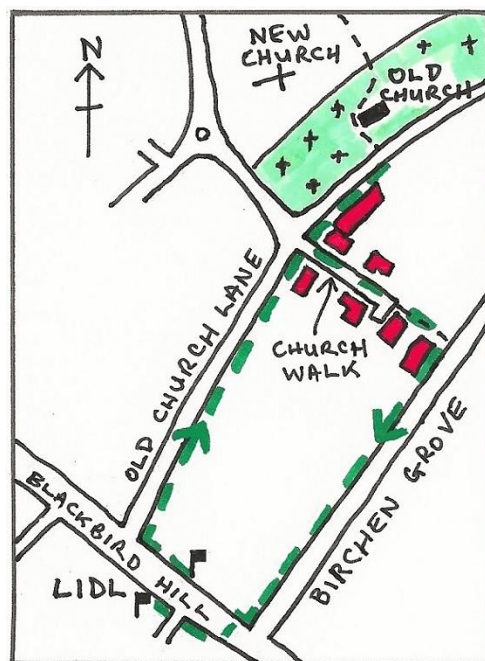


Trobridge Walk No. 4 - Old St Andrew's Mansions:

This gentle walk in southern Kingsbury visits a 1934-36 development of 30 maisonettes, in the St Andrew's Conservation Area. Trobridge's Old St Andrew's Mansions were designed for T.W. Heath & Co Ltd of Neasden, and are Grade II listed buildings.

The walk begins at the Blackbird Hill bus stop, which can be reached on the 302 bus from Roe Green (across Kingsbury Road from "Haylands" – see Walk No. 1), or by the 182 or 297 routes from Wembley Park Station. The 245 bus from Alperton and Sudbury also stops here.

Walk up past the shops, and turn right into Old Church Lane. The modern block of flats on the opposite corner is on the site of the old Blackbird Farm, which was replaced in the 1950's by "The Blackbirds" public house. An archaeological dig in 2013 found Iron Age and Roman pottery fragments here. [For more details about the history of Blackbird Farm, see: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/4468821/Blackbird%20Farm,%20Kingsbury.pdf>]



Blackbird Farm's fields were developed as the Kingsbury Hill Estate from 1924 onwards. As you walk along Old Church Lane, you will pass some detached homes built in the inter-war "mock Tudor" style, but after No. 26 you suddenly come to something different.

On your right are Nos.7 & 6 Old St Andrew's Mansions, and the intricate brickwork of these mid-1930's Ernest Trobridge designs can be seen immediately. Here, the main feature is the steps to the first floor homes, which pass under an archway bringing together four chimneys.

You have to admire the skill of the bricklayers who made Trobridge's vision a reality!



< 6 & 7 Old St Andrew's Mansions.

Chimneys at 4 Old St Andrew's Mansions >

After enjoying this sight, carry on past the top of Church Walk. Over the hedge on your right, you will see more remarkable chimney designs, as you come to Nos.4 to 1. The front walls of these buildings are a mix of brick, white render and black timber. Where other architects would have repeated the same designs, each of Trobridge's homes are individual, as well as attractive.



After No.1, the lane reverts to detached homes, but if you have the time, cross over and walk up the footpath through the graveyard, to see another remarkable building. Old St Andrew's Church, after which the mansions are named, dates from around AD1100, and is Brent's only Grade I listed building. [You can discover its story at: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/3023979/St%20Andrews%20Old%20Church%20-%20Kingsbury.pdf>]



Old St Andrew's Church, viewed from the eastern end of Old St Andrew's Mansions.

A rough path along the north side of the church (under a large yew tree) leads to the "new" section of the graveyard, where Ernest Trobridge was buried after his death in 1942, although his grave is unmarked.

Return to the top of Church Walk, and turn left down this footpath. Stop at the gate of No.5, to look at the unusual

staircase and porch of 5A, then notice the brickwork around the side door of No.6, opposite.

Carry on down to No.8, on the left, and after admiring the front of the building with original doors (8A still with its stained glass), look at the elaborate brick and tile design of the side wall and chimney, which include a cross reflecting Trobridge's New Church beliefs.



8 Old St Andrew's Mansions, showing its side wall.

Continuing down Church Walk, take in the brick, tile and timber designs, and chimneys, of Nos.9 & 10 and 11 & 12. The footpath brings you to Birchen Grove, where you turn right. Nos.14 to 16 Old St Andrew's Mansions are here, in the midst of "ordinary" 1930's semi-detached houses. Again, each of these Trobridge designed homes has individual features.

Carry on along Birchen Grove to Blackbird Hill, and use the crossing to the bus stop outside Lidl, for your return journey. I hope you have enjoyed discovering Ernest Trobridge's Old St Andrew's Mansions. You can find out more about Trobridge's life, the wide range of his work, and the ideas behind it, at: <https://www.brent.gov.uk/media/387517/Ernest%20Trobridge%20-%20Kingsburys%20Extraordinary%20Architect.pdf> .

