

# Photographs For A New Century

Third Edition

## RELIGION



Registered Charity 1094700

The original photographs in this collection were taken as part of the Gloucestershire 2000 Photographic Archive project. The Society initially decided to photograph 100 'sites and monuments' which had some historic interest so that a record would exist of their nature and condition in the year 2000. The photographers were all volunteers and were given a free hand regarding the photographs that they took subject to the above general principle. The range of photographs taken varied from monuments which were already well recognised for their historic relevance, to items which were not especially significant in themselves but had a particular interest. All the monuments or sites photographed could potentially face at least modifications and at worst threats to their continuing existence over time.. The work was coordinated by Ron Beard and ultimately the volunteers produced more than 250 photographs, from which those you can see in this document were chosen.

The intention at the time was to revisit the selected sites at ten-year intervals and take new photographs. Accordingly, this was done in 2010 (second edition), and for this **third edition** in the period 2019 – 2024. The collection now provides a record of any changes that have occurred over the last twenty years and provides a valuable insight into how historic sites of interest in the Dean area are valued and cared for. Unfortunately, for the second and third editions some of those who took the original photographs are no longer with us, so new volunteers were recruited. All are acknowledged underneath their photographs.

The photographs are presented in themed collections, namely Mines & Quarries, Transport, Industry, Agriculture & Forestry, Religion and Other Buildings & Monuments. A complete index to the collection is also available.

You can browse through this document, or each individual site can be accessed via the index below.

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## All Saints Church, Newland



All Saints Church, Newland - Largest Forest church, dating from c1200. Locally known as the 'Cathedral of the Forest'.

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO553095  
Photographer – R. Beard

View direction - North North East  
Date taken June 2000



In 2010 renovations were taking place, causing much of the building to be obscured. The picture below shows the church from a different angle, allowing a clearer view.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken June 2010



In 2021, following renovations seen from a different angle.

Photographer - Nick Hodgson

Date taken 19 November 2021

## Bible Christian Chapel, Ruspidge



This former tramway transported iron ore from Shakemantle Mine to Cinderford Furnaces. The building on the right was the former Bible Christian Chapel now used as a workshop for high quality weatherproof clothing.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO651119

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South

Date taken - July 2000



The tramway remains unchanged, even the tarmac patches are as they were. The building is no longer used as a waterproof clothing workshop.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



Some redecoration of the chapel evident in 2020, otherwise no change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Clearwell Cross



Clearwell Cross - A 14<sup>th</sup> Century cross restored in 1866 when the church was built and fully restored in 1991. It is a listed monument.

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO572081

View direction - South East

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

The Cross shows little change since 2000.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010





No change in 2021.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021



## Congregational Church, Coleford



Monmouth to Coleford tramway and Congregational Church, Coleford - The tramway dates from 1812 and the sleepers have been retained in recent improvements to the town centre, the chapel (1842) has been converted to flats.

Coleford Parish

Camera location - SO575109

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North East

Date taken - September 1999



One or two signs have changed, but much remains as it was - including advertising boards.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - November 2009



No discernible change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Crawshay Family Tomb



Crawshay family tomb, St John's churchyard, Cinderford  
Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO653128  
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South East  
Date taken - May 2000



Little change since 2000.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



No change by 2023.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Flaxley Abbey



Flaxley Abbey - Original buildings founded by Roger of Hereford in the twelfth century as the main house of the Flaxley estate. The abbey was suppressed in 1541 and continued in use as a dwelling.

Blaisdon Parish

Camera location - SO690154

Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - North East

Date taken - February 2000



A closer view of the abbey building, taken on the day of a public event.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010



Little change by 2023.

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## Headstone for Stephen and Joseph Blanch



Headstone for Stephen and Joseph Blanch, Newland - Both died in an accident at Futtrall pit, 1815. The inscription reads: Short was thy warning O cruel Death, Two lovely youths thou hast deprived of Breath, They're winged for Heaven and took a hasty Flight, For Crowns of Blessings in the Realm of Light..

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO554095

View direction - South West

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

The headstone remains in the same position - the lettering has become even less distinct

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010





By 2021, further weathering makes the inscription very difficult to read.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021



## Newland Cross



The cross in Newland churchyard dates from the Fourteenth Century, although only the steps at the base are original, the rest was restored in 1864.

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO553095

View direction - North East

Photographer - R Beard

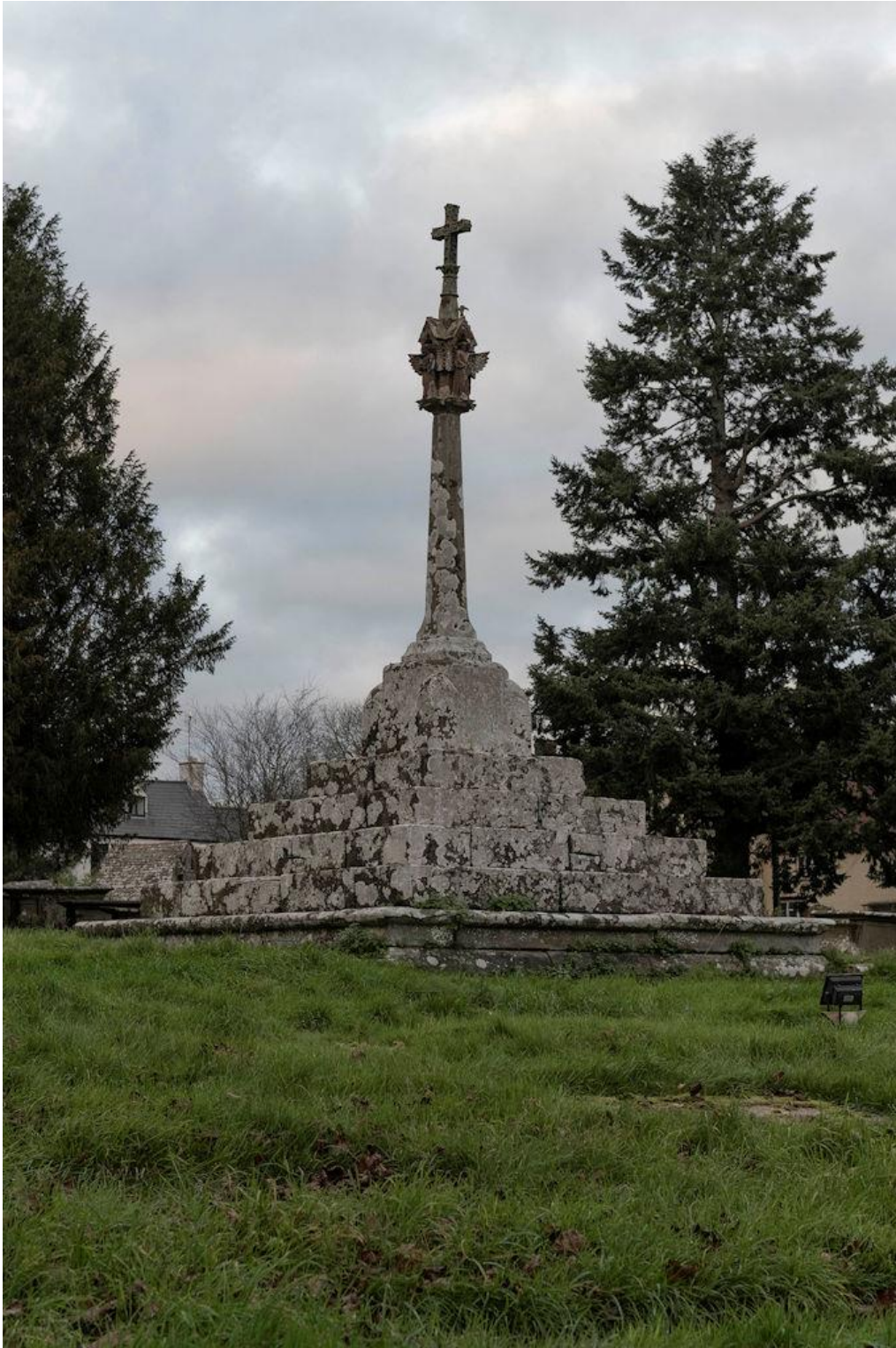
Date taken - June 2000

Slightly more vegetation than previously.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010





Less vegetation than previously, but the lichen is still prevalent.

Photographer – N. Hodgson

Date taken – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

## Newland Lychgate



This imposing lychgate to All Saints churchyard was probably erected by William White in the 1860s at the same time that the church was restored.

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO554096

View direction - North East

Date taken - June 2000

Some timber restoration is evident as well as a new notice board, otherwise the most visible change is the vegetation growth.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010





Vegetation removed, and seemingly in good order in 2021.

Photographer – N. Hodgson

Date taken – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

## Newnham Church



Newnham Church, seen from Arlingham, dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, however most of the fabric, apart from the tower (rebuilt in the 1830s) was destroyed by fire in 1881. The rebuilding that followed was intended to restore exactly what had been there before.

Newnham Parish

Location - SO695111  
Photographer - K Walker

View direction - North West  
Date taken - October 2005



A closer view. Work on the bell tower and refurbishing the bells has taken place since 2005.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Old Manse, Ruardean



The Old manse near St Michael's Church in Ruardean shows the date 1722 on the plaque above the door.  
Ruardean Parish

Camera location - SO621177  
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North East  
Date taken - August 2000



Some minor changes are visible and, although not visible in this reduced version - the year date has been removed.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010



A repaint has taken place since 2010, otherwise no remarkable changes.

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## St Anthony's Well



St Anthony's Well - The stonework of this well was constructed in the early nineteenth century, famed for curing skin diseases.

Littledean Parish

Camera location - SO670157

Photographer - A J Sulston

View direction - North West

Date taken - January 2000



Little has changed in the intervening years.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010





Little obvious change since 2010, although a group of volunteers have cleared the well of silt in the interim.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## St James' Church, Lancaut



St James' Church, Lancaut - Small parish on Welsh side of Offa's Dyke. 12th–13thC building, with later additions. Services discontinued 1865, building in ruined state by 1885. Wintour's Leap can be seen in the background.

Tidenham Parish

Camera location - ST547965

Photographer - C Martyn

View direction - South East

Date taken - August 2000



Although the visibility was not as good as on the original day it is clear that the ruins are in a similar condition.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - September 2011



The former church has been sympathetically conserved by the Forest of Dean Buildings Preservation Trust and has not deteriorated since 2010.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022



A view of the interior of the church

## St Mary the Virgin, English Bicknor



Church of St Mary, English Bicknor - Norman church dating from c1100 (mostly rebuilt), set in an oval Saxon churchyard within the boundaries of a motte and bailey castle.

English Bicknor Parish

Camera location - SO582158

View direction – West

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - January 2000

Largely unaltered view.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - April 2010





An alternative view in 2022. The church is still in use and appears to be in good order.

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022



Norman arches in the church.

## St Mary Magdalene, Hewelsfield



Church of St Mary Magdalene, Hewelsfield - 12th-13th C church, on circular, possibly pre Christian site. Restored 1860's. United with St Briavel's parish, 1963. Churchyard has 1300 year old yew tree. Norman tower houses a bell from 1450.

Hewelsfield Parish

Camera location - SO567021  
Photographer - C Martyn

View direction - North East  
Date taken - August 2000



There is no apparent difference from the original.

Photographer - A Martyn

Date taken - September 2010



The church appears to still be in good condition in 2022.

Photographer – K. Walker

Date taken – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## St Michael's Church Mitcheldean



St Michael's Church Mitcheldean originated in the 14th and 15th Centuries. The slender spire was rebuilt in 1740 and the church was largely restored in 1852-53.

Mitcheldean Parish

Camera location - SO662185

View Direction – North

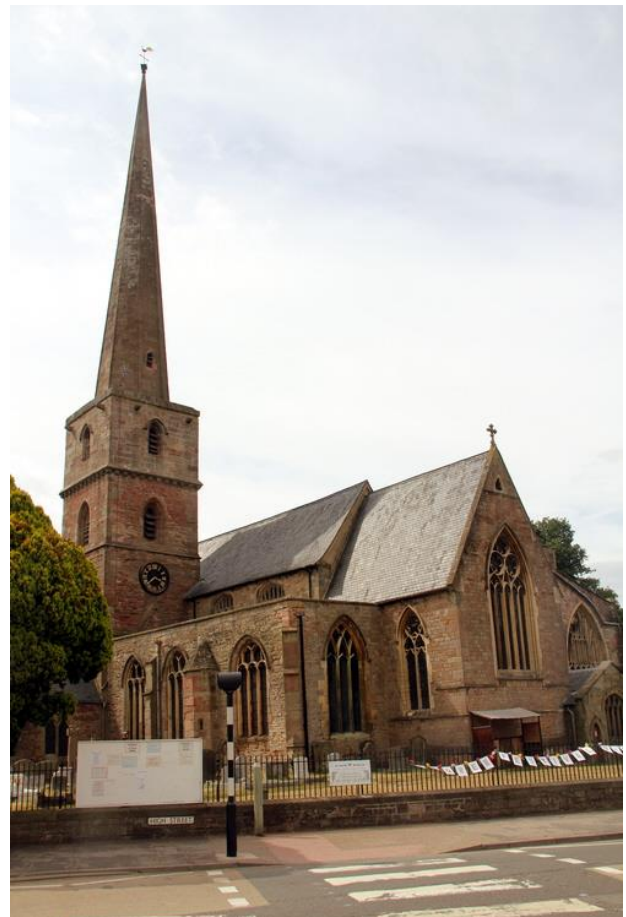
Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - June 2000

This view, taken from a slightly different angle shows little change.

Photographer - M Sullivan

Date taken - July 2010







The church is still in use and appears to be in good order in 2022.

Photographer – M. Sullivan

Date taken – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## St Peter's Church, Clearwell



St Peter's Church, Clearwell - Designed by John Middleton at the request of the Dowager Countess of Dunraven of Clearwell Castle and opened in 1866

Newland Parish

Camera location - SO572079

View direction - North North East

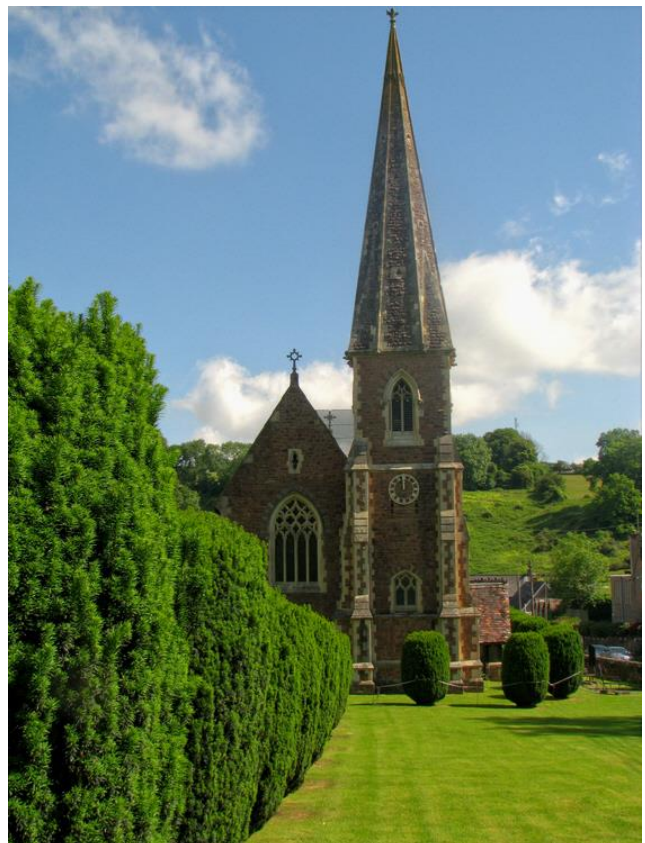
Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

Still impressive and very well kept grounds.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010





St Peter's is grade 1 listed and is still in use. The grounds are still being kept in good order, as apparently is the church.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 26<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## St Stephen's Mission, Bilson



St Stephen's Mission, Bilson - An outpost for St Stephen's Church, Cinderford. Built to provide a mission for local gypsy families.

Cinderford Parish

Camera location - SO653146

Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South East

Date taken - April 2000



Vegetation now obscures the original view. This photograph is from a different viewpoint, the equivalent to the original is shown below.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010



The mission was closed in 2018 and was subsequently demolished in 2023 after this photograph was taken in 2020.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Tower and Cross (Coleford)



Tower and 'The Cross on the Tump', Coleford - Tower is from the church built in 1821, demolished 1882. The cross dates from 1882.

Coleford Parish

Camera location - SO575107

View direction - South West

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2000

Little change over the ten years

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010





No discernible change since 2010.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Wesleyan Chapel, Cinderford Bridge



Line of Forest of Dean Tramway and former Wesleyan Chapel, Cinderford Bridge - Opposite the Chapel (1869) was a milepost showing Bullo 4 1/4 miles. Removed by a collector. The entrance to the nineteenth century Old Arles level was just beyond the shed on the left..

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO651125  
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - South South East  
Date taken - July 2000



The old chapel and tramway show little change apart from the decoration and flagpole.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - July 2010





As before – some detail obscured by vegetation.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## William Jones' Almshouses, Newland



William Jones' Almshouses, Newland - Date from 1615.  
Newland Parish

Camera location - SO553095  
Photographer - R Beard

View direction - North West  
Date taken - June 2000



The alms house remain substantially unaltered, some minor water damage can be seen at one point.

Photographer - R Beard

Date taken - June 2010



Little change since 2010.

Photographer – N. Hodgson

Date taken – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Plaque describing the purpose & history of the almshouses.

## Zion Chapel (Soudley)



Zion Chapel, Soudley - Built 1820 an early example of a Forest of Dean non-conformist chapel.

Ruspidge Parish

Camera location - SO660102

View direction – South

Photographer - A J Sulston

Date taken - July 2000

The chapel is less visible due to vegetation growth. The photos below show more detail.

Photographer - J Orr

Date taken - July 2010





By 2022 the Chapel had been sold on and repurposed as a holiday let. The condition of the structure was good then.

Photographer – R. Beard

Date taken – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022