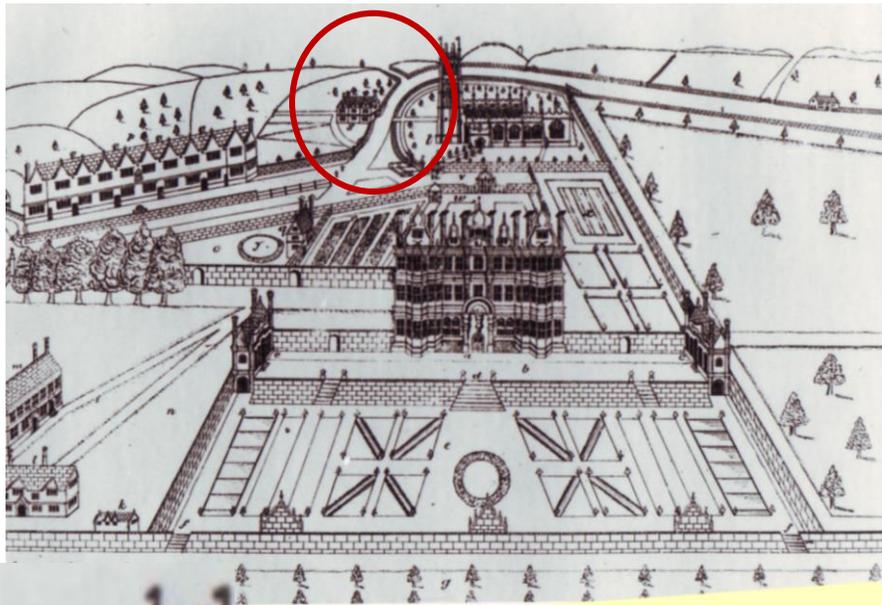


Covenant House

is the 'Old Vicarage', believed to have been on this site since the early 1500s, but having various transformations through the centuries, dependent upon the means and aspirations of the incumbents.



Detail of a drawing early 1700's that imagined what Campden House looked like before being fired during the Civil War..

As the Vicarage still existed this could be assumed to be an accurate portrayal of the building .

A Victorian extension was added, only to be removed 100 years later.

Eventually, and despite the protestations of parishioners and local organisations, the house was sold in 1992, as a private residence, and part of the garden was handed over to the Ernest Wilson Garden Trust.

Brownies and Cubs could no longer roam the extensive gardens doing 'woodcraft' and the Church Fete (who remembers Mr Lydiatt's loudspeaker system?) was moved to the smaller site next door.



Fig. 10. House from north west after the 1833 extension.

A relic of a past era

There is a bell on the outside wall of the old Vicarage, installed by Canon Charles Kennaway when he built Vicarage Cottages for the additional servants to the eight who attended in the house. He wanted to be able to summon his staff who were housed there – so it is said, although the bell would have had to be very loud to echo down the length of the garden. It certainly seems large enough.



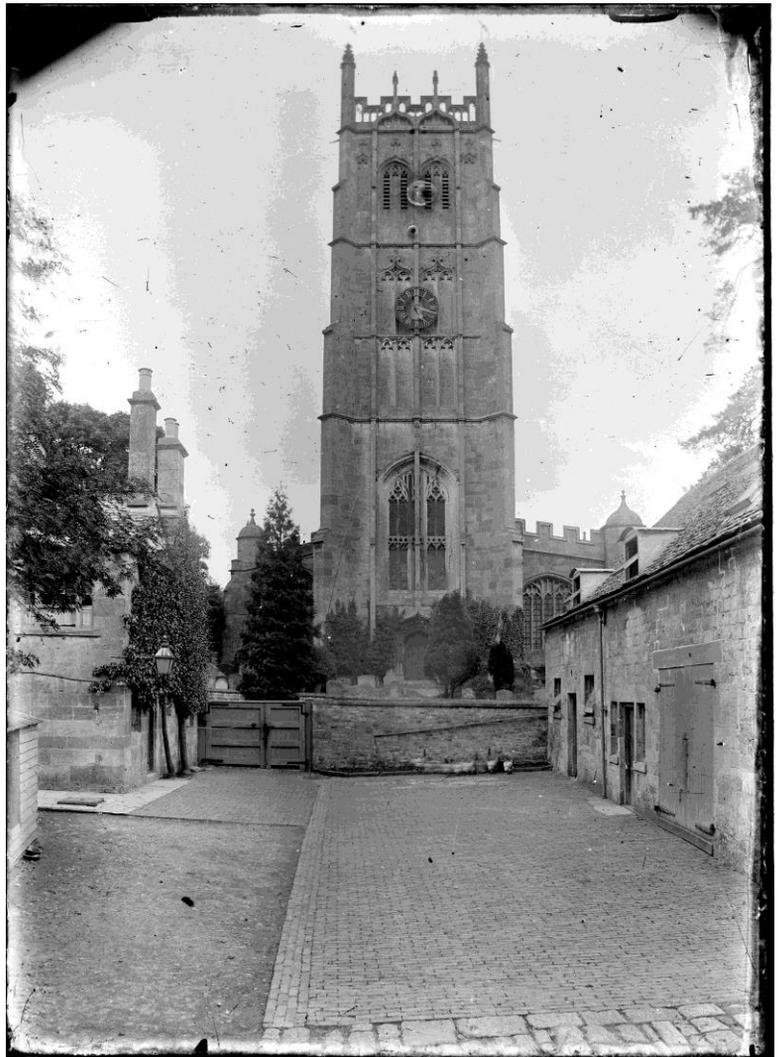
Vicarage Cottages were built in 1833, according to the plaque on the wall (CEK 1833). Canon Kennaway was seldom in Campden and by 1841 the census shows that there were three agricultural labourers, a laundress, a tailor and a woman of independent means living as heads of the household in the six cottages.



They seem unlikely to have been the Vicarage servants, although the men may have been the gardeners.

Today's Vicarage used to be the stable block of the Vicarage, housing the vicar's pony and trap and the carriages of visitors. The building fell into disrepair over the years.

Photo of the yard and stable block by Jesse Taylor c.1900



50 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 23, 1947.

CHIPPING CAMPDEN: Rest room for POWs. A notable step forward in plans to make the life of German prisoners as normal as possible was taken on Thursday when a rest room for their use was opened in one of the outbuildings at the vicarage. The room was formerly the HQ of Toc H in the town, but after some years of disuse its condition, until a month ago, was extremely bad. Through the energy of the prisoners the room has been thoroughly cleaned and whitewashed.

Tidied up, the stable block became a community room and then a recreational centre for WWII POWs,



The 'Pilgrims' meeting in the room over the stables. There are many familiar faces and we must ask for some memories. We are not sure who the curate was.



The young men's 'Bible class': standing at the back are Bill Murray, Tony Grove and Norman Murray

In the 1950s meetings of church youth groups were held there, until the stable block was converted into a dwelling.

