

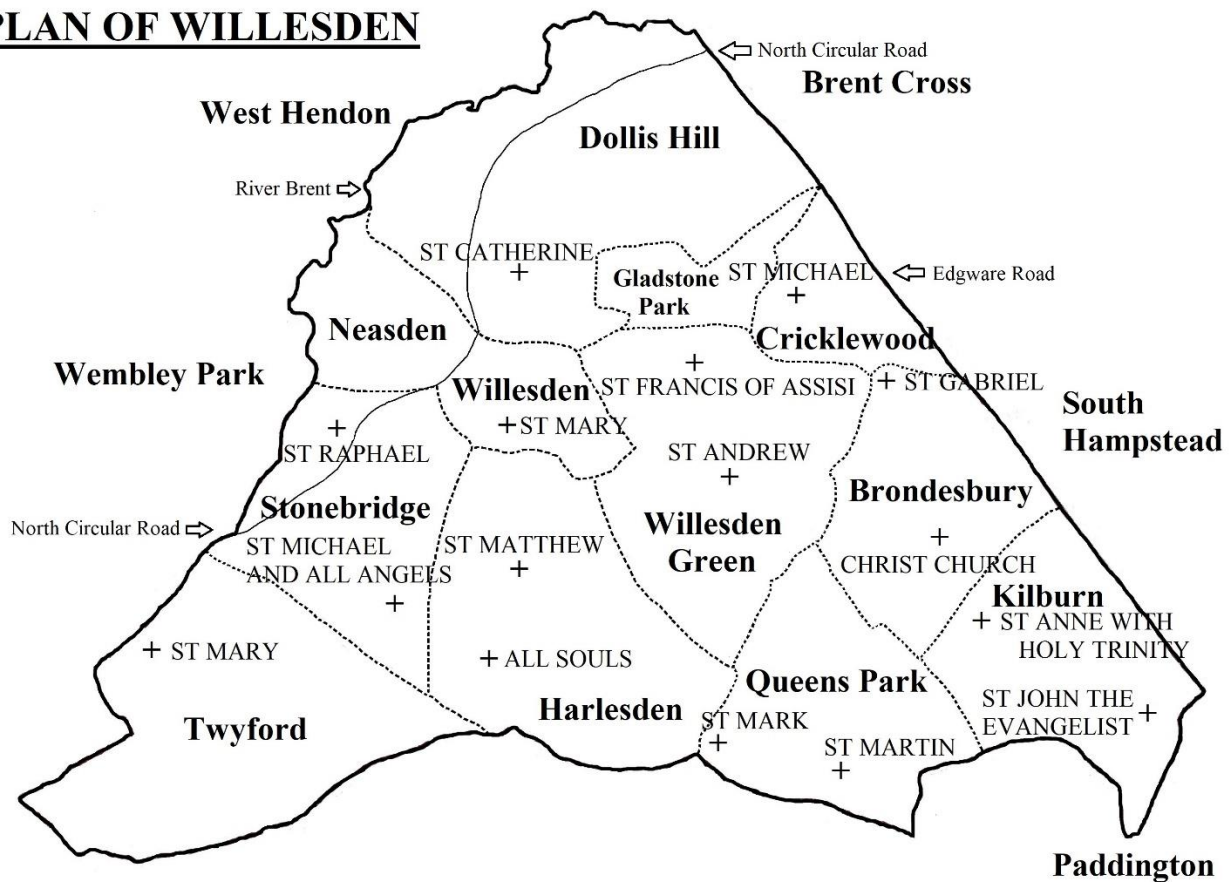


# LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## WEST TWYFORD or TWYFORD ABBEY

Twyford Abbey, also known as West Twyford, was a tiny chapelry belonging to Willesden Ancient Parish in the county of Middlesex, where it formed part of the Kensington division of the Ossulstone hundred subdivision of the county. Civil Parishes took over from Ancient Parishes in the 1860s, followed by Urban District Councils in 1894 and then London Boroughs in 1965. Twyford Abbey now forms part of the London Borough of Ealing.

### PLAN OF WILLESDEN



Twyford is listed in the 1086 *Domesday* survey and the name probably refers to two crossing points of the River Brent. There was a chapel at West Twyford by 1181, which was known as St Mary's by 1300. In 1250 there were ten inhabited houses and yet by 1801 the census revealed that the population was just 8 people. In 1851 it had reached 21 and by 1901 was only 87. The reason for this may have been enclosure in the Middle Ages, possibly the lords of the manor depopulated the village for their own financial gain or perhaps natural depopulation of the village let the lords enclose the land.

The Society has produced a Parish Guide to Willesden which includes West Twyford and has further information about the church below.



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## St Mary, West Twyford



This church was one of the smallest in Middlesex in the 16th century, with seating for around 40 people. The church was rebuilt in 1958 with the old chapel being retained as a Lady Chapel.

Records of the parish include baptisms (1722-1994), marriages (1722-1988), burials (1849-1988) and are at London Metropolitan Archives, Ref: DRO/098.

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