

Tewkesbury Methodist Church

The story so far...

- 1739**
George Whitefield
of Gloucester first brought Methodism Preaching to Tewkesbury



1866
First Manse
purchased.



1940
Schoolroom
requisitioned by War Department for use by soldiers rescued from Dunkirk.


- 1739**
Revd John Wesley
Began his long-life crusade of preaching the gospel



1878
Present Church built by *Thomas Collins.*



1977
Tewkesbury United Reformed Church closed and members transferred to this church.


- 1744**
John Wesley's
first visit to preach in the open air on Perry Hill. Wesley visits new Methodist preaching house Tolzey Lane demolished.



1881
Thomas Collins
built an organ loft and installed two further stained glass windows. The Church acquired a cottage for the Church keeper



1989
Organ rebuilt
at a cost exceeding £8000


- 1790**
John Wesley
aged 87, makes his 23rd and final visit. Died 1791.



1889
Death of *Honor Collins*, wife of *Thomas*. In her memory he built 4 almshouses for needy Wesleyan Methodists



1999-2000
Major refurbishment of Chapel & Hall costing £416,000. All loans paid off by 2005

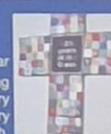

- 1813-1814**
Tolzey Lane preaching house demolished. Larger preaching house in *Tolzey Lane* opened.



1907
Raymond Priestley member of the Chapel, joins Shackleton's exploration of Antarctica.



2003
125th year celebration including drama documentary about history of the church.


- 1838**
Tewkesbury Methodist Circuit established.



1914-18
12 members of the Chapel died whilst serving in the British Army

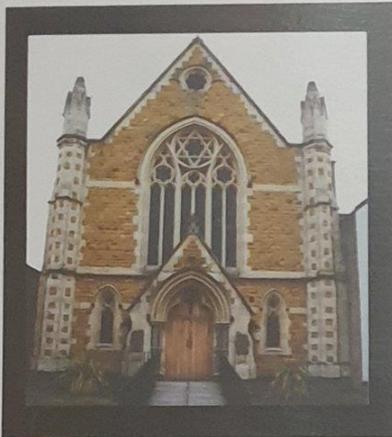


2008
Formation of the new *Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire* which includes the former *Tewkesbury and Cheltenham* circuits.


- 1923**
Electric Light installed in church.



Thomas Collins The Master Builder



The Builder of this church came from a strong Methodist family. His father and grandfather had served as stewards and Thomas had attended the Sunday School. He had been apprenticed as a stone mason and in 1841 had established a business which continued for over 130 years.

NATIONAL REPUTATION

Collins specialised in the building and restoration of churches, including **Tewkesbury Abbey**, and medieval houses and he established a national reputation for the quality of his work.

The Site at The Cross becomes available

By the 1870's the Society in Tolzey Lane had again outgrown its premises and the people began raising money with the hope of building a better church. At the Cross in Tewkesbury stood the unused Market House, built in 1787. Attempts to sell it had failed. Collins recognised the site would be ideal for a new church and in 1872 with his partner, William Cullis (also a Methodist) he bought the Market House. He held the property for two years during which the Wesleyan trustees raised £750 to buy it.

Tewkesbury's Principal Employer

By the end of the 19th Century Collins was the principal employer in the town and a greatly revered person. He was Mayor of Tewkesbury for six terms.



Memorial tablet to Thomas Collins in Tewkesbury Abbey.

The New Chapel is Built

Fund raising began to build the church on this site, an architect was employed and Collins and Cullis were to be the builders. £3,000 was raised but Collins advised that the proposed design would cost £3,500. The trustees finding the cost too great gave instructions to Collins to start the work but "to leave out things at his discretion to keep things within a budget of £3,000".

Tewkesbury Methodist
Circuit
Ministers 1929-1991



Tewkesbury & Cheltenham
Methodist Circuit
Ministers 1991-

1929 Rev. E.R. Thompson
1932 Rev. F. Rabey
1935 Rev. J.R. Rowe
1939 Rev. W.J. T. Small
1942 Rev. G. Spooner
1946 Rev. H. Bullough
1949 Rev. A. Truswell
1953 Rev. C.A. Amey
1954 Rev. A. Bush
1955 Rev. E. Isherwood
1960 Rev. E.J. Okell
1966 Rev. J.V. Josey
1970 Rev. J.W. Crofton
1975 Rev. E.C. Nixon
1982 Rev. C.D. Harbach
1987 Rev. A. Windsor

1991 Rev. A. Windsor
1992 Rev. R. Leathwood
1999 Rev. C. Seaton
2006 Rev. O. Da Silva
2013 Rev. C. Cory
2017 Rev. J. Webb

