

Ham is a retired place, with a population of about 2,000. The village proper comprises a street of irregularly-built, commonplace houses, with a few of a better class, and several small cottages clustering round the sides of an extensive common, on the north side of which is one of the gateways of Ham House. Among the seats in the neighbourhood is Morgan House, which was some time the residence of the Duc de Chartres. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, stands upon the common.

It was rebuilt in 1861, and has been since enlarged. The object of this institution, which is under the patronage of the Duke of Cambridge, is "to receive orphan girls, without distinction as to religion, into a home where they can obtain a plain English education and practical instruction in the kitchen, house, and laundry, to fit them for domestic service." The charity is almost entirely dependent on voluntary donations and annual subscriptions.



PETERSHAM CHURCH.

It is a poor specimen of modern Gothic, being built of yellow brick, with stone dressings, in the Decorated style, and was first opened in 1832, but was considerably enlarged thirty years later. Close by are schools, which were built more recently.

On Ham Common Lord Mount Edgcumbe had a villa during the early part of this century, and Lady Brownlow records in her "Reminiscences of a Septuagenarian," her recollection of the volunteer corps that used to be drilled there in 1805, when the country was alarmed by the threatened invasion of "the great Napoleon."

The National Orphan Home was established on Ham Common in 1849, the "cholera year," to provide for orphan girls who had lost their parents by

Petersham adjoins Ham Common on the east and north, and is separated from the Thames by Ham Walks and the grounds of Ham House, whilst on the east it is bounded by Richmond Park. In "Domesday Book" the place is styled "Patricesham"—that is, the home or dwelling of St. Peter, it having belonged to the Abbey of Chertsey, of which St. Peter was the tutelary saint. The manor formed part of the original endowment of that institution, and it remained in the possession of the cloistered fraternity until early in the fifteenth century, when it was conveyed by Thomas, Abbot of Chertsey, to Henry V. The manor, as stated above, formed part of the estates granted to Anne of Cleves, who resigned the whole to Edward VI.