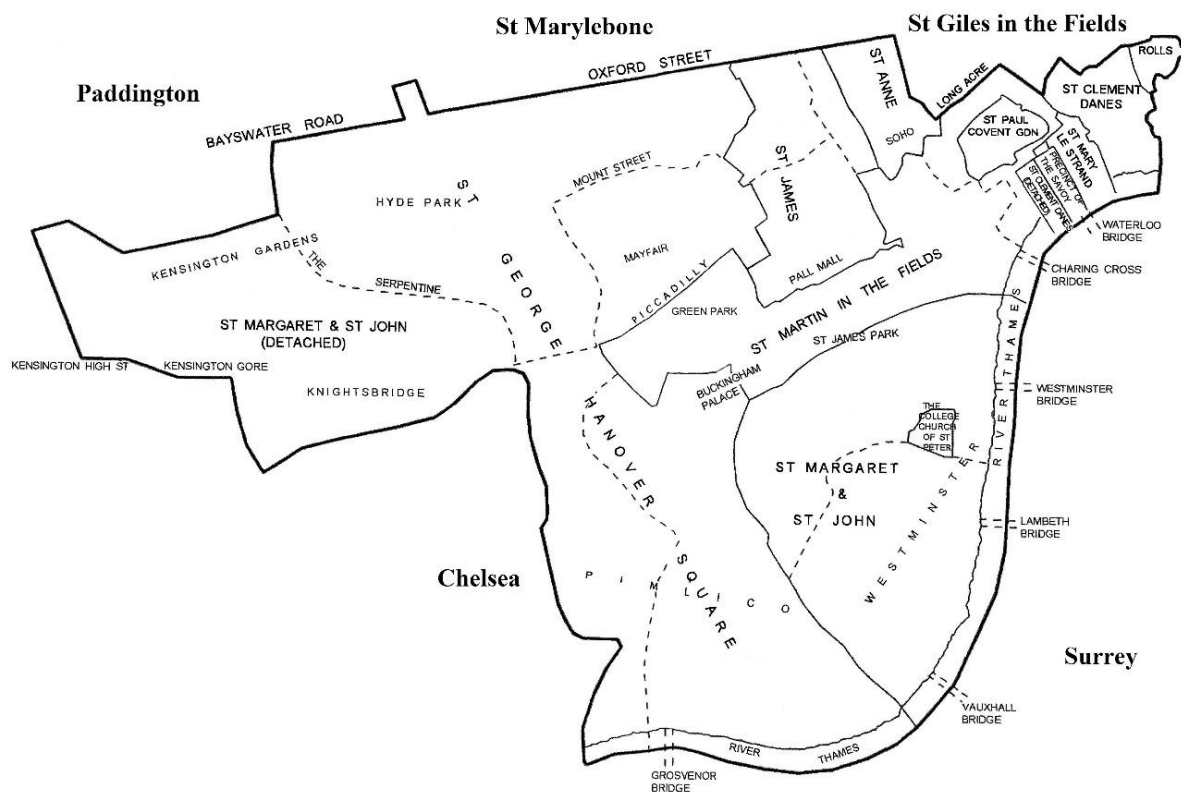




LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

ST PAUL COVENT GARDEN

Covent Garden was originally part of the ancient parish of St Margaret Westminster until 1542, when it was transferred to the newly created parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields. In 1645 the separate parish of St Paul Covent Garden was taken from part of St Martin-in-the-Fields. 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. Covent Garden is now in the London Borough of Camden.



Covent Garden was a kitchen garden belonging to the monks of Westminster Abbey in the 13th century and was part of their parish of St Margaret Westminster. The monks grew apples, cherries, pears and an assortment of vegetables as well as pasturing their animals there, using the food to feed themselves and selling any extra. At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536, King Henry VIII seized the land and later gave 'seven acres of land called Long Acre' and about 40 acres which comprised Covent Garden to one of his Gentlemen of the Bedchamber, John Russell. The parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields was created at this time from that of St Margaret Westminster and contained all the land between St Clement Danes in the east and the Palace of Westminster in the west, including land that later became the parish of St Paul Covent Garden. The parish covered the area from the Strand to Long Acre and from Drury Lane to St Martin's Lane and was entirely surrounded by the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

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



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St Paul, Bedford Street, Covent Garden



St Paul's church was built in the Palladian style, with a large portico supported by columns facing the square, in 1638. The patronage of the church was transferred from the (now) Duke of Bedford to the Bishop of London in 1938.

Records include baptisms (1653-1945), marriages (1653-2004) and burials (1653-1853) and are at Westminster Archives Centre.

St Michael, Burleigh Street, Covent Garden

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 are at Westminster Archives Centre.

Tavistock Chapel, Broad Court

Tavistock Proprietary Epsicopal Chapel opened in Broad Court, Drury Lane in the early 1760s. In 1853 it was made a chapel of ease to St Martin-in-the-Fields and became known as St John the Evangelist from 1855.

Records include baptisms (1838-1853) and are at Westminster Archives Centre.

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