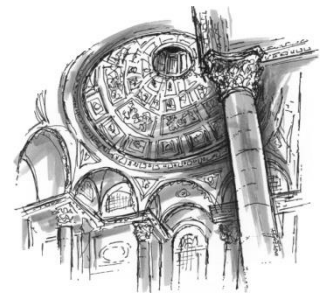


St Stephen Walbrook – Schools exploration sheet (younger visitors)



Background information

This was Sir Christopher Wren's own church, as he lived at 15 Walbrook. The copper clad high dome was based on his designs for St Paul's Cathedral. The white stone altar was designed by Henry Moore. Sir Christopher Wren was a mathematician, and the church's interior has many geometrical shapes working together to create a beautiful harmony.

Look at the church from outside

1. Go round to the back (the east end). What is behind the church?
2. As you walk along the alley past the north wall, on your right is the back of a very large house. Who lives there?
3. Why do you think there are so many stairs at the main entrance (the west end)?

Look inside the church

Answer as many questions below as you can. Start with the ones you find most interesting.

The church was designed by an architect called Christopher Wren who was very interested in shapes.

4. Look at the floor and name the shapes you can see.
 5. Look at the windows. How many are there, and what shapes are they?
- Some parts of the church are original (from the 1670s) and some are repairs and additions.
6. What materials have been used to build the church and make the furniture? What colours are they? What do they feel like?
 7. The altar is round and in the centre of the church. It is a modern altar made by Henry Moore. The original altar was in a different place. Where? Mark it on your floor plan.
 8. Try to imagine this church without the round altar and many years ago, with straight rows of pew seats in dark wood. What very large piece of furniture was the main focus of attention when people were sitting in church in those days? Mark it on your floor plan. What is the main focus now?
 9. There are a great many angels and cherubs in the church. Count as many as you can and then choose one to draw on the back of this sheet.
 10. Look up at the dome. There are lots of different flower decorations. Which is your favourite? Draw it on the back of this sheet.

11. There is often something unusual in a church and in this church there is an old telephone. Can you find it? Why is it there and whose picture is by the phone?

