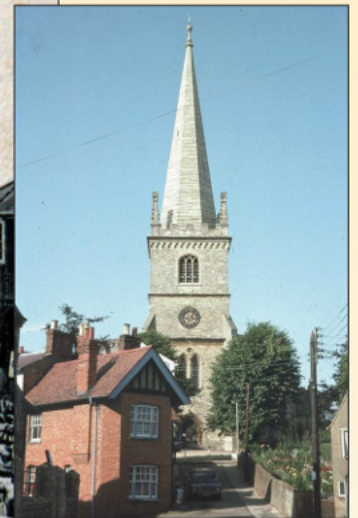


Historic Towns & Villages

Buckingham

“Lark Rise” and an Old Gaol



Buckingham Old Gaol was built in 1748. Richard Temple, Viscount Cobham of Stowe, was persuaded to pay for it as he was keen to have a secure Gaol in which to “lodge” poachers caught on his estates. The building served as the Buckingham Borough Gaol until 1890 and is now a Museum and Tourist Office.

The museum tells the story of the Market Town of Buckingham, although the markets now sell fruit and veg instead of sheep and cattle.

Flora Thompson’s “Larkrise to Candleford” draws a vivid picture of rural life across the area around Buckingham in the 1890s.



Flora Thompson

The present parish church was built on Castle Hill in the late 1770s. Its foundations, built on unstable ground, failed and Sir George Gilbert Scott, the prolific Victorian architect who was born and raised in Gawcott, just outside of Buckingham, was sent for in 1864 to rescue the situation. Out went the old-fashioned “classical style” and in came a new gothic interior supported by a series of massive external buttresses.

Early in his career, Gilbert Scott had also designed the semi-circular extension on the front of the Gaol as a “cottage” for the Gaoler and his family.