

This walk explores the development of Barnsbury in the first half of the 19th century through the stories of some of the people buried in the crypt of Holy Trinity Church, now the Cloudesley Centre.

STOP 1 23 CLOUDESLEY SQUARE – FROM GREEN FIELDS TO HOUSES

23 Cloudesley Square was home to **John Emmett**, carpenter, builder and developer of the square. This site was green fields until the Vestry of St Mary, Islington, used the Stonefields Act (1811) to plan the development of 'a parcel of ground called the Story Fields otherwise called the fourteen acre', which had been bequeathed to the Vestry by Richard Cloudesley in 1517.

STOP 2 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH – MORE CHURCHES FOR GODLESS ISLINGTON

Holy Trinity Church was one of three new Church of England churches built in the parish of St Mary by the charismatic Vicar, **Daniel Wilson**, to meet the needs of Islington's rapidly growing population. **Charles Barry** designed the church and later won the competition for the rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament.

STOP 3 THE CRYPT – WHERE TO BURY ISLINGTON'S DEAD?

178 people buried were buried in the crypt, which consists of four long vaults and runs the length and breadth of the church underground. Overcrowding and insanitary conditions in London's churchyards and crypts led to crypt burials being discontinued in 1855, even though Holy Trinity's crypt was never fully occupied. Those buried there range in age from seventeen infants who were only days old to **Amelia Wilson** aged 91. Cloudesley Square residents buried here include **Eleanor and Caroline Snee**, aged two and one, daughters of **Frederick Snee**, who lived at No. 26.

'West Entrance to the Tunnel, Regent's Canal, Islington', 1822.
Image: Islington Local History Centre



STOP 4 20 CLOUDESLEY SQUARE – POWER, POLITICS & INFLUENCE

Several local men of influence lived near or were buried in Holy Trinity. 20 Cloudesley Square was home to **Lyonel Ward**, Clerk of Holy Trinity Vestry and collector of parish rates. His neighbour **Frederick Snee**, was Clerk to the Regent's Canal company for 45 years. **Robert Oldershaw junior**, the first clerk to Holy Trinity, was swiftly voted Clerk of St Mary's following the death of his father who had held the post. **Robert Oldershaw senior** killed himself following the discovery of embezzlement at the Islington Savings bank, which caused its collapse in 1838.

STOP 5 108 RICHMOND AVENUE – JOBS FOR WOMEN

Ann Dowling was a music teacher who lived at 108 Richmond Avenue. Appointed organist at Holy Trinity in 1831, she withstood criticism of her playing by members of the congregation and remained in post until the 1850s. As the century progressed, female church organists became rare and churches opted for all-male choirs.

STOP 5A 4 THORNHILL ROAD – CLOUDESLEY PARSONAGE

The **Reverend Hunter Francis Fell** was the first minister of Holy Trinity and lived here from 1831 to 1852. He and his wife Rachel suffered great personal tragedy as four of their children died young, three of whom were buried in the crypt.



Memorial to Henrietta and Theodosia Harper, north aisle of Holy Trinity Church, c.1840 Image: Chris Wells

STOP 6 9 MALVERN TERRACE – MARRIAGE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

In 1837 this cottage was home to **Henrietta and Jevon Harper**, and Henrietta's sister **Theodosia Rice**. When Henrietta died, Theodosia and Jevon travelled to Scotland to marry, as a parliamentary act passed in 1835 had outlawed marriage between a man and his sister-in-law. Theodosia died soon after and both sisters are commemorated on a handsome memorial in the church.

STOP 7 48 LONSDALE SQUARE – HOW TO BE BURIED WITH YOUR WIFE

Eliza Harvey was one of last people to be buried in the crypt. She lived in Lonsdale Square with her husband **William Harvey**, a prominent surgeon and writer. In 1855 William had her remains moved to Highgate Cemetery, where he was buried next to her in 1873 after an elaborate funeral.

STOP 8 LIVERPOOL ROAD WORKHOUSE, BARNSBURY STREET – LOOKING AFTER THE POOR

None of the workhouse inmates would have been buried in Holy Trinity Crypt – you had to pay! However, **George Moss**, sexton and beadle at Holy Trinity, was also parish relieving officer and responsible for assessing who was admitted to the workhouse. **Captain John Hillman**, whose wife **Harriet Frances Hillman** was buried in the crypt, served on the Islington Vestry and the Board of Guardians which managed the workhouse.

STOP 9 179 LIVERPOOL ROAD – STORIES OF THE WORLD BEYOND ISLINGTON

Holy Trinity had many connections well beyond Islington. **Bertram Victor Lespinasse**, a West Indies slave owner, lived at 179 Liverpool Road and received compensation after the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. **Joseph Andrews**, of 23 Cloudesley Square, served as a captain in the East India Company.

STOP 10 FEVER HOSPITAL – INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality was very high and a third of the crypt burials were of children. They included four **Hubbard** children from Denmark Grove, three **Gough** children from Cloudesley Road and the **Snee** children from Cloudesley Square. But overall this part of Islington was healthier than the area around Essex Road.

STOP 11 16 CLOUDESLEY STREET – FORMER HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL

A fee-paying infant school opened here in 1830 on the initiative of **Daniel Wilson**. Designed by local architect **George Legg**, this Anglican school taught over 200 children and soon incorporated a Sunday school. Social class and religion were major factors in schooling in the era before elementary education became compulsory in 1870.



The Hubbard family memorial, discovered at Highgate Cemetery
Image: Diocese of London



Volunteers see for themselves the present state of the building, 2019
Image: Diocese of London

STOP 12 118 CLOUDESLEY ROAD AND THE CROWN PUB

A pub formed part of the Cloudesley development, which included lower rated houses in Cloudesley Road built for craftsmen and artisans, such as **John and Sarah Gough** at no. 118, who were bakers.

ISLINGTON GUIDED WALKS

CLOUDESLEY CENTRE WALKING TOURS

DIocese of LONDON | TALES FROM THE CRYPT | HERITAGE FUND

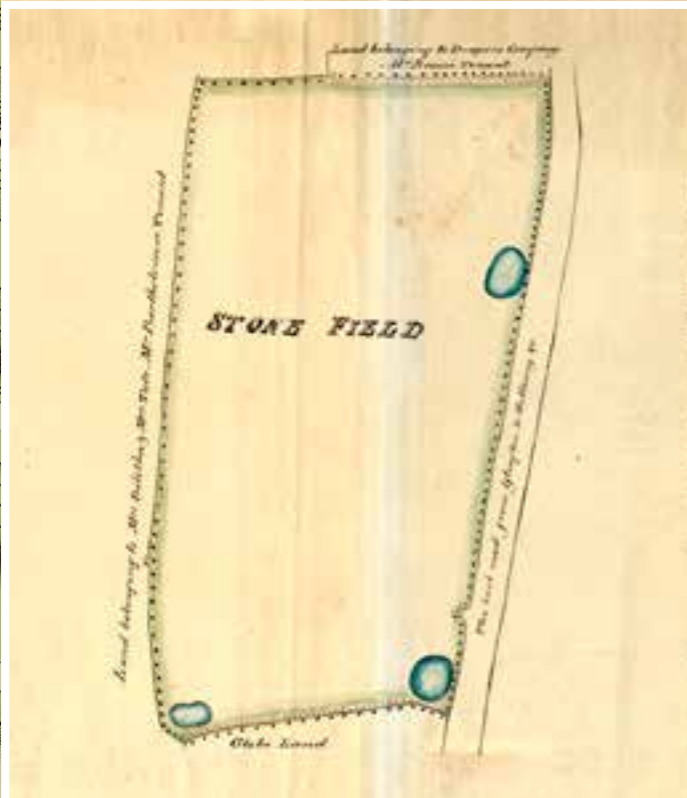
**ST MARY
MAGDALENE
CHURCH.
HOLLOWAY RD**



'The 14 Acres Stonefield' showing Barnsbury brick fields with the Liverpool Road workhouse in the background. c.1800
Image: Islington Local History Centre



C.H. Matthews 'Liverpool Road Workhouse', watercolour, c. 1835
Image: Islington Local History Centre



T.T. Barrow, Survey of the 'Stone Field' site, later to become the Cloudesley Estate and site of Holy Trinity Church, 1825 copy of an earlier survey of c.1800. Image: Islington Local History Centre

- Developed by 1800
- Open fields in 1800
- Locations researched by volunteers
- No longer standing (demolished)



**ST MARY'S
CHURCH.
UPPER ST**



J. & H.S. Storer, 'Holy Trinity, Cloudesley Square', c. 1829
Image: Islington Local History Centre