

**THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ST.  
MILDRED THE VIRGIN, POULTRY, IN THE  
CITY OF LONDON, WITH  
SOME PARTICULARS OF THE CHURCH OF  
ST. MARY COLECHURCH, (DESTROYED  
IN THE GREAT FIRE, A. D. 1666.)**

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The History of the Church of St. Mildred the Virgin, Poultry, in the City of London, with Some Particulars of the Church of St. Mary Colechurch, (Destroyed in the Great Fire, A. D. 1666.) by Thomas Milbourn

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**THOMAS MILBOURN**

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THE CHURCH OF ST. MILDRED THE VIRGIN, POULTRY, A.D. 1872.

THE  
HISTORY OF THE  
**Church of St. Mildred the Virgin,**  
POULTRY,  
IN THE CITY OF LONDON,  
WITH SOME PARTICULARS OF THE CHURCH OF  
ST. MARY COLECHURCH,  
*(Destroyed in the Great Fire, A.D. 1666.)*

BY  
THOMAS MILBOURN,

*(Late Honorary Secretary to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society),*

AUTHOR OF PAPERS ON "THE MILBOURNE ALMSHOUSES, AND A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE FOUNDER  
AND HIS FAMILY;" "THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AGMEREY, UPPER THAMES STREET;"  
"BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES OF SOME EMINENT MEMBERS OF THE VINTNERS' COMPANY;"  
AND "THE CHURCH OF ALLHALLOWE STAINING, MARK LANE."



London:

JOHN RUSSELL SMITH, 36, SOHO SQUARE.

1872.



## P R E F A C E.

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HAVING some time since read a paper at an evening meeting of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, on the history of the church of St. Mildred the Virgin, Poultry—in continuation of a proposed series of papers on those churches in the city of London required to be taken down to make way for city improvements—I have been induced, from the large amount of interesting material brought to light whilst preparing that paper, to greatly extend it; and by the addition of some particulars of the church of St. Mary Colechurch, which was destroyed in the great fire of A.D, 1666, have endeavoured to render it worthy of publication in the form of a small volume.

In the following history of these two churches I have included an account of the several charities connected with and appertaining to the same; and—as will hereafter be seen—I have treated of the history of each church separately until the year 1670, at which period the benefices of the two parishes were united by Act of



Parliament. From that date unto the present time I have comprised their history under one head.

Although the church of St. Mary Colechurch is evidently the earlier foundation, still, as the structure itself no longer exists, I propose first to treat of the history of the church of St. Mildred the Virgin.

To J. W. Billinghamurst, Esq., (vestry clerk to the united parishes of St. Mildred and St. Mary Colechurch,) I am greatly indebted for his kind and courteous attentions whilst prosecuting my researches in the parish records, and for his kindness in permitting me access to the same. To Mr. J. Phillipps Emslie I am also indebted for his kindness in preparing drawings of the exterior of the church, panel of pulpit, etc., and placing the same at my disposal for the purposes of this work.

THOMAS MILBOURN.

11, *Poultry, E.C.*

1st *February, 1872.*

THE CHURCH  
OF  
ST. MILDRED, POULTRY.

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And oft, conducted by historic truth,  
We tread the long extent of backward time.

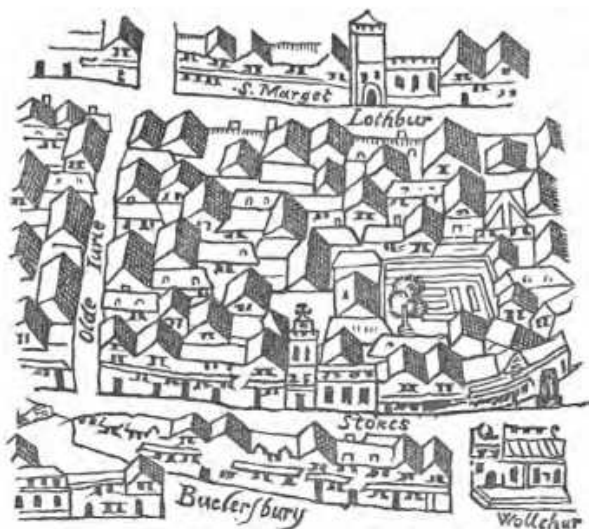
*Thomson.*

THE Church of St. Mildred the Virgin, Poultry, (the addition of the word Poultry being requisite to distinguish it from St. Mildred the Virgin, Bread Street) stands on the north side of the Poultry, nearly opposite to the Mansion House, and at the south-west corner of St. Mildred's Court, formerly known by the name of "Scalding Alley."

The precise date of its foundation is unknown. Stowe, speaking of this church in his quaint style, says—"It beareth the Name of St. Mildred, in the Poultry, the Virgin: Which Name was given, surely for distinction, not for Superstition, for it was the Custom of the Kingdom, (and yet is,) in Building these Things for the Service of God, that the Founders called them by the Name of some Apostle, Saint, Martyr, or Confessor, as best" pleased them, "at the present time, to distinguish them from others."\*

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\* Strype's Stowe, London, 1720, Vol. I, B. 3, p. 30.



Aggas's Map of London, made in 1560, conveys some idea of the position of the church and the property surrounding it, but being simply a sketch plan it is not to be relied on for accuracy.

To what lady the church is indebted for its name is shrouded in obscurity; some chroniclers suggest that the St. Mildred in whose honour it is dedicated was the eldest daughter of Merwald, a son of King Penda, others that she was the daughter of Ethelbert, King of Kent,—one of the founders of St. Paul's.—Both these ladies were evidently of great sanctity, but after a careful consideration of their respective histories, I am inclined to give the former the credit of being here represented.\*

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\* St. Mildred was one of the three daughters of the said Merwald, by Eormenburga, *alias* Domneva, a niece of King Egbert, who caused her brothers (his nephews), Etheldred and Ethelbright, to be secretly murdered