

The Churches of Marylebone

The Parish Church: Marylebone owes its name to its parish church. Although originally dedicated to St John the Baptist, the Parish Church has, since 1400, been dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. A parish church is recorded by the 12th century and this building was situated on, what is today, Oxford Street. The parish church has always been the parish church of the Manor of Tyburn and when the parish church was moved to a position opposite the old manor house (at the top of what is now Marylebone High Street) St Mary by the Ty Bourne got shortened to Mary-le bone and then to Marylebone. The present parish church building dates from 1817 and was designed by the architect Thomas Hardwicke.

Now, just off the High Street, there are three churches. They are from different Christian traditions, with different patterns of worship and different emphases in the faith, but they work together. They are one in following Jesus and his way of love.

The Parish Church and Hinde Street Methodist Church signed a formal Covenant to work together in 2007. They have active links with other faiths: with the West London Synagogue, the London Central Mosque and the Buddhist Temple on Margaret Street.

The parish of St Marylebone once encompassed an enormous geographical area stretching from Oxford Street in the south to Maida Vale in the north and Edgware Road in the west to the boundary with Camden in the east: the old manors of Tyburn and Lillystone. Today, this area is served by many other parish churches, all carved out of the historic parish of St Marylebone. Indeed, the Anglican Deanery to which all these churches belong is still called the St Marylebone Deanery:

All Souls, Langham Place, next to the BBC HQ, has an international ministry and 'daughter' churches on Vere Street (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) and Robert Adam Street; St Mary's in Bryanston Square offers lively services with a worship band; All Saints in Margaret Street, is a striking building with worship deeply-rooted in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. Other churches include: the parish church of St John's Wood (built as the parish's mortuary chapel in 1815); St. Cyprian's in Glentworth Street, the masterpiece of Sir Ninian Comper; St Mark's, Hamilton Terrace, and the community church of St Paul, Rossmore Road. Many other churches once served the large parish of St Marylebone, but have now all closed. In Marylebone you will also find the Swedish Church in Harcourt Street, and the Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Rosary on Old Marylebone Road.

St James' Spanish Place: The building that presently houses the Wallace Collection was originally the Spanish Embassy. Its church was dedicated to James, a saint with particular links with Spain, not least through the Compostella Pilgrimage. Its location was 'Spanish Place', although the present church, built from 1890 to 1920, is in George Street. The Spanish influence is seen in the interior but it has an English restraint about it, resulting in a lofty and prayerful place. The church has strong links with the neighbouring St. Vincent's Roman Catholic Primary School and a social care programme through its Vincent de Paul Society.

Hinde Street Methodist Church: The first Methodist society in Marylebone was in 1760. Our church on Hinde Street dates from 1887. It is an intimate and uplifting place for prayer, often used for rehearsals and performances because of its fine acoustics. The building is extensively used by 12 steps groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous and is the head office of its professional social care which includes the West London Day Centre for the homeless in Seymour Place. The church has a long tradition of providing a spiritual home for people who wish to explore contemporary issues. We do this through thoughtful preaching, an annual lecture series and by providing opportunities for community living and social action to younger people new to London.