

## St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Devizes

The school was opened in 1870 in a building to the south of the St. Peter's Church - just 4 years after its foundation. The school is shown on the right in about 1907. In 1893 there were 66 children in the school and it was enlarged. By 1899 there were 200 pupils and in the early 20th century the school was split into two departments - mixed juniors and infants. In 1908 there were 129 juniors and 88 infants. The buildings were enlarged again in 1911/12. By 1950 there were a total of 208 pupils and aided status was granted in 1951. The school then became known as St. Peter's Church of England Aided School. In 1955 there were 203 children on the roll.

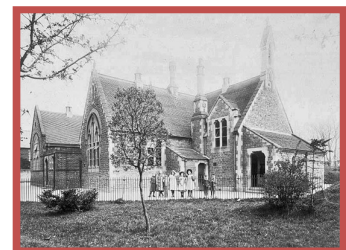
After the closure of the Grammar School in 1969 St. Peter's was able to use part of the large buildings (see the photo below). In January 1973 there were 233 pupils and the figure in 2002 was 278. By 2008 the Diocesan Board of Education reported that "St Peter's is the only Voluntary Aided Primary School (age 4 to 11) in the town. It is small, having 95 pupils on roll, of which 89% are of white British heritage. There is a higher than average proportion of children with additional needs and mobility is also higher than average. Discussions about a possible relocation have been pending for some time". The Bath Road side of Devizes has limited room for expansion and with falling birth rates the number of children living locally has declined.

With the uncertainty in the future of the Church ([St Peter's Church website](#)) the school will probably relocate by 2015 and the large school site, owned mainly by the Salisbury Dioceses, sold for development.

Below is a photo of the present home of the St. Peter's Voluntary aided Primary School. It has an interesting history as part of the old state Devizes Grammar School, this story is told elsewhere on this website.



St. Peter's Junior & Infant School in ca 1907, the photo is taken from the canal side. Below in 2009 it is now a private pre-school



The old Junior School ca 1907, the photo is taken from the west.

