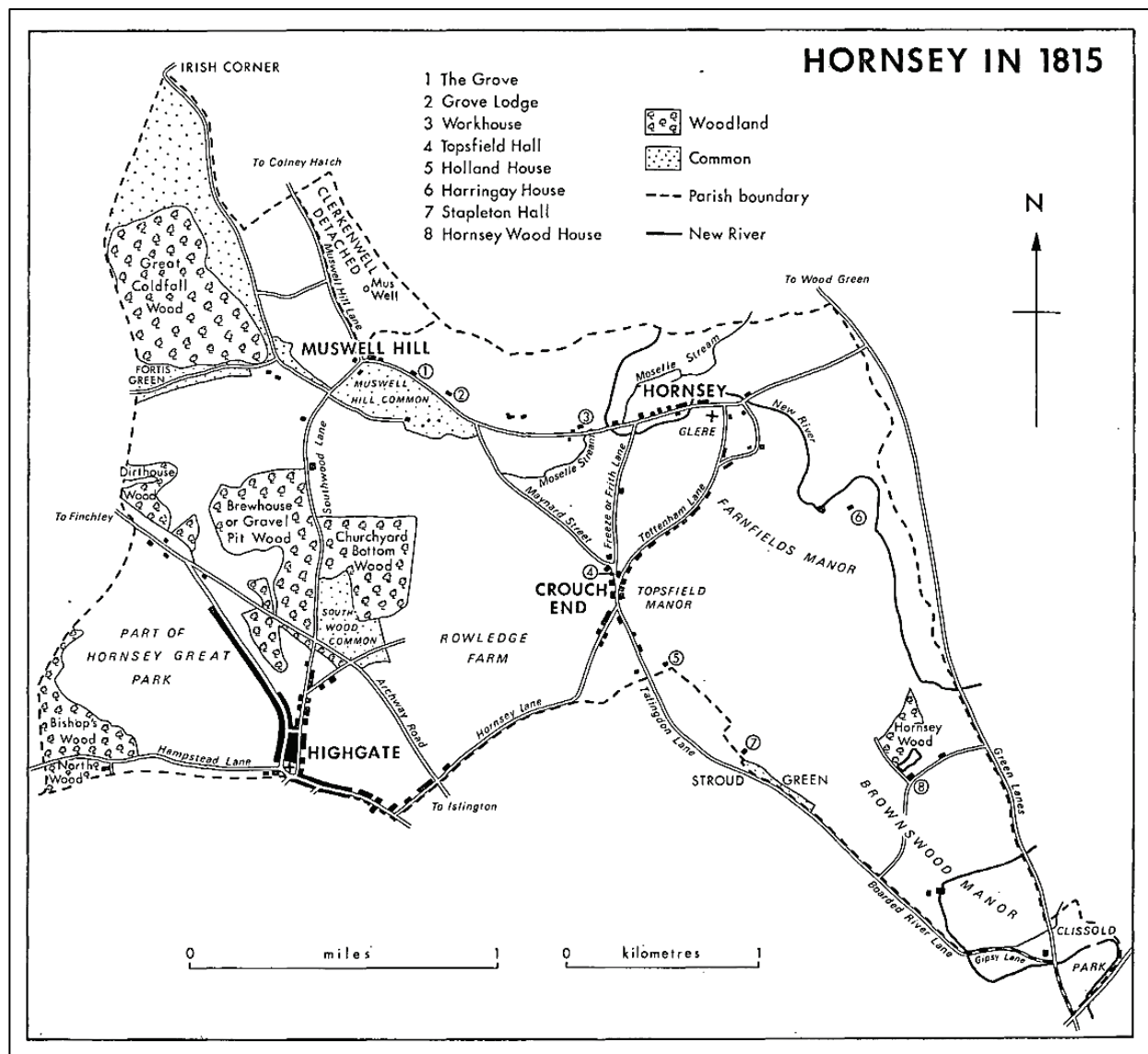




– The Early Church in Stroud Green –

The mediaeval parish of St Mary's, Hornsey, formed in the thirteenth century, stretched from Stoke Newington in the South to Friern Barnet in the North.¹ By the start of the nineteenth century, it still covered the areas from Finsbury Park up to Muswell Hill, with the Parish Church on Hornsey High Street next to where the Greig City Academy is now. As the suburbs of London expanded in the nineteenth century (with the expansion of the rail network) and much of what was originally parkland was filled with new housing, there was a need to provide additional Churches and priests to serve these expanding communities. The first of these was St Michael's, Highgate in 1834,² and was soon followed by others such as Holy Innocents on Tottenham Lane. In 1978,³ a new parish was formed out of the parishes of Holy Innocents, Tottenham Lane and Saint John the Evangelist, Brownswood Park⁴ to be Holy Trinity, Stroud Green. Holy Innocents placed a temporary mission hall on the corner of Granville Road, called the Iron Room, which was dedicated on the 31st December 1880.⁵



¹ Hinshelwood (2012) 10.

² Kingsmill-Lunn (2012b).

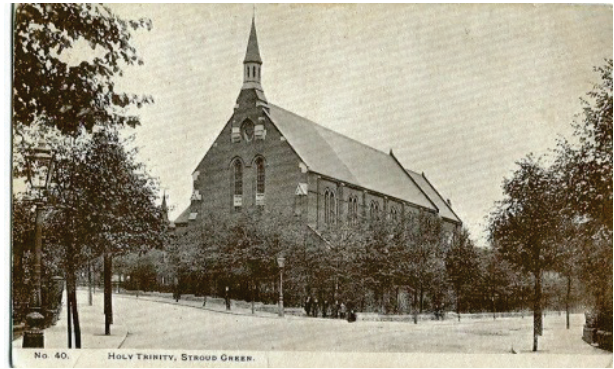
³ So Frankl (2000) 2 and n1: Kingsmill-Lunn (2012b) however implies that the parish was inaugurated in 1880 when the living was instituted.

⁴ So London Metropolitan Archives (1999): Mason (2013) has the Church of the Holy Innocents built in 1876-7 and dedicated 28th January 1887, and London Metropolitan Archives (1969) has the patronage of the Church vested in the Bishop of London 24th July 1876.

⁵ London Metropolitan Archives (1999).



St Mary's, Hornsey c. 1832



The original exterior of the church

A permanent church was also built on the same site as the mission hall, whose foundation stone was laid in April 1880. The church was consecrated on 10th May 1881 and the Iron Room, which had become over-crowded, was used as the church hall. The architect of the church was Mr B. Edmund Ferrey, and it was built by Messrs Mattock Bros.

The spire design was passed to the Council in February 1882, and the new church finally finished by January 1885. A brick hall was built around 1913 to replace the Iron Room.

– Vicars of the Parish: Pre-WWII –

The Rev'd Mr John Robertson (1852-1913) was a London Diocesan Home Missionary who was put in charge of Holy Trinity, Hornsey from 1878, when the parish was created, until 1880. In 1880, work on the church began and a living instituted with Fr Robertson as the first vicar.⁶ Money for the church and parsonage came from two foundation benefactors, including one Mr Joseph Lucas.⁷

In 1885, Fr Robertson was nominated to another living at St Mary's, Kilburn, and as patronage for Holy Trinity lay with the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev'd Mr John Jackson, it was his duty to appoint a successor. The Bishop and the parishioners, and especially one churchwarden, a 'staunch evangelical' Mr Alfred Tubbs,⁸ were keen that the next incumbent should preserve the parish's low churchmanship. However, Bp Jackson died in office a few days after this announcement, and although Fr Robertson wrote to the new Bishop of London, the Rt Rev'd Dr Frederick Temple, to defer his institution at St Mary's, it went ahead before the legal requirements of the enthronement of Bp Temple had been fulfilled. This meant that the Bishop was not in a position to appoint to Holy Trinity and the presentation reverted to the Prime Minister on behalf of the Crown, Mr William Gladstone.

1878-1880	1/2 John Robinson
1880-1885	John Robinson
1885-1910	Robert Linklater
1911-????	? Arundell
1926-1940	Aidan Hancock
1940-1944	? Marsden
-	? Jarrett
1967-1979	Raymond Wallace
-	Brooke Kingsmill-Lunn
-	1/2 Patrick Henderson
-present	Patrick Henderson



The original interior of the church

Although Mr Gladstone knew that the worship in the parish of Holy Trinity was of the evangelical tradition, his appointment was the Rev'd Dr Robert Linklater (1839-1915), then priest in charge of the Winchester College Mission at Portsea. Fr Linklater's views and convictions were well-known to be of an Anglo-Catholic nature, which caused considerable outrage in the parish. One occasion, Fr Linklater received a protest against his appointment signed by more than 900 parishioners, along with a 'cordial address of welcome from more than fifty communicants of Holy Trinity'.⁹ Mr Gladstone on another occasion received a letter from Mr Tubbs, the churchwarden, enclosing a Memorial 'signed by 1266 *bona fide* residents in the parish'.¹⁰ Both Mr Gladstone and Fr Linklater, however, felt duty-bound to uphold the decision and on Monday 17th August 1885, Fr Linklater was instituted to the vicarage and subsequently inducted on Sunday 23rd.

⁶ Frankl (2000) n1: Kingsmill-Lunn (2012b) however has Fr Robert Linklater as the first vicar in 1886, while London Metropolitan Archives (1999) has Mr Jackson as the first vicar, and Fr Linklater as the second from 1886. Both must be wrong: the Rt Rev'd Mr John Jackson was Bishop of London until his death in 1885.

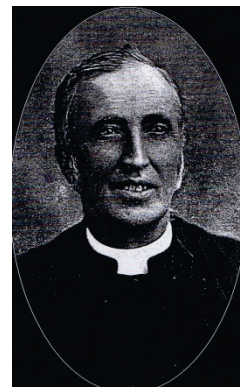
⁷ Frankl (2000) 2.

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ *ibid.* 4.

¹⁰ *ibid.* 5.

During his time at Holy Trinity, Fr Linklater was further appointed to a prebend at St Paul's Cathedral, which caused more upset from the wider Church body on account of his Catholic practices. His institution to Holy Trinity had resulted in a number of resignations from the laity, but dissent gradually died away and the Anglo-Catholic tradition has been preserved in the parish since. Fr Linklater retired from his unified congregation in 1910, and died at his home in South Kensington in 1915. The new church hall, built in 1913, was dedicated to him, and a cope, given to him by Mr Gladstone on his death in 1898, remained parish property and can today be found on display in St Aidan's VC School next door to the church.



The Rev'd Dr Robert Linklater

Fr Linklater was succeeded by the Rev'd Mr Arundell. In 1926, the Rev'd Mr Aidan Hancock was transferred from St Peter le Poer on Colney Hatch Lane. He was succeeded in 1940 by the Rev'd Mr Marsden, who died in office in 1944.

– War Damage to the Church –

Between 1881 and 1954, what is now the Parkland Walk was open as a railway line which could have been an extension of the Northern Line if it hadn't been closed. Together with the line which still runs through Crouch Hill, this meant that major freight arteries ran through N4 and so it was a target for German bombing. Records from the National Archives¹¹ show the extent of damage during the blitz in 1940-41, but in July 1944, the church was damaged by a V1 flying bomb along with much of the surrounding residential area.



It was the decision at the time to put any money the community had into re-building houses rather than the church. In June 1951, it was decided that the building was unsafe and the church was closed, the congregation using the brick hall as a temporary worship space. Eventually, the church was pulled down in the 1960s and the hall was adapted for use as the permanent church, having a portico and spirelet added. It was dedicated on the 15th March 1961.

In 1981, following the church's centenary year, Holy Trinity parish was joined with that of St Luke, Mayfield Road, Hornsey. St Luke was adopted as patron of the parish and a statue of him was moved to Holy Trinity church, along with much other furniture. When a fire at neighbouring St Paul's Church, Harringay, destroyed the building leading to a completely new construction, pews salvaged from the wreckage were brought to Holy Trinity.

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¹¹ Displayed on an interactive map at <http://bombsight.org/#16/51.5749/-0.1101>.

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Abbreviations

BHHS: Bulletin of the Hornsey Historical Society
CAAR: Church Association Annual Report
NHHS: Newsletter of the Hornsey Historical Society

¹² Volumes of the Church Intelligencer are not extant from 1907: summary provided from *CAAR*.