EXPLORING BUILT HERITAGE

Understanding Your Building
Rebecca Preston
Section of 1848 tithe map, copied in the 1880s, TNA

Plan of the church as it was before c. 1868, though printed at a later date
Islington Heritage
Detail of OS, surveyed 1871, The British Library

Plan for new heating system, 1920, LMA
Browse Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS)

Plans and other images from within the files of the ICBS archive. For descriptions of the other contents of the ICBS files, see the archives catalogue. For help using the system see: www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/content/searchcollections
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Repository: Church of England Record Centre

Level: File

Alt Ref No: CC/OF/CB/CB10595

Extent: 1 file

Title: Islington Hy Ty Cloudesley Sq

Description: Parsonage House

AccessCondition: To view this material, please book a table at the Church of England Record Centre, providing the OrderNo of the documents you wish to see. Further details concerning booking and opening hours can be obtained at http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/content/cerc

RelatedMaterial: ECE/7/1/27710

Quick links: Site Map
Pinner church, Middlesex

Medium: Watercolour
Date: 1780

The Church of St John the Baptist, located in the High Street, is the old medieval parish church of Pinner. The earliest parts of the church date from the 14th century and it has features typical of late medieval Middlesex churches. The church was renovated in the late 19th century.

Your notes: tell us more about this item

Hanwell Church, Middlesex

Medium: Pen and ink on paper
Date: 1783

This is a view of the parish church of St Mary’s at Hanwell. The medieval village of Hanwell developed around the church here and at this time the parish probably included New Brentford and the area up to the Thames. The original Hanwell Church was a small thatched building which was replaced in the late 18th century with a larger building which was designed by T. Hardwick. The present day St Mary’s Church was built in 1841 by Scott & Moffatt.
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Detail showing St George Hanworth, 1934
THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, ISLINGTON.

TO THE REV. WILLIAM VINCENT, M.A. IN COMMEMORATION; THIS VIEW IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

by his obedient servant.

CIRCA 1850

Detail of photograph, c. April 1939
Islington Heritage

EPW050847 ENGLAND (1936). Detail from Historic England Archive, Britain from Above: https://britainfromabove.org.uk/
Holy Trinity, Cloudesley Square, Islington: Chronology of site acquisition, works and repairs, c.1811–1980

Introduction and acknowledgements:

Holy Trinity, Cloudesley Square, was built in 1826-29 to a Tudor Gothic design by Sir Charles Barry, the architect of the Houses of Parliament, and forms the focal point of one of the best-preserved squares in the Barnsbury Conservation Area. When the congregation dwindled in the 1970s the Diocese of London closed the church for Anglican Worship and between 1980 and 2017 it was leased to the Celestial Church of Christ. By 2017 the building had deteriorated and was again closed after being declared unsafe for public use. The Diocese then began the research and fundraising necessary for its urgent restoration and re-opening as a community resource to be known as the Cloudesley Centre.

Until 1814, when St Mary Magdalene, Holloway was consecrated as the chapel of ease, St Mary Islington was the only Anglican church in the rapidly growing parish. In May 1825, the Commissioners for Building and Promoting the Building of Additional Churches in populous Districts made arrangements with the parish to build three additional chapels, with encouragement from the charismatic Vicar of St Mary’s, the Rev. Daniel Wilson, later Bishop of Calcutta. Although this was not the original plan, all three chapels – Holy Trinity, Cloudesley Square (consecrated 19 March 1829); St John’s, Upper Holloway (2 July 1829); and St Paul’s, Balls Pond Road (23 October 1828) – were designed by Sir Charles Barry. The parish contributed £12,000 towards the building of the churches and fitting them up for divine service, the sum borrowed under a local Act obtained in 1824. In July that year, Wilson told the Commissioners that ‘the site for one new church is already obtained & enclosed in, conveniently situated in the very heart of the New Buildings in the Back Road’ (later Liverpool Road). The plot for what became Holy Trinity lay at the centre of Islington Square, which was very soon known as Cloudesley Square, and the building of the chapel from 1826 appears roughly contemporary with the surrounding residential development. This lay on an area of land called the Stonyfields or Stonyfield Estate, which was donated in 1517 to the parish of Islington by Sir Richard Catesby. Cloudesley is also commemorated within Holy Trinity in a splendid stained glass window by William Wilson.

This chronology contributes to the restoration project and contains transcriptions of manuscripts and other primary source material relating to the site and building of Holy Trinity, which were gleaned from research conducted in April–September 2019. Because they were built in tandem and shared some of the same contractors, the document also includes references to St Paul’s and St John’s. To assist with understanding the building and informing conservation policies, chronological sequences of maps and plans and images of the church were collated alongside.

I would like to thank Rosie Fraser, Edward Holland, Kevin Rogers and Susan Skeld for their help with the research and also the archivists at the three principal archives consulted: the Church of England Record Centre (CERC); Islington Local History Centre (ILHC); and London Metropolitan Archives (LMA). The Tales from the Crypt project team is additionally grateful to Islington Heritage (Museum and Local History Centre) for generous permission to reproduce images from its collection.

Rebecca Preston, September 2019
Chronologically organised transcriptions from manuscript and other primary sources:

The Stonefield Estate or "Fourteen Acres" given to our parish by Mr Cloudesley for the pious uses before enumerated, contains, according to a survey hanging in the vestry room, 16 acres 2 roods and 17 perches. These premises, though appropriated by the trustee to superstitions uses, escaped being seized by the crown at the dissolution of chantries. 1 Edward VI, probably by reason that part of the produce having been directed to be given to "poor people", or perhaps by motives of respect to the freehold or executors of the intestate, who were persons of great respectability, and connected with the parish, particularly one of whom, Sir Thomas Lovel, who in the preceding reign, possessed great interest at court. Thus it is most probably that he same was suffered to remain vacant in favour of the use of the parish, as it continues at the present day. The Stonefield is now let to Mr Rhodes, at £34 per annum for the remainder of the lease, which will shortly expire, when it is expected the ground will be let on building leases, with considerable advantage to the parish.

The great increase in the value of land near London since the time of Henry VIII is exemplified in the Stonefield. This plot of ground, then let at the annual rent of £4, has lately been valued in the free sales at the sum of £2,800, on an application being made by the Corporation of London to purchase the same as an eligible spot for the removal of Smithfield Market.

Johan Nelson, The History, Topography, and Antiquities of the Parish of St Mary Islington, London, 1811, p. 307

The vestry clerk presented a memorial from Mr Richard Brodfield, the Tenantes of the Land called "Stonefields" belonging to this Parish requesting a reduction in the Annual Rent of the said land, on account of the difference in the present value of land and when he took a Lease thereof when it was agreed that the said memorial be referred for future consideration.

ILHC, St Mary Vestry Minutes, Easter Tuesday, 8 April 1817, p. 167

Places where Plans for new Churches or Chapels have not yet been received: Hornsey, Islington, St Pancras [but only 1500 total accommodation] CERC, Fourth Annual Report of His Majesty's Commissioners, 17 June 1824, p. 6

In cheerful compliance with your letter of July 10, I immediately requested the churchwardens & vestry clerk, to furnish me with the necessary information. I have myself only just been induced into this great living & therefore am as yet unable to say much from personal observation.

The population of Islington was by the census in 1821, 22,417, but from the immense number of New Buildings incessantly erected since, the population now must be nearly 30,000.

it may assuredly be taken at 25,000

the existing accommodation in the church & parochial chapel is only for 2,500 persons, 1200 in the church & 1300 in the chapel.

There are no separate townships. but the whole surface of the parish in almost every part is rapidly covering in houses; and as the parish is 10 miles, 2 roads, 11 poles in extent & contains 3032 acres 3 roods in area, a large part of the population is 2, 3 or 4 miles from the church itself.

at least four new churches or chapels are wanted, in order to accommodate a third part of the population.

the site for one new church is already obtained & rivalled in, conveniently situated in the very heart of the New Buildings in the Back Road.

the money that can be raised by a rate is £1 per annum; the parish having had 30,000/ to pay for 5 acres of Burial Ground & the New Chapel lately erected in it but it is hoped that the present rate of about 3,000/ a year might be continued & appropriated ... to the expenses of new churches & chapels.

Letter from Rev. Daniel Wilson, Battersea Park, to Guy Jenner, 19 July 1824, CERC, ECE/7/1/18112

Application from the Minister Churchwardens and other inhabitants of the parish of St Mary Islington in the parsonage of Rev Daniel Wilson

Parish of St Mary Islington 25,000 population at 1821 census Parish is reputed to contain 3032 acres 3 roods

The intended New Church is proposed to be built upon Land belonging to the parishes [i.e. the exact sitz or name not mentioned nor is there a site plan attached as suggested by the form] attached: New Chapel at Cloudesley Square, sketch of a scale of pew rents and gallery plan, sketch of a scale of pew rents on ground and gallery

New Chapel at Bulls Pond Road, sketch of a scale of pew rents on ground and gallery

Form of Inquiry on applications being made to HM Commissioners for building and promoting the building of additional Churches in populous districts, 25 September 1824, CERC, ECE/7/1/18112

The Trustees of the said Parish Report That in consequence of the number of buildings which have lately been built and are now building within this Parish various new Streets and Roads have been set out. That the several builders together with the inhabitants resident in [beg small word] of the New Streets have made application to the Trustees to form and make such New Streets and Roads according to the provisions of the Act of Parliament.
An Outline of what a Statement of Significance should include:

**Grade and date of listing** and whether in a Conservation Area and **List Description** (British Listed Buildings Online)

**A Plan of the Church** – possibly showing change over time

**Historical**: Explain the present built form of the church, starting from its earliest recorded origins. Include names of any significant benefactors, architects and craftsmen if known, and relevant dates

**Geographical**: how the building sits within the landscape of the district and parish, whether urban, suburban or rural. What is its contribution to the place?

**Architectural**: Show when the various parts of the building were constructed and when notable additions were made to the interior, for instance the pews, the pulpit, organ or stained glass (if these are important). Some churches hold an important place in the development of ecclesiastical architecture – if so this should be stated; indicate state of present repair

**Environmental**: Details of your churchyard or landscape setting; is this significant in its own right? Identify your oldest graves, particularly if separately listed. Consider the age of any trees, and whether any has Tree Preservation Order

**Community**: Who else sees the church as significant? How is this demonstrated?

**Use**: A brief comment on how the heritage aspects above are used within the mission of the church.

Adapted from ChurchBuild Project Guide:  [http://www.churchbuildingprojects.co.uk/](http://www.churchbuildingprojects.co.uk/)
Any questions?
Online catalogues and other databases:

https://www.ancestry.co.uk/  
https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/account/login  (subscription required outside British Library)
https://www.brent.gov.uk/archives
https://www.british-history.ac.uk/
http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=BLVU1
https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/churches
https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/
https://www.history.ac.uk/library/collections/online-resources/open-access-resources
https://archives.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/CalmView/
https://search.lma.gov.uk
Free access map databases:

**London:**
- http://www.romanticlondon.org/explore-horwoods-plan
- https://www.locatinglondon.org/

**Greater London:**
- https://www.layersoflondon.org/map
- http://mapco.net/london.htm

**National:**
- https://www.old-maps.co.uk
- http://www.oldmapsonline.org/
- http://maps.nls.uk/
Free access online image databases:

https://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/

https://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk/

https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/

http://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/luna/servlet/

https://www.watercolourworld.org/

Also check the Collections pages of national and regional museum and gallery websites