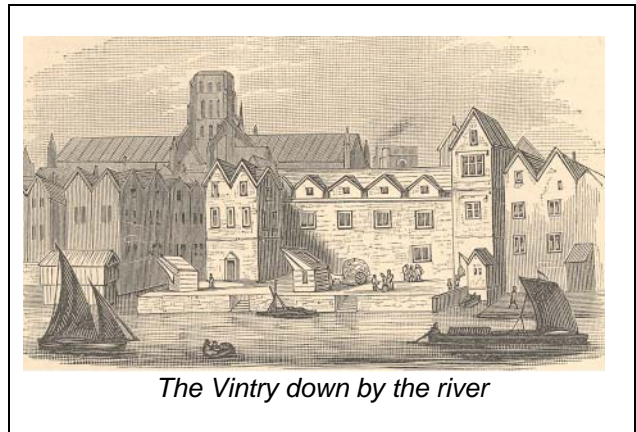


Vintry Ward in the 16th century

By Tom Hoffman, Common Councilman, Vintry Ward

Although Vintners' Hall is the only livery hall remaining in Vintry Ward, towards the end of the 16th century there were many others, for Vintry Ward was then one of the smartest corners of the City of London. Down by the river was the Vintry, a large building of stone and timber where the merchants of Bordeaux landed and stored their wines.

To the west of the Vintry was Vintners' Hall, together with the Vintners' Company's thirteen almshouses for thirteen poor people. Leading north from the Vintry was Broad Lane at the top of which stood the Parish Clerks' Hall, and nearby was the Plumbers' Hall and the Fruiterers' Hall, all of which were subsequently demolished. Next to the Plumbers' Hall was Worcester House belonging to the Earls of Worcester.



Vintry Ward had a number of churches: St. Thomas Apostle, St. Martin Beremand, Trinity Church, St. Michael Paternoster, founded by Dick Whittington who was later buried there, and St. James Garlickhythe, so-called because this was the corner of London where garlick was sold. St. Michael Paternoster and St. James Garlickhythe are the only two churches still standing.

At the top end of Vintry Ward was Horsebridge Street with Cutlers' Hall in Cloak Lane behind St. Michael Paternoster. Between them, in College Hill, was Turners' Hall, sadly demolished in the eighteenth century. At a later date, the Cutlers moved to Warwick Lane where they built a splendid new Hall. Near to St. James Garlickhythe was Knight rider Street where there was the old Glaziers' Hall, and next to it Ormond Place where the Earls of Ormond lived.

During this period, Vintry Ward was a favoured part of London, where many noblemen and other wealthy people owned large houses, where there were five churches, and where seven guilds had fine halls. Of these five churches only two still remain (although under the recently enacted boundary changes St. Michael Paternoster is now within Dowgate Ward), and of the seven guilds, the Vintners' Company is now the only one remaining in Vintry Ward.