

LONDON ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

These words are intended to accompany the inventory of County of London parishes on the main web link.

The Metropolis only began to emerge as an administrative area in 1855, but the process was not complete until 1900 (and then only in what is now Inner London). Prior to that, the only administrative area was the square mile of the City of London which had the status both of a municipal borough and of a County. The City, incidentally, remains the only surviving municipal borough in the country and is still an 'ancient' county, though the latter is more of a technical feature than anything else. Our survey of parishes ignores those within the City except where they border the metropolitan area.

In 1855 the Metropolis Management Act was applied to an area loosely covered by boundaries about five miles from the centre and which corresponded with the area from which regular returns were required about deaths and their causes, the area covered by the so-called bills of mortality. These had been organized to keep an eye on the spread of disease within the built up area and its immediate surroundings. The act established a Metropolitan Board of Works to develop and implement schemes of London-wide significance, perhaps the most well known being the London drainage system and the Thames embankments. It was also responsible for a large number of new main roads. In 1889 the Metropolis was formed into an administrative county, called the County of London, which adopted the area of the Metropolitan Board of Works which body was absorbed into the county at the same time. The City of London was excluded from the new county for most (but not all) purposes.

Outside the City of London the basic administrative unit was the civil parish (or ancient parish where no specific civil parish had been formed). These had wide-ranging civil responsibilities but had diverse arrangements for managing their administrative responsibilities and a wide range of mechanisms for local representation; they were in the main not particularly democratic. The Metropolis Management Act imposed some order into all this and gave parishes more definite responsibilities and powers and a common system of local representation. We see at this point some similarity with later local councils, though it was nearly half a century more before such an idea was perfected.

Although it did not actually alter the form of parishes (and had no effect on boundaries) the 1855 Act grouped some of the smaller parishes together into

local boards of works (upon which constituent parishes were represented) and forced the larger parishes to form vestries with similar duties. In either case the parish remained the local rating authority and retained any local powers that it had obtained. None of these developments significantly affected the existing administrative bodies at a local level.

In 1900 the vestries and boards of works were completely separated from any remnants of ecclesiastical jurisdiction and formed into 28 Metropolitan Boroughs. In some cases, for example Islington, the entire parish of St Mary Islington was merely reformed into the Metropolitan Borough of Islington with few other changes. In other cases vestries and Boards of Works were grouped together to form more usefully-sized units. For example the Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury was formed out of two boards of works and a vestry. The parishes were not actually abolished but shorn of their civil powers they were effectively redundant. The new Borough boundaries naturally followed the constituent parish boundaries though in some cases boundaries were tidied up. For some reason some tidying up affected certain boroughs rather more than others; Paddington, for example, has had several of its borders shifted, though not very far. Typically this would involve shifting awkward boundaries to somewhere more administratively convenient, usually to a position along the centre of a road.

In 1965 the Metropolitan Borough were grouped together to create an area known as Inner London, comprising a number of (inner) London Boroughs usually comprising between two and four former Metropolitan Boroughs. A new area, known as Outer London was created at the same time, comprising a number of (outer) London Boroughs that were an amalgamation of a whole range of earlier authorities. Inner London and Outer London together formed a new administrative county of Greater London.

Outside the County of London the Metropolis Management Act of 1855 did not apply and the basic administrative unit was the parish in whatever form it had developed. These were later grouped into poor law unions to deliver relief to the poor and administer the poor law acts. In the more built-up areas parishes or parts of parishes were enabled to create separate local boards of health (local boards) which gave them more control over (for example) drainage and other health-related activities.

From 1873 requirements were established to form local sanitary districts throughout England. In built-up areas with existing suitable forms of

administration (existing local boards or municipal boroughs) then those bodies were deemed to be the authority for the urban sanitary district. Parishes were not considered suitable units as they were so small, so in rural areas special rural sanitary authorities would be created, based on one or more parishes (often coinciding with poor law districts).. In 1894 these sanitary districts were reconfigured to become Urban District Councils (with local boards abolished) or Rural District Councils; municipal boroughs retained their status, though had the powers of an urban district council. In later years residents could apply for the larger ones to become municipal boroughs (like Hendon) and in a few cases County Boroughs, such as West Ham, where they took over county administration as well and were carved out of surrounding counties for all purposes.

As an example the parish of Hornsey created a local board for the area called South Hornsey in 1865. As the parish was becoming more fully developed a second local board (Hornsey) covered the rest of the area from 1867. In 1894 these both became urban district councils; the parish was split between these two districts at the same time. Hornsey became a municipal borough in 1903. South Hornsey was in the area destined to become the County of London and most of it was divided amongst the areas to become the Metropolitan Boroughs of Stoke Newington (most of it) and Islington. Hornsey became part of the London Borough of Haringey in 1965.

The following table sets out the various constituent parts of today's administrative areas based on the original parishes.

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TABLES OF ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS

Table showing relationship of old parishes to modern jurisdictions

Present Borough (1965)	Metropolitan Borough (1900)	Board of Works (1855)	Civil Parishes	Ancient Parish	
Camden	St Pancras	Vestry	St Pancras	St Pancras	
	Hampstead	Vestry	Hampstead (St John)	Hampstead (St John)	
	Holborn			St Andrew above the Bars (Holborn) [Middlesex part]	St Andrew (Holborn). Large parish part within and part without the City.
				St George the Martyr 1723 from above.	
		Holborn District		St Andrew Holborn above the Bars with St George the Martyr (1767 from joining the two above, ie the original parish outside the City).	
				St Giles in the Fields	St Giles in the Fields (1547 first rector, but evidence of earlier parish status)
				St George Bloomsbury (new CP 1731). Abolished 1774 to help form St Giles in the Fields & St George Bloomsbury (below)	
		St Giles District		St Giles in the Fields & St George Bloomsbury (1774)	
				Staple Inn (created civil parish 1858)	Staple Inn Extra Parochial Place
				Furnivals Inn (created civil parish 1858)	Furnivals Inn Extra Parochial Place
				Grays Inn (created civil parish 1858)	Grays Inn Extra Parochial Place
		Holborn District		Liberty of Saffron Hill, Hatton Garden, Ely Rents & Ely Place. Became separate CP in 1866.	Liberty of Saffron Hill, Hatton Garden, Ely Rents & Ely Place. Saffron Hill is within St Andrew Holborn.
			Lincolns Inn (created civil parish 1858)	Lincolns Inn Extra Parochial Place	

Present Borough (1965)	Metropolitan Borough (1900)	Board of Works (1855)	Civil Parishes	Ancient Parish
Greenwich	Greenwich	Greenwich District	Greenwich (St Alfege)	Greenwich (by 1562)
		Greenwich District	Deptford St Nicholas 1730	Deptford (St Paul) (by 1563)
		Lee District (orig Plumstead)	Kidbrooke	Kidbrooke Ancient parish being regarded as liberty following loss of church, and re-established in 1866.
	Woolwich (south of River)	Lee District (orig Plumstead)	Charlton (next Woolwich)	Charlton (by 1653)
		Lee District (orig Plumstead)	Eltham (St John the Baptist)	Eltham (by 1583)
		Vestry (orig Plumstead District)	Plumstead (St Margaret)	Plumstead (originally including chapelry of East Wickham). (By 1654)
	Vestry	Woolwich (St Mary)		
Hackney	Hackney	Hackney Board	Hackney (St John)	Hackney (by 1555)
	Stoke Newington	Hackney Board	Stoke Newington (St Mary)	Stoke Newington (by 1559)
			Part of South Hornsey forming detached areas in Stoke Newington (parish and UD created 1896 and transferred to London in 1900). See also Islington.	Hornsey
	Shoreditch	Vestry	St Leonard (Shoreditch)	St Leonard (by 1558)
		Whitechapel District	Liberty of Norton Folgate. Note that from 1990 part of this area was reassigned to City of London.	
Hammer-smith & Fulham	Hammer-smith	Vestry	Hammersmith (St Paul). Became Chapelry of Fulham in 1631 and became separate CP in 1834 (Act of 27 June 1834). During at least part of its time as a chapelry it was responsible for its own poor rates and highways.	Fulham.
	Fulham	Vestry	Fulham (All Saints)	Fulham

Present Borough (1965)	Metropolitan Borough (1900)	Board of Works (1855)	Civil Parishes	Ancient Parish
Islington	Finsbury	Vestry	Clerkenwell (officially St James but seen sometimes as St James and St John). Note that until 1900 the parish included 65 acres situated in Muswell Hill (Clerkenwell detached)	St James Clerkenwell AP. Predates 1561.
		Vestry	St Luke – created in 1733 from Middlesex portion of St Giles Cripplegate	St John (1723). Separate parochial area within St James, which latter refused to acknowledge full independence for civil purposes.
		Holborn District Board (for certain purposes the area was considered part of the City)	Glasshouse Yard (Liberty) – that area of St Botolph Without Aldersgate situated in Middlesex. Elevated to parish 1899	St Giles Without Cripplegate (parish straddling City of London border)
		Holborn District Board	St Sepulchre (Middlesex). Middlesex portion administered as separate civil parish from time immemorial.	St Botolph Without Aldersgate (parish straddling City of London border)
			Charterhouse – elevated to parish in 1858.	St Sepulchre (parish straddling City of London border)
	Islington	Vestry	St Mary Islington	Charterhouse (Extra Parochial Place) St Mary Islington
Kensington & Chelsea	Kensington	Vestry	St Mary Abbots, Kensington. <i>Note that until 1900 this included a small detached part at the south-eastern end of Chelsea.</i>	St Mary Abbots, Kensington
	Chelsea	Vestry	St Luke Chelsea. <i>Note that until 1900 this included a 120-acre detached part to the north of Kensington in the Kensal Green/Kensal Town vicinity – transferred partly to Paddington and partly to Kensington 1901.</i>	St Luke Chelsea
Lambeth	Lambeth	Vestry	Lambeth (St Mary)	Lambeth (by 1541)
	Wandsworth (eastern part)	SEE ENTRY FOR LB WANDSWORTH		
Lewisham	Deptford		Deptford (St Pauls) [from which Deptford St Nicholas was separated in 1730]	Deptford (by 1563)
	Lewisham	Plumstead till 1894 then Vestry	Lee (St Margaret)	Lee (by 1579)
		Vestry	Lewisham (St Mary)	Lewisham (by 1560)
			Part of Camberwell on western slopes of Forest Hill. SEE CAMBERWELL	

Present Borough (1965)	Metropolitan Borough (1900)	Board of Works (1855)	Civil Parishes	Ancient Parish
Southwark	Southwark	St Saviours District Board of Works	Christchurch (Southwark)	Created parish in 1670, was originally a liberty (called Paris Garden)
		St Saviours District Board of Works	St Saviour (Southwark)	Created in 1541 from the ancient parishes of St Margaret and St Mary Magdalen which were combined.
		Vestry	St Mary Newington	St Mary Newington
		Vestry	St George the Martyr	St George the Martyr
	Camberwell	Vestry	St Giles Camberwell	St Giles Camberwell
	Bermondsey	Vestry	St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey	St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey
		Vestry voting with St Olave District	St Mary, Rotherhithe	St Mary, Rotherhithe
		St Olave District	St John Horsleydown (Southwark). Created separate Civil Parish in 1733.	St Olave, Southwark
		St Olave District	St Olave & St Thomas (Southwark) – parishes combined in 1896	St Olave (Southwark)
				St Thomas (Southwark); created from area of St Olave (above) in c.1550 from area comprising Archbishop of Canterbury's hospital.

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Present Borough (1965)	Metropolitan Borough (1900)	Board of Works (1855)	Civil Parishes	Ancient Parish
Tower Hamlets	Bethnal Green	Vestry	Bethnal Green (St Matthew) formed 1743 from Stepney	Stepney
	Poplar	Poplar District	Bow, formed 1719 from Stepney	Stepney
			Bromley	Bromley
			Poplar (All Saints), formed 1817 from Stepney, though had been chapelry from 1654	Stepney
	Stepney	Limehouse District	Limehouse (St Anne), formed 1725 from Stepney.	Stepney
		Whitechapel District	Mile End New Town), formed 1866 from Stepney.	Stepney
			Mile End Old Town), formed 1866 from Stepney.	Stepney
		Whitechapel District	Norton Folgate, formed 1858	Prior to 1858 was liberty and extra parochial area
		Whitechapel District	Old Artillery Ground, formed 1866	Prior to 1866 was liberty
			Old Tower Without, formed 1858 and abolished 1895 (to St Botolph without).	Previously extra parochial place.
		Limehouse District	Ratcliffe, formed 1866 from part of Stepney and part of Limehouse.	Stepney
		Whitechapel District	St Botolph without Aldgate (being that part of St Botolph that lays outside City of London). In 1895 included Old Tower Without.	St Botolph (part in London and part in Middlesex)
		Whitechapel District	St Katherine, transferred to St Botolph Without in 1895	St Katherine
			St George in the East, formed 1729 from Stepney	Stepney
		Limehouse District	Shadwell, formed 1670 from Stepney	Stepney
		Whitechapel District	Spitalfields (Christ Church), formed 1729 from Stepney	Stepney
			Stepney (St Dunstan)	Stepney
Whitechapel District		Tower of London, created parish in 1858	Prior to 1858 was liberty and extra parochial area	
Limehouse District	Wapping, formed 1729 from part of Stepney.	Stepney		
Whitechapel District (incl Holy Trinity Minorities, Pr St Katherine)	Whitechapel (St Mary), formed in early 17 th century from part of Stepney.	Stepney		

Present Borough (1965)	Metropolitan Borough (1900)	Board of Works (1855)	Civil Parishes	Ancient Parish
		Whitechapel District	Holy Trinity Minories, Transferred to Whitechapel in 1895	Holy Trinity Minories
Wandsworth	Battersea	Wandsworth Board	Battersea (St Mary) (until 1866 included Penge)	Battersea (by 1559)
	Wandsworth (western part)	Wandsworth Board	Clapham (Holy Trinity)	Clapham (by 1551)
		Wandsworth Board	Putney (St Mary)	Originally chapelry of Wimbledon. Was elevated to parish in 1659, but became chapelry again until 1868.
		Wandsworth Board	Streatham (St Leonard)	Streatham (by 1538)
		Wandsworth Board	Tooting Graveney	Tooting Graveney (by 1555)
		Wandsworth Board	Wandsworth (All Saints)	Wandsworth (by 1603)
Westminster	Westminster	Vestry	St Martin in the fields AP	St Martin in the fields (At least 12 th century)
		Vestry	St George Hanover Square 1725	
		Vestry	St James Westminster (Piccadilly) 1685	
		Strand District	St Anne Soho 1678	
		Strand District	St Paul Covent Garden 1645	
	Westminster (1855-1885 only)	St Margaret Westminster AP (after 1727 joint vestry with below)	St Margaret Westminster (At least 12 th century)	
	Westminster (1855-1885 only)	St John the Evangelist Westminster (Smith Square) 1727. However joint vestry maintained with above.		
	Strand District	St Clement Danes AP	St Clement Danes (At least 10 th century)	
	Strand District	St Mary le Strand AP	St Mary le Strand (existed at least from 1147 but taken down in 1549 and restored 1723; also described more recently as a Liberty).	
	Strand District Board of Works	Liberty of the Rolls. CP 1866	Liberty of the Rolls (a Liberty, being that part of St Dunstan's in the West situated in Middlesex).	
	Strand District Board of Works	Precinct of the Savoy CP 1866	Precinct of the Savoy	
	Paddington	Vestry	Paddington	Paddington
		Vestry	Chelsea (det part)	Chelsea (det part)
St Marylebone	Vestry	St Marylebone	St Marylebone	

Wandsworth Metropolitan Borough was divided in 1965, part going to LB Wandsworth and part to LB Lambeth. The Lambeth portion was that lying east of Hazelbourne Road, Cavendish Road, the railway between Balham and Streatham Common and the railway between Streatham and Mitcham Junction.

Fulham (with Hammersmith) was largely bounded on the west by Stamford Brook, starting at the point its western branch met the Thames near Chiswick Eyot

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