

Former places of worship in the Diocese of Southwark

**HORSLEYDOWN, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST**

Ref: HOR01

(also sometimes spelt HORSELYDOWN)

Status	demolished
Borough	Southwark
Present parish	BERMONDSEY, ST MARY MAGDALEN SS OLAVE/JOHN/LUKE
Built	1733
Build architect	Hawksmoor & James

Further information

The church was distinguished by its tall spire with an unusual weather-vane in the form of a comet. There was a ring of ten bells cast in 1783/4 and detailed in earlier editions of "Church bells of Surrey".

The name of the district apparently derives from the "horse lie-down" near the river. The Patrons of St John's parish were the Crown and the Bishop of Winchester (later Southwark?). The northern part of the parish nearer Tower Bridge was known as St Mark's district from 1844-1885 but never had its own place of worship.

In the mid 20th century the church was known as Southwark, St Olave & St John, the original [St Olave's](#) having been demolished in the mid-1920's. It was severely damaged in World War 2; a scheme of 1956 provided for rebuilding but it was never done.

The last baptism took place in 1960, and it was closed by the time the rebuilding scheme was rescinded in 1968. The site was sold in 1974 for £37,811 to the [London City Mission](#) whose building rises from the remains of the walls of St John's. Burials from the crypt were allegedly taken to [Brookwood Cemetery](#), Woking but their final resting place is unknown; those in the former churchyard remain. The churchyard is maintained as a park by the local authority though still under faculty jurisdiction.

Address	Tower Bridge Road
Postcode (if located)	SE1 2AL
Grid reference	<a href="#">TQ 335 799</a>
Grade	Not listed but in a conservation area
Listed Building ref. (if applicable)	N/A
Listing found? (if applicable)	NO
CPW / CCC report on file?	NO
Record office & reference	LMA/P71/JN
Diocesan property reference no.	not applicable



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NOTES

Record office:  
LMA=London Metropolitan Archives  
[www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma/](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma/)

CPW/CCC refers to the reports prepared on churches proposed for demolition

Click on grid reference to view a location map (accurate to within 100 metres)

For further information contact [pastoral@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:pastoral@southwark.anglican.org)

An internal photograph from c.1930 is available.

Last updated August 2008