

St Paul's Church Horn Hill A Chapel of Ease to St Peter's Parish Church Consecrated 1865



Having driven down Chalfont Lane and crossed the North Orbital (A412), at West Hyde, travelling towards Harefield, you may have noticed a lake bordering the road to your left. This is Lynsters Lake and on its northern bank lies a farm called Lynsters – sadly, nowadays, rather close to the Maple Cross Sewage Works.

Back in the 15th Century this was the heart of a small Manor which included most of the farms and houses of Horn Hill as well as lands in Chalfont St Peter. Up till this time the Manor was held by members of the Lynster family but by 1520 it had passed to the Hospital of the Savoy.

In due course the lands of the Savoy became Crown Property. Around 1553 King Edward VI gave the Manor of Lynsters to St. Thomas' Hospital, London.

Horn Hill was, in the ensuing centuries, an active agricultural community, providing for the growing food needs of the capital. Farming was a labour intensive business and by the middle of the 19th Century the Vicar of Chalfont St Peter, the Rev. George Gleed M.A. B.D. (1830 - 63) realised that a Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church had become desirable.

Gleed was said to be a wealthy man and also by reputation a regular at late night card parties with the Hibberts at Chalfont House. Plans were drawn up for St Paul's Church, the land given by St Thomas's Hospital, the money provided by subscription and a legacy left by Georgy Gleed. The church was consecrated in 1865 so he never saw the completion of his plan.

On the East Wall of the church is a stone set into the brickwork which reads:

The Site of this Church was Given by the
Governors of St Thomas' Hospital. 1865.

St Paul's is a simple Victorian brick building, seating up to 50 people, although we can squeeze in a few more on special occasions! Devoid of stained glass in the windows, one can look out across the fields and see the changing agricultural seasons as the leaves come and go on the trees.

A haven of traditional worship in the Parish, St Paul's holds services every Sunday at 4.00pm. On the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month we celebrate Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer, and Holy Communion (traditional Language) on each 4th Sunday.

The churchyard remains open for burials, for those who die in the Parish.