



Catholic Schools, Church, Presbytery and Convent of St John, Banbury

erection until it was completed in 1838. Above the altar, at the east end, there is a stained glass window much admired, and harmonising well with the tone and general character of the building. On the north side are the schools, attended by about 120 children, and on the south is a commodious residence for the officiating priest.

That venerable-looking building fronting the street is now used as a convent by the Sisters of Mercy, and was formerly the Hospital of St John. It was on the outside of St John's Bar, and the charity can be traced as far back as 1209. The present building was at one time in possession of the Dashwood family, who sold it in 1803, and at a period less distant than that, it even descended so low as to be devoted to the ignoble purposes of a barn, from which state of degradation it was rescued by Mr Williams, a medical gentleman then practising in the town. The gateway itself was only removed about seventy years ago, and in ancient records styled South Bar, occasionally Oxford Bar, but more generally St John's Bar.

ST JOHN'S TERRACE

After passing the road to Chipping Norton, which branches off to the right, the visitor arrives at St John's Terrace – an elegant row of suburban villas, to which the fortunate tradesman may retire after a life of industry, and enjoy in peace the evening of his days. Here he may possess all the advantages of a residence in the country, combined with