



St. Phillip the Deacon

The original iron mission church of St Phillip's Church in Upper Stratton opened 27th December 1879 with 230 sittings. The first baptism was on 27/06/1880 of William James Whiteman, son of Thomas a labourer and Sarah by St Margaret's curate J H Calley. The Iron mission building had started life being used as a Free Christian Church, having been built in Regent Street, Swindon in 1861, bought by John Arkell it was to be a barrel store, but his wife Edith and daughter Susan ensured it was donated for church use. The 1901 Easter & Parish Meeting were attended by over 100, the celebrations starting at 7 a.m. Canon Everingham conducted the services. A loss of £2 0s 3d for the year was reported. *Swindon Advertiser 19-04-1901*. Harvest Festival, Sunday morning taken by Rev H R B Morgan and the evening by Rev D F Burgess. On the Tuesday Rev J H Ellaby, vicar of South Wraxall leads the services, and the lesson was read by Rev P Howard of Brereton. The Sunday collection for the poor raised £1 3s and Tuesday for the QV Clergy Sustentation Fund raised £1 2s 4d. *Swindon Advertiser 04-10-1901*.

At a Parochial Review in 1903 it was decided that Stratton needed a second church to cover Kingsdown & Upper Stratton. *Swindon Advertiser 08-05-1903*. The church land was procured from Merton College, Oxford by Mrs Archer and was named after Philip Arkell, a favourite grandson of the Arkell family. The foundation stone was laid on Saturday 28th August 1904. *Swindon Advertiser 02-09-1904*. As the Bishop of the day had not been consulted, he decided that the church would be named after a lesser saint. As a result, St Philip the Deacon is one of only a few churches in the country to bear the name.

The new church was erected in 1904-5 at a cost of £3,700, is an edifice of brick in the Early English style, with green slate tiling roof, from the designs by Mr. W. A. H. Masters, architect of Swindon: and built by William Jones of Gloucester, there are 463 sittings. The foundation stone was laid by Edith Arkell. The dedication service was held on 24th June at 3:30, attended by local dignitaries and Bishop Dr. Forest-Browne. *Swindon Advertiser 30-06-1905*. The single bell came from the former Nythe farm. The iron mission was then used as a parish hall and Sunday school. St. Philip's Industrial Band of Hope Annual Outing for 150 children and 40 adults took place last Saturday. Leaving on 3 trams from Gorse Hill they went to Swindon M&SWJ Rly on a special train to Savernake Forest. On arrival they took lunch, they then moved to a ground near the Hospital where cricket, rounders, rambles, and games were played. Tea was given and they returned home at 8:30 p.m. with rams waiting to take them back to Gorse Hill. *Swindon Advertiser 05-07-1907*. Only recorded burial in churchyard is of Mrs Greenhaugh, ex Girls School Headmistress on 20th Jan 1909. *Swindon Advertiser 22-01-1909*. Annual Exhibition and Sale of articles made by ST. Philip's Band of Hope took place on Monday in the Sunday school. £6 was raised. *Swindon Advertiser 14-05-1909*. The Rev C McDonald Hobley was presented with a gold watch, chain, and cross pendant by the congregation at St. Philip's and a walking stick from Stratton Scout troop. *Faringdon Advertiser 15-07-1911* The organ was rebuilt in 1925 in memory of parishioners who died in the First World War. There were also separate donations for the organ fund from Cycle Club, and others. *North Wilts Herald 06-03-1925*. It was agreed to re-roof the church at a cost of £360, Mr W H A Masters the Architect is giving his time free of charge. *North Wilts Herald 13-07-1928*.

It became its own parish in 1932. The Bishop of Malmesbury officiated at the official consecration service and Rev. J C Hawksworth was appointed as the first vicar. *North Wilts Herald* 24-03-1932

A New vicarage was built in 1836. *North Wilts Herald* 20-11-1936.

Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Barnett, Mrs. Wadsworth and Mrs. Broden to supply flowers during October & Mrs. Browning and Mrs. Parker in November. Five burials during the last month were of people of average age of 78. *North Wilts Herald* 03-10-1941.

Rev. J C Hawksworth took the Remembrance service on Sunday. *North Wilts Herald* 14-11-1941.

During the war German prisoners attended Christmas mass and sung Silent night in their own tongue. A small Lady Chapel has been created and the Agnes Woodley Room made and designated as a choir vestry. A stage has also been built at the back of the church.

In 1999 two choristers, Helen Mooring (17) and Nathalie Lawrence (14), win the Bishop's Choristers Award. For further information please visit St. Philip the Deacon [Website](#) [St. Philips Gallery](#)

Vicars

Pre-1932 ministers supplied from St Margaret's.

S R Worters to Brislington Bristol, then Rural Dean of Bedminster.

North Wilts Herald 16-11-1928.

Ebenezer Tee Davis 1922 Priest in charge.

S Denton 1923

E T Davies Curate 1923

A W J Souper Curate 1924 – 1925 *The Western Daily Press*

02-04-1924.

John Hawksworth 1932 – 1961 Curate 1930 – 1932

Herbert J Gudgin 1962 - 1968

Keith Greenslade 1968 - 1995

Carol Stone 1996 - 2014 (previously - Peter James Stone)

Ali Chesworth 2017-