the Monk's Cemetery all now contain buildings that were erected post dissolution. The various monastic buildings around the precincts were laid out in the traditional way for Benedictine houses, though unusually, the cloisters are situated on the colder, northern, side rather than the traditional, and warmer, southern. Why the cloisters are so placed is not clear.

The south-west quarter of the monastery's site was the *curia*, the outer or great court. In it stood the buildings for the welfare of guests, consisting of halls, accommodation chambers (7 in the map above) and stabling (9).

In the western wall was the Almoner's house (10) and alongside it the great gate-house called St Mary's Gate. (11) These were the buildings which were used for the relief of the poor, (known as *eleemosynary buildings*) and it was from these that alms or the 'dole' would be distributed.

The Abbey

The *hospitate* buildings, which were allocated for the reception of guests, were generally arranged in three groups.

- The abbot's group, where the king, distinguished churchmen and the nobility were entertained. These were initially situated on the west side of the cloister, at the north-west corner of the church (15).

However, in the fourteenth century a new lodging for the abbot was built on the north side of the precincts (25) and his first lodging (15) was handed over to the prior.

- The second group (12), in charge of the cellarer, stood somewhere in the great court. Here merchants and other visitors of middle rank would be entertained.

- The third group would be where the lower orders such as pilgrims and paupers were housed.

Today, the beamed roof of No1 College Yard bears witness to the presence of a building which probably housed pilgrims and there is evidence of a great hall within the fabric of No 8 Lower College Green.

On the north side of the outer court was a gate through which access was gained to the inner court and a further range of buildings. In this smaller, court (today known as Miller's Green) there was the mill (16), driven by the Fullbrook, the bake house, brewery, wash house (14), the monastery kitchen and other service buildings.

The north side of the precincts contained a complex of buildings which included the abbot's lodging (25), infirmary buildings (26) and Infirmary's house (27). It would appear that these were connected to the main monastic buildings by covered ways, one of which leads past Little cloister and is known as 'Dark Passage'.

Around the east end of the church there was an area of land that was partly an orchard, partly cultivated, and partly used as the monks' cemetery. The eastern wall most probably was bounded by the roads today known as Hare Lane and St John's Lane.

From about 1460 this area of land appears to have been cut in two by a wall which adjoined the east end of the newly constructed Lady Chapel and extended eastwards to the outer precinct wall.

The northern part of this garden would have been entered from the cloisters via the eastern slype, and the southern part through the passage beneath the east end of the Lady Chapel.

A wall (1) also extended south from the corner of the church's south transept to join the southern wall of the precincts. This divided the area on the south side of the church into the 'inner' or monks' cemetery, lying on the east side, and the 'outer' or lay cemetery on the west side. The garden walls of Nos. 17 to 20 College Green follow this line and are most probably the original wall.

The lay cemetery was an enclosed area as it was also bounded on the west by a wall (2) which stretched from the south boundary wall to the south west corner of the church. The east wall of the garden of No. 6 follows the line of this wall, the foundations of which were revealed in September 2017 during the laying of the new paving around the south west corner of the Cathedral.

This enclosed arrangement enabled the monastery to retain the seclusion of its grounds whilst allowing the laity to have access through the 'Lych-Gate' (5) and to enter the nave via church's south porch.

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THE ABBEY GATES

ST. MARY'S (THE GREAT GATEWAY)

The wall, built by Abbot Peter, had a great gate-house (11) in the middle of its west side known as St Mary's Gateway. It is first recorded in 1190, but the current superstructure appears to be early thirteenth century.

This was the main entrance to the Abbey and the gate from which alms were distributed. The Almonry (10) stood alongside this.



Its name relates to the Anglo-Saxon foundation of St. Mary de Lode, which stands immediately to the west. When the gate was built, the River Severn came closer than it does today and the area to the west around St. Mary-de-Lode and the earlier river quays would have been an important entry point into Gloucester. The gate thus served as an impressive entrance to the Abbey.

Archaeological evidence indicates that the present ground level is higher than the medieval level - which would have meant that the gateway would originally have been taller.

There is no direct access between the gate passageway and the first-floor room above it. The link between the two is by way of a stair built into the north wall.

In 1555 Bishop Hooper was burnt at the stake near the West Gate and the Dean and Chapter are thought to have watched the event from its upper room.

The Abbey

The entire east elevation of the gatehouse is a recreation by the cathedral architect F S Waller in the early 20th century who based it largely on the west elevation, on the simple hypothesis that the two sides of the gatehouse should have been broadly similar.

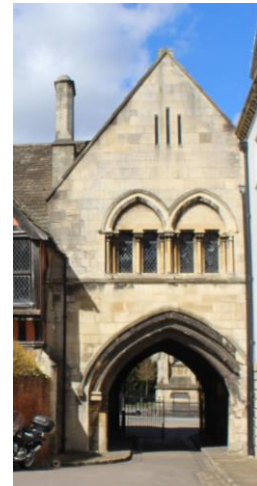
At various times, the gateway was considered to be in a very poor state of repair and so major work was undertaken in 1916, 1927 and 1948 to stabilise the building.

Over the years St Mary's Gateway has had a varied history of occupation.

From soon after the Dissolution, the room above the gate passage was assigned to the Chapter Clerk and used to store the cathedral muniments. This continued until about 1651 after which it was either domestic accommodation or shops.

In recent times the rooms above the gateway have been used as the Diocesan Records office (1950 – 1980) the Diocesan Resource Centre (1982 – 1997) and finally, part of the Cathedral Education Centre in October 1998.

The education centre is discussed in more detail later.



The eastern, or inner façade of the gateway.

KING EDWARD GATEWAY



Although this later became the main entrance into the monastic precincts from the city, it was originally a minor gateway known as the 'Lich¹ Gate' and so was the gate through which a funeral cortege would enter the monastery's Lay Cemetery. It was first recorded in 1223, was subsequently enhanced by King Edward I and later 'restored and beautified' by Abbot Parker in the early 1500s. This gave public (lay) entry to both the Lay Cemetery and the nave of the Abbey church via the south entrance.

This single gate passage with rooms above, was a very richly decorated structure and designed to impress those entering the Abbey from the south

¹ Lich being the old English word for corpse

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In 1577 the rooms above the gate were leased by Anne Angell, a widow of John Angell, a prebendary of the cathedral, but subsequently was often tenanted by haberdashers or tailors. In 1673 tailor Samuel King, leased it for 20 shillings a year - a fairly large sum.

About 1770 the gatehouse appears to have been demolished leaving only part of the west side standing.

After some rebuilding the western tower of the gateway now forms part of a private dwelling that stretches back from the road.

In 1977, traces of the gateway, dated to the early 15th century were revealed in the roadway. These were covered, and their position outlined in cobble stones, which sadly were covered over by later resurfacing



The narrowness of the entrance is clearly evident. This is consistent with the width of College Street prior to 1900.



The shape of the east tower was outlined in the road surface in 1977. A subsequent resurfacing removed this evidence.

Today all that is visible of the medieval gatehouse is fragmentary and it has been considerably patched and repaired.

ST. MICHAEL'S GATE

This small, pedestrian, cemetery gate at the northern end of College Court dates most probably from the fourteenth century, but possibly somewhat later - from Abbot Parker's time (1540). The style of the visible remains of the gateway is late medieval and very late Perpendicular, verging to Tudor Gothic

This was formerly known as the 'Upper' or 'Over College' Gate, but by the seventeenth century it had become known as St Michael's Gate.

When viewed from College Court, which leads to the gate from Westgate Street, the remains of canopied niches designed for statuary can be made out, that on the west side being well-preserved.

Over the years the gateway has been widened. There is still evidence of the fixings of a gateway in its walls.

The Abbey



On the right, St Michael's Gate viewed from College Court, showing the old monastery wall to the right and on the left, from College Green showing the 18th Century extension of No1 over its top.

PALACE YARD GATE



The gateway from the monastic outer court to the inner court is mid fourteenth-century and once the abbot had moved to his lodgings on the north side (25), would have reinforced the boundary between the great court occupied by visitors and the more secluded area occupied by the Abbot and monks.

The main face of the gateway is the south side, facing visitors entering the precincts through the Great, or St. Mary's, gate nearby.

There is some evidence to suggest that the gateway is later than the adjacent medieval walling to its east, subsequently incorporated into the late 17th century house, No.7 Miller's Green.

The first-floor room is reached from Community House and is part of its curtilage. It has late 16th or early 17th century decoration.

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THE ABBOT'S LODGING

In the fourteenth century, a new lodging for the abbot was built on the north side of the precincts and his first lodging was handed over to the prior.

The complex of buildings is thought to have been built shortly before 1329, while John Wygmore was prior.

The main house had on the east side, great hall with a vaulted chamber (known as a 'camera') for the reception of the Abbot's visitors with the servants' quarters and lodgings for visitors on the west.



A painting showing the western elevation of the Abbot's Lodgings when it was the Bishop's Palace and just before its demolition

A first-floor gallery led eastward from this area towards the infirmary, to another group of rooms containing a hall, pantry, kitchen, chapel and bedrooms, these were the abbot's private apartments.

The large oriel window which can be seen from Pitt Street and the four-light window to its east would have lit the gallery of the palace. Some distance to the west of this a plain two-light window which would have lit a Drawing Room.



The remains of this gallery wall and its windows, which overlook Pitt Street, are shown in this picture.

The Abbey

At the dissolution in 1541, the Letters Patent of Henry VIII founding the Bishopric of Gloucester granted to the bishop for his residence the whole of the premises known as the Abbot's Lodging.

The majority of this rather ramshackled late-medieval building complex were damaged (probably by fire) in 1856 and demolished to be replaced in 1861 by a new building, a palace reflecting the aspirations and perceived status of a Church of England bishop in the middle of the 19th century.

This new palace was built by Ewan Christian, a well-respected church architect of the Victorian era. He was a competent and respected architect but not a great one, more noted for his churches than for his houses and garden buildings.

Subsequently the Bishop's Palace was adapted to become the main teaching and administrative block of the King's School (1954-5).



In 1958, a new episcopal palace was built to the east with its entrance from Pitt Street. Initially known as Palace House, it was renamed Bishops Court in 1975.

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THE SPACES POST DISSOLUTION

This map shows the spaces and buildings that today surround the Cathedral.

The following chapters describe the evolution of these spaces – Upper College Green; Lower College Green; Miller's Yard; The infirmary and Babylon and finally, to the east, the Common Orchard

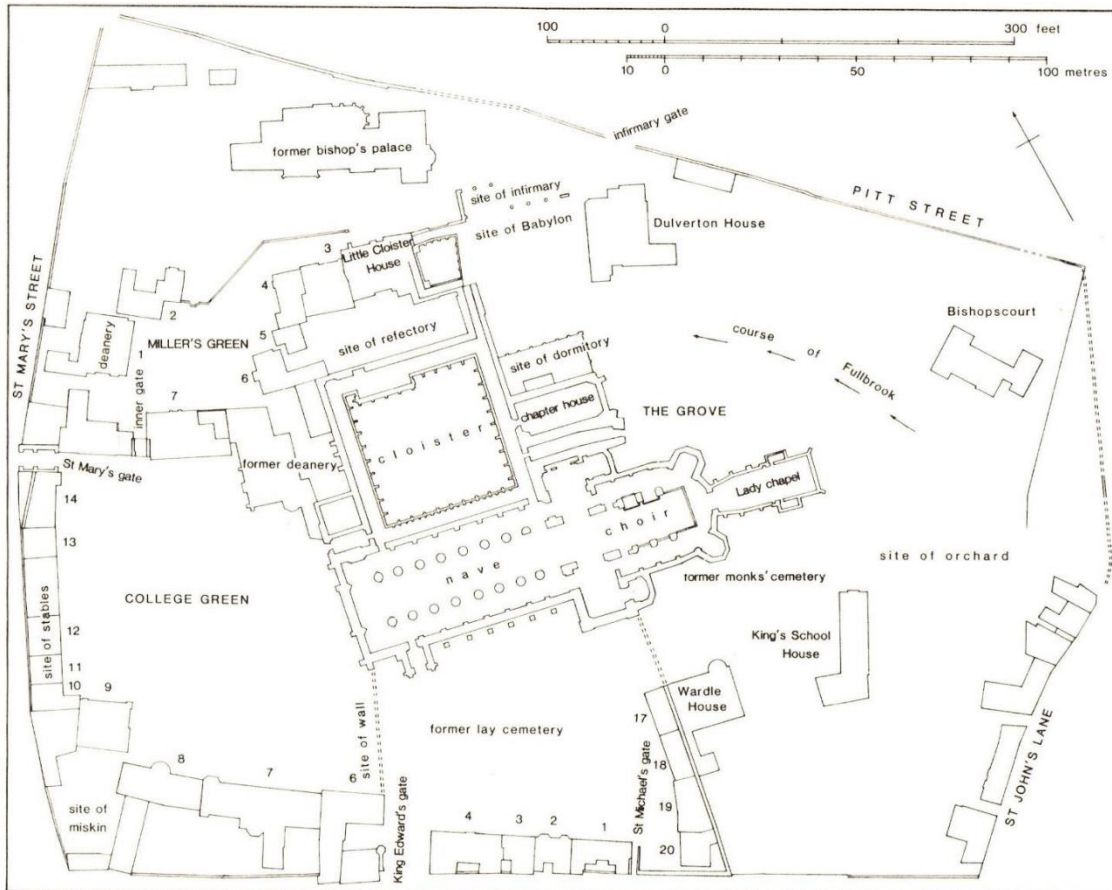


Fig. 21. Gloucester cathedral and the close, 1986

The Spaces

UPPER COLLEGE GREEN



A feature of this area was a great cross which was about 34 feet (11 metres) high. Its exact position is not certain. Taken down 1646-7, its demolition took six men a whole week to complete.

Archaeological surveys have not revealed any strong evidence of the remains of its foundations, though during groundworks in 2017, a large circular piece of stone was uncovered in front of the entrance to No.17 College Green and is currently thought to be part of the base. It is believed that this cross was an ornate structure containing figures within niches around the column, similar to the Great Cross that stood at the intersection of Gloucester's four 'Gate' Streets

Jurisdiction over this area was sometimes a cause of dispute between the monastery and the town authorities. To maintain order was a constable of the precincts and the gates leading from the city into the Close were maintained and manned by cathedral porters. It was not until 1805 that the great wooden gates at King Edward's Gate were removed. There were eighteen gas lamps around the precincts, a night watchman was employed to light and extinguished these lamps.

After the Dissolution in 1541, the area round the Cathedral changed little, though by 1595 there had been some encroachment on the eastern side of St Michael's Gate, with the fencing off the plot of land on which No 20 College Green now stands. In 1616, a house was built on this plot.

No 19 is thought to have been built between 1712 and 1722, possibly replacing two earlier 17th century houses on the site.

Nos.17 & 18 College Green were originally one dwelling, dating from around 1662 but, by 1851, these had been converted into two separate residences.

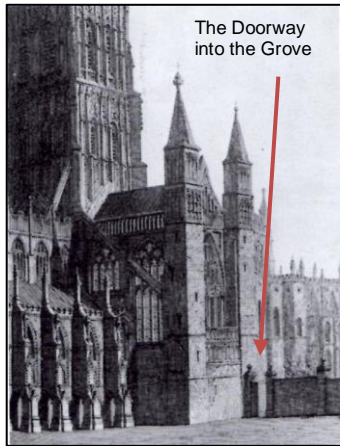
Wardle House was constructed sometime between 1677 and 1686 alongside the eastern face of the medieval wall that separated the monastic and lay cemeteries. This wall ran from the south precinct wall northwards to the edge of the Abbey Church.

By 1649, the area between the two gateways, which had been garden ground, had three little tenements on it. They were demolished about 1737 as part of the redevelopment of this plot of land. The houses numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 College Green date from around this time. About 1757 No. 1 College Green was extended over St Michael's Gate.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

The building which was No. 5 College Green was demolished in 1891 when College Street was widened.

The wall between the Upper and Lower Greens, which extended from the south-west corner of the nave to the west side of King Edward's Gate was taken down in 1768. Around this time the two areas, which came to be called College Green, were landscaped, with walks lined with lime trees around the two central lawns.



The land on the north side of the Lady Chapel, known as the Grove, contained grassy walks among well matured trees and shrubs, much as the first headmaster of the King's School, Mr Wheeler, had intended it to be when he laid out the area with the help of his pupils in the late seventeenth century. This changed in 1854 when the Chapter asked Dr Jeune to layout the grounds around the east end of the cathedral as a garden. So, in 1858 the wall extending across from Cathedral House (Wardle House) to the south-east corner of the Cathedral's south transept was taken down as part of this plan.

This area then became known as known as 'The Common Orchard.'

By 1768 burials in the churchyard were restricted, in 1771 the ground was levelled, and existing tomb stones laid flat in the grass.

In 1808 iron railings were erected both around the burial ground, and in 1810 at the south-west corner by the porch.

THE WIDENING OF COLLEGE STREET

The earliest record of College Street was in 1139, when it was named "Lychlone" from the word "Lych" which means a roofed gateway to a churchyard.

The street ran from opposite the porch of the former Holy Trinity Church in Westgate Street to the Lych gate of the abbey grounds and the Lay cemetery

In 1890 a public meeting called for the setting up of a company to 'widen and improve the approach'.

Shares were raised in the Gloucester Cathedral Approaches Co. Ltd in order to fund the demolition of the houses on the east side and widening from its constricting width of 10ft 9inches.



A view from the precincts.
The corner of the now demolished No. 5 College Green can be seen on the left.



The start of the widening of College Street as seen from Westgate Street

Lower College Green

LOWER COLLEGE GREEN



At the Dissolution of the Abbey of St Peter, its Great Court probably still had much of the monastic grandeur and functionality of previous centuries.

A range of stables, the walled miskin (rubbish heap) and a barn ran southward from the Almoner's house which adjoined the main Abbey gate, St Mary's Gate.

Most likely, this area was neither paved nor landscaped, just a hard-packed earthen court suitable for the business of the monastery.

Abutting the western end of King Edward's Gateway was a building that is thought to be the Abbey's 'Sacrist's Checker'. (No 6 College Green.) By 1577 this was a Prebendal house, sometime known as Penny House, and by the mid-17th century known as the Sexton's 'house or chamber'. It was modified and enlarged in 1813 with a late Georgian frontage - which turned the building round so that today, it now faces northward towards the Cathedral rather than eastward over the Lay Cemetery.

No 7 College Green stands on the site of the Abbey's Granary. Soon after the Dissolution, a building on this site was assigned to one of the Prebendal Canons.

Its frontage dates from the late 19th Century, but within there is evidence of a much older building.

Buried deep within No 8 College Green are the remains of a late 15th or early 16th century timber-framed building with a main hall, which were most likely the Abbey's guest hall, remodelled in the mid-17th century, remodelled again in the 18th century and, quite radically in the very late 19th or early 20th century, the building's medieval past is therefore not obvious.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

In addition to these three buildings, abutting the main gateway there was the Almoner's House (No14), the Cellarer's House on land where No.15 is today, and the Prior's residence (no16)

The most obvious evidence of the abbey's medieval accommodation is a collection of buildings, integrated into the fabric of the cathedral, and which were part of the old 'Claustal buildings' of the Benedictine monastery. Collectively these are referred to as No 16 College Green and the Parliament suite.

Initially they were the Abbot's lodgings, which then became the Prior's when the Abbott moved to his new palace to the north of Miller's Green.

This then became the Dean's house at the dissolution, and a private residence when the deanery moved in 1948 to 1 Millers Green.

About 1968 the living area became offices for the Diocese of Gloucester, and today is known as 'Church House'. The rooms that comprise the Parliament Suite form an integrated, but separate, part of the building.

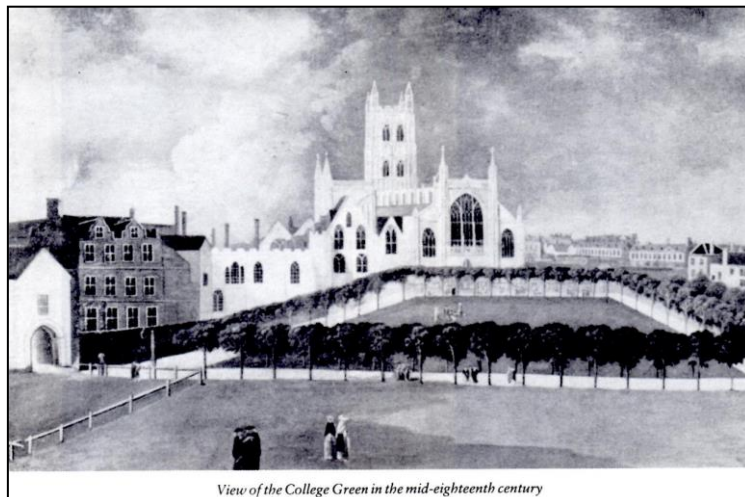
By the time of the Restoration (1666), major changes started to take place at the south-western end of the Court. The land in this area was now described as 'a waste ground', and along the western wall between the miskin and St Mary's Gate there now stood two burnt out stables. This area, ripe for development, was therefore leased off.

Built around 1707, Samuel Ricketts' splendid mansion at 9, College Green, is a particularly fine example of a large Queen Anne town house and indicates the style and quality of dwellings that were being built elsewhere in 'up and coming' Gloucester.

Next, speculators John Pascoe and Barnabus Gunn leased the land on which the burnt-out stables, stood.

One of their first building must have created quite a stir, for they constructed a house with an attached assembly room with tall sash windows, which in the time of the first tenant was used for concerts and social gatherings. This is 12 College Green, which although is now one building, its exterior reveals the two halves – residential on the left and assembly rooms on the right.

The developers then filled in the remaining land on either side. Firstly, to the north, a large house, today No. 13, which incorporated part of the Almoner's house. Then a pair of much smaller interlinked semi-detached houses to the south. These (Nos. 11 and 10) may have reflected the need at the end of the speculative project to increase the revenue by building two, small, easily let properties, rather than one grander one. No 10, seems to have been squeezed in, for it is narrow and 'L' shaped.



View of the College Green in the mid-eighteenth century

Lower College Green

Reflecting the changes that were happening elsewhere in Gloucester during the early 1700s, the centre of the Court was grassed, and plane trees planted around its perimeter. Walled gardens were created on the plots of land in front of the houses. So, by 1740 this area would have been a most attractive space within which to live.

Lower Green was further enhanced by the erection of a statue of Queen Anne in 1839.

Made 1712 by John Ricketts the Elder in return for being made a Freeman of Gloucester. The statue originally stood outside the Bell Inn, Southgate Street. Then it was moved, about 1779, to 'Mr John Pitt's park' which today is the land behind Paddock House in Pitt Street. (Today the house is Kings School reception.) Presented to the Dean and chapter in 1839, it was placed in the centre of Lower College Green where it stayed until 1865 when it was moved to the park at the Spa, where it remains to this day, much weathered.



The much-weathered statue as it stands today in Gloucester Park

Finally, a war memorial was unveiled in 1922 to commemorate the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry's dead from the Great War.

Subsequently, the names of others killed in later conflicts have been added to it.

The architects of the memorial were the firm of Cash & Wright and the original bronze panels are by Adrian Jones

MILLER'S GREEN

Today this area still retains some of the privacy and exclusiveness that it must have had during the height of the Abbey and even immediately post dissolution

Known as The Inner Court it is accessed through a mid-14th century gateway leading from the monastic outer 'public area', to the more private inner courts. Post dissolution this area retained its seclusion as an area leading to the Bishops palace, infirmary and other residences.

The old mill stood where No 2 stands today but after the changes there was no need for corn to be milled on site and so it fell into disuse and was eventually pulled down. The Fullbrook still runs under the ground as a relic of the time it powered the mill.

This area eventually became grassed and tree lined, though today its surface is more appropriate to the vehicular traffic that enters it.



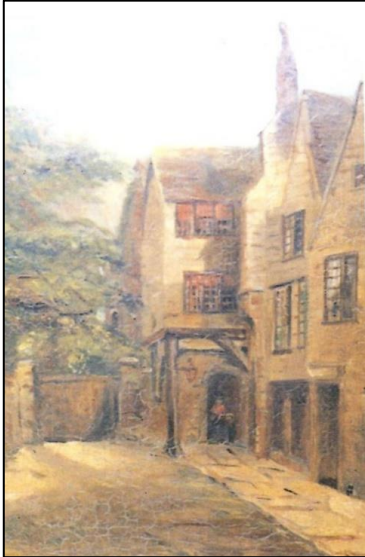
The doorway in the palace wall

The doorway to the Place complex can still be seen in the northern wall separating the yard from the grounds and buildings that are now part of The King's school.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

All the buildings facing into Miller's Green are post dissolution (1, 2, 5, 6 and 7) whilst Nos 3 and 4 are from the monastic period.

There was originally an arched gateway alongside No 3 separating the yard from the infirmary to the east, (picture) which in later years became just a wooden gate,



A painting showing the wooden gate separating the yard from the infirmary.



The oldest surviving building in this area is the wooden beamed building we refer to as the Parliament Room. This is of two different periods - a ground floor built of stone, probably of the 13th century, and an upper timber-framed storey possibly of the late 15th or early 16th century.



The timbered framed room sitting on top of the earlier medieval base

The lower, stone, section once continued further to the west probably right up to the gateway This area was latterly known as the 'site of the old workhouse and schoolhouse'.

There is no obvious indication that the upper storey of the parliament room ever extended further west than it does today.

By 1670 the old workhouse had been cleared and a large house built on the site. Known initially as the Parliament House and today as 7 Miller's Green this house has undergone several alterations since its construction.

The Infirmary and Babylon

THE INFIRMARY AND BABYLON

A substantially built infirmary would have been a prerequisite of a large Benedictine monastic establishment such as Gloucester Abbey and all the evidence points to the Abbey having a large infirmary, dating most likely from the early 13th century. Such a building usually had similarities with an aisled church. Very likely the infirmary's entrance was at the west, the east end being narrower, where a chapel was.

To the west end of the Infirmary is the Little Cloister House which served the Infirmary as a Misericord, providing meals and a recreational space for its patients. In charge of the infirmary was the infirmarer, who had his own separate residence. This large building has survived within the fabric of Dulverton House, part of the King's school complex of buildings.

The infirmary was built very close to the north wall of the monastery's precincts. These have been moved southward and the present line of the wall now overlies the north aisle of the ruin. Today there is easy access to Pitt Street. However, in medieval times the wall was continuous. The opening to Pitt Street was made in 1673.

After the dissolution of the Abbey in 1541, the monk's Infirmary was no longer needed, and the infirmary was converted into a cluster of tenements for various minor officials and dependants of the cathedral. The Infirmarer's House was used as a house for one of the newly appointed Prebendal Canons.

Around the 1590s, the infirmary hall and arches were incorporated into a two-storey ramshackle building, which dominated this area for the next two centuries. Containing a cluster of small rooms laid out in a haphazard manner which were said to be "numerous and squalid".

The ground floor, known as the 'Firmary' was the least undesirable of the two storeys, though it was often reported as being in a poor state of maintenance. The organist's house was situated towards the east end of the Firmary in the 17th and 18th centuries. It became in 1750 the birthplace of John Stafford Smith. One of his compositions, the 'Star-Spangled Banner', was adopted as the national anthem of the USA in 1931.

The upper storey took on the name 'Babylon' whose purpose was to provide cheap accommodation for unmarried minor canons, lay clerks, teachers and other associated with the Cathedral and for those regarded as charitable cases by the Dean and Chapter. These rooms were squalid little dwellings.

Around 1671, there were another two houses on the south side of Babylon, in what is now known as the King's School Gym Yard and accessed by a staircase called Babylon Stairs. The floor plan of these houses is not entirely clear, but they eventually extended over the east walls of Little Cloister and provided a roof to replace that demolished during the Civil War. Some of the ground floor rooms could be entered directly from the passage that leads to the north eastern corner of the Great Cloister, known as 'Dark Entry'. From both the King's School Gym Yard and the inside of passageway, the remains of filled in entrances and windows can be easily seen in its walls.

By 1760, several more buildings had been erected, this time on the land previously where the monks dormitory was and now occupied by the King's School Ivor Gurney Centre for Performing Arts and adjacent playground. These buildings continued northward, utilising the area round the old infirmary and land adjacent to the Bishop's Palace.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

Eventually these houses degenerated into a deplorable condition. The eastern part of the infirmary was therefore pulled down in 1831. By 1849, this area had been sufficiently cleared so that the King's School could move into a new schoolroom, built alongside the Chapter house on part of the old Babylon Site.



A painting showing the 'Babylon' buildings alongside the Chapter House. This painting is before 1849, when the schoolroom was built.

The Infirmary Arches

The result of the demolition of Babylon was to expose once again in all their glory the six western bays of the 13th century infirmary's south arcade and two western piers of the former north arcade. These were given a major restoration in 1862. Also surviving is the western entrance doorway, which has a moulded arch with hood-mould.



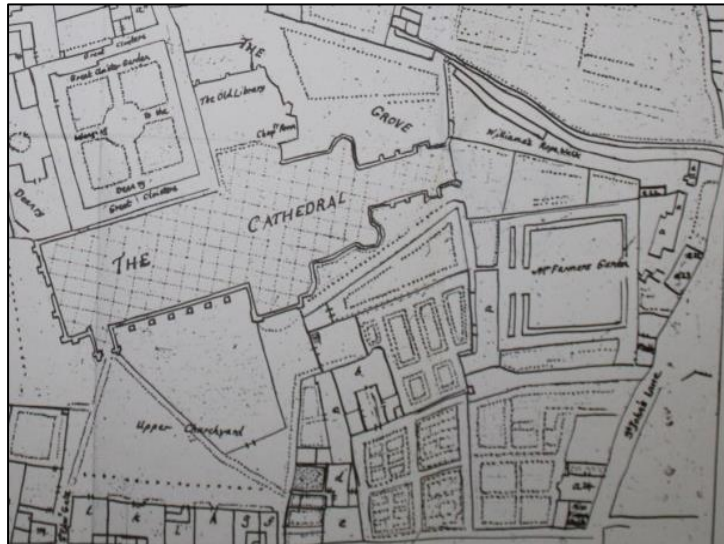
Photograph of the Infirmary Arches and the last surviving house of the Babylon area, date unknown but possibly c. 1860

The Infirmary and Babylon

THE COMMON ORCHARD

After the dissolution, the area of land surrounding the eastern end of the Cathedral was leased off with instructions that no building should be built there, a map of 1710 shows it was a patchwork of fields which eventually became scruffy and poorly maintained.

This area became known as the Common Orchard.



Map dated 1760

In the late seventeenth century the land on the north side of the Lady Chapel was laid out by the renowned Headmaster of the King's school, Mr Wheeler, with the help of his pupils. By 1760 the area had been landscaped with grassy walks among well matured trees and shrubs and was known as the Grove.



The Grove

In 1854, following a report in 11846 by Fulljames and Waller on the condition and restoration of the Lady Chapel, the Chapter asked the Prebendal Canon, Dr Jeune to layout the grounds around the east end of the cathedral as a garden. The drainage round the chapel was improved, and decayed stone replaced. Soil had built up around the Lady Chapel, in places to a depth of 4ft, around the east end, and on the south side formed a mound in front of the garden of Cathedral House (Wardle House).

Common Ground and Sacred Space

From these mounds of earth Dr Jeune laid out broad beds for shrubbery and ornamental plants. He also removed many of the trees, and laid turf to form extensive lawns. These were only the first steps in what was to prove a long struggle to save the Lady Chapel from ruin.

The lay-out of the area at the east end of the building and the gardens created by Dr Jeune are today much the same as they were when the work was completed in 1858.

HARE LANE AND ST LUCY'S ORPHANAGE

The eastern boundary of the monastery's precincts is not at all evident today.

It is possible to discern a line in the gardens of the buildings in St John's lane which might be where the wall was. More problematic is the section between St John's Lane and Pitt Street, for the current wall is new and most certainly is westward of the old wall which most likely ran alongside Hare Lane.

By 1850 there were houses lining the eastern perimeter of the Cathedral grounds and maps of that date indicate these were large and whose gardens incorporated the grounds of the Cathedral.

One of these houses, most probably two properties converted into one and numbered 5-7 Hare Lane, was the King's School Headmaster's House, incorporating boarding for about 20 pupils. The building was called College Gardens.



The houses at the eastern boundary

It remained the Headmaster's House and boarding for pupils throughout the tenure of Hugh Fowler as headmaster until it, and probably the property next door, were sold to become the St Lucy's Orphanage (or Home).

The Infirmary and Babylon



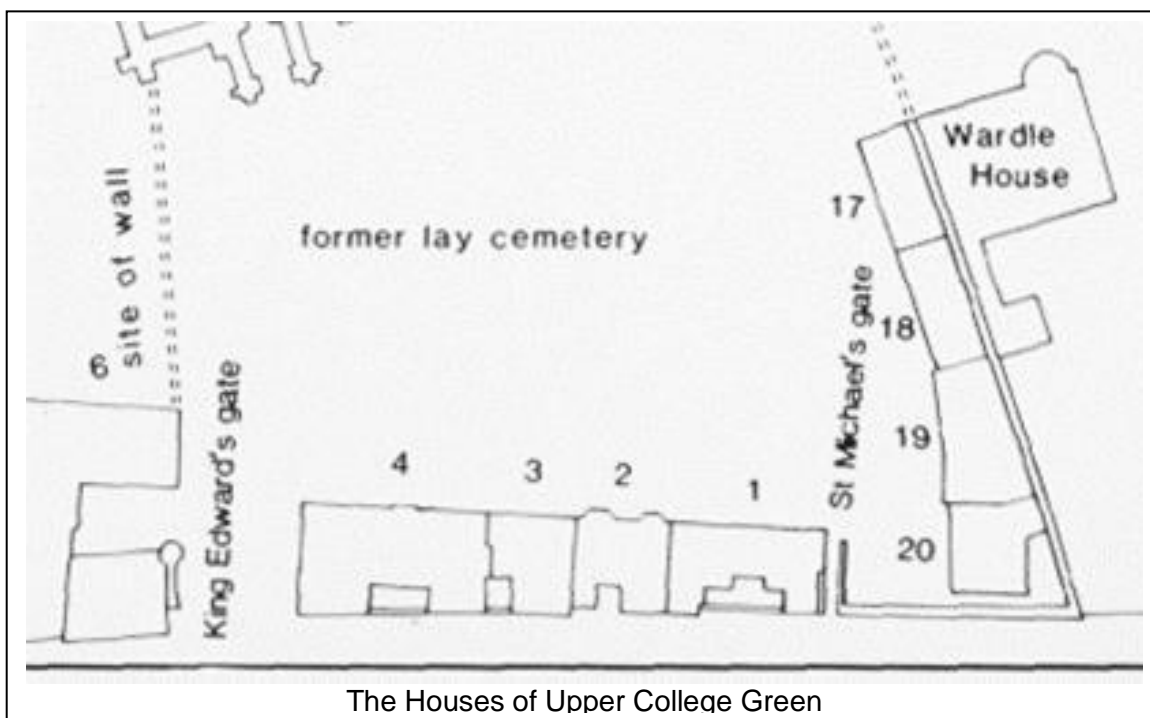
A drawing of the Headmaster's House circa 1850

This view is looking eastward from an area near the garden of Dulverton House. The old Spire of St John's church can be seen in the right of the scene. This was removed and placed in St Lucy's garden. The Pitt Street wall is just visible on the left.

St Lucy's closed in 1934 and the row of dwellings was eventually demolished in the 1970s to leave the open space known as St Lucy's Garden.

THE HOUSES OF THE PRECINCTS

UPPER COLLEGE GREEN



1 COLLEGE GREEN



By 1751 two newly erected tenements stood where No.1 stands and it can be seen that in the past this was two properties, now combined.

The building is a good example of early-mid 18th century work, being part of a fairly major redevelopment of this part of College Green during this period.

About 1968 the building was split into two apartments and a separate suite of offices. In the 1911 Census this building was called 'Penkerry', a name which does not appear either in later or earlier records.

2 COLLEGE GREEN



Despite its early 19th century appearance, No.2 College Green is much older. It was built at the same time as No.1 when the site was redeveloped between 1737 and 1740. Originally it was the same height as No.1 and five bays, more in keeping with the window spacing of other buildings of the time around College Green. The building was remodelled to more or less its present form in the early 19th century. It is currently the Bishop's Office.

The Houses in Upper College Green

3 COLLEGE GREEN



Although documentary evidence indicates that a dwelling on this site was built shortly after 1736, it appears to be late Georgian, so may either have been remodelled with a new frontage or rebuilt around 1800.

For many years between 1949 and 1969 No 3 College Green was both domestic accommodation and the offices of Peppers the solicitors.

Prior to that Randolph Sievers had a dental practice there from at least 1891 to 1901

Today it is the Offices of 'Destination Marketing'.

4 COLLEGE GREEN



A house was built on this site by 1616 but the present building is mainly early 18th century and a good example of a large brick-built town house of that time.

Broadly similar in style of No 1. It was carefully reordered in the 1890's to accommodate the demolition of its western neighbour when College street was widened. This can be seen in the slightly different brickwork at the western end of the building.

In the 80s and 90s the ground floor of this building was an SPCK shop selling Christian books and items.

Currently it is the Offices of the Diocese of Gloucester.

WARDLE HOUSE



Sometime between 1677 and 1686 a dwelling was constructed along the east side of the medieval wall that had previously separated the monastic and lay cemeteries.

The man responsible for building this was most likely William Lambe, who held the position of Chapter Clerk for forty years from 1665 until 1705.

The house then became the home of Revd Dr Abraham Gregory and his wife, Frances. Gregory was a canon of the Cathedral, a chaplain to Charles II and began his career as usher (assistant teacher) at the College School.

In 1704 John Viney was granted the lease on the house and it remained in the possession of his family for most of the 18th and 19th centuries. The Viney family oversaw a redesigning of the house in the 1760s, when its conspicuous full-height bow front was added

Common Ground and Sacred Space

It is thought that the composer William Hays, who was a pupil of the Kings School and trained at Gloucester Cathedral, lived here around 1720.

There were further alterations in the early years of the 19th century when the exterior of the house was almost entirely rebuilt from the foundation upwards and given a new façade rendered to imitate ashlar.

In 1839, it was the home of Mary Anne Lewis, a direct descendant of the Viney family. She married the Victorian Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, who then became the leaseholder. Many years later it was said within the local community that the building became haunted by a ghost, some said Disraeli's ghost, others his wife's ghost. No one seemed quite sure.

About 1840, another resident was George Pocock, a schoolmaster and inventor of the 'Charvolant' a kite drawn carriage. Although many of his early exploits were in Bristol, he used these to power transport between Gloucester and Cheltenham. One day, one of his carriages overtook the Duke of Gloucester, a breach of etiquette that was considered so rude that the occupants had to stop to let the Duke pass them.

In 1959 the house was opened as a senior boarding house for the King's School. At that time it was known as Cathedral House but was renamed Wardle House in honour of one of the school's most highly regarded governors, Archdeacon Walter Wardle.

17&18 COLLEGE GREEN



The pair of dwellings at the northern end of the range of buildings that form the east side of College Green, and today known as Nos.17 & 18 College Green were originally one dwelling, dating from around 1662.

The boundary wall between it and the abutting Wardle House is the old medieval wall that separated the Lay Cemetery from the monastic grounds to the east.

Because of the render to the outer walls and other changes made to this timber-framed building, not much of its original fabric is visible. However, the north end, which overlooks the cathedral, indicates how the building might have appeared when first constructed.

No.17 became the offices of the Cathedral Architect Frederick S. Waller (c.1857), followed by Thomas Fulljames (of Waller and Fulljames).

It remained as offices for Architects, latterly as ASTAM designs, until 1998 when it became the Cathedral Chapter Office, reverting to a private dwelling in 2001.

About 1978 Nos. 18 and 18a College Green were converted into ground floor offices for the Gloucester Diocese Mothers' Union, (No.18) which they still occupy today) and a private dwelling on the upper floors (No.18a).

When the house was built, there were no buildings to the south, where No.19 is today, thus giving views towards Westgate Street.

The Houses in Upper College Green

19 COLLEGE GREEN



No.19 lies on the eastern side of College Green, butting against the medieval wall of the lay cemetery on its east side and fronted by a walled garden forecourt on its west. The present house is thought to have been built between 1712 and 1722.

The first property built here was leased during the Commonwealth period, it was a relatively small building that abutted neither the existing one to its south (No 20) nor the one built in 1662 to its north (18).

Few, if any, traces have survived of earlier buildings on the site. Equally, the building has suffered few radical alterations since it was built.

20 COLLEGE GREEN



In the seventy-five or so years following the dissolution of St Peter's Abbey, there were no houses in the upper churchyard except a building where no 20 is today.

This site had been let as a 'little piece of ground' from at least the year 1595.

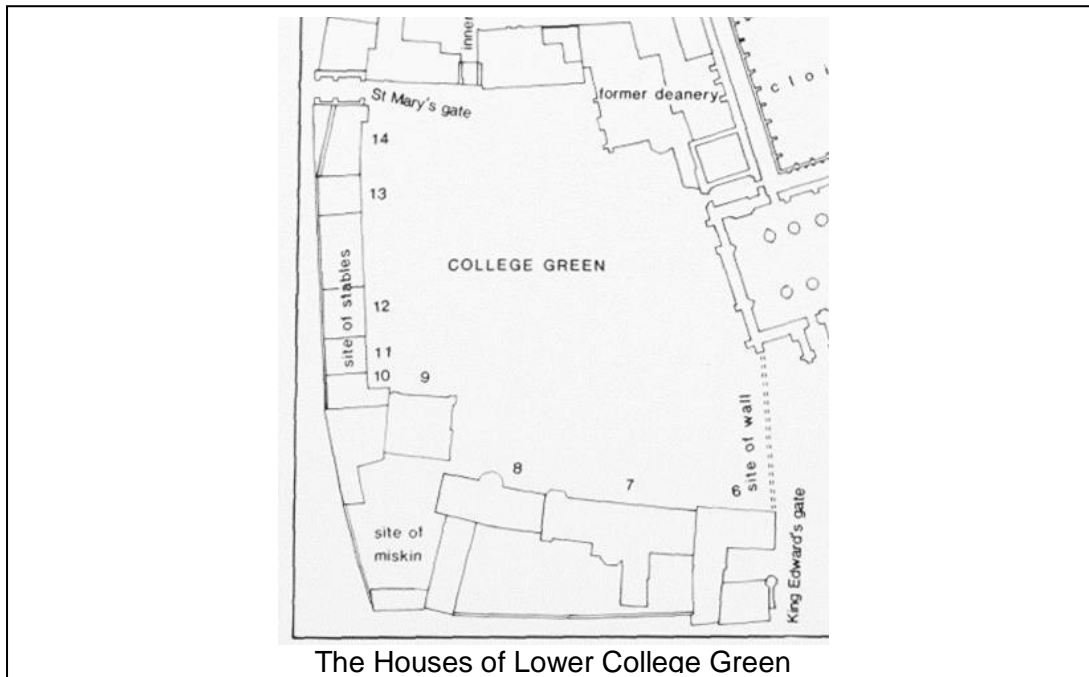
By 1616 a house had been built on this site.

No. 20 College Green incorporates fragments of the medieval precinct wall in its south gable, and its rear wing incorporates sections of the medieval wall between the monk's and the lay cemeteries.

The mock timber-framing and pebbledash of the front elevation probably dates from the late 19th century, and despite its 19th century restoration is still a very important example of a relatively small urban dwelling with much greater aspirations. Reflecting this, the property was 'not to be leased to any Artificer or person using any Mechanical Trade or Occupation without first obtaining the special consent of the Dean and Chapter'.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

LOWER COLLEGE GREEN



The Houses of Lower College Green

Originally the Abbey's Great Court, here we find today, evidence of several properties that date from this time, with later constructions that comfortably nestle alongside their older cousins.

Along the south side, the buildings and their gardens extend backward towards the old precinct walls, their frontage to the Green hiding what lies behind.

6 COLLEGE GREEN



Situated abutting the western end of Edward's Gateway, it is thought that this was where the Abbey's 'Sacrist's Checker' was.

By 1577 this was the site of a Prebendal house of the new Cathedral College, (sometime known as Penny House) and by the mid-17th century it was known as the Sexton's 'house or chamber'.

The house is essentially two buildings, 'L shaped' in plan, fronting to College Green, with a rear wing which was built much earlier than the front.

During the early part of the 19th century, remodelling radically altered the appearance of this house and there is evidence of this remodelling throughout the house.

The original, north south, five bay building would have been a high-status dwelling when it was built in the 17th Century. The dating of its construction is not exact, if it was built during or before 1642-1651, it is a fairly rare survival of the turbulent history of Gloucester and the Close during the civil war and commonwealth.

The later frontage is a rare, and intact, 19th century facade within the Green.

The Houses in Lower College Green

7 COLLEGE GREEN



After the Dissolution, this became the house assigned to the Prebendary of the 4th stall of the cathedral; it is traditionally thought to retain parts of one of the monastic buildings, probably the granary.

This is a very large house that has been divided up into four separate units - two domestic (7a & 7b) one educational (7) and one office (7c)

The present 'medieval' facade is relatively recent. The photograph below shows a very different frontage to that visible today. There is some evidence in the style of the alterations to suggest that the photograph was taken in the 1870's or 80's perhaps, or even earlier still



8 College Green



This is essentially two separate timber-framed buildings with an 18th century facade. It is thought that these buildings were once part of the monastery's guest hall and associated buildings.

The northern section is possibly built round the hall and the rear the guests' dormitory. The evidence suggests a late 15th or 16th century date for the original building.



It seems to have been remodelled in the mid-17th century, which may have been when the staircase was added, and was clearly remodelled again in the 18th century and, quite radically, in the very late 19th or early 20th century as shown in the photograph when the front window bay was just single story.

It is thus a palimpsest of several centuries of architectural change.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

9 COLLEGE GREEN



After the dissolution of the Abbey in 1540, the bottom, or western, side of Lower College Churchyard was waste ground. The south west corner contained the Abbey's walled dung heap called the Miskin, and alongside were two stables which were burnt down around 1707. At the Restoration, the ground on which they had stood was let to Samuel Ricketts, carpenter. It is believed that Ricketts had this splendid mansion built between 1708-9. This was a house of very high status and one that has retained much of its original layout fixtures and fittings. The fact that Ricketts was able, in 1708, to build forward of the existing building lines at this corner of the Close is of some significance.

The house is a particularly fine example of a large Queen Anne town house and reflects the growing affluence in Gloucester at that time.

Over the years this house has been occupied by many a worthy person.

Most memorably was the widow Mrs Frances Cotton. In 1754 she, took a lease of the premises. When she died on 30 July 1768 she was described as being possessed of 'a splendid fortune'. She was also somewhat of an 'eccentric character' who, having lost a favorite daughter, was convinced that her daughter's soul was transmigrated into a robin redbreast. This robin she kept in an aviary in the Cathedral.

The Chapter indulged this whim, as she contributed abundantly to the glazing, whitewash, and ornaments for the church.

Instances like this confirm the impression that in the eighteenth century the well-to-do regarded the cathedral as their own preserve.

1770s it was let to Dr John Wall, the eccentric diarist whose father founded the Worcester china factory.

10 & 11 COLLEGE GREEN



It is thought that Nos 10 and 11 College green were built as a pair of interlinking, or overlapping, semi-detached dwellings.

In the early 18th century the land on which these properties now stand had been part of an area of waste land, stabling, coach houses and a 'Mixon' commonly called the 'Half Moon Dunghill', along the western wall bordering Three Cocks Lane.

The coach house and stables belonged to the Bishop of Gloucester, were old and ruinous and had been greatly damaged by fire.

The Houses in Lower College Green

In 1734 speculators John Pascoe, a master builder from Surrey and Barnabus Gunn the Cathedral organist, built a terrace of houses on this land backing on to the western precinct wall and Three Cocks Lane. These are today, Nos. 10-13 College Green.

11 and 10 were the last buildings to be erected and No.10 has a rather awkward 'L-shaped' plan which may have been the result of the available land left after the rest of the redevelopment had been finished.

(No 10 is known as 'The Miskin' - a modern spelling.)

The cellars under these dwellings may well be part of the earlier stables and coach houses.

Previously a private residence, no 10 is now the offices of Redcliffe College. The ground floor of No 11 is currently the offices of the Friends of Gloucester Cathedral whilst the remaining rooms of this residence are a private dwelling.

12 COLLEGE GREEN



This was the largest and most ambitious of the mid-18th century terrace of houses that were built in 1735 by John Pascoe and known as Beaufort House because this was where the Duke stayed when in town.

From 1737 the house was occupied by Benjamin Saunders, alderman wine merchant and owner of the King's Head in Westgate Street.

The northern part of the house consisted of a 'Great Room' which was used for dances, assemblies, music recitals and public breakfasts.

Guests could play battledore and shuttlecock to the accompaniment of a band playing appropriate music. The building also served as a coffee house.

Mr. Saunders's Great Room was the scene of many a convivial occasion, as for example in 1739 when Barnabus Gunn's 'New Invented Organ and Harpsichord' was first demonstrated to 'all Gentlemen and Ladies who are Lovers of Musick and curious in Instruments'.

On the occasion of the King's birthday, 'all the people of fashion' were invited to 'a publick Breakfast in Mr. Saunders' Great Room in the College Green'. The King's health was drunk in coffee, tea and chocolate, and while the guests played battledore and shuttlecock a band played. In the evening, a great ball was held in the rooms. Benjamin Saunders died at the end of 1763.

Today No 12 College Green is one building, the offices of Gloucester Cathedral. However, it was originally two buildings, a domestic dwelling to the south (left) and a purpose-built assembly room to the north (right), both backing onto Three Cocks Lane. That it is two structures can clearly be seen from the layout of the frontages to the green.

Although having separate functions and design, the dwelling and the assembly room were always linked.

The cellars stretch the whole-length of the building and open out into the lane behind. Most of these were in domestic use as opposed to just storage.

The Assembly Room was designed to be one storey high, with attics and cellars.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

13 COLLEGE GREEN



This house is at the northern end of the speculative dwellings and was probably built first.

Its cellars contain interesting indications as to the extent that the ground of the Green has been raised. It is quite possible that they are a surviving part a medieval predecessor of the present building, erected before the ground level of the Close had been raised.

Although part of the Pasco and Gunn development, No.13 is distinctly different both inside and out to the other buildings in the group (Nos. 10 -12 College Green). Its design seems to be older than the other buildings and it seems highly likely

that it was the first of the new houses to be built. Perhaps after it was finished it was felt that the costs in space and decoration had been too high. and the other houses were built accordingly

The internal arrangements suggest that the house incorporated part of the adjacent medieval building (No.14) from the start - as it does now.

Evidence for this is in its north wall where there are doorways from both the entrance hall and the first landing through to the adjacent medieval Almoner's House (No.14). Both doorways are contemporary with the construction of No 13 indicating that this connection between the house and the adjacent portion of the earlier building was part of either the initial design or inserted soon after.

14 COLLEGE GREEN, THE ALMONER'S HOUSE

This is a very complex building of several dates abutting the south side of St Mary's Gateway and thus occupying an important position within the abbey precincts.



This building today is closely interlinked to no 13 to its south and its northern section has been separated off for use by the Cathedral Education Department.

Traditionally known as the Almonry, the place from which the monks gave out the alms or 'dole' to the poor and needy. There is no clear evidence for, or indeed against, this being the original Almonry of the monastery; the overall design does, however, suggest that this ground floor was some form of undercroft.

The position of the building, right next to the main entrance into the monastery, would have been a logical one for an almonry.

The Houses in Lower College Green

The building is of two phases, the earliest phase consists of a ground floor with stone walls. It was probably in the mid-15th century that the present timber-framed first-floor was added on top of the masonry undercroft. It may have replaced an earlier timber-framed superstructure.



The rear of No 14.

On the left, abutting the gateway wall is the southern part of the Education Centre.

THE EDUCATION CENTRE

Today the northern room used by the Cathedral Education Centre sits on top of St Mary's Gateway. Those to the south are the northern range of the old Almoner' House (No 14) which was split into two, probably about 1740 during the construction of no 13.

The entrance to this suite of rooms is from Three Cocks Lane and abuts the south wall of the Gateway

The Northern, upper, room of the Education Centre has had many uses over the years and these are described in the Section on the Gateway.

15 COLLEGE GREEN (COMMUNITY HOUSE)



At the Dissolution, this was probably the site of the Cellarer's House, butting up to the northern wall of St Mary's Gateway.

Assigned to the Prebend of the cathedral's 5th stall, it was the home of the Prebend William Loe in 1634, but by 1649 it was used as a Marshalsea.

This must have reverted back to a Prebendal house for in 1732, Prebend Doctor Matthew Panting is recorded as living there.

Although incorporating some earlier work, a, possibly medieval, wall 0.601 thick to the west of its main entrance from the Green, this large late Palladian style building dates mainly to 1774 and is a rare example of its type within both the cathedral precincts and the city of Gloucester as a whole.

It is no longer owned by the Dean & Chapter having been sold to the Community Council.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

16 COLLEGE GREEN (CHURCH HOUSE)



Today, 16 College Green is used as the Offices of the Diocese of Gloucester. These occupy the southern section of the complex of rooms that were originally the Abbot's, Prior's and finally the Dean's accommodation and are accessed through an early 13th-century vestibule.

To the north are the three rooms known as the Parliament suite – described separately, below.

The original lodgings for the abbot were an early 12th-century tower, about 35 feet square. The tower was separated from the north side of the Abbey's nave by a vaulted ground-floor passage above which an abbot's chapel was built (c.1130).

This is predominately a 12th century three-story central block whose floors are accessed from a northern crenelated octagonal stairwell.

These lodgings were given a western lobby behind an elaborate new front about 1200.

Both the outer parlour (the western slype) and the chapel above it were once 2.5 m (9 ft.) longer than they are now. They were probably shortened, and their west ends rebuilt with old masonry at the time the west front of the nave was rebuilt, and also shortened by a bay,

The older section is usually considered to be 12th century, unfortunately, it seems that little of the 12th century work survives.

In the fifteenth century. The first floor contained the abbot's private apartments, namely his dining room, bedroom, solar and chapel. The second floor was devoted to his own special guests, while the ground floor contained a reception room and probably accommodation for one or more servants.

The building was heavily restored in the early 1860s and the present frontage is a mid-19th century facsimile.

Excavations carried out at that time revealed Saxon burials and even earlier strata.

The stair tower, in the south-east corner, forms the link between the Laud & Henry block and the Abbot's Lodging block, the present stair tower was rebuilt from footing level in 1863.

THE LAUD AND HENRY ROOM BLOCK

This block was originally part of the of the old Abbot's Lodgings, which subsequently became the Prior's Lodgings and then, after the dissolution of the monastery, the Deanery.

From the late-medieval period onwards it formed a north wing to these domestic premises. That changed in the 1930's when the two upper rooms started to be used for meetings and receptions, whilst the ground-floor became the cathedral's refreshment rooms and offices.

It has been altered on several occasions, often quite radically. Thought to be 13th century, though parts appear to date from the later medieval period, perhaps from the late 15th century, and it was probably altered when it became the Deanery and again, in the 18th century.

It was restored in 1957. At that time several inserted partitions were removed, and the rooms restored to their present form.

The Houses in Lower College Green

The first-floor is currently divided into two rooms (Laud and Henry) though it has been suggested that it was originally a single first-floor hall.



To the south, the Laud Room is lined with a richly decorated wainscot. Named after William Laud, Dean of Gloucester who eventually became Archbishop of Canterbury. The Henry Room is to the north. It is believed that Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn stayed in this room during their visit to Gloucester.



The painted medieval beams in the roof of the Henry Room. The view shows the entrance to the Parliament Room



The Laud Room, 2017

Sometime in the 1930s there was a 'Gentleman's Cub' occupying at least one of these rooms, and possibly all three - Henry, Laud and Parliament. There is a well-equipped kitchen off the passageway behind these rooms, I have been told that a substantial lunch was prepared and served to members of this club. on a daily basis.



The Henry Room, when it was a Gentleman's 'Club'



The Laud Room, when it was part of the Deanery

Common Ground and Sacred Space

THE PARLIAMENT ROOM



The Parliament Room as seen from Miller's Green

The Parliament Room faces onto the south side of Miller's Green but is also attached to the northern end of the Laud and Henry Room range of Church House, the former Deanery. It takes its name, probably erroneously, from the Parliament held by Richard the Second at Gloucester in 1378

The stone base of this building is 13th century, and in this century this building extended further west. The half-timbered room above is of the late 15th century, erected on a truncated 13th Century base.

The Parliament Room was originally separated into two rooms by a framed partition. Evidence for this may be seen in the trusses.



A view of the south and west walls.

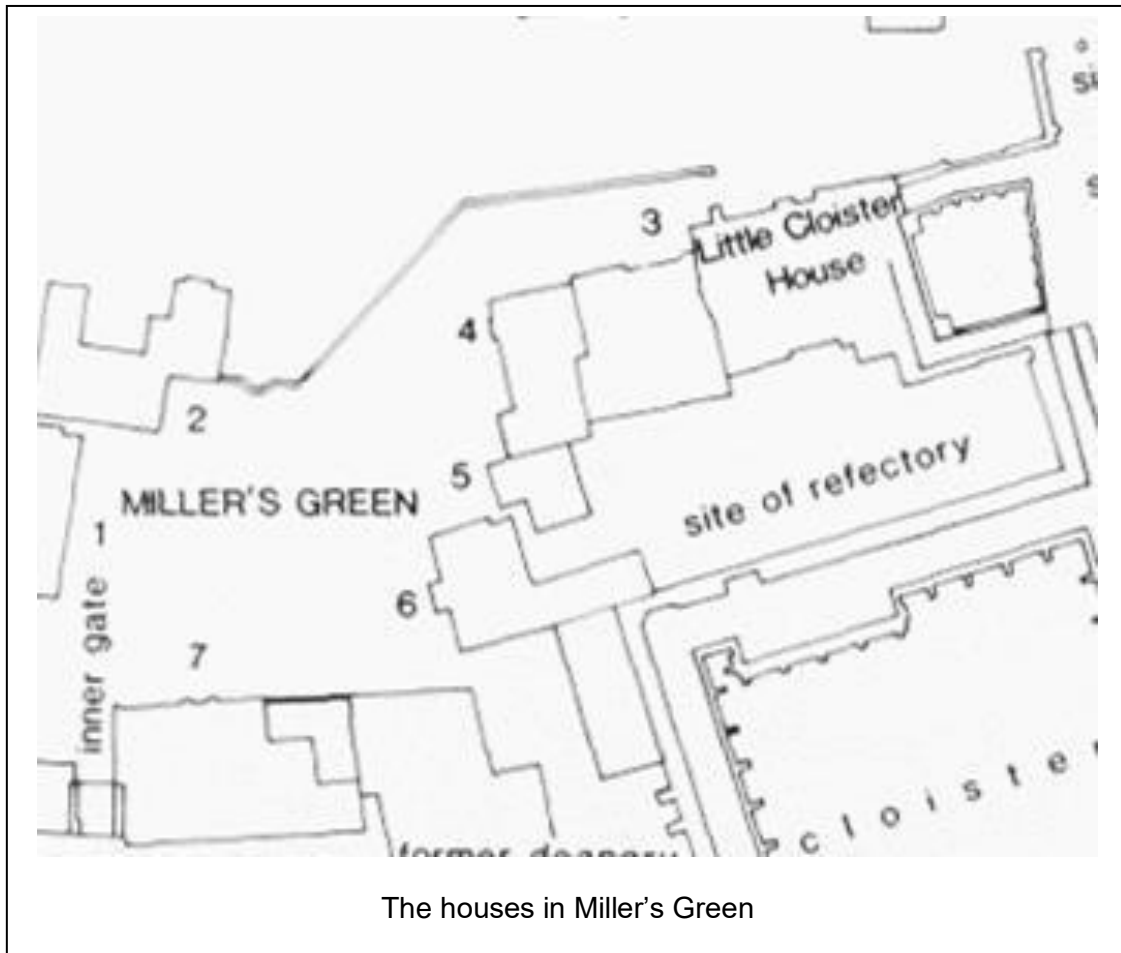
The door to the outside staircase is on the right and the door to the Henry room on the left. The door to the Laud room can be seen in the distance through this door.

In its last late medieval phase, it consisted of two large rooms, separated by a screen, over an undercroft. It was not, therefore, a first-floor hall, but two first-floor chambers - presumably related to the hospitality at that time of the Prior and, subsequent Deans.

A restoration of the Parliament Room occurred in 1957 when the room was completely gutted, with the removal of the flat ceiling and the exposure of the medieval trusses; removal of inserted sash windows on the north elevation and their replacement with replica shallow oriels. A new outside staircase was built on the south side (1958-62).

The Houses in Miller's Green

MILLER'S GREEN (PALACE YARD)



1 MILLERS GREEN (THE DEANERY)



On the site that is today occupied by No.1 Miller's Green were originally two small dwellings. In 1731 a newly built early Georgian house was initially leased to Peter Haynes, Gentleman, who lived there until his death in 1762. His unmarried daughter, Hester, continued to live at the house until at least the 1770s.

In 1948 this building became the Deanery, but before then it had served for a long time as the cathedral organists' house.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

The Deanery is a very fine and comparatively little altered example of a high-status building of the second quarter of the 18th century. It has one of the finest and least altered interiors of the properties in the cathedral precincts.

The spacious cellars are reached by the servants' stair. They are lined in stone but, where vaulted, the vaulting is of brick. The basic outline of the cellars matches that of the superstructure of the house and it seems that the cellars were excavated at the same time as the house was built.

2 MILLERS GREEN



The north-western corner of Miller's Green is traditionally the site of the monastic mill which was powered by water from a brook called, either the Twyver or Fullbrook, part of the water system of the Close

Mills within monastic precincts were certainly not rare, but after the dissolution would only survive if they were economically viable. The monastery mill is continually referred to well into the mid - 18th century, but, despite references in the deeds to the various leats and milling rights, it is quite possible that it was not used commercially after the 17th century. Certainly, there is little or nothing within the present building to indicate that it had anything to do with milling - apart from a millstone rest into the paving of the cellar floor.

Today the house is L-shaped, but originally it consisted of one block only, that on the south side next to No. 1 Millers Green. Sometime between 1716 and 1727 the second, but separate block was built. By the early 19th century these two buildings had been combined to form one rather grand house joined by external stair block containing an unusual spiral staircase.

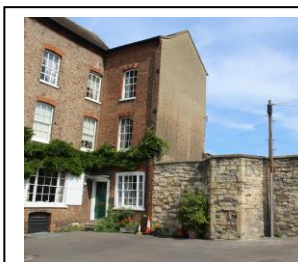


The millstone in the cellar floor

On the east side of the site stood a house and garden which were first mentioned in 1662.

The house is no longer there, Its outline can easily be made out in the wall bordering the angle on the south side of the King's School garden today and reveals the jutting-out part where there used to be a window.

In about 1978 No 2 Miller's Green was leased by the King's School and divided into three dwellings; after 1998 the lease expired, and the house reverted to the Dean and Chapter. It was subsequently converted back into a single large dwelling and reoccupied in 2001.



The jutting out wall where there used to be a building

The Houses in Miller's Green

3 MILLERS GREEN



No.3 Miller's Green's origins are medieval. This was the monastery's kitchen serving the refectory which was to its rear, along the side of the North Cloister wall. The character and size of the fireplace in the main room seems to fit this role.

After the dissolution it became the 'Common Kitchen' attached to the 'Common Hall', which was used by the minor canons, lay-clerks, schoolmasters and other 'inferior' officials who were, by statute, ordered to eat together rather than separately at home.

By 1605, the Common Hall was in a state of disrepair and by 1612 it had probably been taken down. As a result, the former Common Kitchen became redundant and was leased as a property to be converted into a dwelling.

.Major changes took place in the building during the early 17th century when it was converted to a domestic residence around 1612 for the tenure of the Wrench family.

Although a residential dwelling, the property was known well into the 18th century as the common kitchen.

The next major alteration seems to have taken place between 1725 and 1731 during the tenure of the wealthy and aristocratic widow, Barbara Cathmay. It may have been she who owned the shoes which were found during repairs in 1966, one in the roof of the house, and its fellow in the roof of the Great Cloister.

To place a shoe in the roof of your house was thought in days gone by to be a sure sign of luck.

Subsequently there have been other alterations. Some of these changes took place in the later 19th century.

This property has been occupied over the years by many residents of note.

The first 'tenant' was aged 4 - Simeon Wrench, the son of Elias Wrench who lived at the adjacent Little Cloister House.

From 1731 until his death in November 1752 the tenant was James Pitt, a much-respected man who was both steward and secretary to Martin Benson, Bishop of Gloucester. His son John, one of the largest private landlords in the city, later took a lease of the premises and lived there for over 50 years. He caused much trouble to the Dean and Chapter, because he and others broke down the Infirmary gate which at that time separated the precincts from the street now called, after him, Pitt Street, an act which resulted in a court case. He died in 1805.



The wall of the North Cloister along which the Refectory, and later, the Common Hall stood

Common Ground and Sacred Space

4A MILLERS GREEN



From at least the early 17th century, and up until the late 18th century Nos 4a and 4b, situated on the east side of Miller's Green were separate dwellings assigned to the Headmaster and Deputy Headmaster of the College School. The headmaster of the school was also known as the 'archididascalus' and deputy, 'hypodidascalus'.

In 1616 the head was John Hoare and usher John Langley. Langley became head 1618 and eventually master of St Pauls school in London.

By the eighteenth century the two dwellings were known as the 'Upper Schoolmaster's House' and the 'Under Schoolmaster's House'.

The schoolmasters moved in 1790 and it appears that the two houses then became a single dwelling and the premises were let to the Revd. Martin Barry. After that time, the Headmaster lived in a house standing at the corner of Pitt Street and Hare Lane.¹

The building was then again divided in 1985-6.

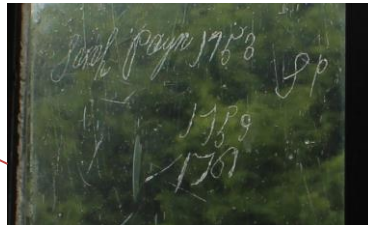
No 4a is the larger of the two dwellings and incorporates the remains of earlier structures. In the very narrow gap between it and 3 Miller's Green to the east, is a wall of 4a that predates that of No.3 and which seems to be typical Romanesque work of the 12th or early 13th century.

¹ This eventually became St Lucy's Hospital. See the section on St Lucy.

The Houses in Miller's Green

THE ENGRAVING IN THE ATTIC WINDOW

Engraved in the north facing attic window of 4a is the name 'Sarah Payne' and the dates 1759 and 1761. Nothing so far, has been found out about Sarah but she might have been a servant to Revd. Martin Barry, who lived in the house about then.



4B MILLERS GREEN



Up until the late 18th century Nos 4a and 4b, on the east side of Miller's Green, were separate dwellings. In 1790 the two dwellings were joined but were divided again in a major refurbishment in 1985-86, at which time a small extension with an entrance and kitchen was added to the front entrance of No 4b, replacing a garage created in an earlier Georgian building, possibly a coach house.

This three-bay, three-storey timber-framed building was built against, and at right angles to, the south gable end of No 4a - or its predecessor. However, it is not quite at right-angles and its framing suggests an earlier date than the 1616 date usually given for No 4a. It is therefore quite possible that No 4a was built up against this building instead. It is highly likely that this building is a survival of the pre-Reformation precinct.

5 MILLERS GREEN



No.5 Miller's Green is a rather odd and much altered little dwelling attached, on its north side, to No 4b and, on its south side, incorporating what appears to be a much earlier medieval wall. In the past it was a stable and, later, a wash-house. Its origins may be as early as the late 16th or early 17th centuries. It has been altered on many occasions since, the last in the mid-20th century.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

6 MILLERS GREEN



The house was apparently built for Thomas Burgis in 1687, though supposedly incorporating some medieval masonry in its fabric. The house lies on the east side of Miller's Green, opposite the present Deanery, and in the later 20th century was divided horizontally into three apartments, Nos.6a, 6b, and 6c Miller's Green - on the ground, first and second floors respectively.

This building is another of the precinct's important and quite rare collection of late 17th century town houses. It has been slightly altered but is of some antiquity.

7 MILLERS GREEN



In the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the No 7 Millers Green was known as the 'Parliament House'.

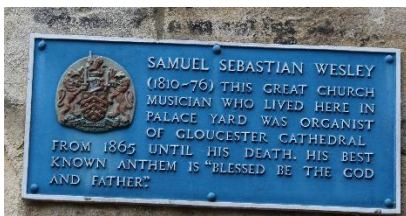
It was built between 1667 and 1670 by William Lambe. A complex and much altered building with medieval origins. It is likely that part of the present western stone gable wall is a medieval survival, one that may be earlier than the adjacent gateway alongside it.

This is a large house that consist of a main 'L-shaped' block consisting of both a south and north wing; two joined service blocks attached to the east end of the south wing. and a virtually freestanding 'music room' in the rear court.

In the later 20th century it was divided into two apartments, No. 7 Miller's Green (occupying the ground and first floors) and No. 7a, occupying the upper floors.

Despite facing onto College Green, the main entrance to the house is from Miller's Green. For the most part, however, the building is a reasonably well-preserved example of a late 17th century house of some size. radically altered internally around 1800 when it was also refronted on its south side. Subsequently. in the later 19th and in the 20th century there have been further internal alterations that have taken away some of the period integrity of the building.

In recent years this has been the residence of the Director of music for the cathedral and has been occupied by many well-known musicians.



Little Cloister House and Environs

LITTLE CLOISTER HOUSE AND ENVIRONS



The 17th Century timber-framed front of Little Cloister House

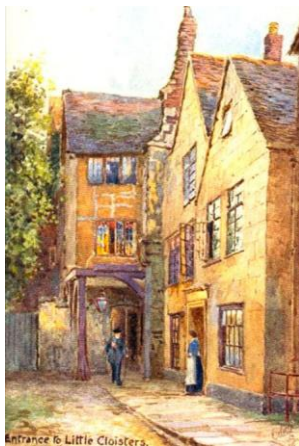
The original function of this building is open to debate. With its first-floor hall above an undercroft, it is not unlike a traditional high-status medieval dwelling.

Little Cloister House began its life in the 13th century, most likely in the 1240s, as part of Gloucester Abbey's nearby infirmary and the tradition that it was the Abbey's Misericord for this building is one that seems the most likely.

The splendid arcade of arches nearby, known as the Infirmary Arches, bear witness to the size, grandeur and therefore importance of this medieval

hospital. The arches that survive today were paralleled by a similar arcade on the north side, the whole building having an appearance and size similar to that of a church nave. Patients would have either been monks who had fallen ill or the most elderly monks who were too infirm to carry out their normal duties.

At the east end of the infirmary stood an earlier chapel, the Chapel of St Bridget, which was dedicated in 1184. Part of the wall from St Bridget's Chapel can still be seen inside Dulverton House, which was the residence of the Infirmarer (the Master of the Infirmary).



The building had, at one time, an alleyway running through its northern part which linked Miller's Green with the Infirmary, there being a gated wall where the passage is today.

The impressive vaulted undercroft on the ground floor of Little Cloister House was used as the Cellarer's Chequer, a storage area where all the supplies for running the busy monastery were kept. The Cellarer was a senior monk who had to make sure that the monastery had sufficient supplies in stock to keep going – boxes of salted meat, barrels of pickled herrings and the like. The temperature of the chequer in Little Cloister, which is constantly cool, made it ideally suited for its purpose.

During restoration work on the vault of the ceiling in 1984, fragments of 13th century pottery and a 13th century copper crucible were discovered. At the bottom of this were remains of beeswax, leading to speculation that at some point the monks were running factory producing either candles or wax polish in this location.

Common Ground and Sacred Space



One of the original entrances to the Chequer still survives in the north-west corner. It is a 13th century recessed arched doorway, which is framed by nook shafts with moulded bases and capitals and has a moulded arch with fillet and hood-mould.

The upper floor of Little Cloister House above the Cellarer's Chequer was originally one large open room which served as the infirmary dining hall. This would have been used by the sick monks who were receiving treatment in the hospital. It also acted as a misericord, where monks recuperating or those with special dietary needs were allowed to eat meat or other foods not permitted by monastic rules in the normal refectory. 'Flesh-frater' was another term used to describe the misericord.

The north wall of the hall contained a large mid-15th century painting depicting the Enthroned Trinity. This painting was discovered in 1946 behind layers of limewash. It was removed in 1967 and is now on permanent display in the Parliament Room.

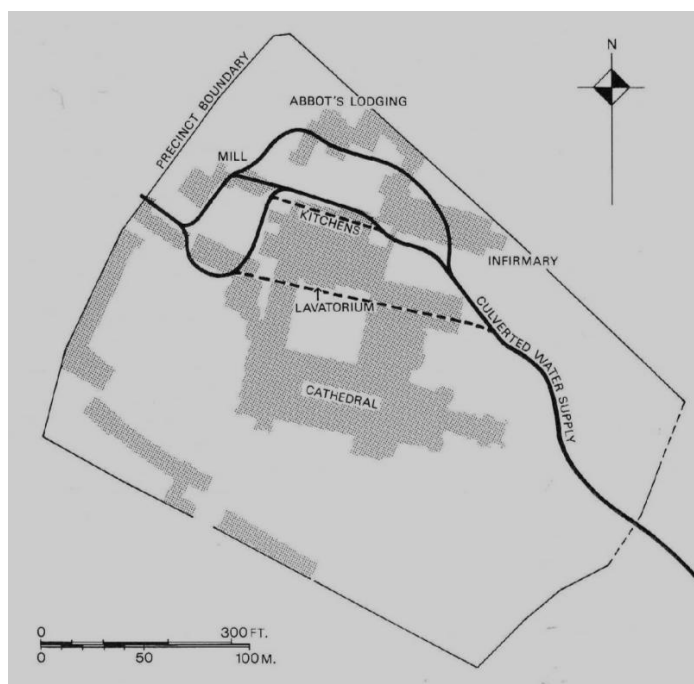
THE LITTLE CLOISTER

Little, or Infirmary, cloisters were provided by most of the monastic orders. They provided a recreational space for the inhabitants of the Infirmary.

Little Cloister was originally roofed on all four sides.

The destruction of the roof over its north and east sides was the work of Puritan soldiers serving in the Parliamentarian army of the 1650s.

A branch of the Fullbrook stream, which was diverted through the abbey precincts in the 12th century, clips under the corner of Little Cloister House. It has been suggested that the hollow 'buttresses' on the east frontage of the house may have been built over wells so that water could be provided directly on the upper floors of the house, where the dining hall and misericord were situated.



Plan of the Cathedral and Precincts, showing the medieval water supply

Little Cloister House and Environs

AFTER THE DISSOLUTION

When Henry VIII dissolved Gloucester Abbey in 1540, the infirmary fell into disuse, Little Cloister House was converted into living accommodation for the Cathedral Canons and so during the following century it underwent a period of restoration.

Internal wooden-panelled living rooms were created. Ceilings were added below the high timbered roof in order to conserve heat. The jettied timber-framed façade with its thick moulded bressumer beam was added above the east walk of the cloister. The timber-framed gable in the north-west corner is probably of the same date.

The undercroft previously used by the cellarer's checker was converted into a kitchen. The large central fireplace complete with the remains of a pulley system may date from this reconstruction.

In the early 17th century (1616) the tenant of the new house was Elias Wrench. From 1645 it was briefly the home of a Puritan preacher, Thomas Jackson.

Between 1654 and 1660 James Forbes, the well-known Scottish Nonconformist minister and a pioneer of congregationalism, was a public preacher at the Cathedral. This was in the period of the Commonwealth, when for a time the Dean and Chapter were abolished. Forbes built up a large following and was pastor to a congregational type church that met in the undercroft at Little Cloister House. Forbes survived the Restoration and remained a force to be reckoned with in the City, but for how long he continued to make use of Little Cloister is not known.

In 1671 Abraham Gregory replaced Thomas Vyner as prebendary of the second stall and presumably moved into Little Cloister House - which is where he died in 1690. By then the new post-Dissolution house was quite a sizeable, if rambling, dwelling.

At around this time it seems that there were rooms built above the eastern cloister walk, referred to in the chapter's Act book of 1667 as being 'over the little cloister leading into the great cloister' and leased by a widow; from then on these were to be considered a part of the prebendal house.

In the 1760's Little Cloister House was tenanted by the Reverend Dr. Atwell, and it had become the prebendal house of the second stall.

In 1770 the rooms over Little Cloisters were used by John Benson as a Registry for keeping the Wills and Records belonging to the Diocese of Gloucester'. This John Benson had been appointed Chief Registrar by Bishop Benson (his uncle) in 1770, succeeding his father who was appointed in 1759. He was given custody of all the Bishop's 'Records Books Papers Archives Muniments Writings Evidences and Exhibits whatsoever'.



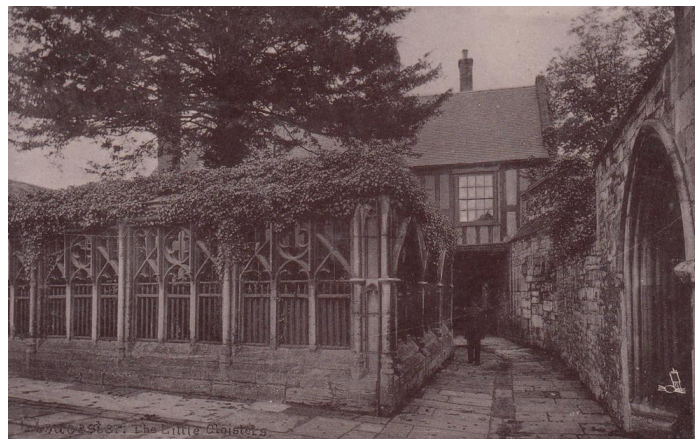
This painted panel came from Little Cloister House and is currently on the internal west wall of the Parliament Room.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

MODERN TIMES



*Painting of 1908
by Frederick Henwood showing the passageway through the house*



*Little Cloister House at the beginning of the 20th century when the passageway had been closed up.
Note the large tree in the centre of the cloisters*

During the Second World War Little Cloister House became a nursery for infants and small children whose mothers were required to work in Gloucester's wartime factories. Little Cloister House then became the home for King's Junior School in 1951. Since 1998 the humanities departments of King's Senior School have been located there, along with the School Museum.

(Wikipedia claims that Little Cloister House contains the oldest classroom in the world, cautiously adding in brackets 'citation needed'. It is presumably referring to the Chequer undercroft, which is now a Geography classroom. This is certainly old, but it did not form part of the school until the 1950s, so 'oldest classroom' is certainly pushing it – perhaps a very old room now used as a classroom would be a more accurate description.¹)

¹ D.J. Evans.

Peripheral Houses

PERIPHERAL HOUSES

There are several houses that are within the precincts of Gloucester Cathedral but do not form part of one of the three courts, Upper Green, Lower Green and Miller's Yard.

These properties I have referred to as 'Peripheral Houses' and grouped them together here.

DULVERTON HOUSE



The building which we know today as Dulverton House originated in the mid-13th century, the same date as the nearby infirmary arches and Little Cloister House. All three sites were part of the hospital which cared for the monks of St Peter's Abbey when they fell sick or became too elderly to fulfil their normal duties. The original medieval building was used as the lodging house of the Master of the Infirmary.

The most important part of the Infirmary's house was a fifty-foot-long timber-framed hall on the upper floor of the building. It was built in the 13th century but reconstructed in the late 14th century.

The north wall of the ground floor undercroft is a buttressed masonry wall which is thought originally to have been one of the outer walls of the 13th century St Bridget's Chapel. This chapel, which stood at the east end of the infirmary for three hundred years, was used by sick monks who were still expected to attend regular worship.

About forty years after the Dissolution, this building was allocated to the Prebendary of the third stall and the first known inhabitant was Canon Laurence Bridger, who was a contemporary of the famous Dean William Laud. He probably lived in Dulverton from 1586 until 1625.

Sometime in the 17th century a new south wing was added to the house. Built of ashlar, this is clearly more modern work than the rest of the property with its upright mullioned windows.

In the 19th century the property was known as Cloister House. It was given a major restoration, most likely in the 1880s.

The arms engraved on the escutcheon above the entrance door are those of the family of Canon William St John Hope, who lived in the house at this time.



Aerial View of Dulverton House

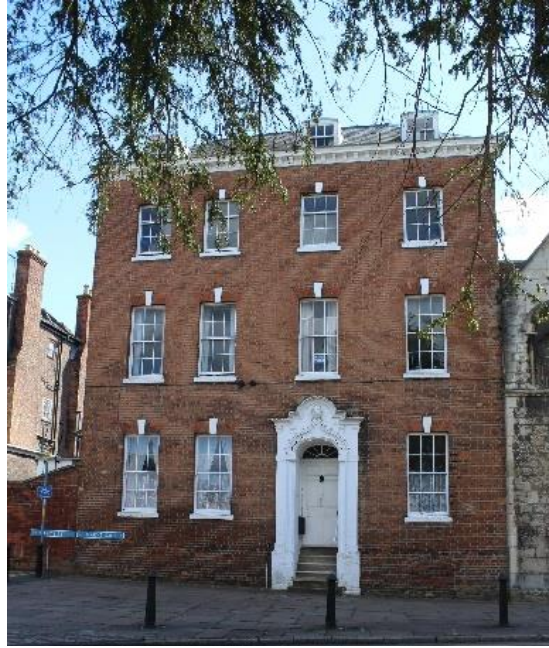
In the early years of the 20th century Bishops of Tewkesbury lived in the house.

The house was purchased by the King's the school for use as a boarding house in 1957, named in honour of Lord Dulverton, one of the school's main benefactors.

In 1997 it became the school's Sixth Form Centre.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

MONUMENT HOUSE



The site of the house is immediately to the north of the St. Mary's Gateway and it fronts St. Mary's Square.

In 1634 this was 'a small house' and in a surviving lease of 1649, a 'little House or Tenement with a garden' occupied by Elizabeth Barber.

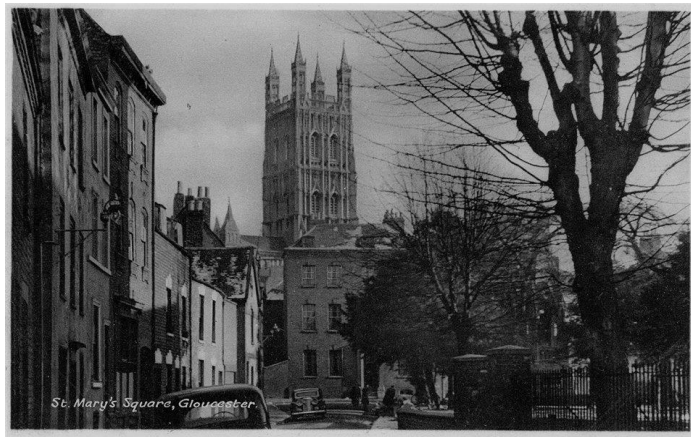
The present building is considerably larger than that small house and is mid-Georgian. The house is essentially 'L-shaped', the main section fronting the Square and the other built to the south-east alongside the adjacent St. Marys Gate.

The building is a good example of a mid-18th century town house of relatively high status that has suffered few significant alterations.

This house was allocated to the holder of the fifth prebendal stall but from the nineteenth century he occupied the house now known as King's School House.

For some time, this was the vicarage for St Mary de Lode

in 2018 it was converted into student accommodation.



Monument House before the redevelopment of St. Mary's Square

Peripheral Houses

KING'S SCHOOL HOUSE



King's School House is not noticeable to the casual observer either from the cathedral grounds or from many of the accessible higher parts of the Cathedral.

Surrounded by numerous mature trees it is situated behind Wardle House and its grounds are either surrounded by high wooden fencing or the buildings in St John's Lane.

The land on which this House stands was once part of the Abbey's burial grounds allocated to the monks of monastery. After the dissolution, there was no longer any need for this monks' cemetery and the area gradually redeveloped as a garden and cherry orchard, divided into separate parcels of land that were let. It became known as the Common Orchard.

Around 1590, this parcel of land was let to William Blackleach upon which he built a 'new' house. William Blackleach was Diocesan Chancellor for twenty-four years, a role which saw him enforcing ecclesiastical discipline as the Bishop of Gloucester's legal officer.

After William's death in 1616, his son Abraham, rented the land and by then his father's 'new' house was two dwellings. They extended the house in 1623 and five years later were given permission to create their own gateway through the precinct walls into St John's Lane.

The house, formerly known as Cathedral House, but today known as King's School House, was to become one of the grandest houses in all of the cathedral close. The taste for the Classical style of architecture that was a feature of this period is reflected in one of the first-floor rooms, which has 17th century panelling and a contemporary stone chimney place with two tiers of Corinthian columns.

John Cocks took on the lease to this house in 1686, when it was described as "a great house and stable".

It was a John Cocks living there in 1720 who required a door into the church so there could be a path from his house into the Lady Chapel.

Common Ground and Sacred Space

The house was enlarged again towards the end of the 18th century and given its present ashlar Georgian façade.

From the nineteenth century this was the residence of a member of the chapter who was not only the holder of the fifth prebendal stall, but also the Master of Pembroke College, Oxford. The Master of Pembroke came to Gloucester to be 'in residence' during July, August or September, i.e. during the summer vacation. This arrangement was to the great advantage not only of the holder, in providing him with a summer 'seat' conveniently near Oxford, but also to the cathedral.



One of the most well-known was Dr Francis Jeune, who was a canon at Gloucester from 1843 until 1864, when he went on to become Bishop of Peterborough. He acted as sub-dean and took a leading role in glazing the Cathedral Cloisters with new stained glass.

In 1858 he was also responsible for planning the 'carriage drive' around the east end of the Cathedral, enabling horse-drawn gigs to travel from College Green, past King's School House and on to Pitt Street.

About 1948, after the Second World War, the house became a residence for Headmasters of the King's School.

BISHOPSCOURT



Behind the Precinct walls at the junction of Hare Lane and Pitt Street is Bishopscourt, the current home of the Bishop of Gloucester. This view, taken from the roof of the Cathedral Tower, shows Bishopscourt and its entrance from Pitt Street.

It was built in 1958 when bishop Askwirth vacated the Bishop's Palace for use by the King's School.

Initially known as Palace House, it was renamed Bishopscourt in 1975 when John Yates was appointed Bishop.

With its entrance from Pitt Street, its grounds surrounded on two sides by the remains of the north and east precinct walls and the remainder by trees and a high fence, it is not at all noticeable.

Amongst the trees surrounding the palace may be found some steps leading from the garden of Bishop's Court into the Cathedral Grounds. A handy short cut leading directly into the Cathedral.

It was down these steps and along the path in front of Wardle House that the present Bishop was verged from her residence to the west end of the Cathedral for her installation as Bishop of Gloucester



Canons and Prebends

CANONS AND PREBENDS

There are many references in this document to Canons; Prebendaries; 'The College' and the Canon's Stalls.

Some explanation of these terms might be useful.

The Cathedral Chapter is the governing body of the Cathedral and is responsible for all aspects of its life and mission. Its members consist of the Dean, five residentiary canons (a senior member of the clergy connected to the Cathedral and who live in the area) and three lay canons (experienced members of the wider community who are not ordained). It also has a Chapter Steward to oversee the running of the chapter.

Currently the five Residentiary canons are: - The Canon Chancellor; The Canon Precentor; The Archdeacon of Gloucester; and two Canons whose work within the Diocese of Gloucester overlaps that of the Cathedral.

(A Residentiary Canon lives within the precincts and so will be involved with the daily liturgy.)

The College of Canons: - This is the body of both lay and ordained people, appointed by the Bishop to play a part in the governance of the Cathedral. It consists of Gloucester's two Bishops; members of the Chapter; Honorary ordained Canons, and Honorary Lay Canons. (Appointment as an Honorary Canon is a recognition of Christian leadership and service.)

A Prebend is a clergyman whose stipend is allotted from the revenues of the Cathedral and as such may also be a member of the Chapter or just a member of the College of Canons. When St Peter's was a monastery, the Benedictine monks occupied stalls in the Quire where they would either stand or sit during their round of daily services. These sixty, beautifully carved, canopied stalls, dating from around 1360, are still used daily as the clergy of the Cathedral end each day with Evening Prayer - a combination of the last two services that the monks would have said - Vespers and Compline.

Today, each member of the College of Canons is allocated one of these stalls in the same way as each stall would have been allocated to a member of the Benedictine community prior to the dissolution.

Many of the stalls have a brass plaque denoting, in Latin, the title of the person to which the stall has been allocated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In producing my study on the Precincts, from which the contents of this guide have been taken, I have been helped and assisted by many people and whenever I have asked to use, or quote, from their publications, this has been granted freely and supportively.

In no particular order, my thanks go to the following :-

Susan Hamilton for encouraging me at the start of this journey and for supplying me with a most useful document Richard Morriss' Rapid Building Survey of the Properties held by the Dean and Chapter (updated 2015). It was this that gave me a skeleton on which to work and with Richard's permission I have quoted extensively from this survey.

Judith Holroyd for her time showing me around No 2 Millers Green. A fascinating building. Sadly it has not been possible to use many of the pictures I took in this publication.

Emily Shepherd for allowing me inside Nos 12 and 14 College Green and 4 Miller's Green in order to take photos.

Colin Scorer, head of maintenance in Church House, for showing me its secrets and for allowing me to wander all over this exciting building taking photographs.

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Sylvia Copen-Gardener for sharing with me her memories of the residents of the precincts. Regrettably I have not been able to use all these.

Canon Neil Heavysides for allowing me to photograph the inside of No 7 College Green just before his departure; after which the building was converted by Redcliffe College into a study centre.

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Another most useful book is Davis Welander's History, Art and Architecture of Gloucester Cathedral (1997). Much relating to the precincts is scattered throughout this tome. I have taken, merged and rewritten much of what he wrote. I have also used several of his pictures.