



Temples and Terraces Bank, Guildhall, Barbican, St Paul's, Inns of Court

Distance: 8 km=5 miles

easy walking

Region: Central London

Date written: 10-nov-2017

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Refreshments: everywhere

Map: London A-Z *but the maps in this guide should be sufficient*

Problems, changes? We depend on your feedback: feedback@fancyfreewalks.org

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City landscape, temples, historical buildings, architecture, museums

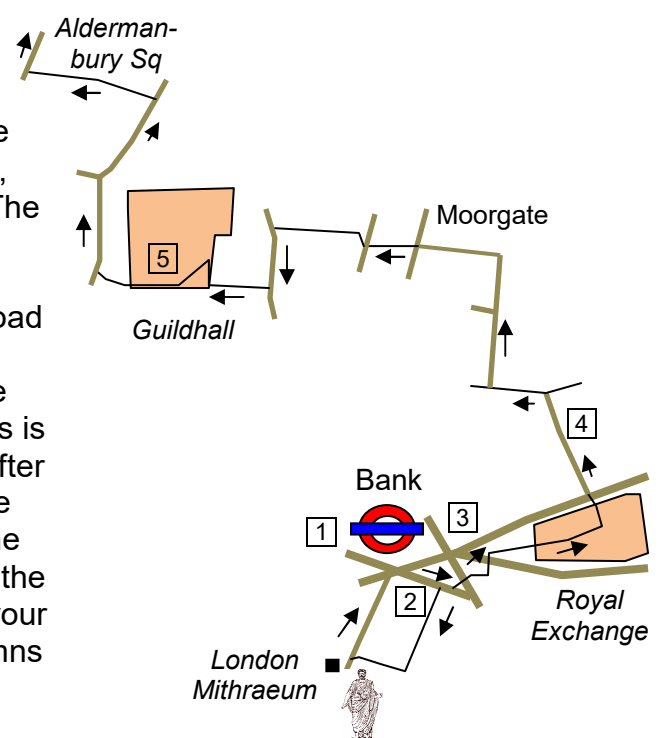
In Brief

For devotees of Fancy Free Walks, this walk is the meat in the middle between the *City Skyscrapers* and *Covent Garden* walks. This walk is best enjoyed on a weekday as the Inns of Court are closed at weekends. The places and buildings that you pass are full of history and you will notice many more that can't be given space in this guide. The walk starts at **Bank Underground Station** (Central, Northern, DLR and Waterloo-and-City Lines) and ends at Holborn Station (Central and Piccadilly Lines).

The Walk

Leg 1: Bank

- 1 Arriving at **Bank Underground station**, come out at Exit 1. When you emerge into the light, take a moment or two to get your bearings. The skyline in the distance is dominated by skyscrapers (see the walk in this series "*London Skyscrapers*"). You are standing by a 5-way road junction which used to be a livestock market. Facing you, on the far side of the junction, the large neo-classical building with eight columns is the **Royal Exchange**, your next destination after a brief tour on this side. Standing aside of the constant rush of office workers you will see the **Bank of England**, a more modern edifice, to the left of the Royal Exchange. Immediately on your right, the grey classical building with six columns is the **Mansion House**, which is home to the (ceremonial) Lord Major of London.



2 Cross the road to the Mansion House and turn **right** and **left** around it, down Walbrook, a street named after the river that ran below bringing fresh water into the Roman city from Finsbury. On your left is the entrance to the vast domed interior of **St Stephen Walbrook**. *This is one of the churches designed by Sir Christopher Wren to replace one destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.* Immediately opposite is the new Bloomberg building and underneath it is the entrance to the **London Mithraeum**. *This is the Roman Temple of Mithras. Worship of this Persian god was common among Romans in the first few centuries CE and this mystery religion was a serious rival to Christianity. The Temple was opened to the public in October 2017.* Retrace your steps back to the main road where you began, and turn **right**.

3 Pass in front of the Mansion House and cross over the first road (Lombard Street). If you glance right you will see **St Mary Woolnoth**, one of the six London churches designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor in the early 1700s. Bear **left** and cross over Cornhill, arriving at the base of an equestrian statue of Wellington. Make your way up the steps of the Royal Exchange, once the centre of commerce for the City of London. *Traditionally, this is the place where Royal Proclamations (such as the dissolution of Parliament) are read out by either a herald or a crier. It is now full of boutiques, luxury shops, and*



restaurants. Enter the building and, depending on your preference (either a slow perusal of the goods and food on offer or making a quick dash for it) turn **left** at the half-way point, out through the door into Threadneedle Street. Cross over a pedestrian crossing, turning **left** and quickly **right** into Bartholomew Lane. Cross over this road, coming across the **Bank of England Museum**. Admission is free to this fascinating little museum and you even get to pick up a solid gold bar (even if you don't get to take it home with you).

4 Hastening on after your visit to the Museum, continue down to the end of Bartholomew Lane, swinging **left** into Lothbury. *If you look back over your right shoulder you will see Throgmorton Street, once the home of the London Stock Exchange and the home of Thomas Cromwell, King Henry VIII's chief minister.* Continue down Lothbury and turn **right** into Tokenhouse Yard. Follow this lane until it bends right. Here, at the bend in the lane, take a small whitewashed passageway through a redbrick building (avoiding the steps into an office block on the left of the passageway). At the end of the passage, turn **left**. With the *Telegraph* pub on your right, go to the end of the lane and cross over Moorgate into Great Bell Alley opposite. Cross straight over the next road that crosses your path (Coleman Street) into Masons Avenue, passing by some mock Tudor buildings. At the end of this passageway, turn **left** down Basinghall Street. After 50m take the patterned pathway on your **right**. After a few more paces you have arrived at the **Guildhall**.

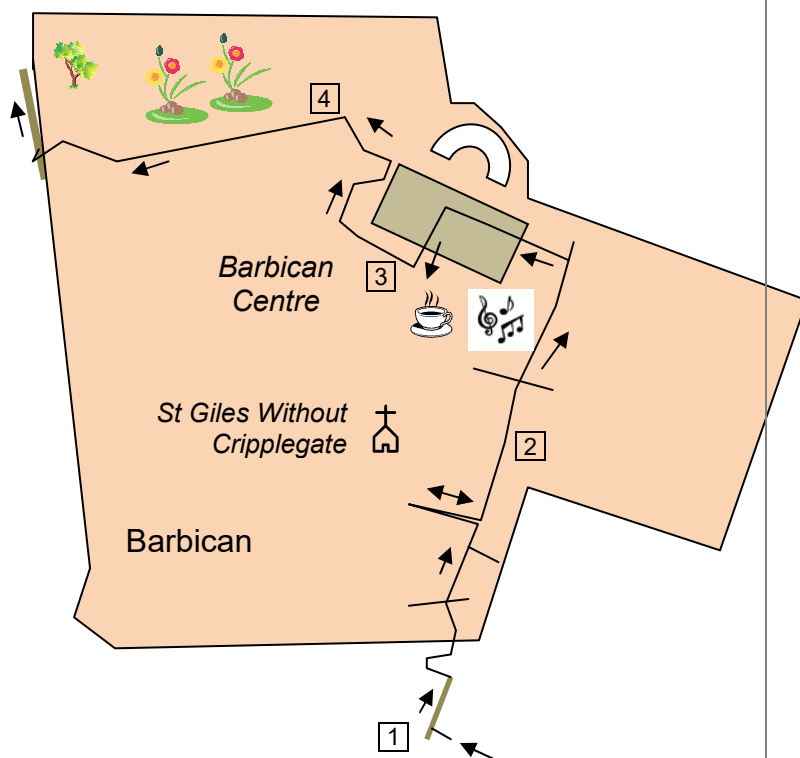
*Home to the City of London Corporation, the Guildhall is steeped in tradition with the Gothic grandeur of the Great Hall providing a remarkable backdrop to national celebrations. The Guildhall, which is on the north side at the top of the square, began construction in 1411 and it is the only non-ecclesiastical stone building in the City to have survived through to the present day. The church on the south side is **St Lawrence Jewry** (sometimes open to the public). This is another of Sir Christopher Wren's churches, rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1666. On the west side is the Guildhall Library public reference library specialising in subjects relevant to London.*

On the east (nearer) side is the **Guildhall Art Gallery**, free to the public, with a fine collection of mid-Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite paintings. In the basement beneath it (entrance through the Gallery) is the (free) Roman Amphitheatre, beautifully presented with glass floors, the largest in Britannia. (The outline of the Amphitheatre is marked with a black circle on the paving in the courtyard outside.) The Gallery and Amphitheatre definitely repay the effort of a brief visit, however rushed you are. Cloakroom facilities can also be found here.

- 5 Next, you're off to see the controversial Grade II-listed concrete complex that is the Barbican. Cross the courtyard, with St Lawrence Jewry on your left, and head towards the Guildhall Library, passing to the left of the library, with a small fish pond on your left. Turn **right** and head up Aldermanbury. When you come to a junction with Love Lane, bear **right** and carry on along Aldermanbury, passing a glass sculpture on your right, when the road takes a dog-leg to the right, turn **left** into the tree-lined Aldermanbury Square with its miniature fountains. As you approach the chrome-clad office building at the top of the square, bear to the **left**, passing under the building. After passing a gushing water feature on your left, you come to Wood Street. *If you glance to your left, you will see the Church of St Alban, another Sir Christopher Wren design following the Great Fire of London, it was severely damaged by bombing during the Second World War. Only the tower now remains.* Bear **right** on Wood Street.

Leg 2: Barbican

- 1 Head towards the imposing red brick, steel and glass building looming in front of you. On your left, across the road, you will see some brightly coloured ventilation outlets in the shape of a ship's funnel. Next to these is an escalator. Go up the switch-back escalator and at the top turn **left**, going between *Jamie's* and *Pizza Express*. Keep going straight ahead, passing a sculpture of two figures on your right. Soon you'll come across a rusty-looking bridge on your right and, shortly after it, a walkway (Wallside) that goes off to the left. By way of a short diversion, go **left** here. Into view will come the church of **St Giles-without-Cripplegate**. *This medieval church is so-named as when it was built it stood*



without (that is, outside) the City Wall, near the Cripplegate. A little further on are the remains of a Roman Tower, and you can observe the City Wall that St Giles was "without". Retrace your steps back to the walkway, and turn **left** to continue your original direction. Passing door entrances to flats and a stairwell on your left, keep heading straight on until you come to the imposing columns of the Barbican complex.

The **Barbican Centre**, designed in the Brutalist style, is a multi-level, multi-functional complex with numerous entrances (beware, you might get lost in here!). The Barbican Centre is a performing arts centre and the largest of its kind in Europe. The Centre hosts classical and contemporary music concerts, theatre performances, film screenings. At the top is the Barbican Art Gallery with regular exhibitions (with entrance charge). There is also a library, restaurants, and a conservatory (usually open on Sundays). The Barbican is also a residential estate which consists of three tower blocks and 13 terrace blocks which house over 4,000 residents.

2 Bear **left** and then immediately **right**. You are on a high walkway, crossing over water gardens to your right and a lake to your left. St Giles is now slightly behind you on your left. With your bearings set, carry on along the walkway. At the far end, by a Rubenesque floating Venus with theatrical masks, turn **left**. (Take the *first* left, avoiding the more tempting downward-sloping path.) Go through two sets of double doors. You are now in the heart of the Barbican complex. Feel free of course to explore the Barbican at your own leisure. However, to continue this walk, take the lift or the stairs on your left and go down to the Lakeside Terrace which is at level G.

3 Just inside is the main space of the concert hall and theatre complex and there is always an exhibition here, plus a snack bar. Go out onto the Lakeside Terrace where you might (weather permitting) want to rest, snack and pause for a while. On resuming, turn **right** along the Terrace and go up steps on the far side. At the top of the steps, turn **right**, go up a further set of steps, through a gateway under a sign for *Art Gallery* and turn **left**. Avoiding a circular garden to your right, almost immediately **left again**, through another gateway, walking out on to a long landscaped terrace, immediately under the Shakespeare Tower on your left.

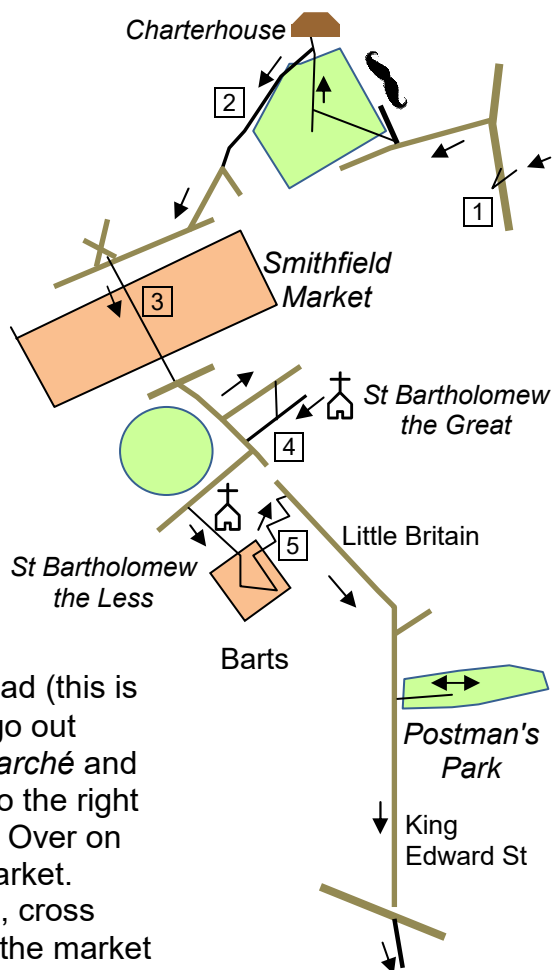
4 In summer particularly, this is quite a contrast from the grey concrete that surrounds you. Walk the entire length of the terrace (about 150m), meandering through the flower beds if you like. At the end, head for the far-right-hand corner. Ignore walkways leading off to your left and ignore a flight of steps and a ramp on your right, to continue past John Trundle Court. You reach a part of a tree trunk standing on its own wooden plinth with a historical notice. *This is a remnant of Mendelssohn's Tree, brought here from Burnham Beeches (Bucks) (see that walk in this series), one that inspired the composer when he was writing the incidental music for A Midsummer Night's Dream, now appropriately sited under the Shakespeare Tower!* The walkway now takes you over Aldersgate Street, which is the beginning of the Great North Road leading to York and Edinburgh. Follow steps down and out by the Barbican Underground station.



Leg 3: Barts

1 **See map overleaf.** Turn **left** with the main road on your right. After **50m**, turn **left** into Carthusian Street, leading past a row of houses, shops and the *Sutton Arms* pub, to **Charterhouse Square**. Take a diagonal path across this little park and turn **right** in the centre towards the medieval building on the far side. As you go, looking to your right, the super sleuths among you will notice a strangely familiar sight on your right. *This 1930s art-deco apartment building, Florin Court, was used as the fictional London residence of Agatha Christie's character Hercule Poirot in the TV series.* Cross between the cobblestones into the front lawn of the building, the **Charterhouse**, which is definitely worth a visit.

The Charterhouse began as (and takes its name from) a Carthusian priory, founded in 1371 and dissolved in 1537. Largely rebuilt after 1545, it conveys a vivid impression of the type of large rambling 16th-century mansion that once existed all round London. The Charterhouse was further altered and extended after 1611 by Thomas Sutton, when it became an almshouse and school. The almshouse (a home for gentlemen pensioners) still occupies the site today though the school moved out in 1872 to Godalming, Surrey. The Charterhouse is open every day except Mondays from 11am. Admission is free.



- 2** After your visit, turn **right** along the cobbled road (this is **left** if you did not visit the Charterhouse) and go out through a set of gates, passing the *Café du Marché* and continuing along Charterhouse Street. Keep to the right side of this road, following it as it curves right. Over on your left is the vast low edifice of Smithfield Market. When you reach a triangular pedestrian island, cross over **left** and go straight through the centre of the market along its Grand Avenue. No matter what time of year you enter into Smithfield, under this ornate Victorian canopy, you will always feel a slight chill in the air.



There has been a livestock market on the site for over 800 years. The area was a "smooth grassy plain", hence the name "Smithfield". The building you are in, is a Grade II listed building, designed by Victorian architect Sir Horace Jones who also designed Billingsgate and Leadenhall Markets. The construction of extensive railway sidings, beneath the Smithfield area, facilitated the transfer of animals to the market. Smithfield has also borne witness to many executions of heretics and political rebels over the centuries, including Scottish patriot Sir William Wallace, and Wat Tyler, leader of the Peasants' Revolt, among many other religious reformers and dissenters. Since the late 20th century, the market has been under constant threat of demolition, until the Museum of London revealed plans to vacate its Barbican site and move into the General Market Building. The move should be complete by 2021.

- 3** As you walk through the market, you pass some old red telephone boxes and information boards about the market. **One word of advice for any wives accompanying husbands: the market did not only sell meat!** As you emerge out of the market (with or without your wife), take the pedestrian crossing, cross the road ahead and keep going straight, with pubs on your left and the Smithfield Rotunda Garden on your right. Take the first **left**, a narrow lane called Cloth Fair. *Several of the buildings in this street survived the Great Fire of London of 1666.* Turn **right** through a small metal gate into the church garden, down to a few steps, out to a passageway on the other side. On your **left** is London's oldest surviving church.

St Bartholomew the Great, founded in 1123, is the surviving part of a priory that adjoined St Bartholomew's Hospital. While the hospital survived the Dissolution of the Monasteries, about half of the priory's church was ransacked and demolished in 1543. Having escaped the Great Fire of London, the church fell into disrepair, before its restoration in the late 19th century. One of the more famous members of the congregation was Victorian cricketer W. G. Grace, and more recent fame has come as a location for films such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Snow White and the Huntsman*, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, to name only a few. The church is well worth visiting, for an entrance fee.

- 4 Turn **right** in the passageway, through a half-timber Tudor gate house and out into the square. Go straight ahead, with the Rotunda Garden on your right, passing the edifice of St Bartholomew's Hospital on your left. In only 30m, on your left side, on the railings, you will notice the Scottish flag and, more often than not, fresh flowers. A plaque here marks where Sir William Wallace, hero of Scottish independence, was hung, drawn and quartered in 1305. In another 20m, turn **left** through an entrance known as the Henry VIII Gate into **St Bartholomew's Hospital**. On your left is the church of **St Bartholomew the Less**. *St Bartholomew the Less* is so named to distinguish it from the neighbouring larger church and was founded at the same time within the precincts of the hospital. Continue into the Fountain Square.

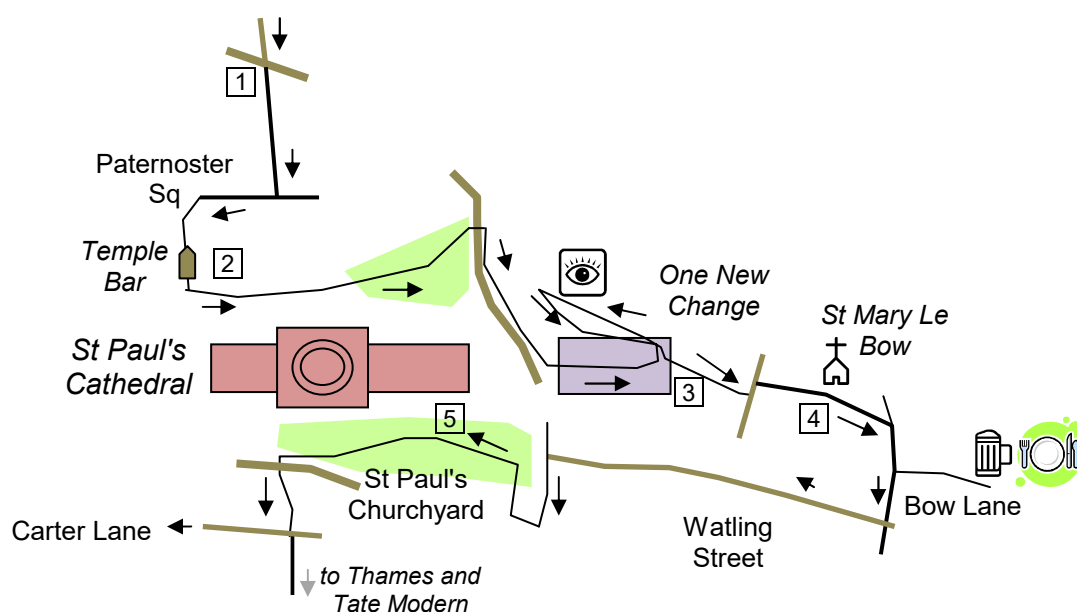
St Bartholomew's Hospital, also known simply as "Barts", was founded in 1123 by the priest-monk Rahere, a favourite courtier of King Henry I. It was here that William Harvey conducted his research in the 17th century on the circulatory system of the blood, Percivall Pott and John Abernethy developed important principles of modern surgery here in the 18th century, and Mrs Bedford Fenwick worked to advance the nursing profession in the late 19th century. Barts is the oldest hospital in Britain still providing medical services. Its main square was designed by James Gibbs in the 1730s. Of the four original blocks only three survive: they include the block containing the Great Hall and two flanking blocks that contained wards. The first wing to be built was the North Wing, in 1732, which includes the Great Hall and the Hogarth murals. The South Wing followed in 1740, the West in 1752 and finally the East Wing in 1769. In 1859, a fountain was placed at the square's centre with a small garden. Its museum, which is open Tuesdays to Fridays every week, shows how medical care has developed over this time and explains the history of the hospital.

- 5 Turn immediately **left** in the Fountain Court, passing the Great Hall on your left, and exit through a narrow passage in the corner. [2018-19: there has been building work going on here and it is no longer possible to zigzag past the boarded-up sections. Your best course is: go straight over Fountain Square and enter The King George V building (as most people do); follow the passageway to the other end and exit via the glass doors to King Edward Street; cross over and go through the gates of Postman's Park, as in Section 6] Keep the same general direction, zigzagging between buildings of the hospital. You come out into a narrow passage, Little Britain, opposite a new building construction. Turn **right** and follow the passage as it widens to a road and curves **right**, still called Little Britain.
- 6 Ignore the next road on your left, also called Little Britain and, 50m after, turn **left** through the gates of **Postman's Park**. *This park is so named as it was a popular place for workers of the former headquarters of the General Post*

Office (GPO) that you'll be passing soon. It is famous for its long wall of ceramic memorial tablets to ordinary people who died while saving the lives of others. These tablets can be found if you keep to the left-hand path as you enter the park. After your visit to this very moving place of remembrance, retrace your steps out of the park and turn **left** on the road, now called King Edward Street, resuming your original course, with the dome of St Paul's Cathedral looming ahead.

- 7 Cross back to the right-hand side of the road, passing the main entrance of St Bart's Hospital. The next building was the HQ of the GPO, and Rowland Hill stands outside waiting to tell his story. Passing the ruins of Greyfriars Church on your right, keep going straight ahead over a pedestrian crossing and straight ahead over the next pedestrian crossing. Once safely over the main road, turn **left** then immediately **right** down an alley between buildings (Queens Head Passage). Look up to see a framed view of St Paul's dome.

Leg 4: St Paul's



- 1 In about 50m, at a crossing path, turn **right** into **Paternoster Square**. Passing a statue of the Shepherd and Sheep, keeping the Paternoster Square Column on your right, head for the top left hand corner of the square. As you do, you may see the *Paternoster Chop House*, the restaurant featured in Channel 4's *First Dates* show. As you reach the top left corner of the square, you see a rather splendid gatehouse. This is **Temple Bar**, a Wren-designed stone archway which was relocated here in 2004 from Fleet Street where it marked the westernmost extent of the City's influence (passed later in this walk). As you pass through the gate, there is an information board on the right. You are now on the north side of **St Paul's Cathedral**.

The original St Paul's was founded in the year 604. The present cathedral, dating from the late 17th century, was designed in the English Baroque style by Sir Christopher Wren, as part of the rebuilding of the City after the Great Fire of London in 1666. At 365 feet=111m in height, it was the tallest building in London from 1710 to 1967. The dome is among the highest in the world.

- 2 Turn **left**, with the cathedral on your right. Go through some metal railings into a park in front of you [2019: temporarily boarded up: you have to walk beside the metal railings until you pick up the walk again at the exit of the park]

and keep going straight ahead bearing **left** after a column topped by a statue of St Paul, following the path as it bears left, out of the park. Now bear **right** to cross a wide road (New Change) at the traffic lights. Turn **right** on the other side passing shops on your left. Carry on until a path opens up on your left, leading into a retail development with steel and glass either side. This is **One New Change**. Don't go down the escalator, but continue ahead into the retail park. At the end, you will see a scenic lift shaft. Go round to the lift doors and take the lift up to the top (level 6). You are on the **Roof Terrace** of One New Change. You can have a snack and cocktails here, or you can simply stroll to the end where there is a Mosaic of Ariel and wonderful views over to St Paul's and across the rooftops of London. You can even watch sporting events on the big screen or learn yoga.



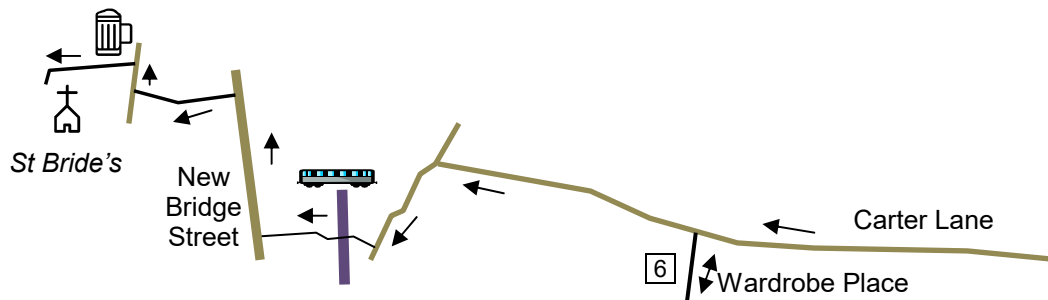
- 3 Retrace your steps, back down the lift to level G. As the lift doors open, go straight ahead, out of the retail park, to a road, Bread Street. Turn **left**, cross the road and turn **right** through a pathway, John Milton Passage, which goes under and through an office block. As you emerge, the church in front of you is **St Mary-le-Bow**.

St Mary-le-Bow is an historic church rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1666 by (yes, you guessed it) Sir Christopher Wren. According to tradition, a true Cockney must be born within earshot of Bow Bells (referring to this church's bells, not those of St Mary and Holy Trinity in Bow, an outlying borough). In the story of Dick Whittington and His Cat, the bells of St Mary's are credited with having persuaded him to turn back, to become Lord Mayor of London.

- 4 Bear **right**, heading towards a narrow passage that takes you behind the church. At the end of this passage, turn **right** on a narrow little street, **Bow Lane**, full of chain eateries and bijou shops. *In 20m on your left, just before [Jack the Clipper, Well Court](#) (not on your route but worth a short excursion) takes you past tailor's workshops to a traditional pub known for its real ales, the [Golden Fleece](#).* The next junction is a crossroads: turn **right** here. You are now on Watling Street. *Watling Street began as an ancient trackway used by the Britons, between Canterbury and St Albans. The Romans paved the route, which then connected the Kentish ports to their bridge over the Thames in Londinium (London). The route continued northwest past Verulamium (St Albans) on its way to Viroconium (Wroxeter).* Walk along Watling Street, heading for the dome of St Paul's. Ignore any side roads until you come out to a major road which separates you from the gardens opposite. Carefully cross the road (preferably using the traffic lights on the left) and go into the Park Gardens.



- 5 Your walk through the gardens takes you between St Paul's on your right and the main road (St Paul's Churchyard) on your left. As the gardens end and the path narrows, directly opposite the Dome, you will see a pedestrian crossing. Go **left** over the crossing and turn **right** on the other side of the road. If you look to your left here, in the distance you will see the Millennium Bridge (not on your route) leading to the Tate Modern art gallery. *The bridge was nicknamed the "Wobbly Bridge" when it was first built, until new dampers were fitted to stop it "resonating" with synchronised footsteps.* Continue with a redbrick building (Wren House, definitely *not* designed by Sir Christopher) on your left and gardens and a modern info centre on your right. At a junction, cross straight over and continue into Carter Lane.



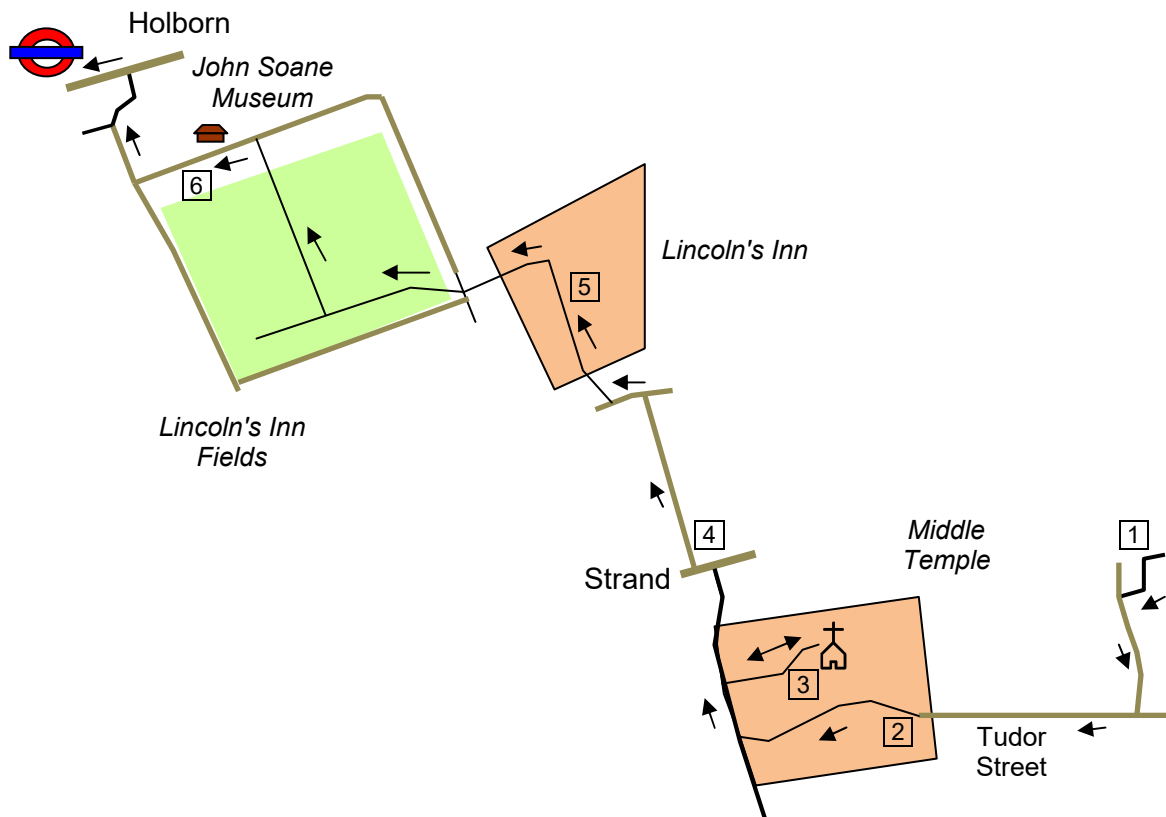
- 6 In just over 100m, just before St Andrews Hill, you will see on your left a metal portico and a narrow passage. It leads into **Wardrobe Place**, a perfect Georgian oasis, a delightful secret of the city, with several historical associations. Continue along Carter Lane all the way to an oblique T-junction at the end with white pillars in front of you. Turn **left** here down a lane, Black Friars Lane, marked as a dead end. Ignore a path on your right and, after 50m, almost opposite the Apothecaries Hall, turn **right** into a space with stairs at the far end. Go up and over these stairs across a railway track and, at the other side, keep straight ahead to a busy road, New Bridge Street. Turn **right** and cross to the other side via a pedestrian crossing ([watch out for bikes that have their own separate two-way path!](#)). Continue **right** on the other side, go past Bride Lane on your left and, just 20m after it, go **left** into narrow Bride Court with its little shops, leading out to Bride Lane. Turn **right** on Bride Lane passing more fanciful shop fronts on your right. When the concrete wall on your left ends at the corner, go **left** up a flight of steps onto a passageway, passing the *Old Bell* pub. Shortly, on your left is the entrance to St Bride's Church.

This church's most recent incarnation was designed by Sir Christopher Wren in 1672, though Wren's original building was largely gutted by fire during the London Blitz in 1940. Due to its location in Fleet Street, it has a long association with journalists and newspapers. The church is a distinctive sight on London's skyline and is clearly visible from a number of locations. Standing 226 feet=69m high, it is the second tallest of all Wren's churches, with only St Paul's itself having a higher pinnacle. The church is often called the "wedding cake church" and its design inspired subsequent confectioners.

Leg 5: Inns of Court

- 1 **See map overleaf.** Walk past the entrance to the churchyard and turn **left** in a corner to pass in front of the church. Opposite the church doors, turn **right** through a passageway out to a road, Salisbury Court. Turn **left** on this road and follow the curving downhill route of the road for 100m to a T-junction with a wider road, Tudor Street. Turn **right** here and follow it, ignoring all side roads, all the way to the end. Here you will see a small white gateway with two entrances, the arched one for vehicles, the square one for pedestrians. Go through the gate on the right and don't forget to smile at the porters in their hut as you pass by. You are now in the **Inner Temple**.

The Inner Temple, is one of the four Inns of Court (professional associations for barristers and judges) in London. The Temple takes its name from the Knights Templar, who originally leased the land to the Temple's inhabitants (Templars) until their abolition in 1312. Much of the Inner Temple was destroyed during The Blitz, when the Hall, Temple, Temple Church, and many sets of chambers were devastated. Rebuilding was completed in 1959, and today the Temple is a flourishing and active Inn of Court, with over 8,000 members.



- 2 Cross over the square that opens up in front of you, bearing **right** as you cross it. On the other side of the square, bear left, passing Paper Buildings on your left. Presently you will come across gardens on your left that are open to the public during office lunchtimes.

Inner Temple Gardens were laid out around 1601. New iron gates were added in 1730, which are still present. The gardens contain various landmarks, including a sundial from 1707, a pair of cisterns dated from 1730. The gardens were previously noted for their roses, and William Shakespeare claimed that the Wars of the Roses started in the Inner Temple Garden.

Carry on past the gardens, through a building archway and turn **right** up a cobbled lane, Middle Temple Lane with the **Middle Temple** on your left (worth visiting another weekday). *The imposing hall that you see immediately on your left is Middle Temple Hall where William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night was first performed.* In 100m, opposite an open courtyard on your left, look for an arch on your right. Turn **right** through this arch under a building that leads into Pump Court. At the end of this court bear **left** and up some steps. In front of you is **Temple Church**.

Temple Church was constructed in 1185 by the Knights Templar as their English headquarters. The order was prominent in the Crusades and for building fortifications across Europe and the Holy Land. Non-combatant members developed innovative financial techniques that were an early form of banking. One of the many tombs is of William Marshal. In January 1215 William Marshall served as a negotiator during a meeting in the Temple, between King John and the barons, who demanded that the king could not exercise arbitrary power but had to defer to the law of the land. Marshall swore on behalf of the king that the grievances of the barons would be addressed in the summer, which led to the signing of Magna Carta in June, effectively the first document of English Constitutional Law (see the Surrey walk in this series "Windsor Great Park and Runnymede"). The church is open to the public for an entry charge (please check their website for times and prices).

- 3 Retrace your steps from the Temple Church, back through Pump Court and, when you emerge from under the arch, turn **right**, continuing uphill on the cobbled lane. Soon you will come across a row of black painted metal bollards and a gate house in front of you. *This Gateway, which leads on to Fleet Street, is thought to have existed in the same location since the founding of the Temples. It was rebuilt in 1610 and again in 1748.* Pass through the gateway onto Fleet Street, turn **right** to cross by the pedestrian crossing and turn **left** on the other side of Fleet Street.

On your right is a pub called "The Old Bank of England". Indeed The Bank of England did trade here until 1975. The pub has a more grisly connection with the past, as lies between the site of the barber shop owned by Sweeney Todd and the pie shop owned by Mrs Lovett, his mistress. It was in the tunnels and vaults below the present building that Sweeney Todd's victims were butchered before being cooked and sold in the pies to Mrs Lovett's unsuspecting customers.

- 4 Just **past** the pub, your route is **right** on a lane called Bell Yard. However, before the turning, it is worthwhile looking a little way ahead along Fleet Street. In the middle of the road is an elaborate pedestal in a Neo-Renaissance style that serves as the base for a sculpture, the *Griffin* (heraldic crest of the Corporation of the City of London). This marks the spot of where the Temple Bar once stood, which you may remember now serves as an entrance to Paternoster Square by St Paul's. If you look a little further on down the road on the right-hand side you will see the entrance to the Royal Courts of Justice. Having turned **right** on Bell Yard, continue with the back of the Royal Courts of Justice on your left. At the top, turn **left** on Carey Street. Just after a row of racks for the London Bike Hire scheme cross **right** over the road and go through a white gatehouse straight in front of you. You are now entering **Lincoln's Inn**, the third of the Inns of Court (the fourth being **Gray's Inn**, on the other side of High Holborn, also worth seeing another weekday).

- 5 Carry on ahead with a large square and gardens on your left. At the top of the square turn **left**. Carry on past the imposing Library and Benchers Hall on your right, making your way out of the Inn through the gateway. (Make sure you use the pedestrian gates - not the road gate - otherwise you may incur the wrath of the porters.) Cross over the road in front of you diagonally **right**, heading for an ornate water fountain. The park on the other side of the fountain is **Lincoln Inn's Field**, the largest public square in London, laid out in the 1630s. As you enter the park, turn **left** along the path. In 100m, turn **right** on a path across the centre, go past a bandstand and continue straight out of the park to the road on the other side where you will see a row of fine London Houses. Cross the road and turn **left**. In under 50m or so, you reach the **Sir John Soane's Museum** on your right.

Sir John Soane's Museum is a small double house, perhaps the most eccentric museum in London. It was the home of the neo-classical architect John Soane, designer of many public buildings in his time. This small museum holds many drawings and models of Soane's projects and the collections of paintings, drawings and antiquities that he acquired, many just as he might have left them, in a seemingly careless higgledy-piggledy arrangement. Entry is free: check their website for admission details.

- 6 Turn **right** out of the Museum (or keep straight on if you did not visit it today). When you reach a crossroads at the corner of the park, turn **right** onto Gate Street. As this road narrows, ignore any passages peeling away left or right. At the top of the street, ignore a passage that leads off to your left and instead squeeze down a narrow alley straight in front of you, Little Turnstile. *Like the nearby Great Turnstile and New Turnstile, there was originally a turnstile here to prevent cattle from straying.* Little Turnstile bears right and widens to reach High Holborn. Turn sharp **left** around *Prêt à Manger* and follow the main road to find Holborn Underground Station, or buses, to take you home.



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