

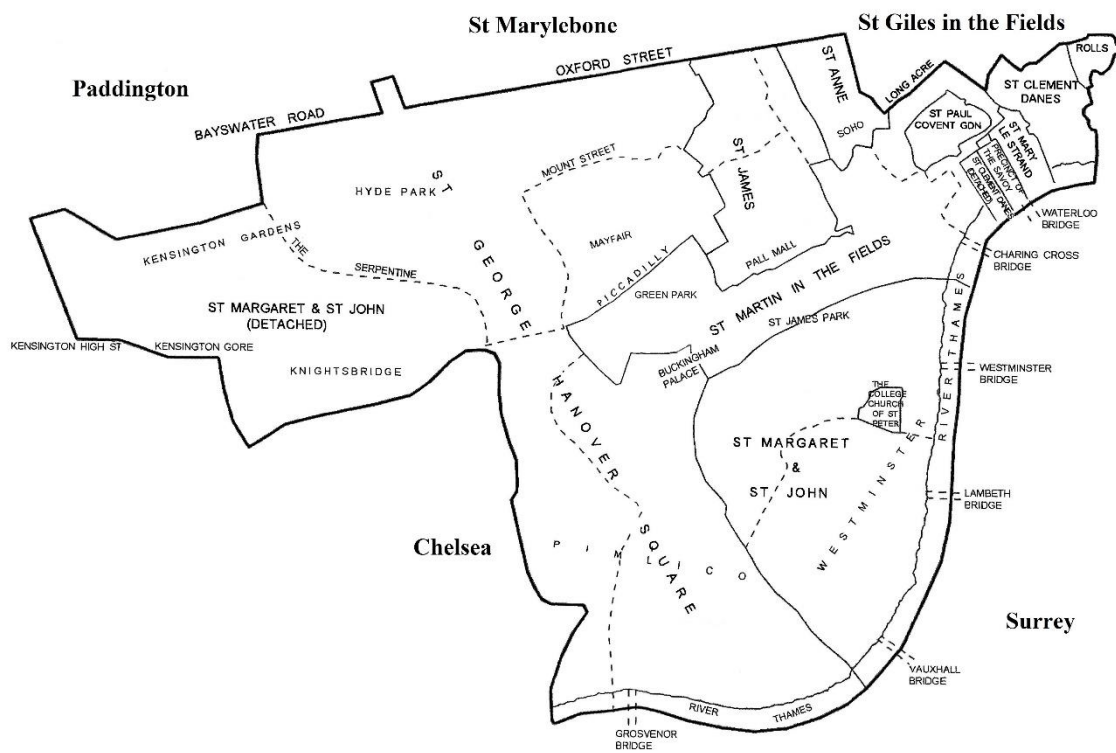


LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

St Martin-in-the-Fields was an ancient parish in the Liberty of Westminster. The City and Liberty of Westminster was succeeded as an administrative body by the Metropolitan Borough of Westminster in 1900 and then by the London Borough of Westminster in 1965.

Just as St Martin's parish had been taken from St Margaret's, various other parishes were taken from St Martin's. St Paul Covent Garden parish was taken in 1645 and forms an island in the eastern part of St Martin-in-the-Fields, St James Piccadilly in 1685 and St Anne Soho in 1687 were formed from the northern side and St George Hanover Square in 1724 was taken from the western part. Records of these areas have been included in their respective separate LWMFHS Parish Guides.



A church dedicated to St Martin is first mentioned in records in 1222, when it appears it was being used by the monks of Westminster visiting the convent gardens which lay to the east of the Abbey. The parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields was subsequently taken from that of St Margaret Westminster in the 1540s and included all the land between St Clement Danes in the east and the Palace of Westminster. King Henry VIII had a new church built and the parish was created at this time in order to ensure that 'the danger of infection which might happen to our Court by the carrying of dead bodies past our royal palaces to be interred in St Margaret's' did not occur. The current church replaced this Tudor one and was built in 1726.

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



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St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square



There is reference to a church here in 1222, which seems to have been used by monks attached to the Abbey of Westminster. In 1542, Henry VIII built a new church and extended the parish boundaries in order to prevent plague victims from being carried through his Palace at Whitehall for burial at Westminster. The church was rebuilt in 1726.

Records of St Martin-in-the-Fields include baptisms (1551-1965), marriages (1551-1968) and burials (1551-1853) and very much more are at Westminster Archives Centre.

St John the Evangelist, Drury Lane

The church of Saint John the Evangelist on Drury Lane was established in 1855, having previously been the Tavistock Proprietary Epsicopal Chapel (see below). Its parish was taken from St Martin-in-the-Fields. The church was closed in 1938 and the parish united to Holy Trinity Kingsway.

Records include baptisms (1855-1936) and marriages (1855-1933) and are at LMA, Ref: P96/JNE1.

St Michael, Burleigh Street

This church was built in 1831 on the south west corner of the junction of Burleigh Street with Exeter Street and was originally a chapel within the parish of St Martin. It subsequently became a separate parish but was joined with St Paul Covent Garden in 1905 and St Michael's Church was demolished.

Records include baptisms (1849-1905) and marriages (1849-1905) and more are at Westminster Archives Centre.

Tavistock Chapel, Drury Lane

Tavistock Proprietary Epsicopal Chapel opened in Broad Court, Drury Lane in the early 1760s. The Clergy Database (<https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/>) names preachers here from John Warner in 1763 to Charles Burton in 1832. In 1833 it was made a chapel of ease to St Martin-in-the-Fields and became known as St John the Evangelist from 1855 (see above).

Records include baptisms (1838-1853) and marriages (1849-1905) and more are at Westminster Archives Centre.

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