



ST MARY'S CHELTENHAM PARISH RECORDS TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT 1558-1804

Introduction

The transcription of the parish records of St Mary's Cheltenham was started in the 1990s as part of a joint initiative between the Bristol and Gloucestershire Records Offices, the Bristol and Avon Family History Societies and the Friends of Gloucestershire Archives. Its aim was to make all Bristol and Gloucestershire pre-1901 parish registers and pre-1812 Bishop's Transcripts available in electronic form. Work on the St Mary's parish was begun by a group of volunteers, co-ordinated by Christine Leighton, using photocopies of the registers. The periods 1631-1653 and 1676-1745 were transcribed and some sections were prepared to the final draft stage. The work of transcription then lapsed for many years.

In April 2010, under the auspices of the Cheltenham Local History Society, the work was re-started; volunteers were assembled and a co-ordinator appointed. The Gloucestershire Archives kindly made fiches for the period 1558 to 1804 available, fiche readers were obtained and the checking of the previous transcriptions and the new work on the periods 1558-1631 and 1745-1804 was started. There are no parish books for the years 1653 to 1676. The work was finally completed and readied for publication in the Summer and Autumn of 2013.

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¹ Note that the Parish Church of St Mary's Cheltenham reverted to a Minster on 3 February 2013