

HEMPTON

G St John's Church

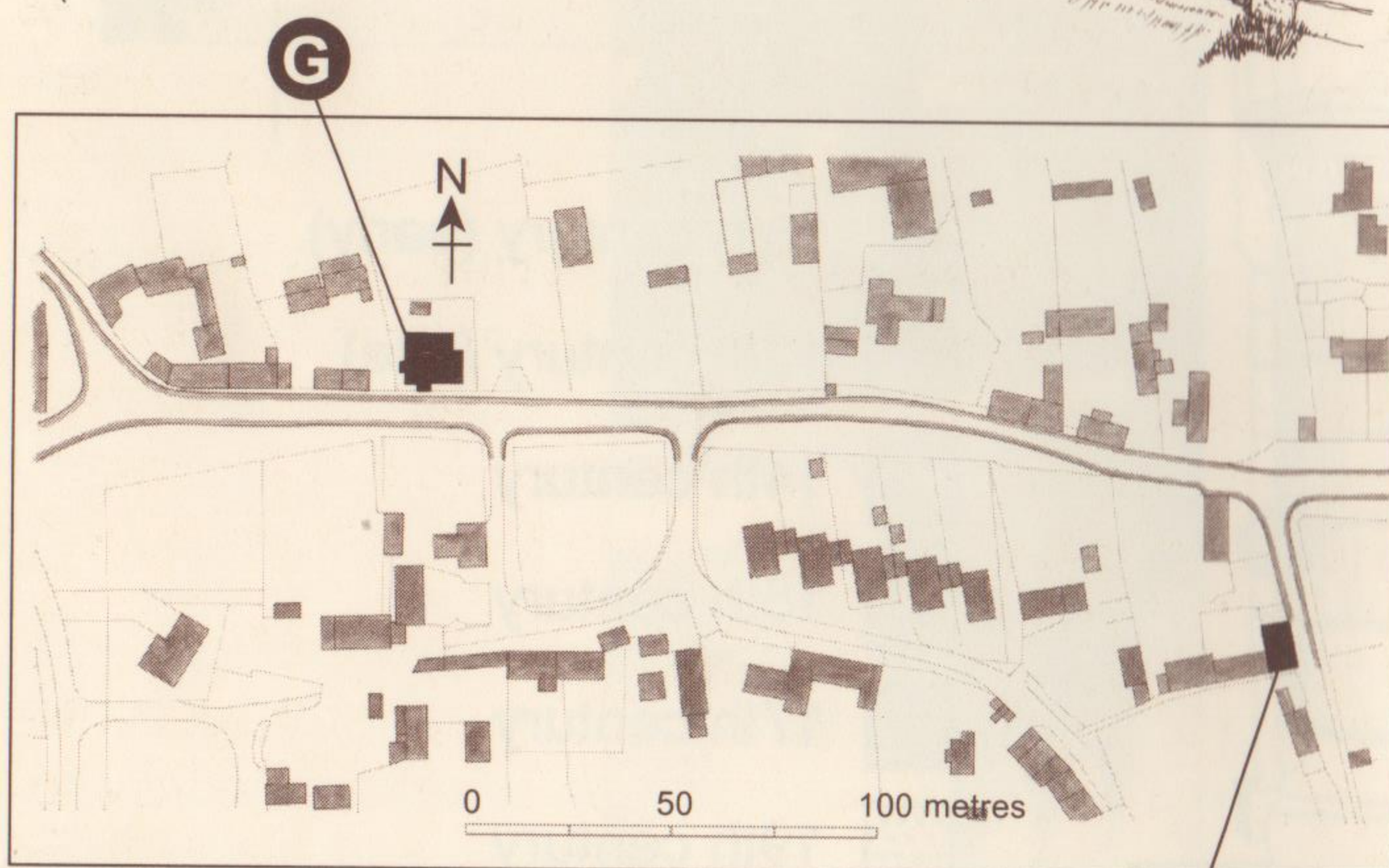
This church was built in 1851 by Franklins of Deddington, on land bought by the Rev. William Wilson, rector of Over Worton, and the Rev. William Cotton Risley, retired vicar of Deddington. It was designed and paid for by the Rev. Wilson, who also gave the 12th-century font from



his own church. The church originally had a north aisle, which was used as a school, but the arches were filled in, in the 1960s, when the school was no longer needed. In 1988, St John's was threatened with closure, but was saved by the determined efforts of the Friends of St John's Church.

H Independent or Congregational Chapel

Now a private house, this chapel was built in 1840, listed in the Oxfordshire Religious Census of 1851, and closed in the 1950s.

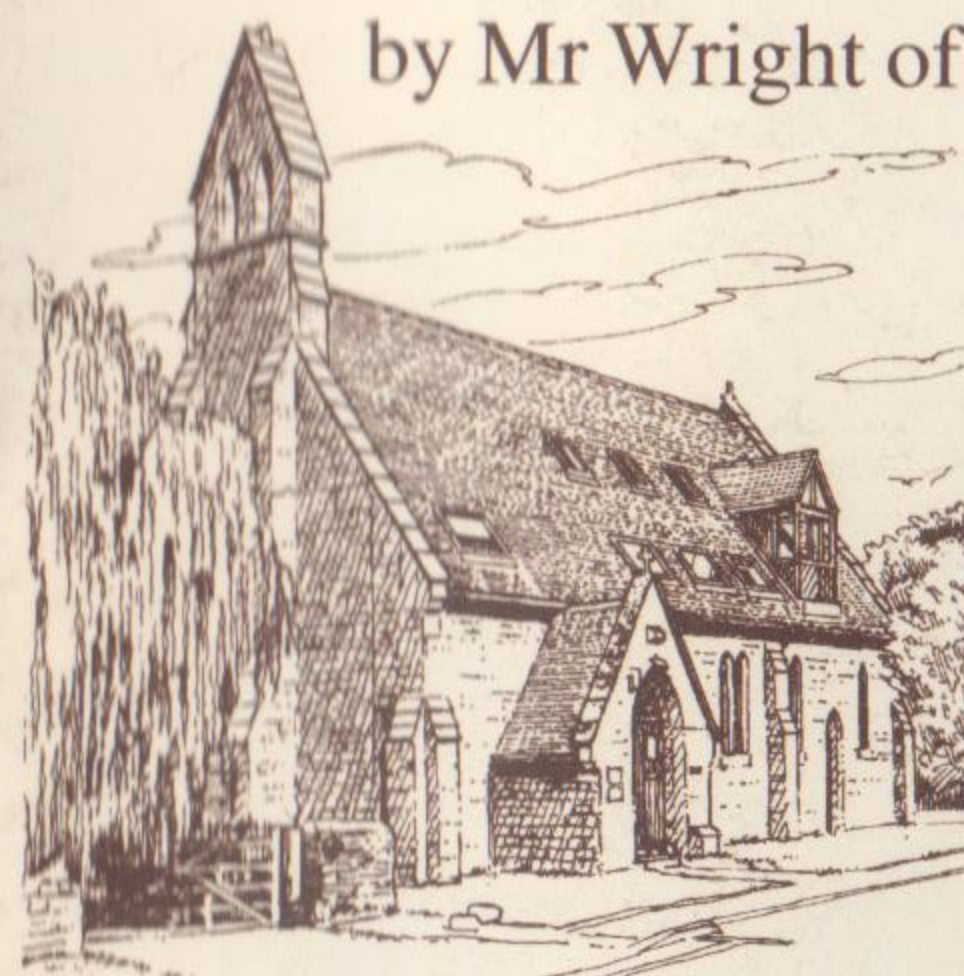


Sources: *A History of Deddington, Oxfordshire*, H. M. Colvin, 1963; *The Story of Deddington*, Mary Vane Turner, 1933; church leaflets, archives and public records; Deddington Oral History Project.

CLIFTON

J Chapel of St James

This former chapel, designed by J. C. & G. Buckley, is now a commercial building. The site was probably given by Mr Wright of St James Farm, Clifton, and the

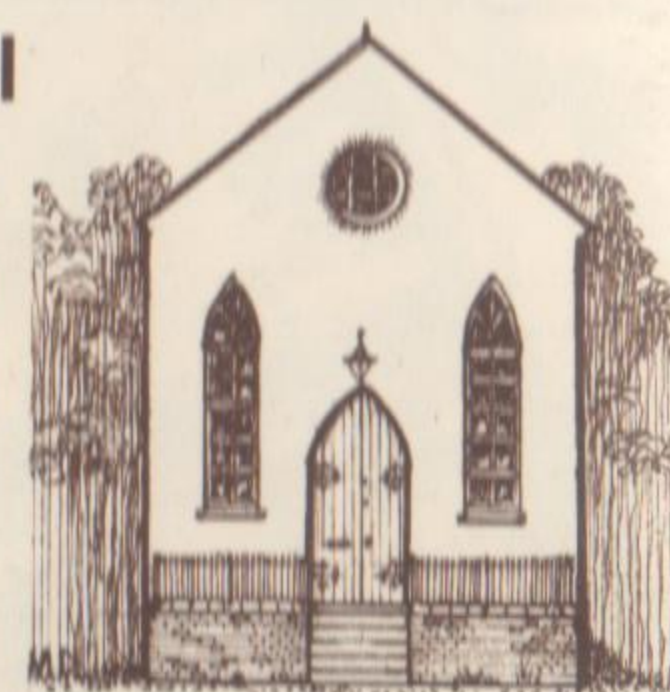


stone by the Cartwrights of Aynho in Northamptonshire. The building was paid for by the Rev. William Cotton Risley, who laid the foundation stone in 1851. The chapel was consecrated in 1853. Because of declining congregations, it was closed in 1976,

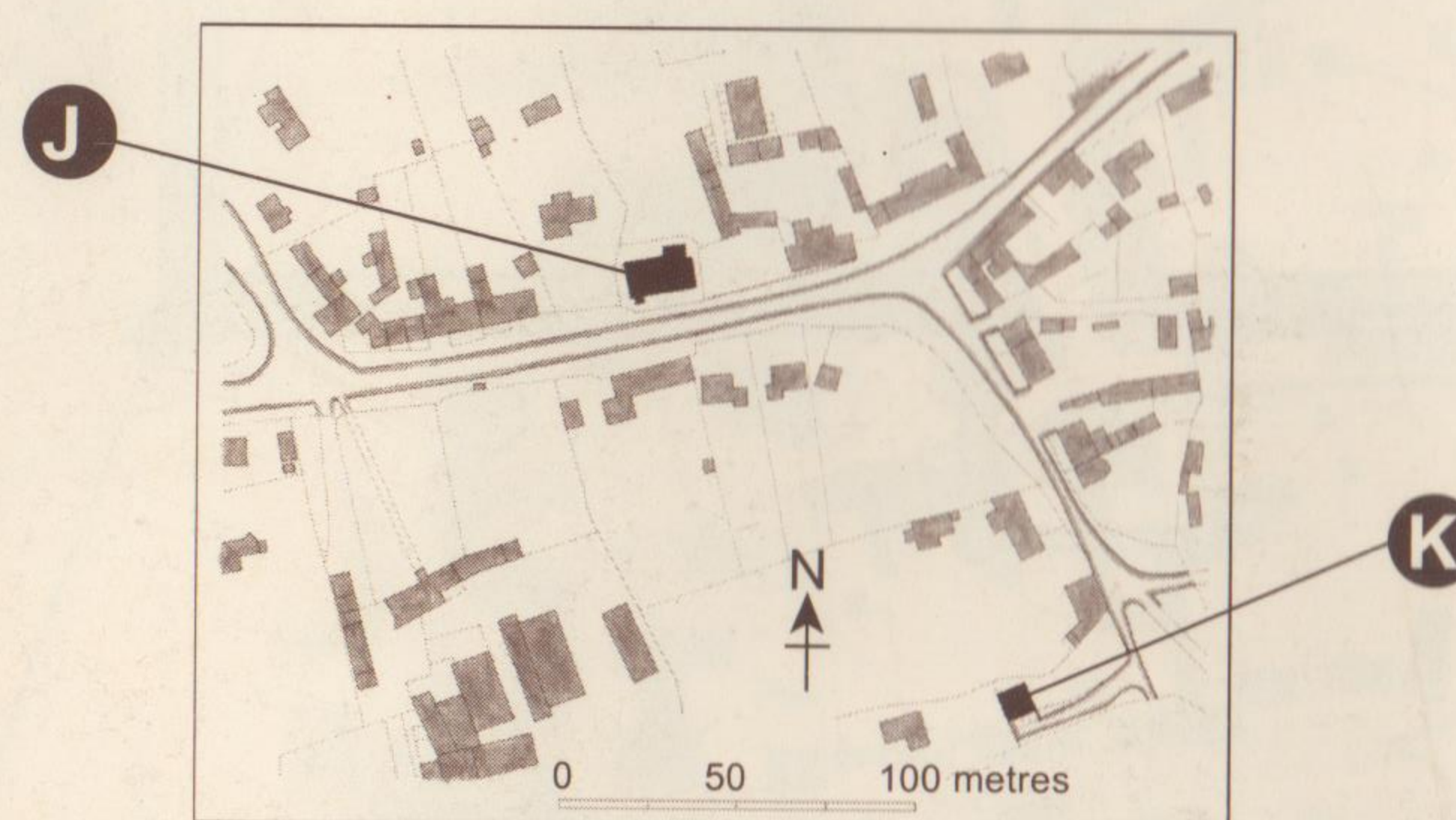
when the cross was given to Deddington Secondary School and, after that closed, to the Warriner School, Bloxham. The communion silver and linen were presented to the Bishop of Zaire, for use in his new cathedral in Boga.

K Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

Now a private house, this chapel was built around 1815. It was sold about 1970 because of declining numbers in the village, which also affected the Anglican Chapel of St James.



There was a medieval church in Clifton; the site has not been identified.



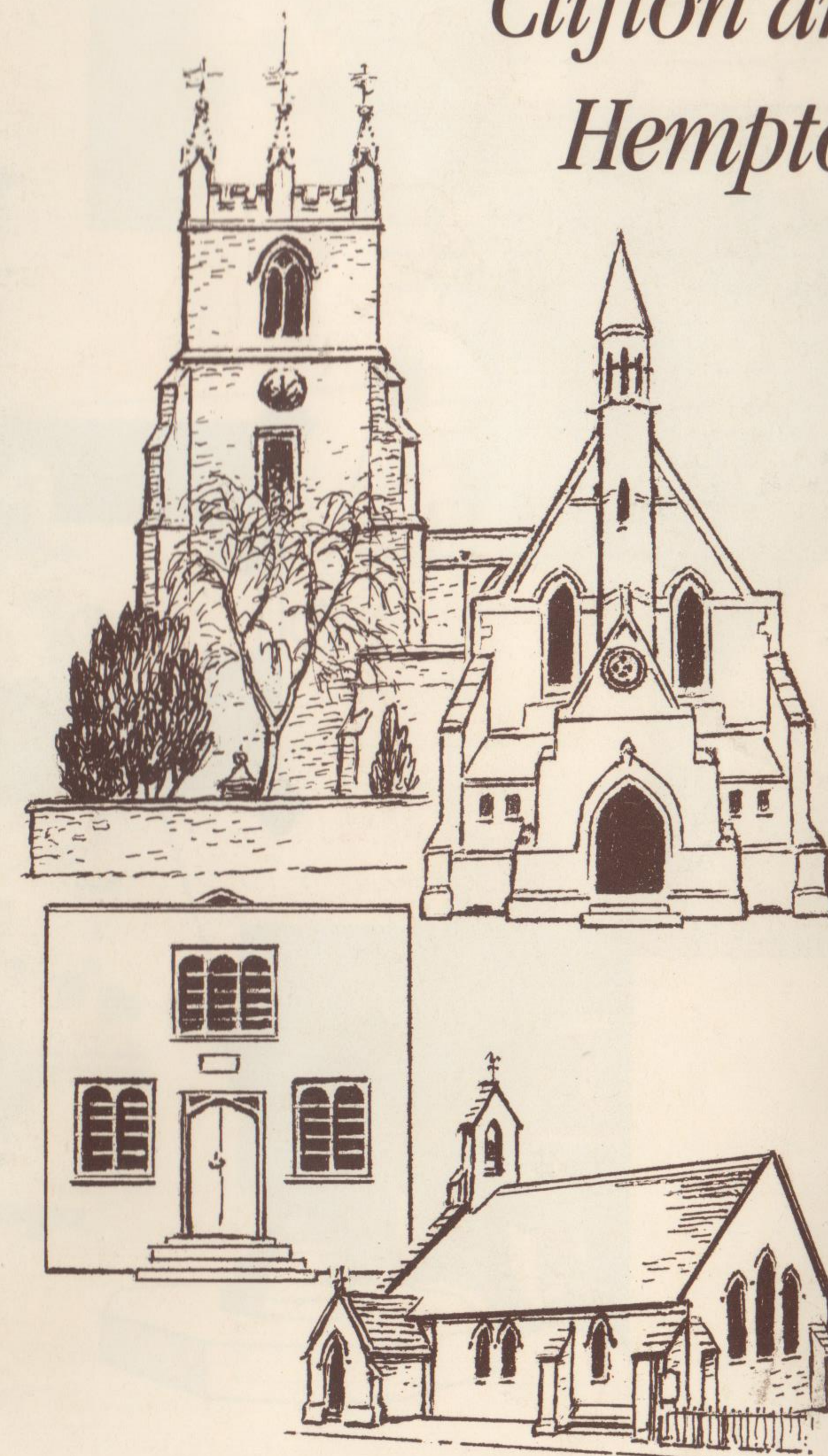
This leaflet forms part of the souvenir series, funded by Rural Action, *Mapping the Millennium*. Other subjects: Wining & Dining, Historical Characters, Nature Walk, Fields & Farms, Town Walk.

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The Stone House, Market Place, Deddington, Oxon OX15 0SD

The Churches and Chapels of Deddington, Clifton and Hempton



MAPPING THE MILLENNIUM

DEDDINGTON

A The Parish Church dedicated to SS Peter and Paul

There was a Norman church on the site. **The present church** first appears in historical records in 1254, and parts of the chancel and south wall of the nave date from this period (see plan). By 1327 (the next historical reference) the church, with the exception of the west wall, had taken on the basic form we see today.

In the **15th century**, the roof of the nave was raised to accommodate the clerestory and several chapels. Two flights of steps in the centre of the north and south walls are all that remain. The large window on the south wall also dates from that century, as do the slightly later east windows of both aisles.

The **16th century** saw the religious upheavals of the Reformation. The parish records have been lost, but the Royal Coat of Arms above the north door and the removal of the figures from the chancel screen presumably date from the introduction of the new Prayer Book (1548).

The most dramatic change occurred in the **17th century**. The massive west tower had a tall spire, which fell down in 1634, causing much damage to the rest of the church. Rebuilding was halted by the Civil War and King Charles I had the bells melted down for artillery. The Crown did not honour its pledge to replace them, and new bells were not hung until 1791.

During the **18th and 19th centuries**, the church interior was remodelled to conform to Anglican principles. A new roof, new glass in many of the windows, a new vestry and south porch as well as plaster work, tiles and pews date from this period. From 1858 the work was directed by G. E. Street.

The church clock was replaced in 1833. **Twentieth-century** changes include the pulpit and lectern by Franklins of Deddington (early 1900s), the organ by Binns of Leeds (1912), stained glass windows (1924 and 1936), kitchen (1994) and the replacement cross over the south porch (1996). In 1994 the parish was granted a Coat of Arms; the Letters Patent are displayed in the north aisle.

Referring to the plan inside this leaflet:

- ① **Tower** – west face. Carvings either side of the 17th-century door resemble Oxford gargoyles. The figures of SS Peter and Paul are part medieval and part 17th century.
- ② **Font** – first used in 1663, though the cover is Victorian. (The medieval font was smashed when the spire fell down.) The bell tower above has a set of eight bells.
- ③ **North door** – date uncertain. The position is medieval, but the saucer shaped ceiling with fan tracery may be 17th century. It is surmounted by the Royal Coat of Arms and surrounded by crosses which once marked the graves of local men killed in the 1914–18 war.
- ④ **'Charity' window** by C. E. Kempe shows the traditional personification of Charity with attendant saints. Kempe's wheatsheaf logo dates the window as post-1895.
- ⑤ **Memorial windows** to Emily May Jones (1924) and Muriel Vane Jones (1936) commemorate the first and second wives of Dr George Horatio Jones, of Deddington.
- ⑥ Under the 1936 window is the **altar tomb** of William Billings, Merchant of the Staple at Calais, who died in 1533.
- ⑦ **Chancel screen** – basically 15th century, although much restored. The brackets on top would have held the pre-Reformation rood figures.
- ⑧ **Chancel** – the oldest part of the church – contains the four 13th-century sedilia on the south side of the altar. The east window depicting the Crucifixion with St Mary Magdalen and St John, is by C. E. Kempe (1888) and has his earlier logo of a triple wheatsheaf on a red shield.
- ⑨ Large 15th-century **window** on the south aisle in the style of Richard Winchcombe, master mason of the Divinity School, Oxford.
- ⑩ The **effigy** beneath is a 14th-century lawyer, possibly Ralph de Bereford, or Barford.
- ⑪ The base of the **column** in the east respond is perhaps a fragment of the old Norman church.
- ⑫ **South porch** – rebuilt in the 18th century and again in 1865. The old medieval porch had a room above it, and traces of stairs can be seen in a small gothic arch by the south door.

Non-conformism

Deddington, Clifton and Hempton have a long history of dissidence, starting in the reign of King Charles I and continuing throughout the 18th and 19th centuries to the present day. Over the years there have been at least seven non-conformist chapels and churches, two of which are still in use.

B Wesleyan Reform Church, Chapel Square

This was built in 1851 at the centre of a thriving Wesleyan community, one of whom, John Whetton, is commemorated on a plaque in the church. Another plaque commemorates the Woolgrove and Deely families, leading non-conformist Deddingtonians of their time. The church was extensively remodelled in 1996. (A key is available from the Wesleyan Manse, 3 Castle Street.)

C An earlier **Methodist Chapel**, now a private house, was built before 1800. Mentioned in the Oxfordshire Religious Census of 1851, it was later used as a schoolroom and during World War II served as a Forces' canteen.

D Congregational Church, New Street

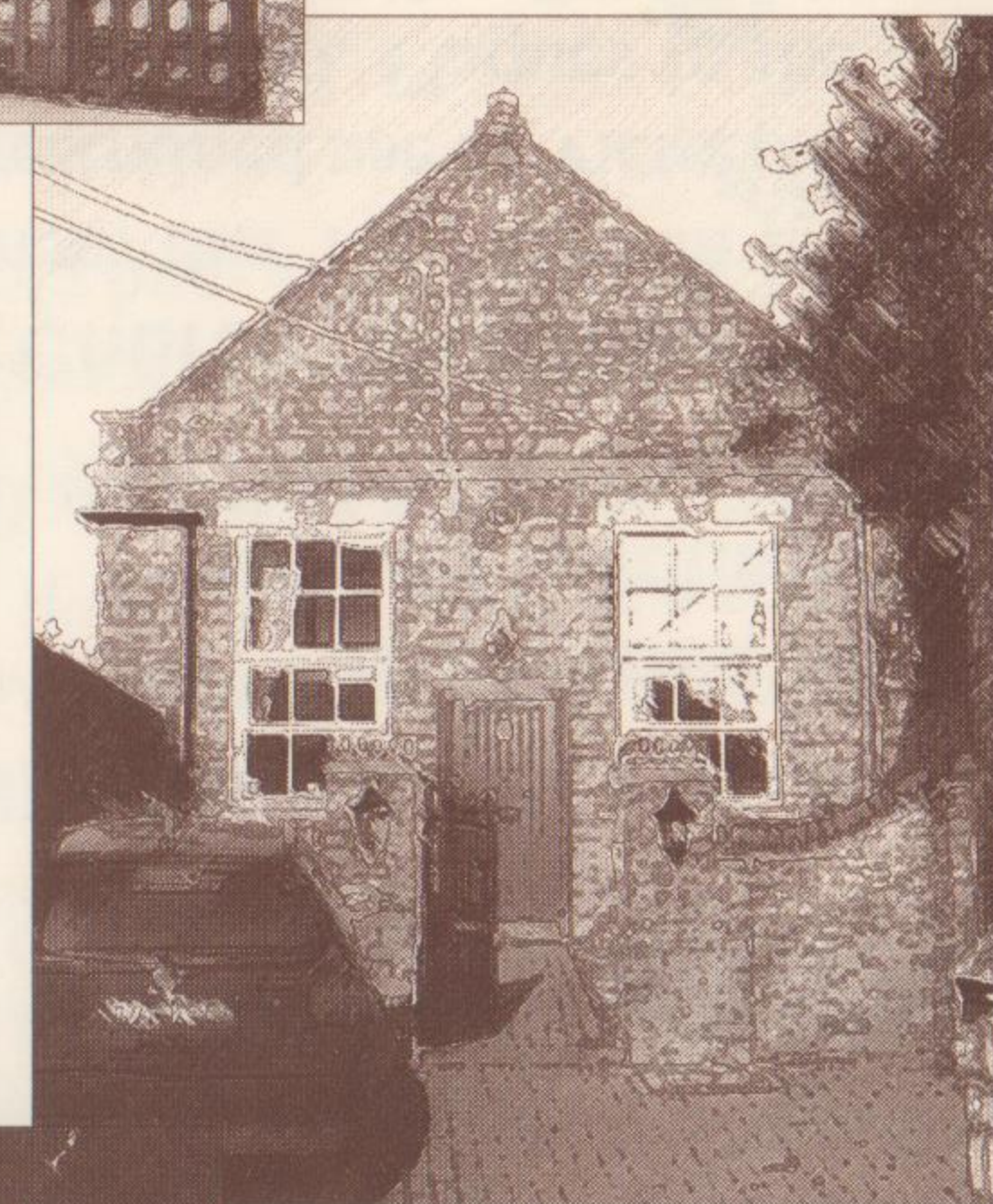
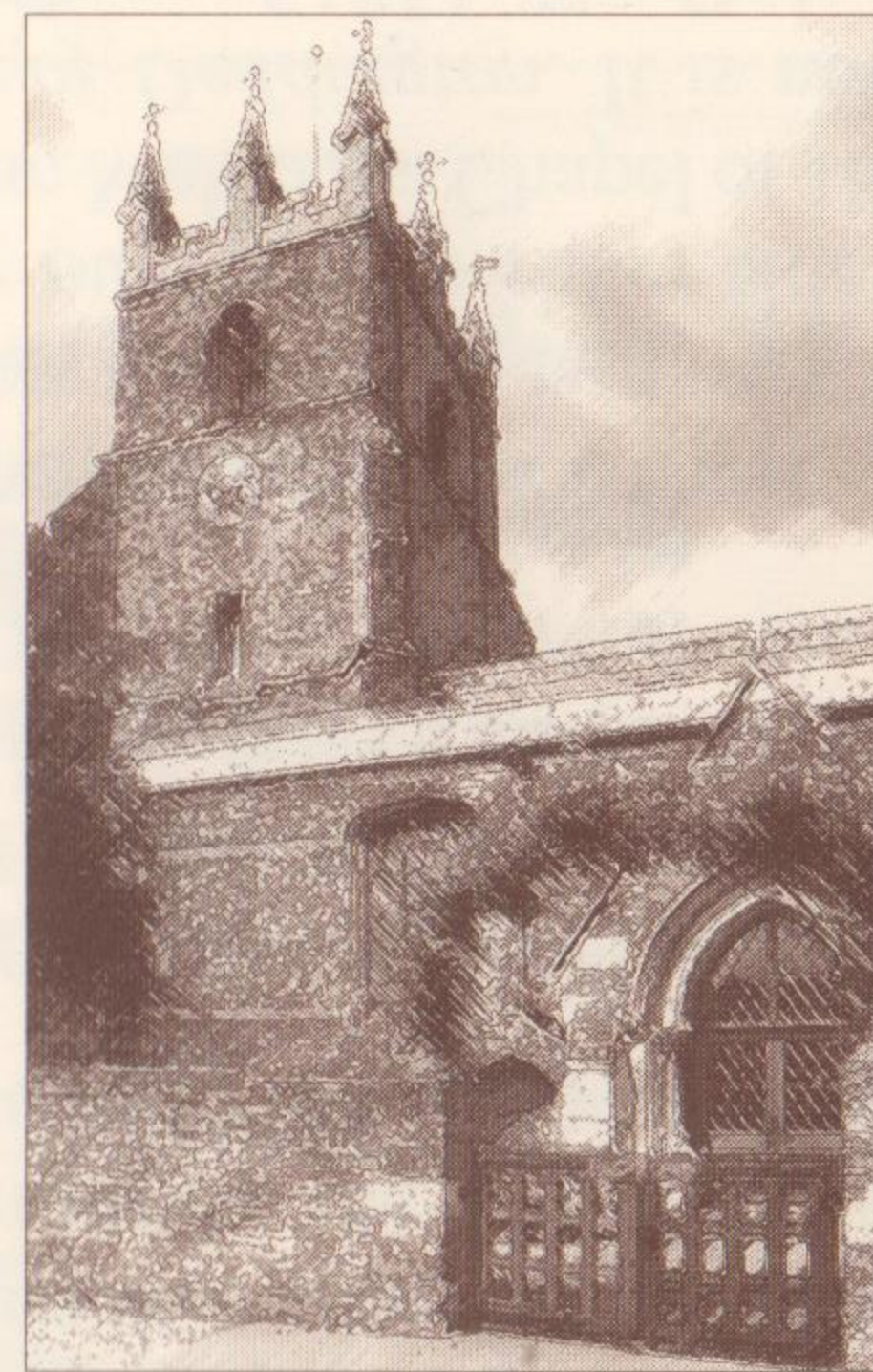
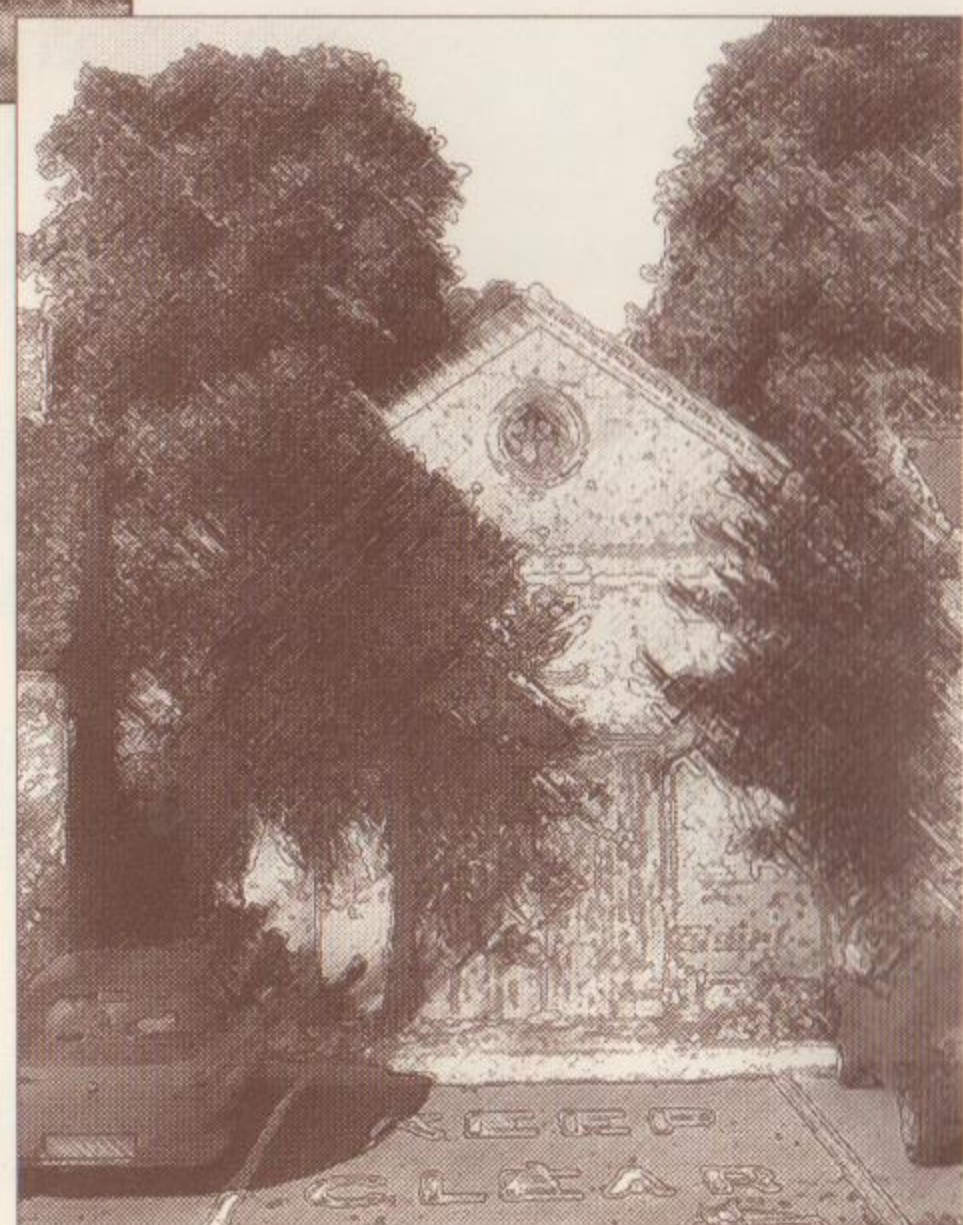
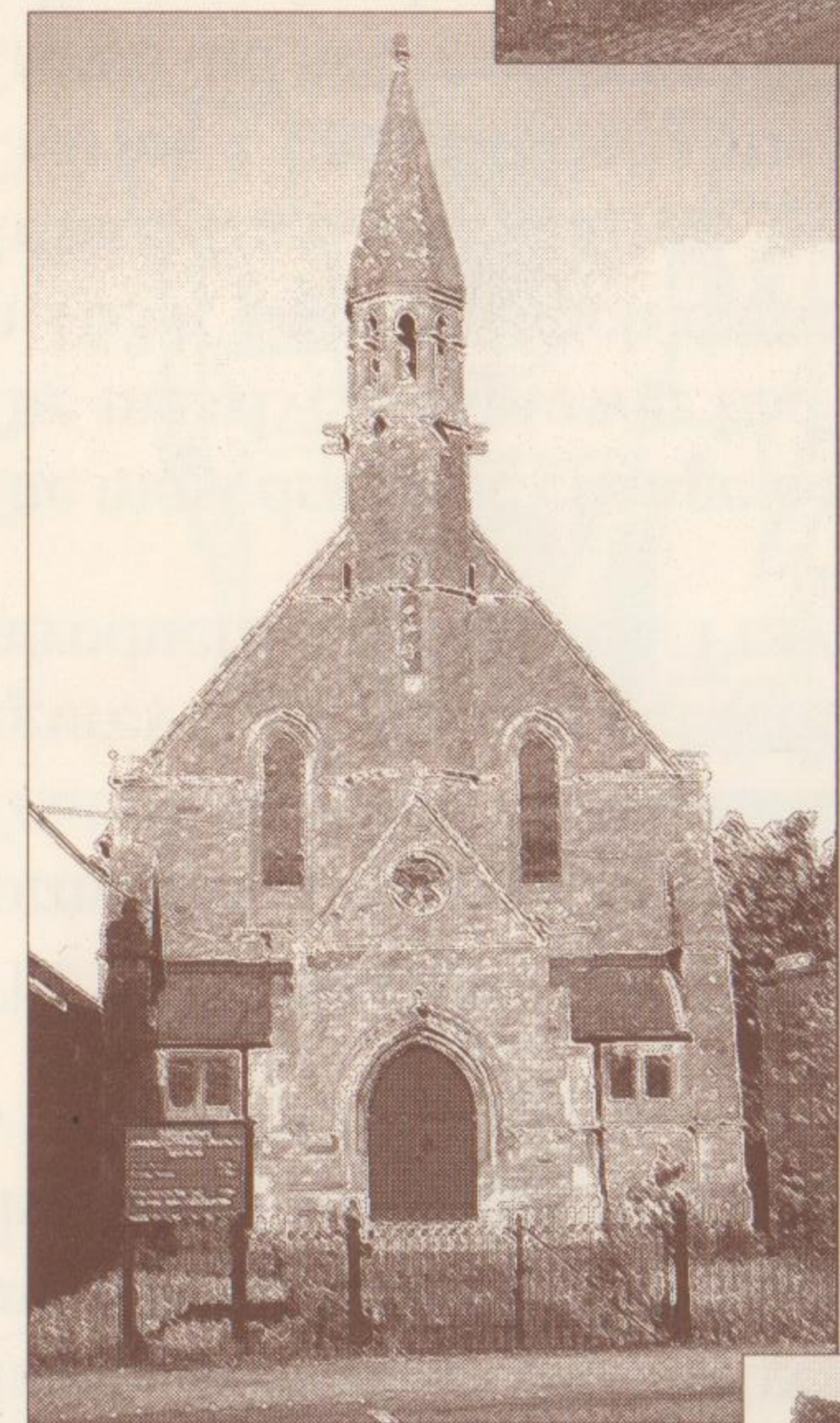
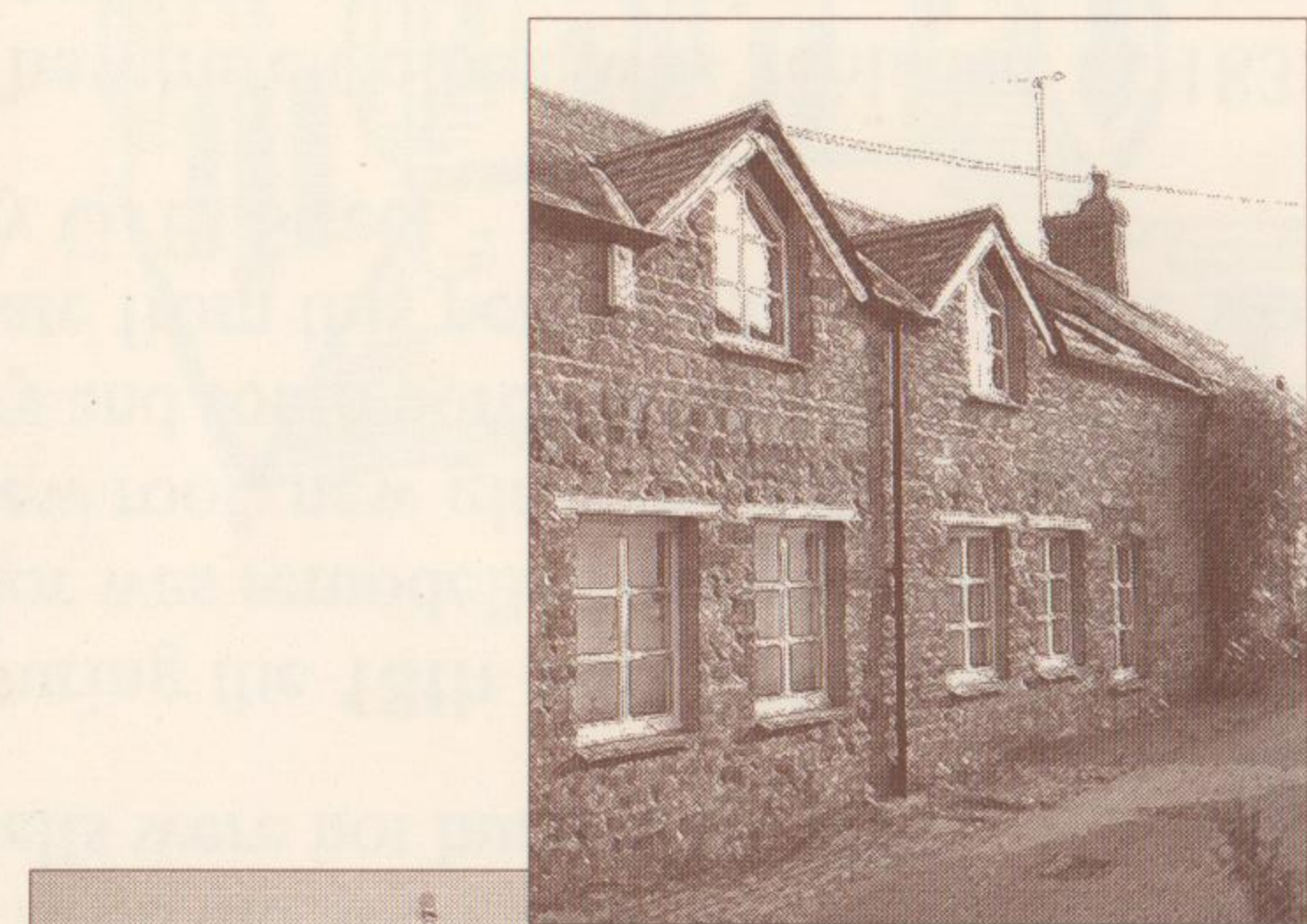
Designed by John Sulman, this 1881 church is remarkable for its delightfully restrained use of Victorian Gothic. A kitchen was added about 1980. Plaques in the church commemorate the Dodwell family, Eddy Lines and Florence and Fred Deely. (A key is available on request.)

E Before 1881 the town non-conformists met in a **small chapel in the Tchure**, later called Foresters Hall. That building, shown as a chapel in the 1881 Ordnance Survey map, is now in commercial use.

F Chapel on New Street

Used now for storage purposes, this former chapel, with monkey puzzle trees either side of the door, may be the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel of 1840 referred to in Colvin's *History of Deddington*. It is not mentioned in the Religious Census of 1851. The Ordnance Survey map of 1881 shows it belonging to the Primitive Methodists. It was later used by the Salvation Army, a movement which grew out of Primitive Methodism.

DEDDINGTON TOWN CENTRE



0 50 100 metres

PLAN OF DEDDINGTON PARISH CHURCH

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