

EAST SIDE OF BROOK STREET

INNER RING ROAD

ST WERBURGH'S PARISH CENTRE & CATHOLIC CLUB: Number 26 Brook Street

Today, St Werburgh's Parish Centre or the Catholic Club, which is a grade II listed building, is located opposite the Stanley Arms Pub, overlooking the roundabout, close to the former site of Chester's Cattle Market. The name St Werburgh's Parish Centre relates to the connection between the Centre and the parish of St Werburgh's, which covers most of the city Centre and the Eastern part of the City. The centre is also referred to as the Catholic Club because of the wider catholic community that uses the centre. The Catholic Centre has snooker tables, pool, darts, crown green bowls and the traditional game of bagatelle. There is a big screen TV showing Sky Sports.

The St Werburgh's Catholic Centre moved here from its original premises in Queens Street in 1975. Being on the corner of Brook Street, it is just a five minutes walk from the church and is between the shops in the city centre and the Railway Station.

From the 1600s, for two centuries, the current site of St Werburgh's Catholic Centre was home to a **private dwelling**.

In 1805 this private dwelling became a hotel: Ye Olde Bowling Green Hotel, later public house and then an inn, **The Bowling Green Inn**. Traders, farmers and travellers, who visited the city to trade at the Cattle Market nearby, would have stayed at the inn & at other inns & guest houses on Brook Street.

Next to the old hotel was a **stable**, which housed cattle, and, later during the visit of a circus to the city, elephants resided here.

At the turn of the last century, the family who owned the Wilderspool Brewery in Warrington bought the inn. Greenall Whitley and Co. started this brewery in Warrington in 1787 and they replaced **The Bowling Green Inn** with its current building in 1913 - 4. This building is an example of John Davies' 'Vernacular Revival' public houses in Chester. The Bowling Green Inn became a **Wilderspool Stout & Ale pub**.

The bowling green behind was one of the oldest in Britain - having been in use since before 1745 - but in 2001 it was partially destroyed when the

Catholic Church sold some of the land and buildings surrounding the Catholic Centre, to build the **Bowling Green Court retirement complex**, which was opened in **2000**. As a result the bowling green was moved to its current position.

During World War 2, the bowling green played its part in the war effort. In Britain, food was in short supply and people were encouraged to keep chickens and pigs and to grow fruit and vegetables. The government called this campaign "Dig for victory". Every possible green space was used to provide food. Brook Street's bowling green was converted into an allotment and provided vegetables and fruit during the war.

Also, during World War 2, just outside the main entrance to the current Catholic Centre, on the corner of Milton Street, a water pump was constructed for the benefit of the community. The letters "E W S" written in yellow on the brick work at the front of the building are still clearly visible, informing people that the **Emergency Water Supply** was here if needed.

Refer to Stories from Brook Street: Interview with John Kenyon from Catholic Club

BOWLING GREEN COURT: Numbers 28-32 Brook Street

Later, some of the land surrounding the Catholic Centre, along with adjacent land and buildings, was sold to build the **Bowling Green Court retirement complex**, which was opened in **2000**. As a result the bowling green was moved to its current position. The area that Bowling Green Court encompasses today has gone through many changes use until it became a retirement complex.

During the 1950's and 1960's, Brook Street was the major street for travellers coming in and out of Chester city centre via the North East route and was the primary access road to the Railway station and the Cattle market. The building next to the current Catholic Centre was used by W. Williamson's 'Household Goods' shop. This was demolished between 1964 and 1968 and an Esso garage and filling station was built on the site. Along with the Esso filling station, there was also a car dealership here in the 1980s. These were purchased and demolished to make way for the Bowling Green Court retirement complex. The design of the new-build apartments is reasonably well integrated with the surroundings.

Bowling Green Court comprises of 49 apartments, mainly one and two bedrooms, many enjoying balconies or decked patio areas. The complex offers 'Very Sheltered Housing,' supporting the more mature (over 55s) to

retain their independence.

Refer to Stories from Brook Street: Interview with Angela Maria Bowyer
Resident from Bowling Green Court
Interview with Robin and Prue Wendt Residents from Bowling Street
Court

JAMES STREET

THE OLDE COTTAGE INN: Numbers 34 – 36 Brook Street

In 2016, Ye Olde Cottage Inn won the prestigious CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) 'Cheshire Pub of the Year' title.
The licensees, Trevor and Jean Summerhill, have managed The Olde Cottage in Brook Street for over 15 years.

This traditional, street corner pub has gained a reputation for the quality of the beer served and also its ambiance, customer service and the role the pub plays at the heart of the local community. As well as regular charity events including a weekly quiz on a Wednesday with the proceeds going to a local school, the pub also offers various sporting events including darts, dominoes, pool and bagatelle teams all competing in local leagues.

VACANT: Number 38 Brook Street

KEN'S KITCHEN: Number 40 Brook Street

TURKISH STYLE HAIR CUT & SHAVE: Number 42 Brook Street

BOCA ARTISAN BAKERY: Number 44 Brook Street

Boca Artisan Bakery from North Wales opened in Chester in October 2015. Brook Street was carefully chosen as the Boca Artisan bakery location, because of its unique qualities of ethnic variety, ease of parking, convenience to the city centre, rail station, new bus hub and the extensive new residential developments.

Boca Bakery produces a wide selection of freshly baked loaves from Traditional Farmhouse beautifully baked with the finest local Walk Mill stone ground flour to Olive breads, sourdough loaves and batons. They also make & sell savoury sausage rolls, cakes, cookies and more.

The bakery also has a takeaway service for fresh coffee, cakes and pastries.

Refer to Stories from Brook Street: Interview with Hugh Steele-Perkins from Boca Artisan Bakery

PAWN SHOP / MONEY SHOP: Number 46 Brook Street

Refer to Stories from Brook Street: Interview with Chris Leach from The Money Shop

CHARLES STREET

NUMBERS: 48 to 58

A row of 18th century cottages now used for the following businesses

BROOK STREET POST OFFICE: Number 48 Brook Street

The store serves visitors originating from neighbouring localities. Brook Street is normally open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 09:00 - 17:30, Wednesday: 09:00 - 17:30, Saturday: 09:00 - 12:30. The shop provides services such as: ATM (24hr, Current Account), Pensions, National Express Tickets, Foreign Currency, and Drop & Go.

CRUISE TATTOO: Number 50 Brook Street

Cruise Tattoo: Opening Hours 10am-5.30pm (Mon-Sat) Evenings and Sundays available on request. George Folta - Tattoo artist and piercer & does laser removals

FULL ENGLISH: Number 52 Brook Street

Café, breakfast & brunch

VACANT: Numbers 54 TO 58 Brook Street

Vacant premises

BG BAKERY: Number 60 Brook Street

Late 19th century timber framed, 4 storey, narrow frontage building
BG BAKERY offers fresh, high-quality products prepared to traditional Bulgarian recipes. You can buy Bulgarian snacks, freshly prepared for you every day, and Bulgarian grocery.

You can also request a homemade baklava, cakes, pumpkin pie, bread, cheesecake, cakes for different occasions and other pasta specialties of Bulgarian cuisine.

PACINO'S PIZZA: Number 62 Brook Street

Pacino's Pizza is located in a late 19th century building with living accommodation over.

Pizzas are made from Pacino own dough made daily on the premises and baked to order. All the Pizzas come topped with cheese, oregano and Pacino's special recipe tomato sauce. Open 7 days a week between 5:00PM and 10:45PM

CORBETT BOOK MAKERS BETTING SHOP: Numbers 64 to 68 Brook Street

POLSKI SKLEP PIERNICZEK: Numbers 66 to 68 Brook Street

Polski Sklep Pierniczek is located in a block of plain Edwardian retail units with living accommodation above. Polski Sklep is a local supermarket, offering a variety of Polish products including fresh food, Polish sausage and meat, biscuits, sausage, household supplies and frozen food.

RAZORS: Number 70 Brook Street

Razors is part of block of plain Edwardian retail units with living accommodation above.

NUMBERS: 72 to 82

A row of late 19th to early 20th century cottages now used for the following businesses.

EUROPEAN FOOD STORE: Number 72 Brook Street

A late 19th to early 20th century cottage used now as a convenience store.

CHESTER MINI MARKET: Number 74 Brook Street

A late 19th to early 20th century cottage used now as a convenience store.

AMAKAI: Number 74 Brook Street

Amakai, established in 2009, stock a wide variety of Afro-Caribbean products from vegetables, cooking oils, canned foods, grains/flours, rice, spices / seasonings, beverages, cosmetics and hair extensions.

Amakai also provide AFRO salon services, such as braiding, weave and other styles and hair extensions. Amakai give free advice and information for hair management and provide information on hair products available in the UK.

AFRO hair has been the subject of discussion for many years.

Today, AFRO hair has reached new heights, with new styles, news

products, and leading hair fashions. Whether its natural Afro, braids, weaves or treatments make everyday a great hair day! Amakai is your one stop Afro-Caribbean Shop in Chester!

AHMED INDIAN TAKEAWAY: Number 76 Brook Street

Ahmed Indian Takeaway and JUST EAT will cook and then deliver Indian food straight to your door.

CITY KEBAB HOUSE: Number 78 Brook Street

A 'take away' kebab shop.

HAPPY DAYS: Number 80 Brook Street

A popular second hand shop selling furniture and white goods.

THAINAMOON MASSAGE & BEAUTY: Number 84 Brook Street

Thainamoon (open 10.30 until 20.00, 7 days a week) offers you an escape to a place of peace and harmony, where you can relax and unwind as you enjoy a Thai massage or one of a range of authentic massage and beauty treatments.

Refer to Stories from Brook Street: Interview with Teya Nilphetch from Thainamoon

BECNICKS: Number 88 - 92 Brook Street

These late 18th century town houses, once home to a carpet and rug manufacturer, now house Becnicks Wonder-Emporium.

Becnicks Wonder-Emporium relocated to Brook Street from Boughton in February 2012. It is hoped that, being located on Brook Street, a thoroughfare from Railway Station to City Centre, will increase the number of customers.

Becnicks is like an Aladdin's cave, filled with rails of vintage treasures, records and trinkets. Shoppers can sift through mountains of vinyl records, cupboards of classic clothing and draws of jeweled accessories. The shop also showcases the work of local photographers, craft makers, collectors and artists. Becnicks is open from Monday to Saturday from 10am-6pm and 11am-4pm on Sundays.

EGERTON ARMS: Number 94 Brook Street

The Egerton Arms, a late 18th century town house, is the only public house in Brook Street, which retains much of its original Georgian character.

Originally, on the triangle of roads made up of Brook Street, Egerton Street and Francis Street, there were 5 pubs facing each other at the junction. The 5 pubs were the Angel Hotel, the Glynne Arms, the George Hotel, the Railway and the Egerton Arms. Of these 5 buildings, only two

still exist. One is the Egerton Arms, still a thriving pub and the other, the former Railway Inn is now an undertakers.

CHESTER LODGE NURSING HOME: Corner of Brook Street and Francis Street

This modern brick nursing home stands on the site of the Angel Hotel.

Refer to Stories from Brook Street: Interview with Staff from Chester Lodge Nursing Home

FRANCIS STREET

HUXTABLE HODGSON: CONSULTING CIVIL & STRUCTURAL

ENGINEERS: Number 100 Brook Street: Corner of Brook Street & Francis Street

The former 'Glynne Arms' has been used as an antiques shop until about 1973 and then it was sold to Powell Insurance Brokers. After that, it was sold in 2006 to Huxtable Hodgson.

SWOP SHOP & DOG GROOMERS: NO. 102 Brook Street.

Number 102 was the site of the former Glynne Arms - an early 18th century town house. The "Swap Shop" now located here is one of the several "new and used" emporia on Brook Street.

PRIVATE HOME: RESIDENTIAL: NUMBER 104

This early 19th century town house is a private home.

THE BUNKROOM: Number 106 Brook Street

The Bunkroom in Chester is a small independent hostel located only 2 minutes walk from the train station and 8 minutes walk from Chester city centre. This 120-year-old Georgian town house is now a mix of old world charm and very modern facilities.

LLYODS OF CHESTER: Number 108 - 114 BROOK STREET

Lloyds of Chester was once called 'Hobday Liverpool Arms Hotel' and then 'Liver Hotel', is part of 3 storey Georgian early 19th century terrace of town houses with frontage partly reworked in the Edwardian period of the early 20th century. The Liver Hotel was closed and abandoned for several years and then reopened in 2007 in the form of a boutique hotel called Lloyds of Chester.

It is said that in former times, beer was brewed on the premises, using water drawn directly from a culverted stream, the Flookersbrook, that flowed and doubtless continues to flow, beneath the building and from which Brook Street derives its name.

PRIVATE HOMES: RESIDENTIAL: Numbers 116 – 124 Brook Street

These 2 storey, late Georgian, early 19th century terraces are private residential houses.

Refer to Stories from Brook Street: Interview with Ruby Dunbobbin resident from Brook Street

THE ORMONDE: Number 126 Brook Street

This attractive black and white, early 19th century building was originally a hotel but is now a guesthouse. 'The Ormonde' was formerly the Railway Tavern, which closed in the 1950s.

"Ormonde" (1883–1904) was an 'English Thoroughbred' racehorse, an unbeaten Triple Crown winner, generally considered to be one of the greatest racehorses ever. He won the Champion Stakes and the Hardwicke Stakes twice. At the time he was often labeled as the 'horse of the century'. Ormonde belonged to the 1st Duke of Westminster. One of his regular jockeys was Fred Archer (who features on the sign outside the hotel). 'Ormonde' was father of another great horse called Orme, who won the Eclipse Stakes twice.

Fred Archer (1857 - 86) had 21 Classic winners and was Champion Jockey 13 times, before tragically committing suicide in 1886. To keep his weight down for racing he used "Archer's mixture", a powerful laxative made up by Dr J. R. Wright of Newmarket. At the end of his life he returned home to Chester, ill having lost twelve pounds in less than a week, and shot himself in a fit of delirium.