

Great Castle Street and Eastcastle Street area

This chapter covers a 600-yard strip of territory, running from John Prince's Street in the west to Newman Street at its eastern end. Parallel with Oxford Street, and always in its shadow, it lacks coherence today. But there was logic to the original layout whereby Great Castle Street and Eastcastle Street, comparable in length, converged in the centre at Oxford Market. The breakdown of this symmetry began with the formation of Regent Street after 1813. Later, Oxford Market's closure and demolition in 1881 and its replacement by a solid block of building destroyed any lingering sense of a central focus.

The plan for the Harley estate published by John Prince in 1719 accurately foreshadows the position and alignment of Castle Street as well as its name (see Ill. ##/##). The origin of the name is mysterious, but the likely reason is that the street pointed eastwards towards traces of one of the biggest of the Civil War fortifications round London. This according to George Vertue was 'a large Fort with Four half bulwarks, across the road at Wardour Street', which if accurate would mean it impinged on the line of Castle Street at what is now Berners Street, just beyond the confines of Harley property. The 'castle' in question was distinct from a minor fort further east which probably gave its name in the 1670s to Joseph Girle's Castle Inn, on Oxford Street near Hanway Place.¹ In due course Castle Street spawned its own Castle pub, at the southern corner of the former Bolsover Street. It was rebuilt in an equivalent corner position in the 1820s when Regent Street superseded

Bolsover Street, acquiring its final form in 1866 (page ###) and disappearing only during the rebuilding of Regent Street in the 1920s (Ill. 29.1).²

The Prince plan shows only the western two-thirds of Castle Street as projected in 1719, in other words the portion on Cavendish–Harley property. The thinking then was to break its course with a great market square, a hub for the eastern part of the estate and commercial counterpart to the Oxford Chapel at the smarter west end. Larger even than Cavendish Square, this proposed ‘Marybone Place’ was centred on Great Portland Street along one axis and Margaret Street on the other; Castle Street would have entered and exited near its southern base. That plan was evidently soon set aside as too grandiose, and a smaller market square substituted a little further east and south, flanking the west side of Great Titchfield Street, and aligned east–west. It became an ad hoc, irregular public space, with Oxford Market itself at its eastern end, neither keeping to nor centred upon the frontage line of Castle Street but with its northern edge poking uncertainly forward.

Both ends of Castle Street, west and east of the market, were in simultaneous development by 1722–3. Next to Wells Street, for instance, at the eastern edge of the Cavendish–Harley property, there was early building activity on the garden of the Adam and Eve (sometimes Fall of Man) pub. This pre-existing alehouse lay next to the old footpath now known as Marylebone Passage and enjoyed a garden of more than two acres stretching southwards down to Oxford Street: hence the present Adam and Eve Court, between Oxford Street and Eastcastle Street.

Castle Street stopped abruptly at Wells Street until around 1760, when building began on the neighbouring Berners estate and the line was prolonged eastwards to Newman Street. The two parts of the street had by then acquired their own identities as Little Castle Street and Great Castle Street. By the early nineteenth century the form Castle Street East had generally ousted Little Castle Street (perhaps because there was another Little

Castle Street near Leicester Square), to be superseded by the current name, Eastcastle Street, in 1918.

Oxford Market and Market Place

'As to the market house', Auditor Edward Harley told his nephew Lord Harley in June 1720, 'I have taken upon me to direct immediately the building, for some reasons I have lately met with, which you may easily guess'. The likeliest cause for haste was the plan for a rival market not far distant to the south, off Carnaby Street. A newspaper attested in September 1721 that the 'Oxford Market' was 'in great forwardness' – evidence corroborated by the weathervane of the completed market house, which carried the date 1721 and the initials 'HEH' for Henrietta and Edward Harley.³ The brick building thus rapidly erected was square on plan with entrances on each side and a pitched roof rising from all four sides to an octagonal cupola, not unlike a reduced version of the sketch shown on Prince's plan. Later additions round the perimeter make further details impossible to judge. That James Gibbs was its architect is not contemporaneously recorded, but that was soon said and has been generally accepted. George Mercer, mason, an associate of Gibbs, is sometimes noted as having worked on the market. But the dates given for his work there, 1726–37, do not tally and may just refer to the surrounding development in which he certainly took part.⁴

By 1727 eighteen stalls occupied the ample open space west of the permanent building, and the surrounding streets and houses around Market Place (then simply Oxford Market) were well advanced. At that point a setback occurred in the shape of a lawsuit promoted by Lord Craven on behalf of the Lowndes or Carnaby Market, for which powers had been obtained in 1720 but which was not realized until 1725–6. After the usual

delays the Harleys fended off the challenge. But the effect must have been injurious, as in 1732 it was said that 'the Market did not answer, and is wholly disus'd'. In that year the market's legitimacy was reaffirmed, but its operations remained low key.⁵

Oxford Market was best known for butchers' shops, whose denizens feature in the anecdotes of Smith's *Nollekens and his Times* about the parsimony of the sculptor and his wife. One relates to an occasion when the butchers erected a large snow house during a frost and charged for entry. Nollekens would only give them sixpence, 'which so exasperated the brutal architects, that the wickedest son of Palladio thawed with a warm, smoky poker, the name of Nollekens upon the outside of the hut, which induced the observers to believe and report that he had made it'. Maria Nollekens then had to pay the butchers five shillings to remove it. Take-away food was also available, if another story, about James Barry, the painter of Castle Street East, inviting Edmund Burke to a steak dinner may be credited: 'I shall have it tender and hot, and from the most classic market in London - that of Oxford,' vowed the eccentric Barry.⁶

Accretions to the market gradually took place. The western part of the open market place was built over around 1754, and the eastern part in 1762, perhaps in response to complaints of chaos and the open-air slaughter of calves and lambs. In 1816 the market building was reconstructed and enlarged under the supervision of the Portland estate surveyor Samuel Ware by the addition of two-storey shops all round, with living accommodation in the upper floor and an iron-columned loggia in front, incorporating pedimented entrances on each side to the interior space where there were more shops (Ill. 29.2). These last were not to the liking of John White junior, the district surveyor, leading to a dispute between him and Ware which went to S. P. Cockerell for mediation. Costing over £7,000, the reconstruction was not a success. The inside shops in particular failed to let, so in the late 1820s Ware converted this part for Chelsea Hospital, as a base for paying out-relief

to the many soldier-pensioners from the Napoleonic Wars living in the vicinity. That arrangement must have ended by 1843, when the methods for such payments changed.⁷ In 1851 a guidebook reported that the interior was occupied by a warehouse and that the whole had 'lost all pretensions to be considered a market at all'; likewise in 1867 the building was said to be half unoccupied and the remainder 'taken by street-shops of a very crampy-looking kind'. Five years later the Portland Estate's receiver was advising that the market would soon have to be abolished and redeveloped. The interior was recorded by J. P. Emslie shortly before the building's demolition in 1881 (Ill. 29.2b).⁸

It was replaced that year by **Oxford Mansion**, designed by Augustus E. Hughes for a speculator, Richard Louis Cripps (also active in Eastcastle Street), and built by Williams Downs of Walworth. This was a hard, four-square brick building of five storeys with a French roofline, tight central court and an entrance on the south side (Ill. 29.3).⁹ Though first intended as family flats, it was soon adapted for more flexible uses ranging from bachelor chambers to a club. In the early years there were about 45 apartments. The Royal Archaeological Institute took one suite, and it was at small exhibitions and *conversazioni* there that Flinders Petrie showed the results of some of his early Egyptian excavations.¹⁰ When the head lease was put up for auction in 1898, the London County Council's Technical Education Board hoped to turn the building into a permanent home for the Central School of Arts and Crafts, then in temporary premises in Regent Street (page ###). Plans for the conversion were drawn up but the Portland Estate was not prepared to sell the freehold as the LCC wanted and the scheme foundered. Oxford Mansion failed to find a purchaser at a second auction in 1899, when it was advertised as adaptable to almost any use, hotel, restaurant, factory, warehouse or showroom, or conversion back to family flats; its proximity to the Central London Railway at Oxford Circus, not yet opened, was already being stressed.¹¹

The outdated block was replaced in 1937–8 by **Kent House**, another big four-square building, comprising showrooms and workspace. The developers and builders were G. E. Wallis & Son of Maidstone, active in Marylebone then and later, and here as elsewhere working with the architects Robert Angell & Curtis.¹² As befits its purpose, Kent House is well-windowed and steel-framed but otherwise old-fashioned for its date: clad in Portland stone, regular and vestigially Egyptian (Ill. 29.4). The horizontal division of the six-storey elevations into two, three and one with an extra storey set back on the roof, and the emphasis given to the triplets of windows next to the corners offer articulation. All the early tenants belonged to the garment trade.

The immediate environs of Oxford Market had no formally separate name as long as the market lasted, though the term Market Place is often found in deeds. After blocks of houses were built in 1754–62 on the open space west of the market, the roadway to their south became known as Market Row. The southernmost end of Great Titchfield Street was called Market Street until 1886, then Binstead Street till 1906. Otherwise the frontages were numbered in Oxford Market till 1887, when the name Market Place was adopted. Two alleys out of Market Place should also be mentioned: Margaret Court in the north-west angle, leading to Margaret Street and marked Margarets Alley on Rocque's map; and Market Court on the south side leading to Oxford Street, still today bearing the name shown by Rocque.

Next parallel to the east is Winsley Street, also an original name though now without any independent features. Behind its west side, later part of the Waring & Gillow site, stood a large brewery which was often given the address of Oxford Market. With a 140ft frontage to Oxford Street and a depth of about 335ft running back beyond Castle Street, this ground had been leased for sixty years in 1695 to James Long of Covent Garden, vintner, the owner of Marylebone Gardens. It seems at first to have been used for gravel extraction

and brick-making, the brewery and adjacent house perhaps appearing only after James's successor William Long had taken over, as they are not shown on Pratt's map of Marylebone, of 1708. William Long did not yield easily to the Cavendish-Harley development plans of the 1720s. But by a settlement reached in 1738 he acquired a new head lease and set about developing most of the brewery ground for housing in partnership with Francis Tredgold, carpenter. Winsley Street presumably dates from this development, along with the original houses on the east side of Market Place.¹³ The brewery itself remained on a reduced site, its management passing in 1736 to Robert Brett, whose appointment as brewer to the Prince of Wales failed to shield him from bankruptcy in 1740. It was still there in the early nineteenth century.¹⁴

Market Place's better frontages were on the south and more particularly the north sides, the latter being first built up under head leases of 1726 and 1736. Some of these former buildings can be glimpsed in views of Oxford Market. They seem to have been standard Georgian houses, under heavy trade use and variously rebuilt from time to time. In 1842 there were two pubs, the Masons' Arms and the Elephant and Castle (both on the north side), also two coffee rooms and an assortment of small shops. The replacement of the market by Oxford Mansion unleashed a corresponding spate of rebuildings in 1881-5.¹⁵ The north side is the only portion of Market Place to maintain much separate identity today, and is currently a favoured location for chain restaurants, with ample outside seating. Current buildings here, mostly of c.1890-c.1910 and in red brick and stone, are as follows:¹⁶

No. 4 (with 1 Great Titchfield Street), formerly the Masons Arms. Rebuilding by Joseph Morris, builder, 1889

No. 5. Perhaps built by Christopher Everard, builder, with H. J. Hollingsworth as architect, 1898

No. 6. T. H. Smith, architect, for developer J. A. Michell, 1899-1900¹⁷

Nos 7-8. Fitzroy Robinson & Hubert H. Bull, architects, Thomas & Edge, builders, 1958

Nos 9-10. F. M. Elgood, architect, and T. H. Kingerlee & Sons, builders, for J. A. Michell, 1912

Nos 11-13. R. H. Kerr, architect, and Thomas Sobey, builder, for G. S. Ferdinando, 1904

Great Castle Street

Great Castle Street once enjoyed some coherence. But it was broken into two by the aggrandisement of Bolsover Street into Regent Street, and then saw almost the whole of its south side eaten up by the shops around Oxford Circus. So a street shown on Horwood's map with over forty separate houses can now barely muster a dozen independent addresses.

This western end of Castle Street (as it then was) was early off the mark, with at least one building agreement made in 1720 (with Joel Johnson, bricklayer). For the next ten years the full length of the street east and west of Bolsover Street was in the throes of development. Among those involved was the architect Henry Flitcroft, who took three plots on the south side next to the eastern corner with Bolsover Street, subletting two of them to Richard Dobson of Wanstead, joiner. The largest taker was the mason George Mercer, who built a series of regular houses along the north side between Bolsover and Great Portland Streets. By the early nineteenth century both sides of the street were predominantly in trade use. But whereas the north-side houses had few shop windows and their small back gardens or yards mostly remained open, many houses opposite were explicitly shops with windows to match, while their yards had been built over or backed straight on to large stable yards and coachhouses connected with Oxford Street behind.¹⁸

Many of Great Castle Street's surviving buildings are due to James Alfred Michell (1844–1913), a London-born carpenter from a Cornish family which already in the early 1860s was based at 34 Great Castle Street, on the south side close to Regent Street. This remained Michell's business address for most of his career, combining coffee or dining rooms with a builder's or developer's office, which last he eventually transferred to 9 Market Place. Small developments all over the Portland–Howard de Walden estate brought Michell prosperity; by 1911 he was a JP, with a townhouse at 5 Devonshire Place and a country home (Shouldham Hall) outside King's Lynn.¹⁹ Michell used a number of architects, but by the Edwardian period he was firmly in league with F. M. Elgood, who designed him a number of quite festive fronts in a Renaissance style. Nos 21–22 and 40–41 Great Castle Street are worthy examples of the partnership working together in brick and stone (Ill. 29.5), while on the street's north side between Great Portland Street and Regent Street is a run of stone fronts with granite pilasters in the same style (Nos 8–11 and 13–14), interrupted by an earlier rebuilding at No. 12 (Castle House). Michell's trustees were still at work with Elgood uniting the Great Castle Street properties in 1914 after his death. All these premises were explicitly planned for the lace and drapery trades, which had achieved absolute dominance along both sides of the street by the 1920s.²⁰

Current buildings are as follows:²¹

For Nos 1–3 (Ashley House) see 12 Great Portland Street (page ###)

Nos 6–7. Red-brick commercial building with flats above, since the 1920s part of the bank adjoining at 15–17 Great Portland Street. E. N. Clifton, Son & Hope, architects, Clarke & Mannoch, builders, 1898–9

Nos 8–11. F. M. Elgood, architect, T. H. Kinglerlee & Sons, builders, for J. A. Michell, 1910–11

No. 12 (Castle House). Offices, now restaurant, T. H. Smith, architect; H. L. Holloway, builder, 1895 ²²

Nos 14–15 (formerly 13–14). F. M. Elgood, architect, for J. A. Michell, 1908
No. 16 (formerly 15) is part of Walmar House (288–292 Regent Street, page ###)

Nos 21–22. F. M. Elgood, architect, J. W. Falkner & Sons, builders, for J. A. Michell, 1900–2

Nos 40–41. F. M. Elgood, architect, J. W. Falkner & Sons, builders, for J. A. Michell, 1906; carving by Alfred J. Thorpe ²³

Eastcastle Street

Eastcastle Street, as explained above, belongs historically to two freehold estates: the Cavendish–Harley or Portland estate west of Wells Street, and the Berners estate to its east. Some forty years separate the two phases of its development, as the former properties were built up from the 1720s, the latter not until the 1760s. Today that difference counts for little, as all the early buildings have gone. The main distinction now is between the south side, occupied mostly by satellites of Oxford Street, and the north, where some independence and modesty of scale remains. The best range covers Nos 19–42, between Great Titchfield Street and Wells Street, the interjection of the Welsh Chapel with its high portico in the centre adding a note of agility and charm.

On the Cavendish–Harley portion, building started around 1721, scarcely later than at the west end of Castle Street near Cavendish Square. From that date the old Adam and Eve alehouse close to Wells Street and its long garden down to Oxford Street were being cut up and replaced with houses by John Blackman, bricklayer, and others, with houses on both sides of the frontage and smaller ones down the west side of Adam and Eve Court.²⁴

Along the north side, where the plot-sizes are still recognizable, building had reached westwards from Wells Street up to the present No. 27 by about 1727. The remaining frontage up to Great Titchfield Street and Oxford Market could not be addressed until a dispute was settled between the Cavendish–Harley authorities and the brewer William Long, whose lease of 1695 covered the land over which this part of Castle Street was to run. That happened in 1737, when Long acquired a new lease and arranged with Francis Tredgold, carpenter, to develop both sides of the street. The completed houses, including the sites of the present 28–42 Eastcastle Street on the north side, were leased to Tredgold or his nominees between 1741 and 1744. Rocque’s map suggests that it may have been Long’s and Tredgold’s intention to prolong Winsley Street northwards from Castle Street as far as Margaret Street, but if that was ever considered it was soon abandoned, allowing the northern frontage of the street to join up with the earlier portion.²⁵

East of Wells Street, Eastcastle Street was developed under agreements with William Berners made in 1763–4. On the north side George Rose, carpenter, took the easternmost stretch between Newman and Berners Streets (Nos 1–10) but did not live to see the properties leased to him; the architect Jacob Leroux agreed for the next stretch west, between Berners and Wells Streets.²⁶ The houses here were secondary to those then being built along Newman and Berners Streets. Entrances to mews or yards broke in about halfway along each frontage, giving access to Berners Mews and Castle Court (later united with Wells Mews) on the north side, and to Newman Mews and Castle Mews on the south. No doubt it was the addition of the Berners properties that impelled the separation of this end of Castle Street from the other by means of separate numbering and the formal adoption of the name Little Castle Street or Castle Street East, changed after 1918 to Eastcastle Street. The name became fixed in the public mind in 1952 with the Eastcastle Street mail-van robbery, master-minded by the gangster Billy Hill, at the time Britain’s largest postwar robbery.²⁷

Two portraitists of minor note lived in the street: John Foldson, who died at No. 52 on the south side in 1784, and Abraham Wivell, who exhibited from No. 40 on the north side in 1822. Charles Muss, enamel and glass painter, was at No. 46 when first in London around 1800.²⁸ The better-known James Barry's occupation of No. 36 elicited a graphic memoir from W. H. Curran, who visited him there in 1804 two years before his death. The history painter moved to Castle Street in 1788 when his career seemed set fair. In Michael Phillips' view, he was attracted to the house by the existence of a workshop in the rear large enough for him to paint his *Birth of Pandora*, the vast composition on which he had set his heart. But no such workshop is depicted on the detailed survey of the block made for the Portland estate around 1805 (see Ill. 27/1).²⁹ Setbacks and snubs followed, and in 1794 it was reported that £300 in cash had been stolen from the house while the artist was away. All this turned Barry into a paranoid recluse. The house became shabby in the extreme, 'the glass of the lower windows ... broken, the shutters closed, and the door and walls strewn with mud' (Ill. 29.6). A notice warned the public against the artist's persecutors; in retaliation the house was defiled by street-urchins. In a filthy interior and amidst rooms crammed with apparatus, Barry laboured on to the end on his engravings, eccentrically attired for his lonely task in a fine, elaborately ruffled shirt, threadbare greatcoat and the remains of an old hunting cap. A back room on the second floor was his only retreat; here, according to Robert Southey, 'he slept on a bedstead with no other furniture than a blanket nailed on the one side'.³⁰

Street directories show a mixed array of trades all along Castle Street East in the 1820s–40s, with tailors and dressmakers represented but far from dominant. One of the largest concerns belonged to William Leader, a coachmaker, who owned two separate premises behind the south side, and in 1822 was in treaty with Marylebone Vestry and the Portland authorities to sell part of his ground for a church site, but like similar initiatives of the time it came to nothing.³¹ There were two pubs on the north side, the White Horse at

No. 21 and the Marquis of Granby at 33, and two on the south, the Princess Victoria and the Berwick Arms, at Nos 60 and 69 respectively.³² The Princess Victoria took its name from the Princess's Theatre, which had been formed in 1835 out of the unsuccessful Queen's Bazaar behind Oxford Street and included a small hall at the back accessible from Castle Street East. The theatre came to dominate the whole south side block between Winsley Street and Adam and Eve Court.

As the later history of Eastcastle Street's south side is entirely bound up with that of Oxford Street, it is omitted from this volume, apart from the frontage between Berners Street and Newman Street, which belongs with the Berners Hotel (page ###). The north side is more pleasurable, particularly west of Wells Street, where a pot-pourri of much-altered buildings dates from the 1880s to the 1960s (Ill. 29/7), summarized below together with an account of the Welsh Chapel that is its highlight.³³

For Nos 11–15 see 61–62 Berners Street (page ###)

Nos 16–19 (Eastgate House). Workrooms/warehouse for H. J. Ahern; Elgood & Hastie architects, G. E. Wallis & Sons, builders, 1930–1

No. 20. W. Henry White, architect, H. M. Perkins, builder, 1903

No. 21. Formerly the White Horse. J. Morris, builder, 1885

No. 22. Perry & Perry, builders, architect not known, 1923

Nos 23–25. Office building by Brian L. Sutcliffe & Partners, architects, for Collin Estates, 1958

No. 26. A. J. Hopkins, architect, A. A. Webber, builder, 1895 ³⁴

Nos 27–28 (Eastcastle House). Augustus E. Hughes, architect and owner, 1892; connected and much altered by A. Edward Hughes, 1935 ³⁵

Nos 31–32 (Shelana House). Elsom, Pack & Roberts, architects, for Collin Estates, 1982

No. 33. Formerly the Marquis of Granby. Charles Ansell, builder, for George Edward Firmin, landlord, 1892

Nos 34–35. Flats in Queen Anne style, originally called Portland Mansion, rebuilt by Williams Downs for developer Richard Louis Cripps, 1883; architect not known

No. 36. W. A. Lewis, architect, G. H. Carter Ltd builders, 1924

No. 37. Augustus E. Hughes, architect, for R. L. Cripps, 1880 ³⁶

Nos 38–40. Shops and flats by Matthews Brothers, builders, 1901; architect possibly W. Henry White

For Nos 41–42 see 6 Great Titchfield Street, page ###

Welsh Baptist Chapel. The top-heavy front of the Welsh Chapel offers a tonic among the commercial backlands north of Oxford Street, with its sprightly twin stairs mounting within a portico sheltered by high Corinthian columns, and the legend CAPEL BEDYDDWYR CYMREIG incised above along the frieze (Ill. 29.8). The chapel and hall behind were built in 1889 to the designs of Owen Lewis and have been little altered since.

A small Baptist congregation had met fleetingly in Castle Street East during the early 1850s. Most likely their meeting place was the Franklin or Benjamin Franklin Hall, a modest hall frequented by radical and co-operative causes around this time, set down an alleyway on part of the present chapel site. In 1865 a second congregation took the hall for their Sunday services. This was a separate group of Welsh Baptists, offshoots from the Providence Chapel, Tottenham Court Road.³⁷

In 1880 the thriving congregation was able to buy the lease, which included two houses in front. Alterations duly took place the following year under the architectural direction of Lewis, a leading member of the congregation. But the chapel remained small and stuffy, so in 1888 came the decision to rebuild the whole site in exchange for a new Portland lease running from 1894. Lewis, already treasurer of the building committee, was naturally again the architect. A native of Pembrokeshire, he had come to

London in the 1860s, probably to design the Corinthian Bazaar in Argyll Street, whose front is preserved as the façade of the London Palladium.³⁸ In the 1880s Lewis acted also as architect for D. H. Evans, the well-known Oxford Street shopkeeper. Evans too was to the fore in the Castle Street congregation, a contributor to the building fund, and father-in-law of the first minister to officiate in the new chapel. Its builder, Eli Tinson, also worked for Evans.³⁹

The resulting building consisted, commonly for urban chapels of its period, of a basement hall devoid of natural light, a galleried auditorium raised above street level and lit from a long lantern down its centre, and living space on two floors over the portico, covering only the front of the site. The hall is featureless apart from four fluted iron columns (supplied by Steven Brothers of Upper Thames Street) and a low stage. The chapel itself is fetching, with pine pews, a capacious pulpit in contrasting tones of wood, an organ over, and busy, brightly painted cast ironwork round the encircling balustrade of the gallery (Ill. 29.9). A colourful note is struck by patterned glass in the monitor lights of the lantern and in the top panels of the doors from the generous lobby, which is floored in mosaic. But the memorable feature is the cut-away front, which more than compensates in liveliness for the conventionality of its Franco-Italian, brick-and-cement dress. In Ian Nairn's words, 'All the detail is mechanical, but it doesn't matter, because the imagination behind is working overtime'.⁴⁰

There was no permanent minister till 1889, when R. Ellis Williams arrived to preside over the new building. His ministry saw continued Welsh immigration, and an intense and prosperous life built up. Membership peaked at over 700 in the 1920s, when the chapel was reported as frequently overcrowded. In 1921 the trustees obtained a 999-year lease at a bargain cost from the Howard de Walden Estate. Among occasional worshippers in the early twentieth century was David Lloyd George, whose daughter Olwen was married here in 1917. Under Williams's successor, Herbert Morgan, changes

were made in 1908–9, both in the basement and in the chapel itself, where a larger organ was put in over the pulpit and the gallery at the front was deepened upwards to compensate for the loss of seating behind the pulpit. This last space was taken back into separate use as a small chapel and meeting space in 1971. By then Welsh congregations in London were dwindling. Eastcastle Street held its own, but in 2006 amalgamated with chapels of other denominations at King’s Cross and Radnor Walk, Chelsea.⁴¹ The resulting sales of property allowed a renovation to take place in 2013–14 under Russell Hanslip of HMDW Architects. One of its aims was to install a lift without impairing the integrity of the front.