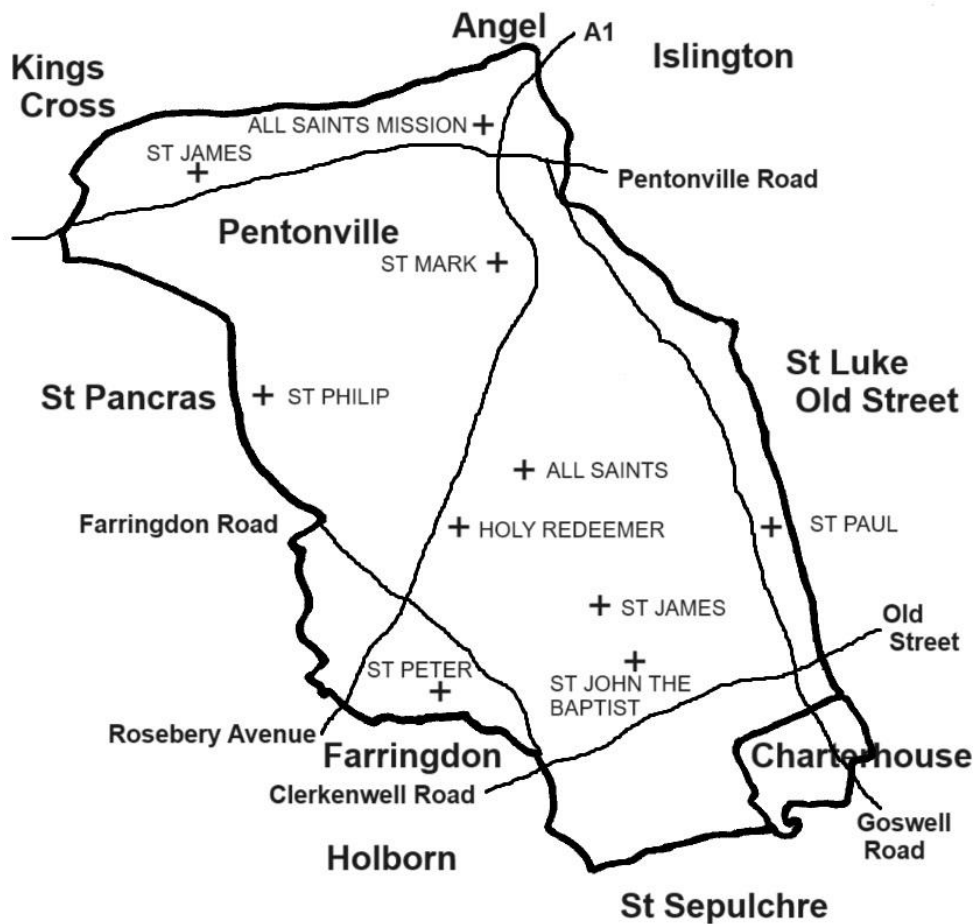




LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

CLERKENWELL

Clerkenwell was an ancient parish in the county of Middlesex, where it formed part of the Finsbury division of the Ossulstone hundred. Clerkenwell became part of the new County of London in 1890 and then part of the Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury in 1900, which, in turn became part of the new London Borough of Islington in 1964.



The origins of Clerkenwell lie in two religious establishments founded around 1140 during the reign of King Henry I. One was the Priory of Clerkenwell, which became the headquarters of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem. Their Priory Gate, rebuilt in 1504, survived the dissolution of the monasteries and is now the main base of the St John Ambulance Association.

Next door to the priory was the Benedictine nunnery of St Mary. The nuns drew water from a well on their premises, which later gave its name to the area as City. St Mary's priory owned some 60 acres of land at Muswell Hill from 1160-1539, which also included a well – the mossy well which named the area. After the dissolution this part of Muswell Hill formed a detached part of Clerkenwell parish until 1901, when it was transferred to Hornsey. The nunnery's church in Clerkenwell was rebuilt in 1792 and became St James, the parish church of the area.

The Society has produced a Parish Guide to Clerkenwell which includes further information about the churches below as well as nonconformist and other denominations.



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St James, Clerkenwell Green



Following the dissolution of St Mary's Nunnery in 1539, its church was converted to the parish church of Clerkenwell and rededicated to St James. This old building was demolished in the 1780s and a new church was built on the site of the choir of the medieval nunnery. Records of St James Church, Clerkenwell including registers of baptisms (1551-1926), marriages (1551-1945), burials (1551-1853) and are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/JS1

All Saints, Battle Bridge, Caledonia Road

This church was constructed by 1838 and gained a district in 1839 from the parish of Holy Trinity, Cloudesley Square, Islington. Parts of All Saints' parish were later assigned to St Andrews, Thornhill Square and St Silas, Penton Street, Clerkenwell. The parish was joined to St Silas in 1972. In 1975 the church was destroyed by fire and demolished. The church ran various missions including All Saints Mission Church, White Lion Street. Records of All Saints including registers of baptisms (1839-1979) and marriages (1846-1977) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P83/ALL1.

All Saints, Skinner Street

This chapel was constituted in 1864 and united with St Botolph Bishopsgate in the City of London five years later. Records of All Saints including registers of baptisms (1858-1867) and marriages (1864-1869) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P83/ALL.

Charterhouse Chapel

The chapel at Charterhouse, on the site of the old Carthusian monastery near Smithfield, was used for some marriages and burials. Records of Charterhouse Chapel including registers of marriage licenses (1671-1755) and burials (1695-1854) are at the Charterhouse with copies at London Metropolitan Archives.



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Holy Redeemer, Exmouth Market



The church of the Holy Redeemer, Exmouth Market was built on the site of the Spa Fields chapel in 1888. The parish was united with St Philip, Granville Square, Clerkenwell in 1936. Records of Holy Redeemer including registers of baptisms (1879-1964) and marriages (1888-1953) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P83/RED.

St James, Pentonville Road aka Pentonville Chapel



Pentonville Chapel was founded in 1778 and was used as a chapel of ease to St James, Clerkenwell. A separate parish was assigned in 1854 and the chapel became the parish church of St James, Pentonville. The church was declared redundant in 1978 and the parish was united with All Saints, Battle Bridge, Caledonian Road. On the union of the parishes of All Saints with St James and St Andrew, Thornhill Square, Barnsbury in 1980, most of the former parish of St James Pentonville was transferred to the parish of St Silas, Penton Street. Records of St James Pentonville Road including registers of baptisms (1790-1977); marriages (1847-1977) and burials (1790-1855) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/JS2

St John the Baptist, St John's Square, Clerkenwell

The Priory of St John of Jerusalem stood on this site before the dissolution in 1539. Part of the building was converted into a private chapel which, in 1723, became the church to a new parish taken out of that of St James, Clerkenwell. St John the Baptist ceased to be a parish church in 1931. Records of the parish of Saint John the Baptist, Clerkenwell including registers of baptisms (1723-1930), marriages (1723-1929) and burials (1723-1853) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/JNB



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St Mark, Myddelton Square, Pentonville



The church of St Mark was built between 1826 and 1828 and was intended to be a chapel of ease for St James, Clerkenwell. Some burials took place inside the church but these were discouraged by high fees. The church suffered serious war damage and was later restored. Records of the parish of Saint Mark, Myddelton Square, comprising registers of baptisms (1828-1979), marriages (1839-1965) and burials (1830-1956) are at London Metropolitan Archives, P76/MRK

St Paul, Pear Tree Street

St Paul's parish was made mainly from that of St Luke, Old Street. The church was consecrated in 1875. It was badly bombed in 1940 and in 1953 the parish was joined with that of St Luke, Old Street. Records of the parish of St Paul, Pear Tree Street, including registers of baptisms (1865-1945) and marriages (1875-1952) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/PAU2.

St Peter, St John Street, Clerkenwell

St Peter Clerkenwell, also known as Smithfield Martyrs Mission Church, was consecrated in 1871. In 1955 the parish was united with St James, Clerkenwell, and the building was demolished in 1957. Records of Saint Peter's, Clerkenwell including registers of baptisms (1871-1953) and marriages (1872-1853) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/PET1.

St Philip, Granville Square

This parish was created out of St Mark's, Myddelton Square. The church opened in 1834 but had to close for repairs after only 25 years as it had been undermined by the building of the Metropolitan Railway. It reopened in 1860 but closed permanently in 1936 when the parish was joined with Holy Redeemer, Exmouth Market. Records of St Philip including registers of baptisms (1834-1935) and marriages (1847-1935) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/PHI.



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St Silas, Penton Street, Pentonville



The vicar of St James, Pentonville established an iron mission church here, the permanent one being built before 1863. Initially dedicated as Christ Church, this was changed to St Silas in 1867 at the consecration. Records of the parish of St Silas, Pentonville, including baptism registers (1866-1960) and marriage registers (1868-1953) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/SIL.

St Thomas, Charterhouse

The church of St Thomas, Goswell Road, Charterhouse, was established in 1848. In 1906 the benefice was united with St Mary, Charterhouse and the church closed. The building was subsequently demolished. Records of the parish of St Thomas Charterhouse, including baptism registers (1842-1906), marriage registers (1846-1906) and burials (1846-1854) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P76/TMS.

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