

St. Lawrence, Brentford

St. Lawrence, Brentford, Middlesex

Introduction

This short document contains brief information on St. Lawrence, Brentford, and the survey of its memorials carried out in 1981. A photo of the derelict church, taken in 2015, is provided, and a copy of the sketch of memorial locations, as prepared in 1980, is also included.

Recent History

This information is mostly taken from a write-up on the monuments of the church, by Gillian Clegg in June 2003 (see www.brentforddockresidents.co.uk/stlawrencemonuments.php).

St. Lawrence's chapel, later church, was New Brentford's main place of worship from the 12th century until the 19th century and contained many monuments. Many of these were recorded by Thomas Faulkner in his 'History and Antiquities of Brentford, Ealing and Chiswick', published in 1845. However, St Lawrence was closed in 1961 when the various Brentford parishes were combined and the church became derelict.

In 1974, the Vicar of Brentford, with approval from the parish council, allowed the Museum of London to purchase seven items from the church, which is mentioned by way of note against the particular memorials. In 1974, the church was also placed on the register of redundant churches, and in 1979 it was leased for ninety nine years by the Church Commissioners to the St. Lawrence Brentford Trust who were planning to convert the church into a restaurant/theatre. This, though, never happened. In the late 1980s/early 1990s the Church housed a second hand furniture store. In 1991 the church, which has a Grade II listing, was added to English Heritage's 'At Risk' list.

As of 2015 the church is still standing, and the gravestones remain in the churchyard, but the land is now privately owned, and there is no public access. In September 2013 planning permission was granted to convert the church into a gym.

Recording of the Inscriptions

On 19th April 1980 a group of volunteers from West Middlesex Family History Society and the Society of Genealogists transcribed what could be read from the memorials within the church, and in the graveyard. The members were Pam and Mrs. Basley, Joan Chamberlain, Bob Cook, Vic and Jean Gale, Iris Harris, Rachel Mackie, Sam and Mabel Morton, Wendy Mott, Bruce Moys, Muriel Senior, Mavis Sibley, Eileen Stage, Andrea Swann, Chris Watts, and Connie and Julia Zouch. A rough plan of where the memorials were located was also produced and is copied in to this document.

In April 1981 a few memorials remained within the church, much vandalised and totally derelict, whilst the majority had been removed to safe custody by the National Monuments

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Record of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, where they are now housed at Fortress House, Savile Row, London W1X 1AB.

Most likely due to the need to record all the inscriptions in a single session descriptions of the memorials were not taken at the time, but some descriptions are available, and have been included. These descriptions are mostly taken from Thomas Falkner's History of Brentford, as already referenced.

The church

This recent photo shows the church in about 2015, as it stands in a derelict condition.



Image from Wikipedia

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The Sketch Layout prepared in 1980

