



On the corner of Church Road and Kewstoke Road in Worle you will find a familiar building, still known locally as Gunning's Stores. The shop was one of the oldest businesses in the area and was a dominant feature of Manchester Square, the centre of Old Worle. Established in the early 1800's the shop was the nearest general store for the people of Weston as well as Worle.

In 1897, whilst Queen Victoria was celebrating her diamond jubilee, the business was sold by James Irish & Co. to J. W. Spinner who continued to run the General Supply Stores, pictured above left. Annie Spinner, nee Tucker, can be seen in the doorway together with a customer and two young men in long white aprons, ready to serve anyone who came along. James and Annie Spinner had a daughter, Ivy, who was educated at Lydenhurst School in Coronation Road.

In 1925 Ivy Spinner married Henry Gunning, an Australian, and they later took over the store, which in the course of time they handed on to their son, Roy Gunning and their daughter, Margaret. The picture above right, taken in the 1970s, is a familiar view of the last years of the old shop.

Down through the years, the shop stocked all manner of household goods, from groceries to ironmongery and basic clothing. Deliveries were made weekly to regular customers, many of whom had accounts, or tabs, with the store. The shop closed for business in 1985, and the building was converted into several homes, but the familiar vista remains, pictured right. The old connections are maintained: a small plaque with the inscription 'Spinner's Cottages' still adorns the building on the right. Brave the traffic to have a peek.



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