

Baker Street Elementary

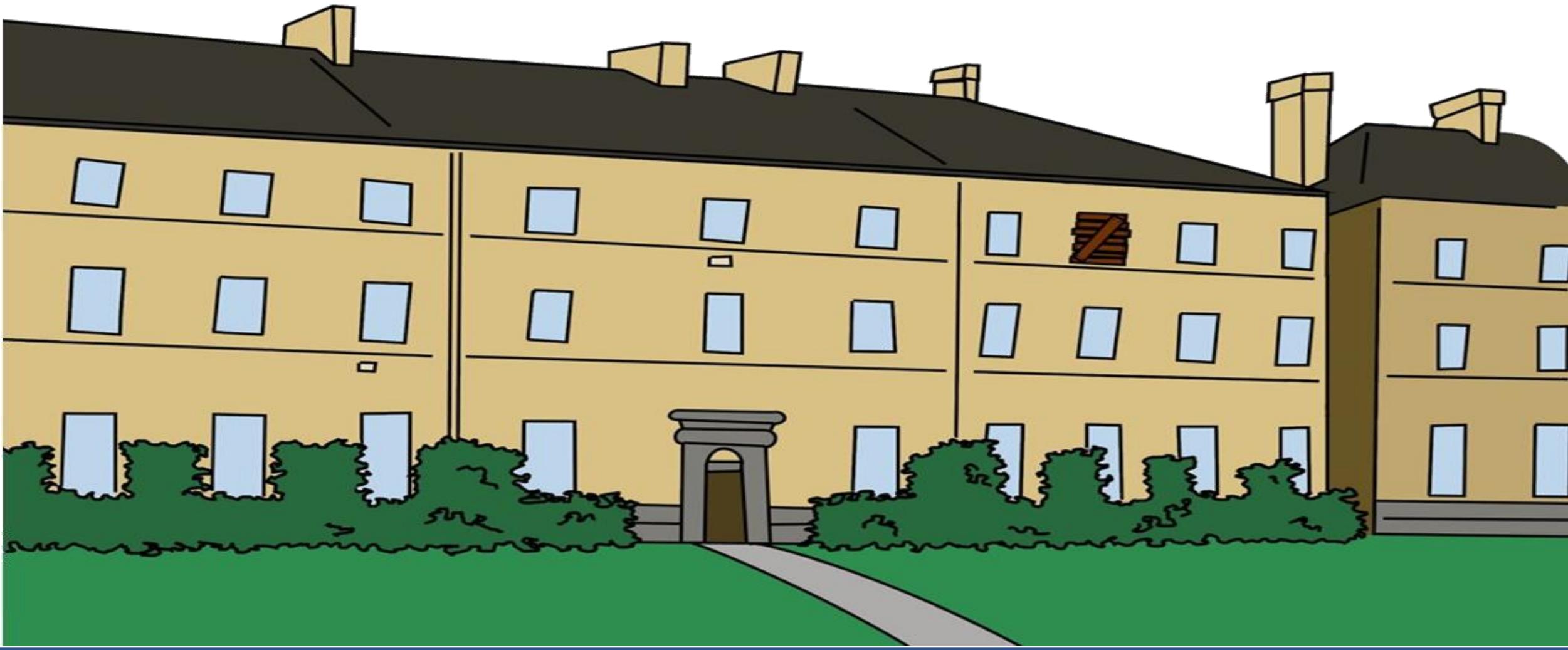
PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street Elementary

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON

A008 -- A BRIEF HISTORY OF WESTMINSTER PALACE -- JANUARY, 2022





WELCOME TO TOPIC # 008... TODAY, MASTER WATSON AND I WILL DISCUSS THE EARLY HISTORY OF WESTMINSTER PALACE...



IN THE 'DISAPPEARANCE OF LADY FRANCES
CARFAX,' YOU AND I PASSED THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT AND OVER WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ON
OUR WAY TO BRIXTON.



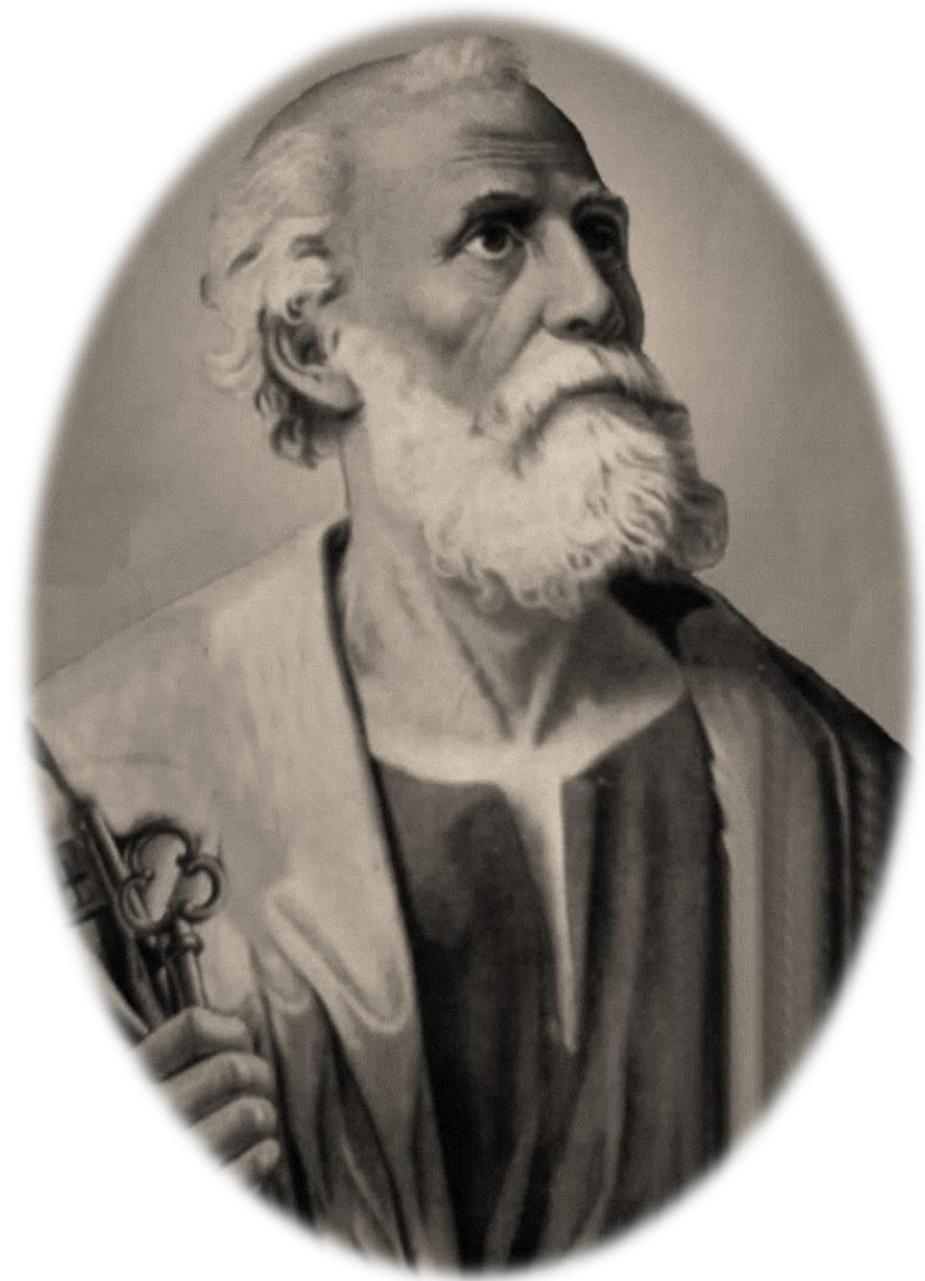
THE BRIDGE TOOK ITS NAME FROM THE CITY OF
WESTMINSTER, AS DID THE BUILDING HOUSING
PARLIAMENT—WESTMINSTER PALACE.



FIRST CONSTRUCTED DURING THE ANGLO-SAXON ERA,
THE PALACE ITSELF SPANS MORE THAN 900 YEARS.



IT IS THOUGHT THE AREA PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN THE LOCATION FOR A ROMAN TEMPLE THAT WAS DESTROYED IN AN EARTHQUAKE BUT THE SAXON CHURCH DEDICATED TO ST. PETER GAVE THE AREA THE NAME 'WEST MINSTER' FOR 'WEST MONASTERY.'



WHEN THE CHURCH BECAME A BENEDICTINE ABBEY,
ROYAL INTEREST IN THE AREA GREW AND DANISH
KING CNUT, CANUTE, INITIATED CONSTRUCTION
OF A PALACE ON THE SITE.



IT CONTINUED AS THE PRIMARY ROYAL RESIDENCE
UNTIL A FIRE DESTROYED A LARGE PORTION OF IT
IN 1512.





FOLLOWING THE FIRE, THE PALACE BECAME THE PERMANENT HOME FOR PARLIAMENT, WHICH UP UNTIL THEN, HAD FOLLOWED THE KING AND MET WHEREVER HE WAS RESIDING WHEN NOT IN WESTMINSTER.



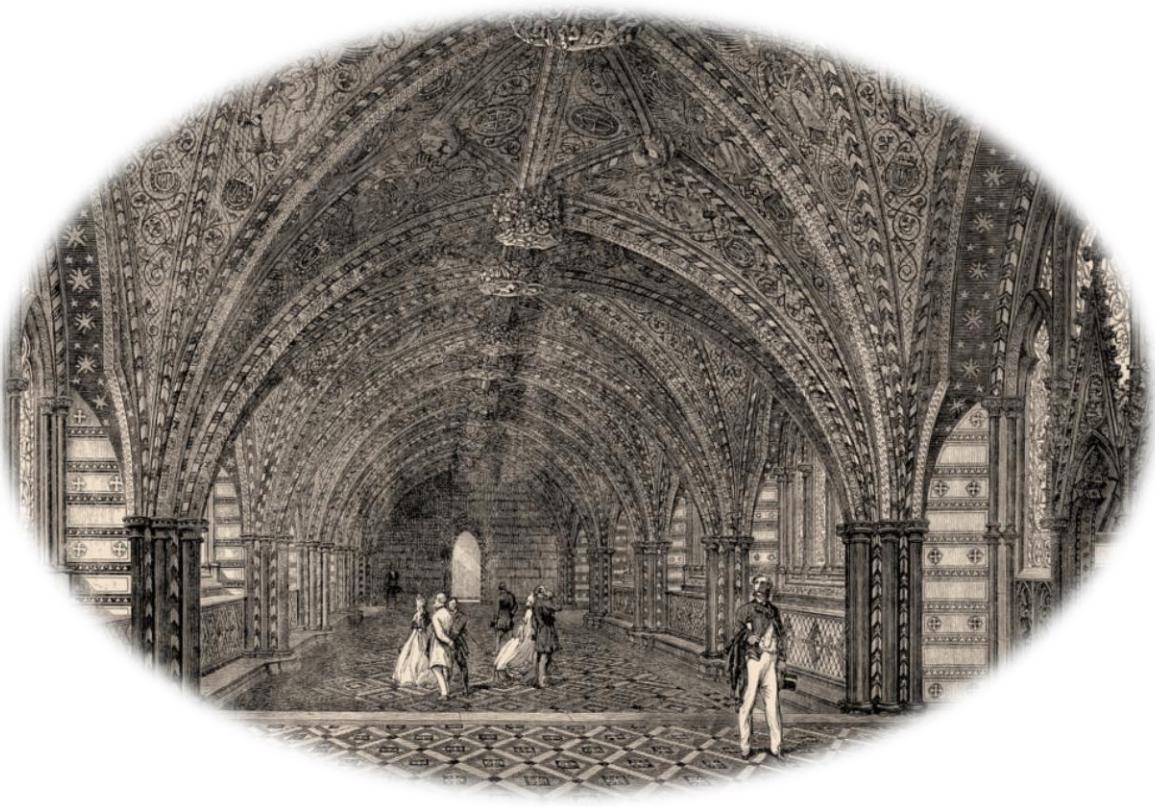
THE TWO HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, THE HOUSE OF LORDS AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WERE ASSIGNED DIFFERENT CHAMBERS IN THE PALACE FOR THEIR SESSIONS.



THE HOUSE OF LORDS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NOBILITY AND THE SENIOR CLERGY, OCCUPIED THE QUEEN'S CHAMBER UNTIL 1801 WHEN IT MOVED TO THE LESSER HALL TO ACCOMMODATE THE GROWING NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES.



THE HALL HAD BEEN THE COURT OF REQUESTS WHERE THE KING HAD RECEIVED PETITIONS FROM HIS SUBJECTS... THE CHAPEL OF ST. STEPHEN'S BECAME THE CHAMBER FOR HOUSE OF COMMONS, COMPOSED OF KNIGHTS, BURGESSES, AND OTHERS OUTSIDE THE NOBILITY.



THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE COMMONS CHAMBER IS CREDITED IN PART WITH CREATING THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM, GOVERNMENT VS. OPPOSITION, THAT STILL OPERATES TODAY... WHEN THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, MPs, MOVED IN, THEY FOUND THE CHAPEL'S CHOIR STALLS ON EITHER SIDE AND A SCREEN AT ONE END.



IN ADDITION, AN ALTAR WITH CRUCIFIX HAD REMAINED, AND THE MPS BOWED IN THAT DIRECTION WHEN THEY ENTERED OR EXITED, A PRACTICE THEY CONTINUE TO THE PRESENT DAY.



BOMBING DURING WORLD WAR II DESTROYED THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, BUT IT REOPENED IN 1950... BUILDING RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS OCCURRED PIECemeAL IN THE ENSUING YEARS UNTIL 2012 WHEN PARLIAMENT COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE RENOVATION.



THE STUDY'S FINAL REPORT IDENTIFIED MAJOR ISSUES NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED FOR THE BUILDING TO REMAIN OPERATIONAL... THE GOVERNMENT DEVELOPED A FINAL PLAN TO FUND THE PROJECT WITH COMPLETION SCHEDULED FOR 2020/2021.





REPAIRS ON BIG BEN AND THE ELIZABETH TOWER
THAT HOUSES THE FAMOUS CLOCK ALONE WERE
ESTIMATED AT \$62 MILLION.



WITHOUT SUCH EFFORTS, HOWEVER, THE CHIMES
WHICH ALLOWED ME TO ACCURATELY MONITOR
YOUR EFFORT TO TRAVEL FROM BAKER STREET TO
BRIXTON IN TIME TO SAVE LADY CARFAX MAY
BECOME SILENT.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 008 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 009, WE WILL LOOK AT HOW CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATED DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA.



REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

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