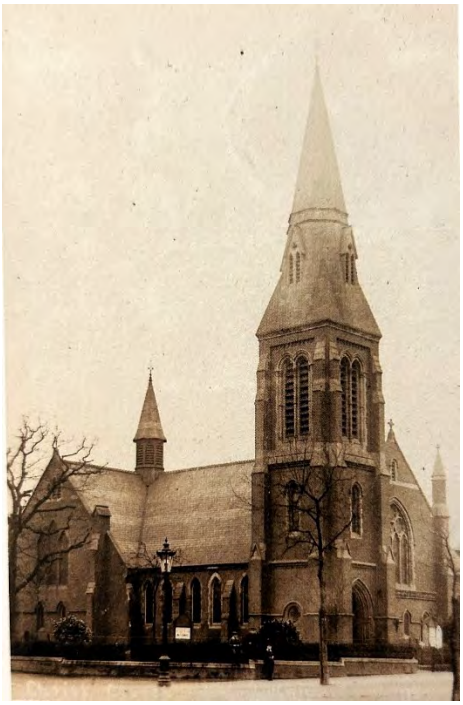
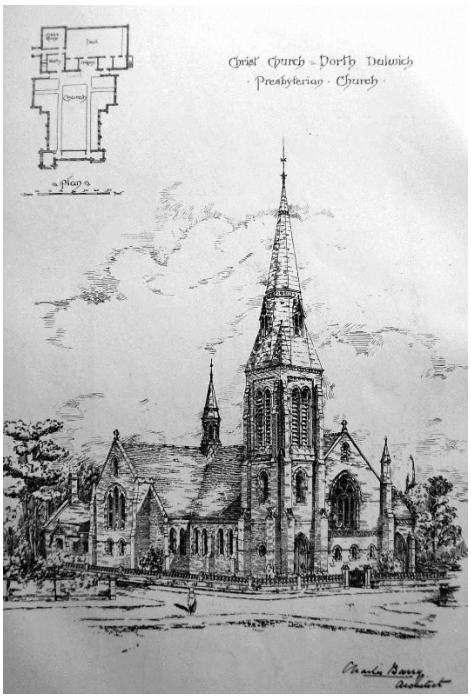
Places of Worship in Dulwich

Christ Church

Demolished
Presbyterian
Townley Road/East Dulwich Grove





Christ Church viewed from East Dulwich Grove

Historical summary
Founded in 1886 by Revd Rupert Patterson, who became its first minister. Regular services were organised in a temporary building while funds were raised for a permanent church. A site was secured at the corner of Townley Road and East Dulwich Grove and Estate architect Charles Barry designed a Gothic-style church to seat about 500 people, at an estimated cost of £5,200. A lease was signed in early 1890 followed by the foundation stone laid in July by Sir Donald Currie, a Scottish shipowner, member of the United Free Church of Scotland and the man for whom the South African Currie

Cup is named. Grace Maple, the 14-year-old daughter of Dulwich M.P. Sir John Maple, placed a sealed jar of coins, literature, and photographs beneath the stone.

In 1899 the parsonage next door at 179 East Dulwich Grove, The Beeches, was completed at a cost of £800. In 1904, extensions were added to the church including a church hall, with the foundation stone laid by the Earl of Aberdeen, an eminent Scottish Presbyterian, and with financial support from Elder Charles Olliffe of Southville, East Dulwich Grove.

In 1899, under the ministration of Revd Patterson, the church had 150 regular worshippers and 200 Sunday School members but membership declined in the 1920s and the church was eventually dissolved in 1938 and the site sold back to the Dulwich Estate. In WW2 it was used as a furniture store by Messrs Evans but suffered bomb damage itself and was declared unsafe in 1948. It was demolished in the early 1960s together with the hall which despite its condition had been used by the Dulwich Sea Cadets. 50-58 Townley Road were then built by local builder Mitchells on the site.

Sources: Dulwich College Archives. The Builder 04/12/1890. 1904 Church Magazine. Southwark Local Studies