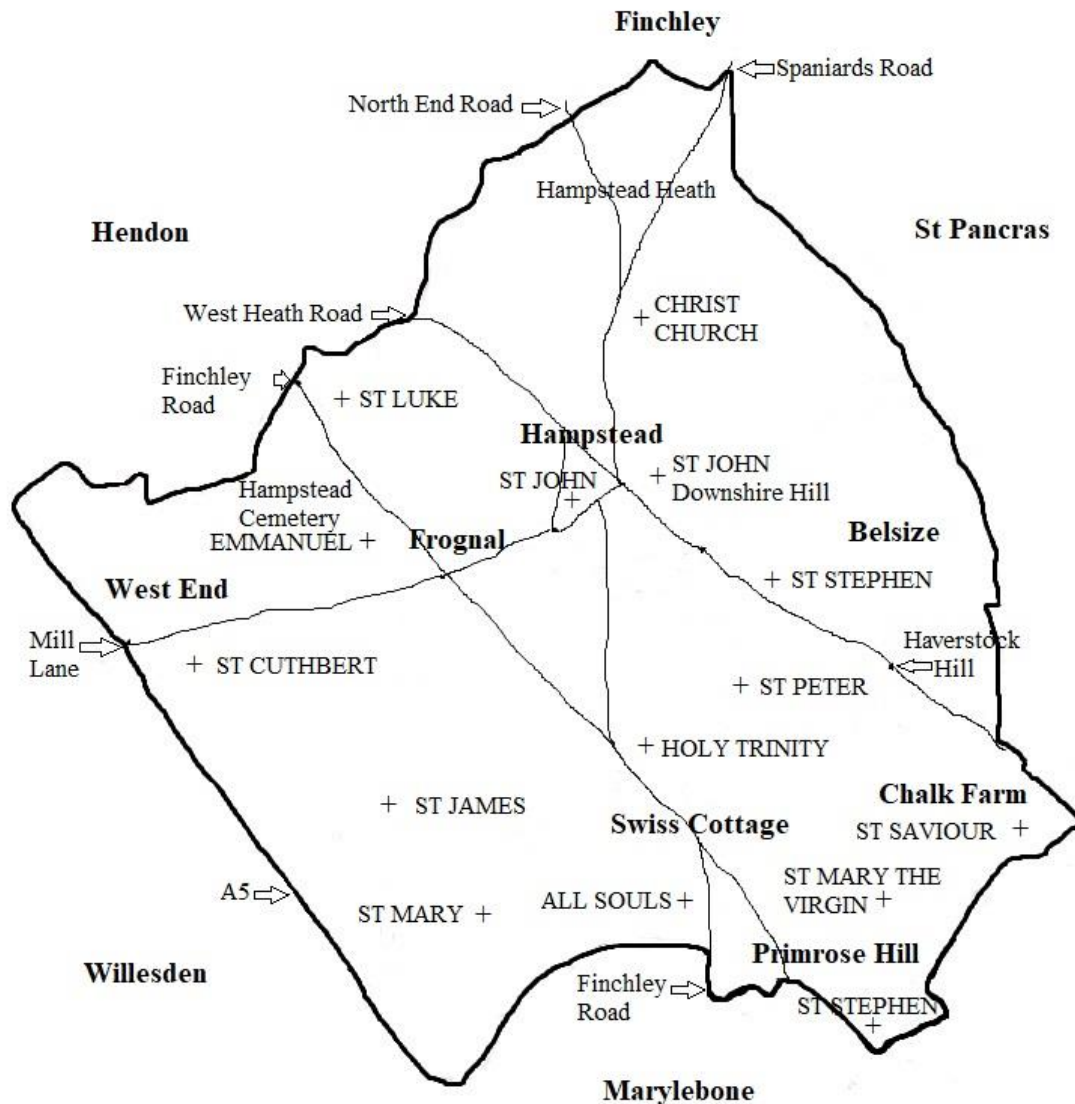# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

HAMPSTEAD

Hampstead was an ancient parish in the county of Middlesex, where it formed part of the Holborn division of the Ossulstone hundred. Civil Parishes took over from Ancient Parishes in the 1860s, followed by Urban District Councils in 1894 and then London Boroughs in 1965. Hampstead now forms part of the London Borough of Camden.

The name 'Hampstead' comes from Anglo Saxon and means 'homestead' and there does seem to have been only one manor here. It was surveyed for the 1086 *Domesday Book* and then contained one farm with a few houses. A church at Hampstead is first mentioned in the early 14th century. It was built to serve the Manor, which then lay within the parish of Hendon. The creation of Hampstead parish of is believed to have occurred around the late 15th century and it occupies roughly the same area as that of the Manor and its lands. The parish is diamond shaped and measures about 2 miles in length and in breadth. The village of Hampstead itself is located some five miles from Charing Cross towards the middle of the parish on high ground which can be seen from London and it became a popular place for City visitors, with its clean fresh air.

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

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St John at Hampstead, Church Row

A medieval chapel dedicated to St Mary served the manor of Hampstead when it was in the parish of Hendon but from 1365 it seems to have become and independent parish. A new church was built in 1747 and dedicated to St John. It was extended westwards in 1844 and again in 1878 in order to accommodate a growing local population.

Records of the parish include baptisms (1560-1925), marriages (1560-1952) and burials (1560-1950) are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/JN1.

All Souls, Loudoun Road, Hampstead

This church was founded and endowed by the Rev Henry Robinson Wadmore and a district was assigned in 1865. The church closed and has now been converted into residential flats.

Records of the parish of All Souls, Hampstead, including registers of baptisms (1865-1944), banns (1865-1988), marriages (1865-1957), confirmations papers relating to the parish school and more are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/ALS

Christ Church, Hampstead Square, Hampstead

This church was built about 1851 to replace an overcrowded proprietary chapel in the Pump Room on Well Walk. It was restored in 2015 and is still open today.

Records of the parish of Christ Church, Hampstead, including registers of baptisms (1853-1987), banns (1880-1998), marriages (1853-1987), confirmations, parish magazines and more are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/CTC

Emmanuel, Lyncroft Gardens, Hampstead

This parish has its origins in services held at West End National School in the 1840s, with a district assigned in 1885 from Holy Trinity parish and a permanent church built in 1897.

Records of the parish of Emmanuel, Hampstead, including registers of baptisms (1885-1981), Banns (1914-1955), marriages (1885-1966), confirmations, newsletters and yearbooks and more are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/EMM

Holy Trinity, Finchley Road, Swiss Cottage

This church was built in 1871 and its parish covered most of south west Hampstead. The church was demolished in 1974 and a smaller one built in its place. This is now known as The Lighthouse.

Records of the parish of Holy Trinity, Hampstead, including registers of baptisms (1872-1906), Banns (1873-1920 and 1932-1998), marriages (1873-1966), Parochial Church Council minute books and correspondence, parish newsletters and more are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/TR1

St Andrew's Mission Church, Allitsen Road, Hampstead

In 1945 this church, which had been a mission church to St Stephen the Martyr, was transferred to St John's Wood Chapel in Marylebone. St Andrew's was closed in 1948. There are some service registers and so on in the parish chest of St Stephen but no vital records. These are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/STE1

St Cuthbert, Fordwych Road, Hampstead

This parish was taken from that of Holy Trinity in 1886. The church started as an iron mission church, which became the church hall after a more permanent structure was built. The current building was constructed in 1988.

Records of the parish of Saint Cuthbert, Hampstead, comprising registers of baptisms (1882-1929), banns (1888-1950), marriages (1888-1950), Annual Vestry meeting minutes and Parochial Church Council minutes are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/CUT

St James, West End Lane, West Hampstead

The church was built in 1887 and now shares clergy with St Mary, Priory Road. During the week The Sherriff Centre inside St James' Church provides community functions such as a post office, café and children's play area.

Records of the church of St James. West Hamptead comprise registers of baptisms (1882-1991), marriages (1888-1992), banns (1934-1978), and confirmations (1907-1927). Other records include parish magazines, service leaflets, and a list of war dead are currently uncatalogued. This archive is at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/JS.

St John, Downshire Hill, Hampstead

This church was a proprietary chapel owned by the Rev John Wilcox in 1832 and it remained a proprietary chapel until 1982 – the last remaining one in London. The Baptism register started in 1890 but registers have not been deposited at London Metropolitan Archives. The church is still open to worship.

St Luke, Kidderpore Avenue, West Hampstead

Baptisms started in 1896 and marriages in 1899. Registers have not been deposited at London Metropolitan Archives. Contact them here: https://www.stlukeshampstead.org/

St Mary, Priory Road, Kilburn

This church was opened in 1857, a district being taken from St John's in 1863.

Records of the parish of St Mary, Kilburn, including registers of baptisms (1857-1934), banns (1863-1899), marriages (1863-1953), Parochial Church Council minute books, and lists of church staff are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/MRY.

St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill

This church opened in 1867 on a site that had been owned by Eton College (who had been given much land in the Hampstead area by King Henry VI). A district was assigned when the church was consecrated in 1885 – it had previously come under the parish of St Saviour, South Hampstead. The parish of St Paul, Avenue Road united with St Mary in 1956.

Records of the parish of St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, including registers of baptisms (1868-1951), banns (1930-1957), marriages (1885-1972), Vestry minutes, Parochial Church Council minutes, and photographs of the church interior are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/MRV. Also here is a series of records relating to the litigation between the Church of St Mary the Virgin and the London and North Western Railway Company.

St Paul, Avenue Road, Hampstead

This church was built in 1859 with its parish taken from those of St John and St Saviour. In 1956 it united with the parish of St Mary the Virgin and St Paul's church was demolished.

Records of the parish of St Paul, Hampstead, comprising registers of baptisms (1859-1956), marriages (1860-1951) and confirmations are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/PAU.

St Peter, Belsize Square, Belsize Park

This district was formed in 1861, taken from St John's land.

Records of the parish of St Peter, Belsize Park, including baptism registers (1859-1921), marriage registers (1861-1996), confirmation register, Parochial Church Council minutes and financial accounts, and cash books are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/PET.

St Saviour, Eton Road, Hampstead

This church was also built on land previously owned by Eton College and was consecrated in 1856.

Records of the parish of St Saviour, Hampstead, including registers of baptisms (1853-1956),, banns (1857-1953, with gaps), marriages (1857-1975), confirmations, a collection of parish publications (1884-1926), and a richly illustrated and supplemented Book of Remembrance for World War One are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/SAV.

This archive includes baptisms which took place at the Hostel for Mothers and Babies in Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead from 1938-1940.
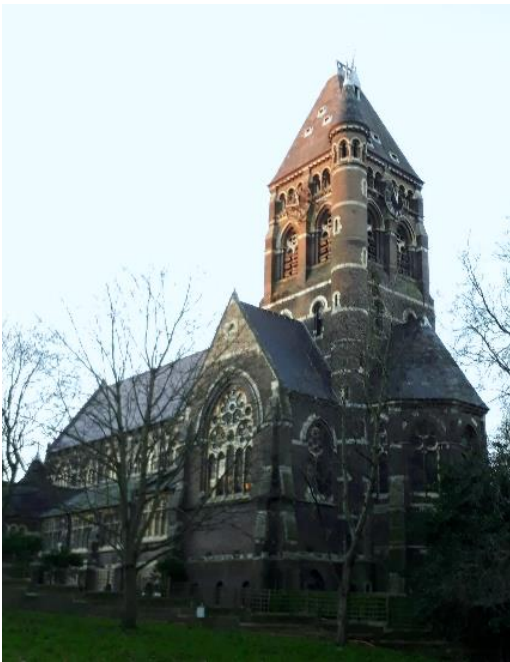
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St Stephen the Martyr, Avenue Road, Hampstead

This church was constructed in 1856 and although it is in Hampstead, much of its parish is in Marylebone. In 1945 the Marylebone part of the parish was assigned to St John's Wood Chapel and St Stephen's was closed.

Records of the parish of St Stephen the Martyr, including registers of baptisms (1856-1948), banns (1889-1945), marriages (1856-1945), National Schools Committee minute books, Sunday school exercise books and church magazines. Also church service registers for Saint Andrew's Mission Church are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: P81/SE1/

St Stephen, Rosslyn Hill

St Stephen was consecrated in 1870, its district taken from that of St John. It was united with All Hallows, Gospel Oak in St Pancras parish and the church was closed for worship in 1977. These parish records are currently uncatalogued but include registers of baptisms (1870-1977), Banns (1942-1947) and marriages (1870-1977). In due course they will appear on the London Metropolitan Archive (LMA) catalogue but they can be inspected in person at LMA if you request an appointment to do so, at: ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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