

The Cambridge Camden Society was an interesting organisation whose successes and problems are described at length in *A Church as it should be: The Cambridge Camden Society and its influence*, (Ed: Christopher Webster & John Elliott, Stamford, 2000)

The Society quickly built up a large membership including many clergymen from the Archbishop of Canterbury down, peers, MPs and architects which gave it considerable momentum.

It seems to have provided something for everyone with any interest in churches and when, in 1841, it published 'A few words to Churchwardens on Churches and Church Ornaments', part 1 sold 5,000 copies in six weeks. Pamphlets appeared at a great rate and included summary sheets for workmen restoring churches and for those building anew.

The influence of the Society was by no means limited to this country. Their magazine, *The Ecclesiologist*, had an article in the first issue about the part it played in advising on church design in New Zealand. This was followed by a series of articles about church architecture in the colonies and the designs that had been sent by them to Tasmania and the United States.

A common method seems to have been to send detailed architectural drawings of an 'approved' English church which was then used to build a near copy in the 'colony'. With this in mind, drawings were produced of **St Mary, Arnold, Nottinghamshire** and **St Michael, Long Stanton, Cambridgeshire** by George Gordon Place, the Nottingham-based architect. The former was deemed to be a good example "for modern imitation; not expensive, nor very large, but well adapted for the wants of country parishes or the small kind of district churches" (*The Ecclesiologist*, Aug 1844). It was apparently used as the model for the church **St James, Woolsthorpe, Lincolnshire** as well as "a new church near Newbury, New York and another near Baltimore" (*The Ecclesiologist*, 1846). The latter served as a model for the new church of **St James the Less, near the Falls of Schuylkill, Philadelphia**. This, in turn, was the basis for several neighbouring church buildings  
[\[http://www.njchurchscape.com/index-Dec.html\]](http://www.njchurchscape.com/index-Dec.html)