



## BRIEFING PAPER

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# Meeting places of Parliament at Westminster

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This list notes the meeting places of the House of Commons and House of Lords while sitting at Westminster but not in the two main chambers.

The details given here have been taken from 'The Meeting Places of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster' by J C Sainty, in *The Table: the journal of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table in Commonwealth Parliaments*, Volume XLIV 1976 and from the [History of Parliament Trust: Survey](#), 1386-1421

With thanks to Robert Harrison in the House of Lords Journal Office for his kind advice and assistance in the compilation of this list.

Information on [meeting places of the medieval Parliament](#) can be found on the [Living Heritage pages on the Parliament website](#).

Further details of the buildings of the Palace of Westminster may be found in the following books:

Caroline Shenton, *The Day Parliament Burned Down*, OUP, 2012

John Field, *Story of Parliament in the Palace of Westminster*, James and James, 2011

Barry Stow, *Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including St Margaret's Church*, Atkins, 2004

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Suggestions for new lists welcomed

## Meeting places of Parliament at Westminster

Date from	Date to (where known)	Location	Notes
1259	1512	Painted Chamber, Palace of Westminster	Opening ceremony in Painted Chamber
1343	1800	White Chamber, Palace of Westminster	White Chamber customary meeting place of Lords until union with Ireland
1343		Painted Chamber, Palace of Westminster	House of Commons in Painted Chamber
1352		Chapter House, Westminster Abbey	Commons withdraw to Chapter House following discussion with magnates in the Painted Chamber
1365		Painted Chamber, Palace of Westminster	Commons left in Painted Chamber following ceremony in Painted Chamber
1366		Painted Chamber, Palace of Westminster	Commons left in Painted Chamber following ceremony in Painted Chamber
1368		Lesser Chamber, Palace of Westminster	House of Commons in lesser chamber (Court of Requests)
1373		White Chamber, Palace of Westminster	Lords meet in White Chamber
1373		Painted Chamber, Palace of Westminster	Commons assigned the Painted Chamber to be nearby Lords should their advice be required
1376		Chapter House, Westminster Abbey	Commons meet in the Chapter House, continuing until 1395
1395		Refectory, Westminster Abbey	Commons offered the monk's refectory as an alternative meeting place
1397		Refectory, Westminster Abbey	Commons generally meeting at the refectory when in Westminster until at least 1416
1416		Refectory, Westminster Abbey	Last explicit reference to refectory in 1416
1536		House of Lords Chamber	Opening ceremony in House of Lords Chamber
1552		St Stephen's Chapel, Palace of Westminster	House of Commons in St Stephen's Chapel c1552
1801		Court of Requests, Palace of Westminster	House of Lords moves from White Chamber to Court of Requests
1834		House of Lords Library	Great Fire 16 October. House of Lords in Lords Library 23 October
1834		Room adjacent to House of Lords Library	Great Fire 16 October. House of Commons move to a room next to the Lords Library
1835		Painted Chamber, Palace of Westminster	House of Lords moves from Court of Requests to Painted Chamber
1835		Court of Requests, Palace of Westminster	House of Commons moves from St Stephen's Chapel to Court of Requests
1847		Barry's new House of Lords Chamber	House of Lords moves from Painted Chamber to Barry's new Lords chamber in rebuilt Palace of Westminster
1852		Barry's new House of Commons Chamber	House of Commons moves from Court of Requests to Barry's Chamber in new, rebuilt Palace of Westminster
1941		House of Lords Chamber	Commons moves from its own Chamber to the Lords Chamber after war damage to Commons chamber
1941		King's Robing Room, Palace of Westminster	House of Lords moves from its own Chamber to King's Robing Room
1950		Gilbert Scotts' House of Commons Chamber	House of Commons moves from Lords Chamber to its own rebuilt Chamber by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott
1951		Barry's House of Lords Chamber	House of Lords moves from King's Robing Room to its own former Chamber

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