

The Streets of York

Do you live in Glebe Street?

A Glebe is an area of land within a church parish, with land either owned by a church or giving its profits to a church. In Roman Catholic, Anglican and Wesleyan tradition the land can include the rectory and grounds which support the priest. The land is usually non rateable.

The word Glebe comes originally from the Latin *gleba* or *glæba* meaning clod or soil. Glebe land was often granted by the Lord of the manor and in some instances larger parishes could include farms, mills and industry, all of which would return tithes to the parish.

The first mention of Glebe St in York was in the Perth Gazette of 1859 when a meeting of the York Bridge Building Committee was held at The Castle Hotel to discuss the building of a bridge over the Avon River between South Street and Glebe Street.

In early maps of York it is possible to see tracts of land were set aside as “glebe land”, these were exempt from rates as long as they were not being let. Each denomination was allocated tracts of land, not always adjacent to parish buildings, often selling them to raise funds. The following excerpts are from a 1934 map and show the Anglican and Wesleyan Glebes.

