THE CHURCH WITHOUT
Christchurch Spitalfields
Built 1714-1729
Nicholas Hawksmoor
1661-1736
"Whatever is goode in its kinde ought to be preserv'd in respect for antiquity, as well as our present advantage, for destruction can be profitable to none but such as live by it."

Nicholas Hawksmoor
Christopher Wren
1632-1723
John Vanbrugh
1664-1726
Blenheim Palace
1705-1722
Clarendon Building
1711-1713
Westminster Abbey
1723-1745
“Walking past Christ Church, as I have done daily for many years, has not made Hawksmoor’s masterwork familiar to me. Its great architectural gestures retain their strange potency and continue to astonish and invite my curiosity.”

Richard McCormac
In Affectionate Remembrance of

The Rev. H. Aaron Stern, D.D.

who for upwards of 40 years laboured
as a missionary of the London Society
for promoting Christianity amongst the Jews
with singular devotedness
in Turkey, Persia, Arabia, and Abyssinia
enduring sufferings the most severe
with Christian patience and fortitude.

He afterwards for 16 years, took a leading part
in Jewish missionary work in this country.
He was gentle, wise and faithful,
and his labours were signal blessed.
Born April 11, 1820, died May 13, 1885.

ת葚כטילא יתורנא דודא הנקיע
משכדיו הורמא בכרבם לילם דודא

[Hebrew text]

3727
Ewan Christian
1814-95
”A huge, heavy galleon of white Portland stone anchored among the red-brick Queen Anne houses of the weavers.”

John Betjeman
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

CHRIST CHURCH

WAS RESTORED 1976–2004

WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT

OF SIMON SAINDSURY

THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

ENGLISH HERITAGE

& many other benefactors
THIS PUBLIC VAULT
BEING FULL WAS CLOSED
IN THE YEAR
1845
REV. WILLIAM STONE, M.A.
RECTOR.
WILLIAM HICKS BALL, CHURCH
THOMAS MIDWINTER, WARDENS
HE LIVES IN A COFFIN

A 450-YEAR-OLD stone coffin
in the crypt of Christ Church,
Spitalfields, is now the home of
Michael O’Connor, a London East
End labourer.

He was blasted from his own home
three months ago and since then he
has spent his nights reading, eating
and sleeping in the coffin.

“Very comfortable it is, too,”
he told the Daily Mirror.

Every morning, except Sundays,
when he has a “lie in,” Michael is
awakened by his wife, with a cup
of tea. Then off to work to put up
with much mockery from his
friends as “Ruffy, Mike. Back from
the dead again.”

The O’Connors, with their fifteen-
year-old son, have made their corner

Mrs. O’Connor—“I don’t read the
coffin much—sleeper on the floor
with her son while Michael snores
serenely in his strange bed.

Strange at First

Michael, an old soldier, told the
Daily Mirror: “I’ve slept in
worse place. It’s a bit drab, but
otherwise it’s quite comfortable.
There’s plenty of room to move
around.

“The first couple of nights I felt
a bit strange and kept waking up,
but I’ve got used to it now, and I
sleep like a top. I feel safer down there
than I do in a surface shelter and I hope
to stay here until after the war.”

There are two other stone coffins
in the crypt, but so far nobody has felt
like removing the heavy lids and

Often said you “Sleep, like the
dead,” haven’t you? Here’s a man
who does! Mr. O’Connor in his
coffin bed in a London church
crypt.
James Stirling
1926-1992
IN MEMORIAM

JAMES STIRLING
ARCHITECT
1924-1992