

Charities

The vestry had an interest in some charities covering wider areas, including the Lyon's Estate Charity, for repairing the roads from Edgware and Harrow to London, of which Oxford Street formed part.¹ It also gained income from several charities dedicated to St Martin in the Fields, from which the area of St George's was divided, although entitlement was often only established by the courts in the 19th century, as detailed below.

The following charities were mentioned in the parliamentary returns of 1786 but no further information is known. £50 from the will of Jonathan Crump in 1741 to be given to the workhouse after his wife's death and £400 from Grace Ridley's will of 1750 for poor housekeepers or others of St James's and St George's, subject to various contingencies in her marriage settlement.²

Charities of Mary Wilkins, Elizabeth Teage and Mary, Duchess of Gloucester and Edinburgh

In 1771 Mary Wilkins left £50 to the poor of the parish not receiving relief. In her will of 1774, Elizabeth Teage directed that her executors should pay £100 to the minister and churchwardens, with the interest being used to purchase bread and coals for distribution to the poor of the parish annually on St Thomas's Day. These two legacies were used to purchase £160 of three per cent Consols. The income of £4 16s was divided between the rector, who personally distributed his portion, and the churchwardens, who distributed bread and coals up until 1880.³

Mary, duchess of Gloucester and Edinburgh was the eleventh child of George III. She died in 1857 and through her will of that year provided for £250 to be invested in Consols, with the dividends and annual income to be distributed annually at Christmas among the deserving poor of the parish, as chosen by the rector and churchwardens. In 1880 the Charity Commissioners directed that the income from the three charities be applied to provide coal to those persons who were subscribers to the coal club. In 1898 there were 59 recipients of 2cwt and 80 of 1cwt, when the income of the charities was £11 7s 8d.⁴

Mary also left £250 to the rector, minister or churchwardens of Audley (also called the Grosvenor) Chapel in South Audley Street to be invested in Consols, with the income distributed at Christmas among the poor people residing in the district of the Chapel. The dividends were used to buy coal,

¹ G. Clinch, *Mayfair and Belgravia: being an Historical Account of the Parish of St George, Hanover Square* (1892), 150

² Endowed Chars Vol V, p.132.

³ Endowed Chars Vol V, p.87.

⁴ Endowed Chars Vol V, p.93.

which was distributed in amounts of 1cwt or 2cwt through coal tickets.⁵ In 1898 the income was £6 19s 8d.⁶

Hyde Park Place Charity

A burial ground was established in Bayswater Road by an Act in the third year of George III's reign which vested land in the rector and churchwardens of St George Hanover Square, to be used as a cemetery or burial place for the inhabitants of the parish, forever subject to payments of £15 per annum to the Manor of Paddington, £25 per annum to the Bishop of London and 40s per annum to the parish of Paddington. In 1765 the burial ground was consecrated, except for a strip to the front, and burials continued until 1854 when it was closed by an Order in Council. The land at the front was leased from 1766 to 1900, when two building agreements were entered into, which in 1914 became the basis of the Hyde Park Place Charity. The rent received after sums payable under the Act were used in aid of the rates of the parish. In 1900, the property was transferred to the City council under the London Government Act 1899 and this extinguished the payment of 40s a year to the parish of Paddington. The £15 was still paid to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, but the £25 to the Bishop seems to have ceased.⁷

Emelia Gurney Charity

By an indenture dated 8 June 1891, between widow Emelia Gurney, the rector and churchwardens of St George Hanover Square and the chairman of the burial board of the parish, Gurney gave £3,000 to be invested, with the income used to contribute towards the repair, heating and insurance of the chapel built on the disused burial ground on the north side of Uxbridge Road between Albion Street and Hyde Park Place, as well as paying the salary of the caretaker. Any surplus was invested in a reserve fund which could be used to fund repairs, decoration and restoration of the chapel. If the conditions were breached, the income was instead to be paid to the London Homeopathic Hospital in Great Ormond Street until the breach of the conditions ceased. Gurney also expressed a wish to enlarge and beautify the chapel at her own expense and to open it to the public for religious and devotional purposes. Her will of 1895, proved on 30 November 1896, directed that her executors should set aside £7,000, which was employed together with any income arising therefrom to make the enlargements and alterations to the chapel. If there was any surplus, it would have formed part of her residuary estate. The £7,000 was invested in New Consols. The work had started before Mrs Gurney's death but was still unfinished in 1899 and was expected to take another 10 years at a cost

⁵ Endowed Chars Vol V, p.120.

⁶ Endowed Chars Vol V, p.94.

⁷ WCA 2326/6/6/3.

in excess of the bequest. The income of £93 7s 4d was used in paying a salary of £30 per annum to the caretaker, supplying him with coals, and in insuring the chapel.⁸

Marian Nasmyth Charity

Marian Nasmyth, in her will of 1869, proved on 22 July 1876, bequeathed the residue of her estate to the rector and churchwardens of the parish of St George Hanover Square to be invested and the income used in relief and gifts to the deserving poor, born or residing in the parish, who had not received parish relief. Each unmarried person received £1 half-yearly and each married person received £2 half-yearly. The rector and churchwardens chose the recipients in the proportion of two married persons, widows or widowers to one unmarried person, although this stipulation was not strictly observed in practice. The residue was invested in £3935 19s 3d of new 3 per cent annuities, which produced income of £108 4s 8d in 1898. The dividends (less a sum of £5 paid to the clerk) were applied in annual gifts of £4 or £2 to deserving poor who lived in the ecclesiastical parishes of St George Hanover Square, St Anselm, St Barnabas, Christ Church and St Gabriel, all of which were part of the civil parish of St George Hanover Square. In the event of a vacancy, the incumbent of the ecclesiastical parish in which the former recipient resided nominated a new beneficiary. At 31 December 1898 the charity had funds of £3 12s 4d.

Matthew Tomlinson's Charity

Matthew Tomlinson, by will dated 28 September 1735, gave the rent from his freehold house in Stafford Street, known as the Goat ale-house, to be used to annually clothe four poor men and four poor women of St George's, and three poor men and three poor women in the parish of St Martin in the Fields. An order dated 18 February 1801 stated that the residue of the interest and the rent should be used to clothe as many poor men and women in the parishes of St George and St Martin as funds would allow. The beneficiaries were nominated by the rectors of St George and St Martin and they had to be old and infirm but not residents of the workhouse. There were 14 or 16 men or women; if 14 there were more recipients from St George's, but if 16 the numbers were equal for each parish. The clothing was distributed at Christmas. The house in Stafford Street was let in 1816 to Messrs Combe, Delafield & Co, brewers, for 21 years at a rent of £50 per annum. In December 1834, the cost of clothing six men and eight women was £46. The same people could not receive distributions two years in succession, with the trustees selecting the most deserving recipients.⁹ By

⁸ Endowed Charities Vol V pp.127–9.

⁹ Endowed Chars Vol V pp.85–6.

1893 the rent from the Goat public house was £140 per annum and 35 men and women were clothed at the cost of £139 11s 3d.¹⁰

Trinity Chapel Site Charity

The Charity was founded by a decree of the Court of Chancery made in the suit of Attorney General v Hunt, dated 14 July 1690. By a lease dated 7 March 1666, the Mayor, Alderman and Commonalty of the City of London had demised a piece of land in the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields known as Conduit Mead and containing 27 a. on a 99 year lease at an annual cost of £8. The Court decreed that the land should be assigned to Dr Tenison, vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, for the building of a church and the making of a churchyard, with a chapel to be built on part of the land until the intended church was built in its place. A wooden chapel was set up and used from 1690 until 1716, when it had fallen into decay.

An agreement was then reached with the owners of the estate to build a new chapel and dispose of the surplus ground for building purposes. A new chapel was opened in 1717 as a chapel of ease for the inhabitants of the district formerly known as Conduit Mead. In 1875, the chapel building, which had never been consecrated, was pulled down and a new building known as Ulster House was erected on the site. The property was held on a 40 year lease from the Corporation of London dated 25 March 1866, on an annual rent of £18 15s. The premises consisted of 37 and 38 Conduit Street, both let on 21 year leases from 24 June 1875 on individual rents of £500pa and Ulster House on a 21 year lease from 24 June 1876 at a rent of £600. The rents were applied for church purposes in the parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

In 1878 a claim was made by the parish of St George Hanover Square, which was formerly part of the ancient parish of St Martin-in-the-Fields, to participate in the property or endowment known as the Trinity Charity. In 1881 the Court of Appeal ordered that the claim be allowed.¹¹ An order by Judge in Chambers in 1883 stated that the lands belonging to the charity should be managed by a group of ten trustees, including the Rector and Vicar of St George Hanover Square and St Martin-in-the-Fields, the others to be ratepayers of the parish. The net income was split, with four fifths going to St George's and one fifth to St Martin's. The sum of £3976 0s 10d that since Lady Day 1878 had been wrongly applied to St Martin's was repaid in instalments.

St George Hanover Square's share of the income was used to pay £100 a year to the churchwardens for the maintenance of the fabric of the church and £200 a year to the churchwardens of Hanover Church Regent Street for the maintenance of divine service, on the condition that all of the sittings

¹⁰ WCA 2326/6/13/1.

¹¹ Endowed Chars Vol V P98–9.

became free sittings. In 1898 the latter payment stopped as Hanover Chapel was demolished and instead up to £100 per annum could be contributed towards the maintenance of divine service at St Anselms Davies Street; £50 per annum to the churchwardens of any district church in the parish of St George Hanover Square; and £50 per annum to the churchwardens of the parish of St George Hanover Square for the maintenance of the church or Grosvenor Chapel. Eligible churches were Christ Church Mayfair, Hanover Church Regent Street, St Barnabas Pimlico, St Gabriel's Pimlico, St Mark's North Audley Street, St Michael's Chester Square, St Paul's Knightsbridge, St Peter's Eaton Square and St Saviour's St George's Square.

In 1898 Hanover Church was removed, with St Philip's Buckingham Palace Road and St Anselm's Davies Street being added, as well as other district churches (if funds permitted). The residue went to the rector of St George Hanover Square and he provided two curates to work in the district of the said mother church. The funds for the scheme were to be invested in bank annuities, but they could be used for any extraordinary purposes of repairs, restoration or maintenance of any church or churches within the parish of St George Hanover Square. The income was divided into equal moieties with one part going to the churchwardens of St George Hanover Square to provide free sittings in Grosvenor Chapel, to the extent of the letting value annually so applied and the other moiety to the incumbent of Hanover Church. After 1898 this share was used to augment the fund.¹² In 1899 the charity's property consisted of 37 and 38 Conduit Street and Ulster House Conduit Street let on 14 year leases, with a total income of £2090 and £5261 13s 9d of new consols, giving income of £144 13s 8d.¹³

Samaritan Fund

In 1862 Lady Williams gave £50 to the poor of the parish, which was distributed by the directors of the poor. Further money was collected in a 'Samaritan Box', at the workhouse in Mount Street. The fund was handed over to trustees in 1867, but the box retained.¹⁴

Jonathan Barlow's Charity

Jonathan Barlow, by his will of 1881 and proved on 15 October 1884, bequeathed his estate after the payment of various legacies to the vestry of St George Hanover Square or adjoining parishes as the trustees thought fit, for the inspection and maintenance of public water-closets and urinals. The estate amounted to £615, which was invested in stock. The annual dividends of £18 19s 8d were applied towards the expense of maintenance and proper inspection of the free public water closets

¹² WCA 2326/6/14/1.

¹³ Endowed Chars Vol V, pp.102–5.

¹⁴ Clinch, *Mayfair and Belgravia*, 153–4.

and urinals at the Hyde Park Sanitary conveniences.¹⁵ From 1901, with the establishment of the City of Westminster, this charity was administered by a committee of 13 members appointed by the Mayor, aldermen and councillors based on nominations of councillors from the wards of St George Hanover Square, St Margaret and St John, with the nominations based on the number of councillors elected for each of the three wards.¹⁶

The Canon Capel Cure Memorial Fund

The Canon Capel Cure Memorial Fund was set up following a public meeting of ratepayers in 1891 to commemorate the good works of the Rev. Canon Capel Cure, rector of the parish from 1876 to 1890. Subscriptions of £316 2s 6d were received, with £105 given as a donation to the Brompton Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest and for a tablet there in memory of the rector. The remainder was invested in £120 Madras Railway Guaranteed 5 per cent stock, with the income paid to the Brompton Hospital, so long as the memorial tablet remained above a bed, for the treatment of the patient in that bed. The patient should be a poor person residing in the ecclesiastical parish of St George Hanover Square. In 1899 the charity received income of £5 17s and paid a subscription of £5 5s to the hospital. The balance belonging to the charity at 31 March was £7 4s 6d.¹⁷

Augusta Poulett's Charity

The Hon. Augusta Poulett, by will her of 1887 and proved on 7 January 1889, gave £1,000 to the rector of St George Hanover Square, which was held in India 3 per cent stock. The income of £29 14s was used at the rector's discretion for poor inhabitants of the parish of St George Hanover Square. In 1899 the dividends were paid to the Parish Relief Fund, which was used for the relief of the sick and deserving poor.¹⁸

Jane Ann Robinson's Charity

Jane Ann Robinson by her will dated 15 March 1879 and proved on 21 January 1880 gave £300 to the Rev. William Cardall for the benefit of the poor in the ecclesiastical district of Christ Church Mayfair, to be distributed at his discretion. It is believed that the whole amount was distributed among the poor of the parish.¹⁹

¹⁵ Endowed Chars Vol V, pp.126–7.

¹⁶ WCA 1103/8.

¹⁷ Endowed Chars Vol V, pp.129–131.

¹⁸ Endowed Chars Vol V, p.126.

¹⁹ Endowed Chars Vol V, p.132.

Catherine Augusta Baroness de Sternberg

Catherine Augusta Baroness de Sternberg, by her will dated 4 June 1859, directed that her executors and trustees should place £100 in the hands of the minister and churchwardens of the parish in which she was buried, to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish on the day of her funeral or soon thereafter. She died on 21 June 1859 in the parish of St George Hanover Square and was buried in the parish of Hanwell. The £100 was invested in Consols and it was eventually agreed that the funds should be divided equally between the two parishes. When this decision was made in 1888, St George's portion amounted to £103 2s 5d and was invested in India 3 per cent stock. The dividends were paid to the St George Hanover Square Rector and Churchwardens Sick and Poor Fund. This fund was mainly supported by the offertories at St George's Church Hanover square and Berkeley Chapel Mayfair. The only other sources of income were small offertories at other churches and occasional voluntary contributions. The income was applied to the relief of sick and poor persons residing in the parish. In 1899 the total income was £108 12s 7d, of which £3 3s 4d came from Baroness Sternberg's Charity.²⁰

William Terwin

William Terwin, who died in 1826, gave £350 of 3 per cent Consols to the rector and churchwardens of St George Hanover Square, in his will of 1824. The dividends were used to purchase bread, which was distributed annually in January to the poor who resided in the part of the parish called Neat Houses. The dividend was initially paid over to the sidemen of the parish and the assistant overseer who lived in that district, who gave it away in bread via tickets distributed to the deserving poor and redeemable at different bakers in the neighbourhood.²¹ By 1899 the dividend was paid to the vicar of St Gabriel's Pimlico who, forwarded some of it to the vicar of St Michael's Chester Square. Both vicars distributed their portions among the poor of their parishes.²²

Camden Town Almshouses

A High Court decision, confirmed on appeal, was communicated to the Charity Commissioners in 1884, stating that St George Hanover Square had a right to benefit from charities that had been bequeathed exclusively to St Martin in the Fields, from which it had been separated in 1725. One of the charities affected were the St Martin's Camden Town almshouses. The charity had been founded in 1686 and administered almshouses in Hog Lane, later Crown Street, which were maintained using

²⁰ Endowed Chars Vol V, pp.120–1

²¹ Endowed Chars Vol V P87

²² Endowed Chars Vol V p94-5

several bequests and the rents of some parish properties.²³ The almshouses had fallen into decay by 1818 and were rebuilt in an unused corner of a burial ground on Pratt Street in Camden, St Pancras parish.²⁴ The charities of Powell's Buildings, a freehold estate in Holborn, Thomas Whitfield, John Bingham (also the Lamp Acre Estate), William Earl of Salisbury, Sir Charles Cotterell, Mrs Mary Wood and Mrs Graham funded the almshouses in 1880. Their income of £2,800 supported 70 poor almswomen.²⁵ That year the Charity Commissioners ordered there should be 13 trustees for these charities and they should be used for the benefit of the ancient parish of St Martin in the Fields, of which St George's was a part.²⁶

Under a new scheme of 1883 there were 19 trustees, 12 appointed by the vestries, rectors and churchwardens of various parishes including St Martin's and those parishes separated from it such as St George's, and with the rector of St Martin's an ex-officio trustee.²⁷ By the 1880s applicants to the almshouses had to be widows or spinsters resident in from the parishes of St George Hanover Square; St James; St Anne Westminster; St Martin-in-the-Fields; St Peter Eaton Square; St Michael's Chester Square and St Paul Covent Garden. Applications could be made on the grounds of age, ill-health, accident or infirmity.²⁸ The scheme was changed in 1901 to recognise the establishment of the City of Westminster. Trustees were nominated by various wards and appointed by the mayor, aldermen and councillors of the City.²⁹ St George's also benefitted from the almshouse branch of the Emanuel Hospital charity, based in St Margaret's parish. This charity provided 40 places in an almshouse, with 34 to be filled by the Westminster parishes, and was funded by the 1594 will of Lady Anne Dacre.³⁰

Pest House Charity

The pest house charity was endowed with land in St Martin in the Fields by earl William of Craven in 1687, although it was never deemed appropriate to build a pest house in what had become a crowded urban setting. Instead the land was exchanged for a plot in Paddington parish, which later constituted a number of properties in Craven Hill, Craven Hill Mews and Craven Hill Gardens. The Charity Commissioners ordered in 1856 that this charity should benefit St George Hanover Square. Funding was given to King's College and Charing Cross Hospitals. Trustees were appointed by several

²³ WCA 2326/6/1/2; WCA 1103/26; Endowed Chars Vol 5 pp.415-6; WCA 1103/5, report on charities in St martin-in-the-Fields by the vestry clerk in 1856.

²⁴ Endowed Chars Vol 5 pp.416-7

²⁵ WCA 1103/5.

²⁶ WCA 2326/6/1/2.

²⁷ WCA 1103/7b.

²⁸ WCA 2326/6/1/3; 2326/3/1.

²⁹ WCA 1103/8.

³⁰ WCA 2326/6/2/1.

Westminster parishes including St George's and the rector was one of several ex-officio members. Trustees could appoint patients in need of medical or surgical aid to several reserved inpatient beds at the hospitals, with one-eighth of the nominations reserved for St George's.³¹

³¹ Endowed Chars Vol V p.142l WCA 2326/6/4/1.