

Unitarian or Presbyterian Chapel.  
The Clubhouse, Gosditch Street, Cirencester. GL7 2AG

This former Unitarian chapel is probably the oldest nonconformist place of worship in Cirencester in its most original form from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The first minister of the Presbyterian Chapel was Gregory 1662-5. By 1978 services were attended by only a few elderly members and no services were held after 1979. The last Unitarian burials seem to have been in the 1920's. By 1995, the building, when taken over by the parish church, was in a state of dilapidation. The church renovated the property to become the administrative office for the parish. It was sold in 2021 when it became an after school club. Due to the use of the graveyard most of the tombs were protected by timber frames.

The local historian, Charles H Savory published in 1858 a 'History of the Town of Cirencester'. Under the section dedicated to the Presbyterian Chapel, Cirencester, he states 'Or Unitarian as it is now called, stands in Dollar Street, and is of no architectural pretentious, but is the oldest Chapel in the town, having been erected in the year 1648. A large graveyard is attached, in which are tombs and memorials to some of the principal families who inhabited the town during the past century, and who lie buried here'.

To access the complete database of graveyards in Cirencester the QR code will enable you to view all the records as best as can be reconciled as of early 2024. <https://www.sitechsurveying.co.uk/graveyards/index.html>



As the result of a survey carried out by Julian Rawes and members of the Gloucestershire Family History Society in the early 1990s all the memorials in the Unitarian Graveyard were recorded. This formed the basis of the database we have created. These have a prefix of 'U'. Records from the Savory survey have also been incorporated. These are held at the County Records Office D10009/35 and 374c6537-5d1bb-4e59-8f36-777d69cc3d76. There were quite a few graves unreconciled as can be seen from the database. The headstones that have been moved to the southern side of the graveyard have been recorded and cross-referenced with the recorded graves. Unfortunately most are too weathered to read the inscription.

As far as I am aware that is complete a list of those buried in the graveyard as I can find. I am sure there are still gaps but I have endeavoured to reconcile all the entries and also resolve any duplicate and mis-represented entries as far as I can.

I am quite willing to amend the records or plan if there are any points that I might of missed.

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