

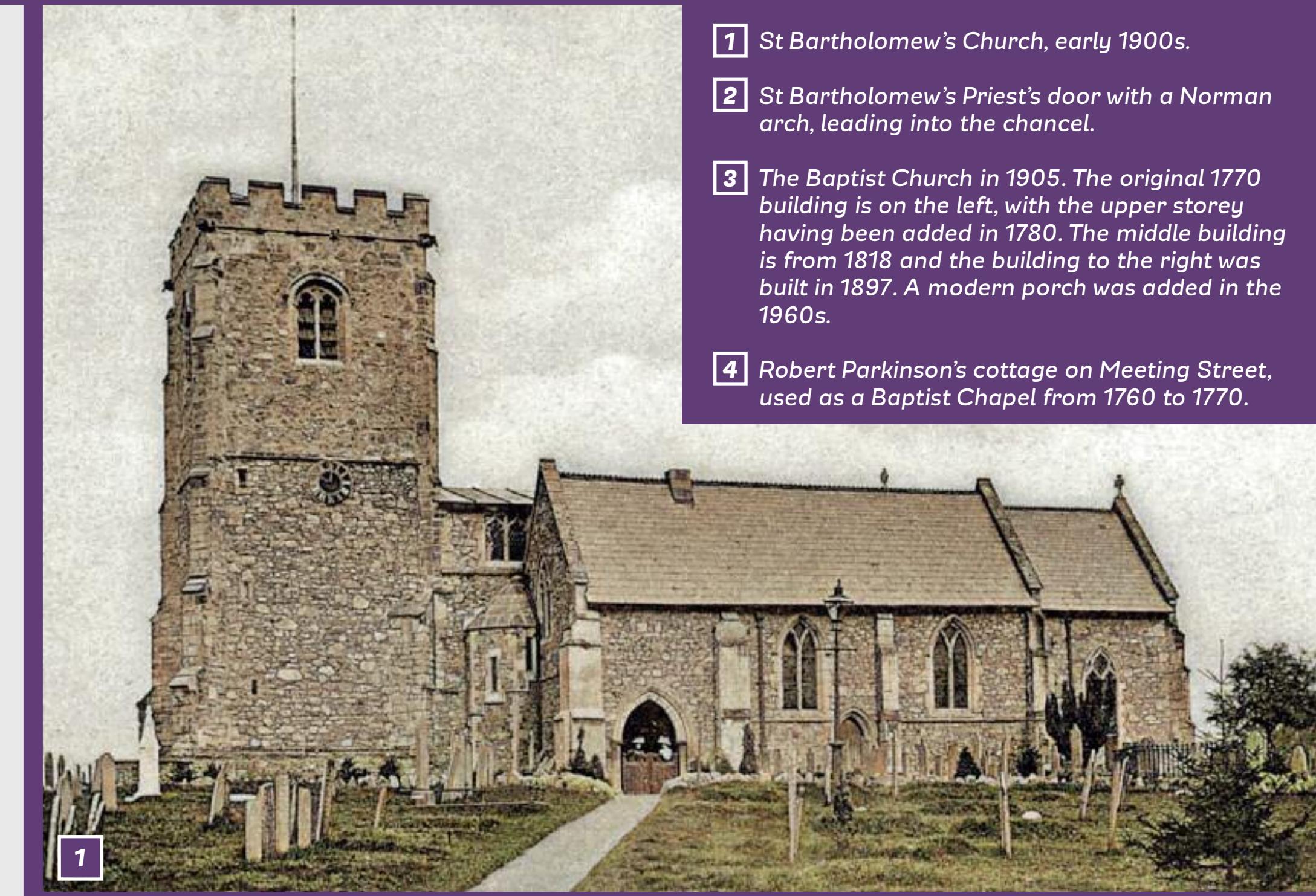
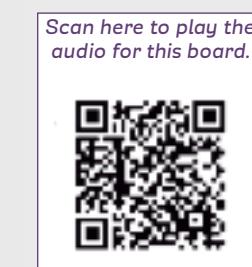
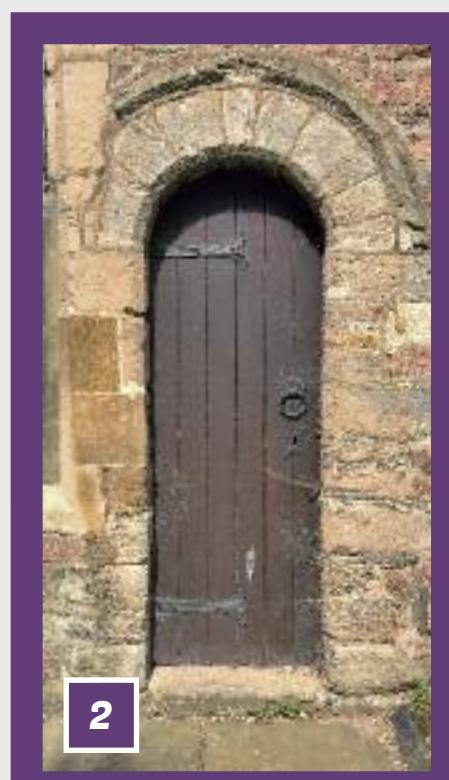
Churches & Religion

Quorn's first church was established by the Lord of the Manor of Barrow, Ranulph the 4th Earl of Chester, between 1138 and 1152. It is believed that he and his hunting party used to get stranded across the River Soar when in flood and therefore needed accommodation and a place to worship.

After those early days, religious loyalties and preferences in Britain changed and evolved, and these have been reflected in their own unique way in Quorn.

Quorn St Bartholomew's Church

Quorn Church is built from Mountsorrel granite with the earliest parts being the Norman nave and chancel. Later additions include a north aisle, a chapel belonging to the Farnham family, the tower in the 14th century, a porch and an organ chamber. A major rebuilding programme was carried out after 1965 following the serious fire which destroyed substantial parts of the Church.



In 1995 an extension provided a new vestry, crèche, toilets, kitchen and meeting room.

Originally Quorn Church was a chapelry of Barrow upon Soar Church and Quorn was served by a perpetual curate instead of a vicar until it became a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1868. Up until the 1800s the Parish Church held a lot of power. It was effectively Quorn's local government, with Quorn National School being managed by the Church and the Vestry Meeting acting as a local council, whose duties included levying a rate, administering poor relief and appointing a parish constable.

Non-Conformist Quorn

In the mid-1700s there were challenges within the Anglican Church due to its perceived lack of spirituality and bureaucratic hierarchy. Evangelical movements reached out, in particular to the workers of the industrial revolution, with their messages of social justice.

Quorn Parish Church was at the centre of the religious and social lives of all villagers, but by the late 1700s large numbers had turned to the non-conformist churches of the Baptists and the Methodists. In 1851 there was a national Religious Census, which showed that in Quorn 74% of worshippers were attending non-conformist services, against a national and Leicestershire average of around 53%. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries the non-conformists were active in seeking social and political reforms and in Quorn they developed programmes of charitable, sporting and educational groups and societies, together with a range of social activities.

Baptists come to Quorn

The Baptists who started worshipping in Quorn were General Baptists. The main difference between them and the Anglican Church was that they disagreed with infant baptism and promoted the baptism of only



those who believed. Quorn Baptists first held their services at Robert Parkinson's house on Meeting Street in 1760, when he and his brother William licenced the house for worship. In 1770 the first part of the present Baptist Church was erected on the opposite side of the road and it has been extended several times to accommodate growing numbers. Adult baptisms were first carried out in the River Soar but an indoor Baptistry was an early addition.

Quorn Baptist Sunday School was one of the earliest in the country, started in 1780 by John Gamble. Also notable is that in 1820 Thomas Cook, a famous Baptist, temperance campaigner and pioneer of package holidays, preached here. The 1851 Religious Census shows that 43% of those attending a church in Quorn were worshipping at the Baptist Church.

The Methodists

Three Anglican priests, John and Charles Wesley and George Whitefield, began the separation of the Methodists from the Anglican



Church. Preachers delivered sermons to vast crowds in the open air, singing newly written hymns. As their own hierarchy developed, so did breakaway groups like the Primitive Methodists and the Wesleyan Reform.

There is evidence of the first Wesleyan Methodists in Quorn in the 1770s. They met as a society, but it was not until 1822 that they built their Chapel on High Street in Quorn. In 1907 they built a new much larger chapel in front of the old one.

The breakaway Methodist groups used simpler buildings for their worship and a Primitive Methodist Chapel was built in 1826 at what is now 83 Meeting Street. This closed in the 1920s.

In 1849 a Wesleyan Reform Chapel was established in a converted house somewhere on Meeting Street. In 1855 they moved to School Lane and continued until about 1920. In 1857 like most of the Wesleyan Reform

churches they became part of the United Methodist Free Church.

Another building associated with the Methodists is the Temperance Gospel Mission Hall at 70 Barrow Road which was built in 1898 and run by devout Methodist William Teagle, who lived next door at 72 Barrow Road. On Sunday evenings a band composed of the congregation would march around the village singing hymns.

During the 1970s Quorn Methodists and Anglicans began working more closely together and in 1983 St Bartholomew's became Quorn United Church.

Catholicism

For a brief period in the 1880s there was a convent on Station Road in Quorn. This was a daughter house to the Little Company of Mary from Nottingham and provided not only a school but also a Catholic Chapel where villagers could worship.



The Hall on the Green on Station Road in 1953, which once housed the Catholic Convent. Stained glass windows can be seen top left. It was demolished in the 1960s and replaced with a row of five modern shops.