

Reverend Edward Cornford (1833-1898), First Curate-in-Charge of St Stephen's Cheltenham

by Brian Torode (copyright rests with Richard Barton)

The Reverend Edward Cornford was the son of Edward Cornford, a solicitor of Dorset Gardens, Brighton.

He studied at St John's College, Cambridge, BA 1855 and MA 1863.

Edward was made Deacon at Exeter Cathedral in 1856 and ordained Priest in 1857 at Grahamstown. In 1856 he was appointed curate at Loxbear, and served as Chaplain to the Bishop of Grahamstown from 1857-1859.

In 1860 Edward married Elizabeth Kate Culverwell (1832-1878) in Clifton.

From 1860-1862 Edward was curate of Stroud and then, from 1862 until 1875, he served as Vicar of Cam:

CAM (UPPER and LOWER), form a parish and village, with railway station, 1 mile from Dursley, in the Western division of the county, union and county court district of Dursley, Berkeley hundred, Dursley rural deanery, Gloucester archdeaconry, and Bristol and Gloucester diocese. The church of St. George is an ancient stone building in the Late Decorated and Perpendicular styles: it has chancel, nave, aisles, fine square tower, with 5 bells, and south porch. The register dates from the year 1560. The living of Cam is a vicarage, with the chapelry of Lower Cam annexed, in the gift of the bishop of the diocese; annual value £150, with handsome residence, held by the Rev. Edward Cornford, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge. At Upper Cam are a National school for boys and girls, erected in 1836, and an Endowed school founded by Mrs. Frances Hopton in 1730, for 20 boys and 20 girls, with clothing; the yearly income of the latter school is £243 10s. 4d. A school house was erected in 1836. A large Infant school, built of stone, was erected in 1857, at Lower Cam, founded and supported principally by the Misses Hopton. A yearly sum of £30,

From 1873 – 1878 the Reverend Edward Cornford was also curate of Christ Church, Cheltenham and from the year 1874 he had responsibility for the new church of St Stephen in Tivoli.



St George's Upper Cam Vicarage

From 1873 Edward lived in Tivoli Road, Cheltenham, at 'St Edmund's' and is listed under 'Resident Gentry' in the local Cheltenham Directories.

From 1864 until his retirement he was also Diocesan Inspector of Schools and in 1875 was appointed Hon. Sec. of the Cheltenham Church of England Training College (St Paul's) by which time he was living at Lansdown Lodge in Lansdown Road.

From 1880 until 1891 we find Edward living at 'Etchowe', (8) Lansdown Road.

Etchowe	7	Edward Cornford	Head	Widow	19	Widowman without care soul	James Driph-tan
Lansdown Road		Kate & W	Serv	Widow	19	Widow	Widow
		Charles & do	Serv		17		90
		Edith & do	Serv		16	Scholar	90
		Margaret & do	do		13	do	90
		Robert & do	do		11	do	90
		Mary & Clutterbuck	Serv	Widow	22	Govt. Dom	90
		Emma & Lewis	do	Widow	26	Nurse & Parlour Maid	90
		Mary & Williams	do	Widow	18	Widow	90

1881 Census

He was listed as being aged 57 in the 1891 Census and described as a 'Clerk in Holy Orders,' and a widower. He was living with his three daughters: E. E.; M. E. A. and H. A. and his house chamber maid.

During his later years he was without duty and gave voluntary service to the Hospital and the school of Art.

On 16th February 1897 Edward married Maude Ledger (1862-).

Edward Cornford died on 1st January 1898 at Shipton Bellinger, near Andover.

Reverend Edward Cornford:

Adm. pens. at ST JOHN'S, Dec. 20, 1850. S. of Edward, Esq., of Dorset Garden, Brighton. [Bapt. Apr. 15, 1833.] School, Brighton College. Matric. Michs. 1851; B.A. 1855; M.A. 1863. Ord. deacon (Exeter) 1856; priest (Grahamstown) 1857; C. of Loxbeare, Devon, 1856. Chaplain to the Bishop of Grahamstown, 1857-9. C. of Stroud, 1860-2. V. of Cam, Gloucs., 1862-75. Inspector of Schools for the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol, 1864-7. C. of Christ Church and St Stephen's, Cheltenham, 1873-8. Hon. Secretary of Cheltenham Training Schools, 1874. Resided for some time at Cheltenham. V. of Shipton Bellinger, Hants., 1897-8. Died Jan. 1, 1898, at Shipton vicarage. Brother of James (1859) and Nathaniel (1857). (*Crockford*, 1897; *Scott*, MSS.)

The first Baptismal entry by Rev Cornford, for a Tivoli person, is recorded in the Christ Church registers:

Dec 25th 1872: Albert Edward Kilby, 33 Hatherley Street. Father 's name Thomas; Mother's name Sarah.

Signed *E Cornford*.

Oct 30th 1874: On this day was opened for Divine Service the memorial Chancel of the proposed Church of St Stephen, in this parish. Opening services at 11 am and 7 pm.

4th November 1874: *'The memorial Chancel of the proposed church of St Stephen, Tivoli was formally opened by special licence from His Lordship on Friday last.*

The opening service was of the simplest possible character but the building was crowded, there being over 100 persons present. The service was conducted by Reverend Edward Cornford, Vicar of Cam and Curate of Christ Church. The Rev H G Hopkins read the first lesson and the second was read by Rev T Hardy. The service concluded with Holy Communion.

The Sunday evening service was fully attended some being turned away. The service was conducted by Rev Cornford.'

Extracts from the Christ Church Parish Registers:

Jan 30 1875: Collection taken for site of St Stephen's:

11.00am £80.10.0

3.30pm £9.2.0

7pm £7.2.0

Jan 30th 1876: 4th Sunday of Epiphany.

£25 collection appropriated to Building fund of St Stephen's, Cheltenham.

Jan 25th 1876 11 am Preacher George Prevost

16th April 1876: 56 Communicants at St Stephen's

Sun 23rd Nov 1877 – Canon Fenn preached with special intention of St Stephen's.

11.00am £85.12.03

3.30 pm £19.17.07

7pm £12.12.06

16th January 1878:

Both the Reverend J Fenn and his curate the Reverend Edward Cornford last week each suffered bereavement. Rev Fenn's father died aged 87.

Mrs Elizabeth Cornford, aged 47, wife of Reverend Edward, always suffered from ill health.

In the morning, Rev Cornford's place at St Stephen's was taken by Rev Mr S. Wilkins, son of the Clerk at Christ Church. In the evening, Mr Fenn preached about Mrs Cornford: *'Only weeks and even months ago she was lying in pain and suffering but her life she prolonged as a gain for her husband and children.'* Canon Fenn quoted at length from Romans Chapter 12.

10th April 1878:

Rev E Cornford who for some years past has been curate at Christ Church and has had charge of the District Church of St Stephen, has placed his resignation in the hands of the Bishop.

Examiner 29th May 1878:

The Rev Edward Cornford was lecturer at the third Meeting of Cheltenham Natural Science Society, when he lectured on the Natural History of Cheltenham.

Rev Cornford is General Secretary of the Society.

10 July 1878:

The Resignation of Rev Cornford: the partly finished church of St Stephen, Tivoli was crowded on Sunday last on the occasion of the Reverend Cornford taking duty for the last time. In the evening many were disappointed at not being able to join in as there literally was no room. Frequent were the expressions of regret at the Reverend gentleman's resignation. The service ended with 100 persons receiving Holy Communion, nearly all residents of Tivoli. (He was 45 at the time) Reverend Cornford does not intend to leave Cheltenham. He will be presented next week with a gold watch and chain by Howlett and a binocular antinomometer microscope by Collins of London, subscribed for by 155 congregation and friends.

To The Revd Edward Cornford M.A.

To The Revd Edward ...

Cheltenham June 1878

Revd & Dear Sir

We as the congregation of St Stephens Cheltenham cannot permit your departure from us without an expression of our profound regret. Your successful labours in collecting the congregations and forming a voluntary choir speak for themselves; while your honorary and assiduous exertions in Christ Church Sunday Schools, The National Schools and at the Normal Training College are well known. But we lose a personal friend as well as a valued Spiritual guide and wishing you should carry with you (always a) permanent record of our regard we ask your acceptance of the accompanying Watch and Chain and Compound Microscope. The use of these things will we hope sometimes bring back to your mind pleasant thoughts of the friends who with every wish for your future happiness, subscribe themselves.

Your's very sincerely,

NAMES LISTED ON THE CORNFORD SCROLL of 1878:

Gen McCausland	M Giddings	Emma Denley
Rev H Griffiths	Mrs Vizard	Annie Williams
Charles C Walkley	Robert Wray	Lewis Vizard
S H Irving	I E Holtam	Miss Sheers
The Misses Whish	E Cornock	Mr Bushell
W John Webb	C I White	A Powell
Mrs Tarleton	H Mulless	M Minty
H Pitman	Mrs Yeomans	C E Williams
Mrs Watson	Mrs Silk	H Faizey
I Middlemass	M&E Ayliffe	Mary Williams
Mrs Reynolds	T Herbert	H L Biffin
E Mclagan	I E Plant	I Hunt
J Middleton	Mrs Thomas	WH Tinker
Courtney E Prance	M A Giddings	S Wadley
R K Pringle	John Farley	Sarah Purnell
Mrs Green	W&M Hearsay	MR Mrs Williams
Mrs Kemys Riddell	M Tanner	I Simpson
I K Carr	Joseph Cornell jnr	Richard owell
Mrs Blewin	Mrs Mills	E Sanguinetti
Miss Bowlby	S Beadle	E Williams
Mr Munro	E Jones	A Mann
Rev F & Mrs Poynder	Mrs Richards	M A Williams
Miss Benson	Mrs Wheeler	L A Richards

Mrs George	Miss Chambers	Mrs O' Neile
E Letheren	E Walsley	Mrs Payne
I Parker	Mrs Faisey	Mrs Ayliffe
John Fors	Mrs Bendall	Mrs Bowls
I McLachlan	W Howell	C Howell
Edmund Irving	H&E Tavenner	A&S Houghton
Col Gaskell	Asenath Hill	H Moon
Mrs Hill	T E Mann	Mr Silk
I Gale	Jane Faizey	Mrs Bowles
Mrs Hughes	M Organ	Mrs Hampton
Mrs A Falls-Little	H E Player	S Travel
Henry Wilmott	B Wellington	E Maskelyne
Mrs Green	H Jackson	Elizabeth Rawlins
Mr Kite	E Paynter	W W Walker
Miss Tarrant	Misses Crooke	W&M Gurney
Mrs Bignall	Mrs Berkely Colcott	M Evans
The Bell Ringer	L Irving	I Slack
Miss Rigby	Mr Mrs Callum	D Hill
S Morgan	Mrs Forsyth Grant	M Wellington
S Cornford	Mrs Middlemass	L Anthony
Mr Houghton	Maj Gen Shipley	M A Clutterbuck
Mrs Bevan	Mrs Wakefield	M A Maltby
Annie Daniels	W H Gastrell	F Cypher
H Williams	Mrs Stokes	E Cole
Mrs Davis	Mrs Corbett	
William Tinker jnr	Phoebe Strugnall	

Marriage at St Stephen's of **Margaret Cornford, in 1891**, daughter of Rev Edward Cornford. The ceremony was conducted by her uncle, Nathaniel.

MARRIAGE OF MISS MARGARET CORNFORD October 20th 1891

Yesterday afternoon, at St. Stephen's Church, was solemnised the marriage of Mr. Harry Joseph Cooper, M.B. (Cantab), eldest son of Mr. Joseph Cooper, of Colyford, South Devon, to Miss Margaret Ethel Augusts Cornford, third surviving daughter of the Rev. E. Cornford, M.A., of Etchowe, Landsdown-road. A crowded congregation attended to witness the ceremony, which was performed by the Rev. Nathaniel Cornford (vicar of St. Nathaniel's Cotham, and uncle of the bride), assisted by the Rev. E. L. Jennings (vicar of St. Stephen's), and the Rev. C. Doughton. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in her dress of white satin Duchesse, with court train, and trimmed with chiffon and orange blossom. The plain tulle veil was pinned with a diamond star, and an exquisite shower bouquet of white exotics—the gift of the bride-groom—completed the effect. The bridesmaids were Miss Cornford and Miss A. Cornford (sisters of the bride), and Miss Finlay and Miss Day (friends), their costumes being of grey voile, trimmed with white silk gauze and silver *passementerie*; white felt hats, with white tips and silver trimming. Each wore a gold lace pin bearing the initials of the bride and groom, and carried — also a present from the bridegroom—a white and pink shower bouquet.

After the service a large number of invited guests assembled at Etchowe to offer their congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, and to inspect the brilliant array of presents. Of these the following is a list: —

Bridegroom to the Bride, diamond ring, gold watch, &c. Bride to the Bridegroom, gold studs and links.

Examiner 6th February 1895:

Henrietta Kate Cornford of Etchowe, Lansdown Road, Cheltenham was named among the successful candidates at the recent examinations for the degrees of Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians at Edinburgh. She married Frederick Trevithick in the following year:

1896. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Christ Church Cheltenham in the County of Gloucestershire								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
464	November 19 th 1896	Frederick Harvey Trevithick	44 Years	Bachelor	Civil Engineer	Paris Republic of France	Francis Trevithick	Civil Engineer
		Henrietta Kate Cornford	34 Years	Spinster	Doctor of Medicine	Etchowe Cheltenham	Edward Cornford	Clerk in Holy Orders
Married in the Parish Church of Christ Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence or after by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		Frederick Harvy Trevithick Henrietta Kate Cornford			in the Presence of us, Edmund Trevithick Selma Ada Cornford		Edward Cornford Offs. Min.	

Examiner 17th February 1897:

The marriage between Reverend Edward Cornford and Miss Maude Ledger was solemnised yesterday at the Parish Church in Cheltenham. The Rev Cornford is Vicar of Shipton Bellinger near Andover and was formerly resident at Etchowe, Lansdown Road, Cheltenham. Miss Ledger of Shrub hill, Dorking is sister of Rev C G Ledger, senior Curate at St Mary's Parish Church in this town Her other brother is Mr Matthew Ledger who gave her away.

The ceremony was conducted by Rev C G Ledger and Rev E L Roxby, Rector of the Parish, and Rev C de Carteret, junior Curate.

The reception was held at the residence of the bride's sister, 31 Clarence Square, after which they left for honeymoon.

HIS CLERICAL BROTHERS:

Edward's brother **James** was curate of Walcot, Bath in 1868, Rector of Peper(?), Harrow, in Surrey in 1880 and then Vicar of Cainscross in 1893.

Another brother **Nathaniel**, also had a local career:

BA 1860, MA 1864. Deacon 1861, Priest 1862. He was curate of St James, Bristol 1861-1865, then of Newland, Gloucestershire 1865-1868. From 1868 he was curate of Weobley, Herefordshire and then moved to become Vicar of Horsley and Chavenage until 1874 when

he became Vicar of St Mark's, Gloucester, and from 1875, he served as Vicar of St Nathaniel's Parish, Kingsdown, Bristol.

Nathaniel's son, Bruce, also was a Priest and founded St Matthew's, Portsmouth. He was 'A colourful and controversial Priest'.

Another brother **Arthur** was made deacon in 1860 and Priest in 1861 at Lichfield. He was curate of Belper 1860-1862, St Mary, Bury St Edmund's 1862-1864, St John's Lowestoft 1864-1866 and then curate of Norbiton, Kingston, Surrey. From 1877-1887 he was Vicar of St Luke, Kingston. in 1868.

EDWARD'S GREAT GRANDSON, CANON JOHN CORNFORD:

Ordained 1981. Two appointments before final appointment as Rector of All Saints' Anglican Church Albion Park, New South Wales – about 100km south of Sydney. He served there for 23 years

John was also appointed Area Dean and is now Canon Emeritus of St Michael's Pro Cathedral in the city of Wollongong.