

the gracefully tapering spire, £300 more, and the extras and cost of the purchase of the land brought the whole expence up to above £6,000. On Easter Monday, 1864, the first steps were taken to clear the ground for the erection of the edifice, and on the 17th of May in the same year, the corner stones of the building were laid. It was opened for public worship on the 9th of May, 1865, when the Rev. Dr. Waddy preached...

In approaching the north entrance from High Street – that shown in the accompanying engraving – the visitor is scarcely able to realise the capacious dimensions of the structure, although he can hardly fail to notice the elegance of the large window in that end of the building, and the fair proportions of the carved stonework below. The archway is a fine specimen of architecture, the polished pillars of red Mansfield stone contrasting well with the fair white freestone employed in the general erection. The chiselled part of the walls are of Bath Stone, the quarries at Brackley furnishing that for the less ornamented portions of the work, and the rings which give such a pleasing variety to the spire are composed of stone from Hornton quarries. There are 1100 sittings in the Chapel, of which 430 are free, and the latter are placed in some of the best parts of the edifice. The pulpit is a massive structure of carved oak, with alternate pillars of ebony and mahogany, and placed on a pedestal of white freestone, inlaid with alabaster and green marble.

Since the present edition of “The Stranger’s Guide” issued from the press, the Primitive Methodists have disposed of their old chapel in Broad Street, and have purchased and repaired that formerly occupied by the Wesleyan Methodists in Church Lane.

APPENDIX

Alfred Beesley, *The History of Banbury*, p.158, quoting Leland, “There is a chappel of the Trinity in the middle of the towne”. Beesley conjectures that this might have been on the site of the White Horse, an ancient doorway to the premises having survived until perhaps the 1830s. This is illustrated as Plate 19 (see front cover). See also Dr Tennant’s note [*C&CH*.17.5, p.176] where it is described as having been built “in the com[m]on street”. Beesley’s footnote 45 tells that Corporation records of 3rd Jan. 1677 [lost before BHS.15 was prepared] stated that Thomas Robins should pay “for the wast ground wch. was the alley that leads from Edward Vivers his howse downe towards the Chappell being three foot & a half broade & fower score and twelve foot long...” Vivers’ house was the well-known three-gabled building at the eastern end of the High Street, and the alley described sounds like the Great Tchure leading to the Market Place, though it is hard, in 1667, to place a chapel anywhere near.