



It is acknowledged that The Borough Welsh Congregational Chapel is the mother chapel of the Welsh Congregationalists in London. Its history goes back to 1774 when a Welsh service was held in Cook Lane, Smithfield, through the efforts of Edward Jones, a member of the English Congregational Church in London, a lay preacher, and as a tradesman sold brandy and beer. The services were held in Cook Lane until 1785 when a Welsh Chapel was built in Wilderness Row.

Shortly afterwards a Welsh service commenced in Gravel Lane, Borough, as a branch of Wilderness Row, but later a split came between the two congregations when Gravel Lane became completely Congregational and Wilderness Row completely Methodist. It appears that this was the beginning of Jewin Welsh Chapel.

In 1806 a chapel was built in Little Guildford Street, Borough. The chapel held about five hundred and cost £1200 to build leasehold. On 8th August 1881, Mr David Simon Davies from Carmarthen College was ordained as the first Minister.

About 1870 the freehold for the ground on which the chapel stood was purchased and a new chapel was built on the site. The foundation stone was laid on 31st July 1872 by Samuel Morley MP, a famous Congregationalist, who donated £500 to the new chapel which was opened on Sunday, 23rd February 1872. The Chapel today stands in the same place as the old chapel but instead of the entrance facing Little Guildford Street, it now faces Southwark Bridge Road.

In the storm on 25th January 1990, part of the roof and two chimneys fell into the Chapel causing a great deal of damage. It took six months to rebuild the gallery, and during this time services were held in the vestry. The Chapel was re-opened on 22nd November 1990.