

The Model of St Stephen's Church, Tivoli

Brian wrote in 2012: 'The model of St Stephen's Church was found in the St Stephen's Club, Tivoli Street, which used to be the centre of Parish Social Life until the mid 1920s. I was researching material for the 1973 Centenary of the Laying of the Foundation stone and went to the Club to see if there were any photographs of people and events from the early days of the Club. By chance, the 'manager' showed me this model, hidden away on a shelf on a landing and covered in dust and cobwebs, He knew nothing about its provenance and said we could borrow it for the display. We returned it afterwards, then borrowed it again for the display of 1983 to celebrate the completion of the church. We were then told we could have it as a gift and kept it on display in church until November 1988 when it was accepted into the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum's Collection. In view of where it was found, I think it was probably made by a member of the Club – possibly one of the young men of whom there were many at St Stephen's at the turn of the century.'

'Although neither its maker nor its exact date are known, it appears to show the church as it would have looked following the building of its boundary wall in 1884, but before the addition of the north porch in 1885' (Blake).

See 'A History of Cheltenham in 100 Objects' by Steven Blake, Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, Paperback, 2013.