

WELCOME TO ST CYRIAC'S CHURCH

ST CYRIAC'S LACOCK
WITH ST ANNE'S BOWDEN HILL
CORSHAMANDLACOCKCHURCHES.ORG.UK

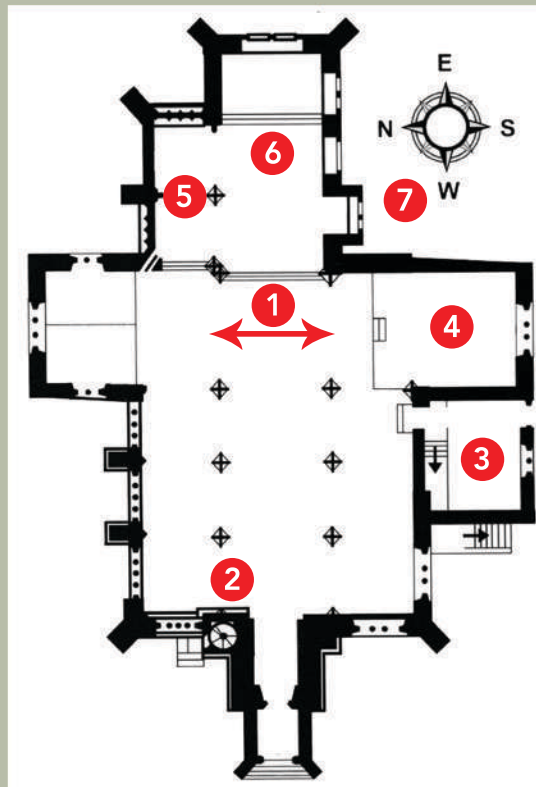
St Cyriac's has been a focus of Christian worship for more than a thousand years. We hope you enjoy your time here and feel the loving and powerful presence of God in this place.

A brief history

Although it is possible that there was a small Saxon church here, it is certain that a Norman church was built on the present site towards the end of the 11th century. Two landowners, one of whom came from France, probably influenced the dedication to St Cyriac - a favourite Norman saint. Not far from the church, Ela, Countess of Salisbury, founded her nunnery in 1229 (Lacock Abbey).

As you arrive in the West entrance, you can see the **oldest parts of the building today, which are the transepts and crossing (1)**, from c.1300. They are unusually spacious and high, including upper windows at the east end of the nave, though they were blocked up at higher levels for a long time.

There was a substantial restoration of the whole of the interior in 1861 by Sir Arthur Blomfield. The transept roofs were raised, the high box pews and floor slabs remodelled, and the three 'singing galleries' removed. Blomfield also presented the church with a **19th century font (2)**, and repositioned the organ from the west end to the north transept.



On the south side of the church, **the annex, or 'Church Cottage' (3)** comprising two storeys and an attic was built in the 17th century. In a rusticated style it was described as the 'new Yle' in 1619. It is now the vestry and a meeting room.

By the 19th century the owner of nearby Lackham House had **the adjoining Lackham aisle (4)** completely altered: a new roof was put on and the transept filled with north facing pews for the family and estate workers. It is in this aisle that we find the brass memorial to Robert Baynard and his family.

In medieval times, Lacock became prosperous through the wool and cloth trade and was advantageously sited on the London to Bath road. It was this prosperity that brought about the great rebuilding of the church in the 15th century and created the Perpendicular church on a cruciform plan that we see today. **The wonderful polychrome Lady Chapel (5)** with its lierne vaulting was built by the Bonham and Croke families around then and houses the ornate Renaissance tomb of Sir William Sharington. Tudor wealth contributed to its elaborate styling and decoration.

Two delightful squints in the Lady Chapel (one now closed up) provided glimpses of **the chancel space and main altar (6)**. The chancel was rebuilt for the first time in 1777, and again in 1902, when it was remodelled by Sir Harold Brakspear as a memorial to the photographic pioneer (and owner of Lacock Abbey) William Henry Fox Talbot.

Outside in the churchyard are a large number of **Grade II listed chest tombs (7)**, the oldest dating from 1619. It was around this time that the recessed octagonal tower was either built or rebuilt, in which are housed St Cyriac's six bells, of which the earliest two also date from this period.

For more, go online at www.stcyriacs.org.uk
Or pick up a guidebook for £5



Did you know?

'Happy is the man that findeth wisdom and the man that getteth understanding: for the merchandise of it is better than silver and the gain thereof than fine gold.'

The replica Lacock Cup

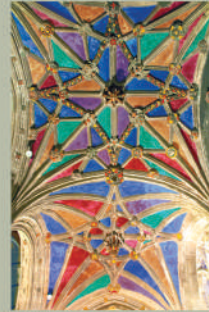
A rare masterpiece from the 15th century, the original Lacock Cup was made for someone of importance for secular use as a communal drinking goblet at feasts.



Subsequently used for centuries as a communion chalice at St Cyriac's, the Cup was purchased jointly by the British Museum and the Wiltshire Museum in 2013, and a replica provided for use at the church. The replica shares with the original its construction in two parts from 1kg of hammered silver, with gilt details. Its use at special celebrations of the Eucharist in St Cyriac's ensures a continuing link with the church's most celebrated artefact.

The tomb of Sir William Sharington & the Lady Chapel

Sir William Sharington was a member of King Henry VII's court, master of the mint, architect, and patron at St Cyriac's. He was also the first lay owner of Lacock Abbey in 1539.



The tomb where he is buried is one of the finest pieces of mid-16th century decoration in England, 'the first true Renaissance monument in Wiltshire'. The Chapel in which it is found also showcases beautiful Tudor decoration, and both would originally have been brightly painted.

William Henry Fox Talbot

Fox Talbot experiments at Lacock Abbey in the 1830s led him to invent the negative-positive photographic process, a revolution in image reproduction.

St Cyriac's Church is the first church to be photographed in the world. As well as taking images of the church, Fox Talbot photographed Hebrew texts from the Psalms and wrote about Genesis in the Bible. Above, the verse in the Chancel dedicated to him is from Proverbs 3:13,14.

OUR VALUES AND OUR COMMUNITY

We the present day community celebrate our heritage and delight in a building whose histories echo with the lives of those who found Jesus to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

This living tradition, of which we are a part, is the same thing that built these walls.

We invite you to remember this hallowed space, to revisit the connections between past and present, and to know more deeply the God whose love for us is our foundation and cornerstone.

YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP

Our congregation here in Lacock and Bowden Hill meets regularly in worship and service. For **the times of Sunday services**, please see the noticeboard outside church, or click here: <https://corshamandlacockchurches.org.uk/services/>



Our ministry in the community at other times ranges from youthwork to visiting the sick, charitable giving to partner fundraising, Lent Lunches to Advent Reflections, as well as baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

We are part of the Greater Corsham and Lacock Team, which includes St Bart's Corsham, St John's Gastard, and St Philip's & St James' Neston. We have one full-time Team Rector, and one part-time Team Vicar. Their leadership across our churches is supported by the Churchwardens and church councils, as well as several Licensed Lay Ministers.

