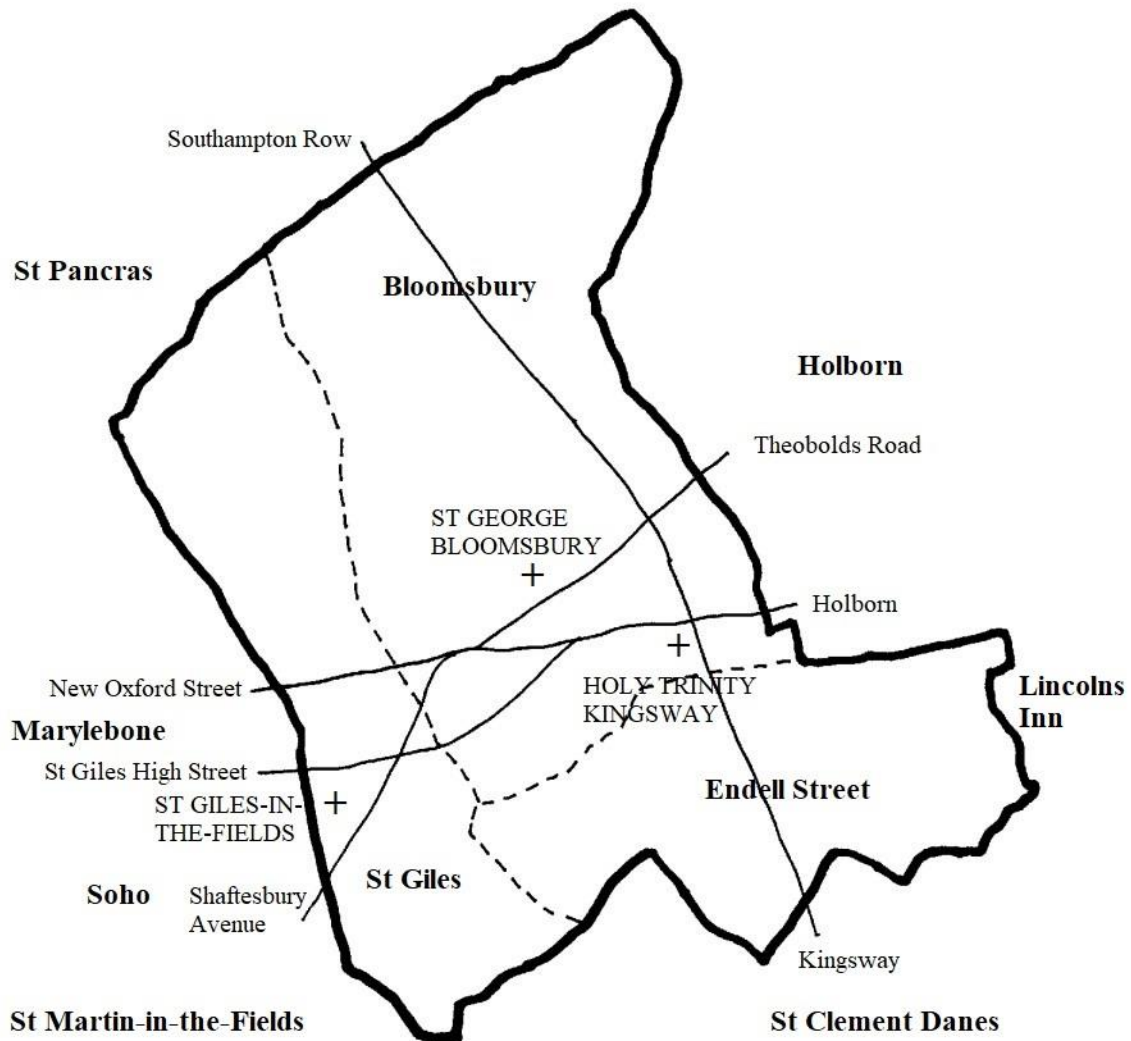




LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS

St Giles-in-the-Fields was an ancient parish in the county of Middlesex, where it formed part of the Holborn division of the Ossulstone hundred. St George Bloomsbury was taken as a separate parish in 1731. Civil Parishes took over from Ancient Parishes in the 1860s and at this time St Giles was reunited with St George Bloomsbury. In 1900 the parish became part of the Metropolitan Borough of Holborn and in 1965 part of the London Borough of Camden.



St Giles-in-the-Fields parish has its origins in a leper hospital dedicated to St Giles which had been founded by Matilda, wife of King Henry I, in 1117. The hospital was located necessarily in the countryside outside the boundaries of the City of London as lepers, whose contagious infection was incurable at that time, could not mix with the general population. The hospital had extensive gardens and orchards (Grape Street marks the edge of the vineyard) so that the site could be as self-sufficient as possible. Some 14 lepers were cared for by monks and the hospital was funded by charitable donations. This way of segregating lepers was effective and the disease had more-or-less vanished by the time King Henry VIII dissolved all religious houses in the mid-16th century and gave the hospital to John Dudley, later Duke of Northumberland, to use as a manor house.

The Society has produced a Parish Guide to St Giles-in-the-Fields which includes further information about the churches below as well as nonconformist and other denominations.



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St Giles-in-the-Fields



St Giles-in-the-Fields originated in a leper hospital founded in 1101 by Queen Matilda. The chapel at the hospital came to serve locals as well as patients and continued to serve this parochial role even after the hospital closed in 1539. Records include baptisms (1561-1924), marriages (1561-1958) and burials (1561-1859) and are at London Metropolitan Archives.

Christ Church Chapel of Ease, Endell Street

Christ Church, Endell Street, opened in 1845 and closed in 1929 when it was united with St Giles-in-the-Fields, Holborn. Records include baptisms (1880-1922) and are at London Metropolitan Archives.

Christ Church, Woburn Square, Holborn

Christ Church was built in 1831 as a chapel of ease to St George Bloomsbury. The church was demolished in 1974 and the parish united with St George. Records include baptisms (1879-1972) and marriages (1890-1972) and are at London Metropolitan Archives.

Holy Trinity, Kingsway

The first church of the Holy Trinity was built on Little Queen Street in Holborn in 1829-1831 as a daughter church of St Giles-in-the-Fields. It gained its own parish in 1884 but had to be demolished when the construction of the Piccadilly Line undermined its foundations. The present building was erected in 1909 opposite Holborn Underground Station. The parish absorbed that of St John Drury Lane but it also closed in 1986. Records include baptisms (1841-1985) and marriages (1884-1984) and are at London Metropolitan Archives.



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St George, Bloomsbury



The parish of St George, Bloomsbury, was formed in the early 18th century as respectable Bloomsbury residents complained at having to pass through a slum area known to reach the parish church of St Giles-in-the-Fields. The parish has now united with St John the Evangelist, Red Lion Square. Records include baptisms (1730-1918), marriages (1731-1959) and burials (1731-1855) and are at London Metropolitan Archives.

St Giles Mission Church, Sardinia Street

This church was founded in 1877 and closed in 1890. Records include baptisms (1877-1889) and are at London Metropolitan Archives.

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