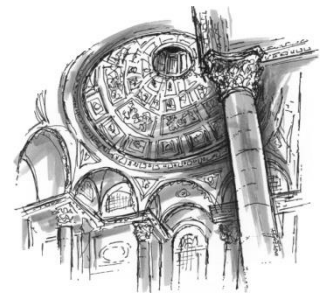


St Stephen Walbrook – Schools exploration sheet



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.

1. Looking around you in the courtyard garden and in the street at the main entrance, how would you describe the setting of this church? What are the other buildings around it?

2. Why do you think there are so many stairs at the entrance to this church?

3. What are the first words which come to mind when you come into this building?

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

4. Look for, feel and list the different materials used for the furniture and the building itself. What differences do you notice in their surfaces?

5. Find as many angels/cherubs as you can and then either draw them on the back of this sheet or mark their positions on the diagram overleaf. Why do you think there are lots of angels/cherubs to be found in this church?

6. Look at the dome and count how many flowers you can see?

7. The building was designed by an architect who was very interested in geometry. Look at the floor and name the shapes you see?

8. Mark on the floorplan overleaf where you think the main altar was originally. Why do you think the modern altar is round and in a different place?

9. Try to imagine this church without the round altar and many years ago, with straight rows of pew seats in dark wood. What would have been the main focus of attention when people were sitting in church in those days? What is the main focus now?

10. Mark on the diagram where the pulpit is in relation to the altar. The pulpit is very large in comparison to the original altar. Why do you think this is so?

