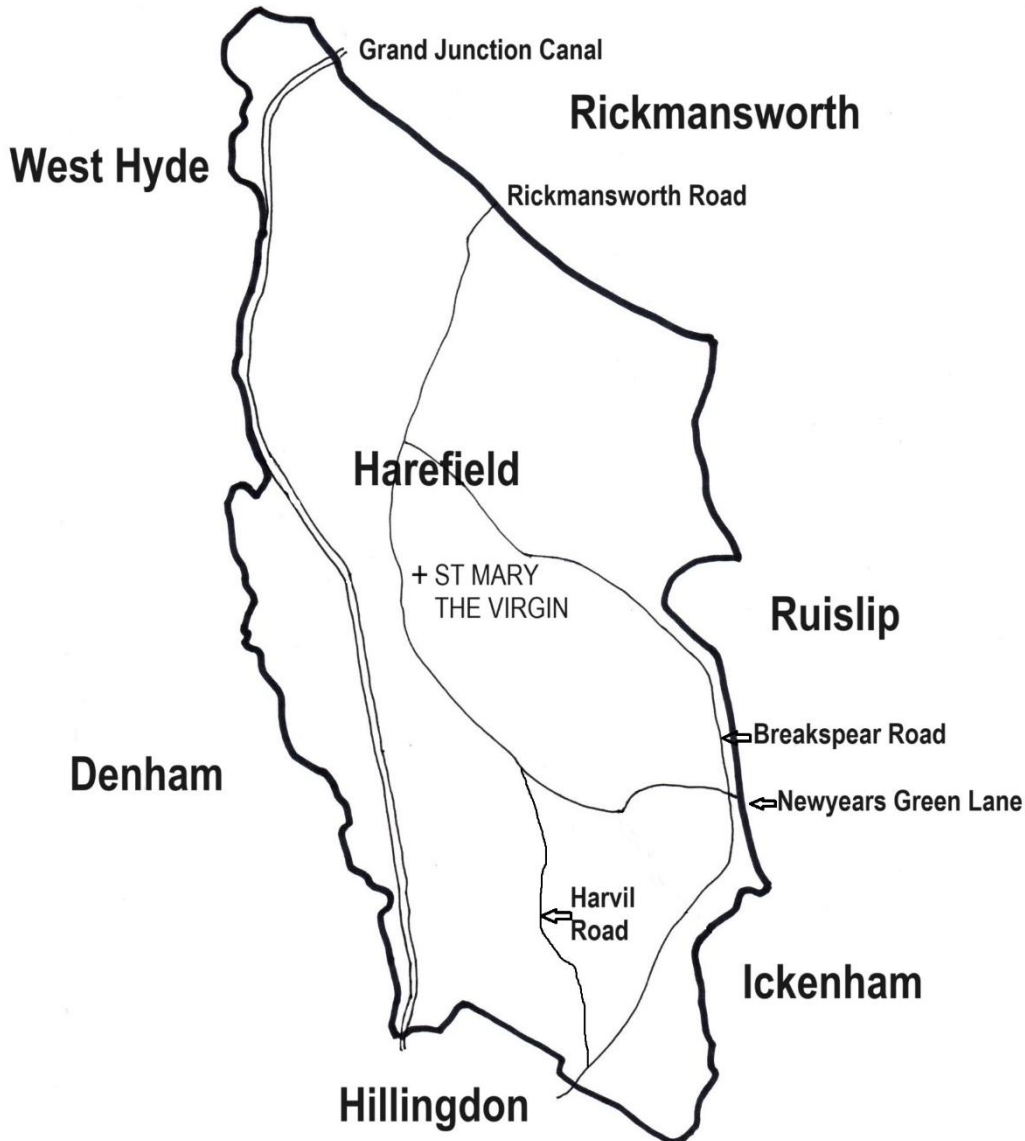




LONDON WESTMINSTER & MIDDLESEX FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

HAREFIELD

Harefield was an Ancient Parish in the county of Middlesex, where it formed part Elthorne hundred subdivision. Civil Parishes took over from Ancient Parishes in the 1860s, then in 1894 Harefield joined Uxbridge Urban Council followed in 1965 by Harefield becoming part of the London Borough of Hillingdon.



Situated on a ridge overlooking the valley of the Colne in the north-west corner of Middlesex, Harefield is relatively isolated and the fact that it is without a railway has meant that the parish has remained largely a rural area where agriculture is still the main employment. The name 'Harefield' is believed to derive from Old English words meaning 'army field', perhaps referring to a Viking army encampment from the 10th century. Harefield is mentioned in the *Domesday Book* as being in the possession of Richard FitzGilbert but by 1444 the manor was owned by the Newdigate family whose many monuments, some dating from the 15th century, fill the church.

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



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St Mary the Virgin, Church Hill, Harefield



There has been a church here for hundreds of years and the current building does contain some medieval features – it is thought that the west wall of the nave may date from the 12th century. The church was heavily restored in 1768 and again in 1841. Records of the parish including baptisms (1538-1891), marriages (1538-1893) and burials (1538-1898) are at the London Archives, Ref: DRO/080.



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