



*Seeing the Capital Differently*

## Bells

### Welcome to *CityThemes*

By printing this leaflet you have decided to discover, or rediscover, the sights and delights of **London** in a different way. We hope that you enjoy your explorations of our fascinating and historical capital city.

This leaflet has been designed to allow you to explore as the mood takes you. Both well-known and lesser-known attractions are included and they are randomly listed so that you plan your own itinerary and visit as many or as few as you wish.

Please note:- some places restrict entry and ask for prior application either in writing or by telephone. This is indicated where known. Others may change opening days and hours with little warning – it may be worth checking by phone if they are off the beaten track.

A very brief description of the reason for the choice of site is given but because of space it is not possible to include much detail. Again a telephone call to the site may help you to decide on whether a visit is worthwhile. Remember there may be other items that interest you at the same site.

Themes are constantly being updated and new titles added so please keep looking at our website or get in touch with us by e-mail or letter. We welcome your comments especially if you feel that some site should be included or details are incorrect/inaccurate. Contact details are

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**Enjoy Your Explorations**

bells have been made for about 4,000 years for a variety of uses and in many different shapes and sizes. The sound can be made by a stone or pellet striking the inside of a hollowed sphere, by a clapper suspended from the inside of an upturned cup shape or by a ramrod striking the outside. The bells here are only a few of the many bells to be found round London - some to be seen, others just to be heard

### **St Martin-in-the-Fields**

St Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, WC2  
020 7766 1100 [www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org](http://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org)

transport: Charing Cross u/g & rail; buses 3,6,9,11,12, 13,15,23,24,29,53,77A,88,91,139,159,176; boat Embankment Pier

facilities: *café in crypt (Mon-Sat 10.00-20.00, Sun noon-20.00); shop*

opening: daily church from 08.00; crypt Mon-Sat 10.00-20.00, Sun noon-18.00; brassrubbing Mon-Sat 10.00-18.00, Sun noon-18.00 (charge for materials)  
admission free

*the original set of bells caused movement in the tower so they were replaced with a new set made from tin and copper by the University of Western Australia. The original set was given to the University.*

### **Whitechapel Bell Foundry**

34 Whitechapel Road, E1  
020 7247 2599

transport: Aldgate East & Whitechapel u/g; buses 25,253, D3

facilities: *shop, tours (advance booking)*

opening: Mon-Fri 09.15-17.15; Sats - tours only  
admission charge

*the foundry was originally established in 1570 and is Britain's oldest manufacturing company. Many famous bells have been cast here including Big Ben, the Liberty Bell, Bow Bells and those of Westminster Abbey The small museum traces the foundry's history*

*each bell has 2 moulds and molten bell metal (77% copper, 23% tin) is poured in between to form the bell. Everything is done by hand including the making of the bell clappers & wheels and the tuning of the bells*

### **Houses of Parliament**

Palace of Westminster, Old Palace Yard, Westminster, SW1

020 7219 4272 (Commons), 020 7219 3107 (Lords)  
[www.explore.parliament.uk](http://www.explore.parliament.uk)

transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A, 88,159,211; boat Westminster Pier

*Big Ben is in fact the name of the 13-ton bell which strikes the hour in the clock known as Big Ben. It has a unique sound as the bell is cracked because the original hammer was too heavy That hammer is displayed at the foot of the Terrace Stairs. Big Ben is decorated with the Royal Arms and the portcullis of Westminster with low relief Gothic tracery around the crown and the inscription 'This bell was cast by George Mears of Whitechapel... in the 21st year of reign of Victoria in the year of our lord MDCCCLVIII'*

*the famous clock of 1849 is ornate and gilded and the faces are 23ft (7m) across with a minute hand of 14ft (4.2m). Weighing 2 cwts and travelling 120miles per year; the figures are 2ft (0.6m) long with the minute*

*spaces 1ft (0.3m)square. The pendulum is 14'5 (4.4m) long. The clock is wound and checked 3 times a week and adjusted using pre-decimal pennies. When the light on top is lit it indicates that Parliament is still sitting*

### **Marquis of Granby pub**

41 Romney Street, SW1  
020 7227 0941

transport: St James's Park & Westminster u/g; buses 3, 77A,88,C10

opening: all permitted hours

*a Division Bell in the bar is used to summon Members of Parliament to Parliament to vote*

### **Chelsea Old Church (All Saint's)**

Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, SW3

020 7352 5627 [www.domini.org/chelsea-old-church](http://www.domini.org/chelsea-old-church)

transport: Sloane Square u/g; buses 19,49,239,319,345

opening: Tue-Fri 13.30-17.30, Sun 08.00-13.00, 14.00-19.00

*the Ashburnham Bell that hangs in the porch, was presented in 1679 by William Ashburnham as an offering of thanks for being saved from drowning*

### **St Sepulchre-without-Newgate**

Holborn Viaduct, EC1

020 7248 3826

transport: St Paul's u/g, City Thameslink rail; buses 8,25, 45,56,63,242

opening: Tue & Thur noon-14.00, Wed 11.00-15.00

*twelve working bells in the tower include the 'Great Bell of Old Bailey' which until 1868 tolled the condemned to the Newgate Prison scaffold at 8 am on execution mornings. The Old Bailey Law Courts (opposite the Church) now stand on the site of Newgate Prison. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries a cart with the condemned would leave from outside the Church to go to Tyburn (site near Marble Arch) for hanging. Inside the Church is a handbell that was tolled outside the condemned cell on the eve of an execution while the Newgate verse was recited by the clergy*

### **St Clement Danes**

Strand, WC2

020 7242 8282

transport: Temple, Embankment & Covent Garden u/g, Charing Cross & Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 1,6,9,11,13, 15,23,26,59,68,76,77A,91,168,171,172,176,188,341; boat Savoy & Embankment Piers

opening: daily 08.30-16.30

*the bells play the nursery rhyme 'Oranges and Lemons' at 09.00, noon, 15.00 and 18.00. The Sanctus bell (1588) was the only one to survive the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War undamaged. The others were recast at the Whitechapel Foundry in 1956*

### **St Martin-within-Ludgate**

Ludgate Hill, EC4

020 7248 6054

transport: St Pauls u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail, City Thameslink rail; buses 11,15,26,45,63,76,100,172

opening: Mon-Fri 11.00-15.00

*an original bell of 1672 can be found on a chest in the north-east corner of the church*

### **Lloyd's Building**

Lime Street, EC3

transport: Bank & Monument u/g, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 35,40,47,48,149,344

facilities: *group tours by arrangement*

opening: not open to the public except for group tours

*home of the Lutine Bell that was rung at the insurer Lloyd's of London's offices to announce the loss of a ship or other news of great importance to the underwriters. It was struck once for bad news, twice for good, when the news concerned an overdue ship. The bell originally came from a vessel carrying gold bullion which sunk in 1799 off Holland resulting in heavy losses for the underwriters. It is mainly used nowadays for ceremonial occasions*

### **St Mary-Le-Bow**

Cheapside, EC2

020 7248 5139

transport: Bank & St Paul's u/g; buses 8,11,26,76,100,172,242

facilities: *Bell Tower open Mon-Fri by appointment; The Place Below vegetarian restaurant (daily 07.30-14.30, 020 7329 0789)*

opening: Mon-Thur 06.30-18.00, Fri 06.30-16.00

*the tower houses the famous Bow Bells. These 12 bells have names such as Katherine and Fabian. The 'Great Bell of Bow' of nursery rhyme fame ('Oranges and Lemons') was recast in 1956 at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it sounded the curfew at 21.00 for Londoners. Tradition says that anyone born within the sound of Bow Bells is considered a true Cockney (Londoner)*

### **St George the Martyr, Southwark**

Borough High Street, SE1

transport: Borough u/g; buses 21,35,40,133,343,344

facilities: *induction loop*

opening: Wed noon-13.30, Thur noon-14.00, Sun 10.00-16.00

*a complete peal which came from the foundry of Abraham Rudhal of Gloucester in 1718*

### **Albert pub**

52 Victoria Street, SW1H

020 7222 7606

transport: St James's Park u/g; buses 11,24,211

facilities: *bar food (11.00-22.30), restaurant (noon-22.00); sells t-shirts, mugs & ashtrays*

opening: Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00; Sun noon-22.30

*the bar's Division Bell for the House of Commons is used to summon Members of Parliament to the House for voting*

### **Westminster Cathedral**

Victoria Street, SW1

020 7798 9055

transport: Victoria & St James's Park u/g; buses 11,24,26,76,211

facilities: *gift shop (Mon-Fri 09.30-17.15, Sat-Sun 10.00-16.45)*

opening: daily: church April-Oct 07.00-20.00; Nov-Mar 07.00-19.00; campanile 09.00-17.00

admission: free to church; there is a charge for the lift up the campanile

*a single bell 'Edward' hangs in the 273ft brick tower built in 1903. It was donated in 1910 and is inscribed with the words 'St Edward, pray for England'*

### **St Dunstan-in-the-West**

Fleet Street, EC4

020 7248 6233

transport: Temple u/g, Blackfriars u/g & rail; buses 11,15,26,45,63,76,100,172,341

opening: Tue & Fri 09.30-15.00

*the gold and black bracketed clock of 1671 has the gilded join-clothed figures of the legendary giants Gog and Magog. On the hour the giants nod heads and clang bells. Incidentally the clock was the first in London to have a minute hand*

### **St Bartholomew-the-Less**

West Smithfield, EC1

020 7601 8066

transport: St Paul's & Barbican u/g, City Thameslink & Farrington rail; buses 8,25,45,56,63,172,242

opening: daily 07.00-20.00

*two of the four bells date from 1400 & 1430, the others from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They all bear interesting inscriptions*

### **St Katharine Cree**

86 Leadenhall Street, EC3

020 7283 5733

transport: Aldgate & Bank u/g, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 8,26,35,47,48,149,242,344

opening: church Mon-Fri 10.30-16.00

*the church has a peal of six bells cast in 1754 at the Whitechapel Foundry. The tenor was recast in 1842 and weighs 500kg. Unfortunately it is no longer rung because of the weak state of the bell tower*

### **St Botolph-without-Aldgate**

Aldgate High Street, EC3

020 7283 1670

transport: Aldgate u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,40,42,67,78,100,253

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-15.00

*this church has a peal of eight bells dating from 1744*

### **Skinnners Company**

8 Dowgate Hill, EC4

020 7236 5629

transport: Mansion House u/g, Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 11,15,26,76,344

admission by prior arrangement

*one of the prized possessions of this City of London Livery Company is a Whitechapel Bell Foundry bell presented by the Hughes Family*

### **St Bartholomew-the-Great**

Cloth Fair, West Smithfield, EC1

020 7606 5171

transport: Barbican & St Paul's u/g, City Thameslink rail; buses 8,25,56,242

opening: Tue-Fri 08.30-17.00, Sat 10.30-13.30, Sun 08.00-13.00, 14.20-20.00

*in the 17<sup>th</sup> century tower of brick with a wooden turret and gilded weathervane are hung five pre-Reformation bells which are rung for Sunday services and weddings*

### **St Andrew Undershaft**

St Mary Axe, Leadenhall Street, EC3

020 7283 2231

transport: Aldgate & Bank u/g; Fenchurch Street rail; buses 8,26,35,40,42,47,48,78,100,149,242,344,

opening: admission by prior arrangement with St Helens Church (020 7283 2231)

*a bell-shaped tablet in the south porch lobby commemorates Fabian Stedman, the originator of the art of change ringing of church bells. He was buried in the church in 1713*

### **Red Lion pub**

48 Parliament Street, SW1  
020 7930 5826

transport: Westminster u/g; buses 3,11,12,24,53,77A, 88,159,211 boat: Westminster Millennium Pier

facilities: meals and snacks lunchtime; restaurant

opening: Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00, Sun noon-19.00

*a Division Bell in the bar is used to summon Members of Parliament to Parliament to vote. There is also silent televisions tuned to the BBC parliamentary channel.*

### **St James's, Bermondsey**

Thurland Road, SE16  
020 7740 1031

transport: Bermondsey u/g; buses 47,188,225,381,P13  
*the 10 bells were cast from cannon captured at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815*

### **St Margaret Pattens**

Rood Lane, Eastcheap, EC3  
020 7623 6630

transport: Monument u/g, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,35,40,47,48,133,149,344

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-16.00

*this bell was made before, and survived, the Great Fire of London in 1666*

### **Gilbert Collection**

Somerset House, Strand, WC2R  
020 7420 9400 [www.gilbert-collection.org.uk](http://www.gilbert-collection.org.uk)

transport: Temple, Embankment & Covent Garden u/g, Charing Cross & Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 1,6,9,11,13, 15,23,26,59,68,76,77A,91,168,171,172,176,188,341; boat Savoy & Embankment Piers

facilities: audio guide plus special one for children & families; disabled access & wheelchair hire (please book in advance); Summer Café & bar & restaurant; shop for gifts, silverware & jewellery; tours on Thur & Sat 14.30 (booking 020 7420 9410)

opening: daily 10.00-18.00, (last admission 17.15)  
admission charge includes free audio guide & magnifying glass. Free after 16.30

*the Jewish Torah Crown of gold is decorated with precious stones and gold eagles holding bells in their beaks and is one of only two existing in the world. The Torah Crown motive is used to adorn sacred teaching scrolls of Judaic worship*

### **St Mary Magdalene**

High Street South, East Ham, E6

transport: East Ham u/g; buses 5,58,101,104,147,300, 325,376

*this church boasts the oldest bell in London. A tenor bell dated 1380 in bears the inscription in Lombardic capitals Latin 'A bell of sweetest tone, Gabriel's name I own'*

### **St Luke's Church**

185 Charlton Church Lane, Charlton Village, SE7  
020 8858 8175

transport: Charlton rail; buses 53,54,380,486

opening: Tue,Thur 10.00-14.00, Sat 10.00-noon

*a 28 inch bell hanging in the Belfry is inscribed with the date 1818*

### **Westminster Arms pub**

9 Storey's Gate, SW1  
020 7222 8520

transport: Westminster & St James's Park u/g; buses 3, 11,12,24,53, 77A,88,159,211 boat: Westminster Millennium Pier

opening: Mon-Sat 11.00-23.00, Sun noon-18.00

*a Division Bell in the bar is used to summon Members of Parliament to Parliament to vote*

### **St Nicholas with St Mary Magdalene**

Church Street, Chiswick, W4

transport: Turnham Green u/g, Chiswick rail; buses 190, E3

*of the ring of eight bells, five were hung in 1656*

### **St Giles without Cripplegate**

4 The Postern, Barbican, EC2  
020 7638 1997

transport: Barbican u/g, Moorgate u/g & rail; buses 56, 100,153

opening: Mon-Fri 11.00-16.00

*this church has a peal of twelve bells*

### **St Botolph's-without-Bishopsgate**

Bishopsgate, EC2  
020 7588 3388

transport: Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,11,26,35, 42,47,48,78,100,149,242,344

opening: Mon-Fri 08.00-17.30

*the bell on the wall is inscribed 'HMS Bishopsgate 1932. Presented by Gerald, Bishop of London in thanksgiving for his period of office at this Church 1950-53 and as Bishop of London 1973-81'*

### **All Hallows by the Tower Church**

Byward Street, Tower Hill, EC3R  
020 7481 2928 [www.allhallowsbythetower.org.uk](http://www.allhallowsbythetower.org.uk)

transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium & St Katharines Piers

facilities: audio tours (daily 11.00-16.00); disabled access to Church but not Undercroft; restaurant (Mon-Fri 10.00-22.30); shop; group tours by arrangement. Queen Mother Centre has herb garden

opening: Mon-Fri 09.00-18.00, Sat-Sun 10.00-17.00  
free admission to church

*a bell memorial commemorates the nine seafarers who lost their lives on the 'British Trent' after a collision in the southern North Sea 3 June 1993*

### **Soviet Citizens, Servicemen and Women Memorial**

Lambeth Road, SE1

transport: Lambeth North u/g; buses 3,59,159,344,C10

*this 1999 black bronze column surmounted by a bell with symbolic arms and head commemorates the 27 million Soviet servicemen and women who died fighting for the allied victory in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. It is by Sergei Shcherbakov*

### **St Clements**

Westbourne Street, N7

transport: Caledonian Road u/g; Caledonian Road & Barnsbury rail; buses 17,91,259,274

*although this church has been converted into flats it still retains the stepped façade with three bells in niches. The architect was Sir Gilbert Scott*

### **All Saints**

Putney Bridge Approach, Fulham, SW6  
020 7736 6301

transport: Putney Bridge u/g; buses 22,39,74,85,93,265, 270

opening: Mon-Fri noon-15.00

*this church has a complete peal of ten bells*

### **Billingsgate Fish Market**

Trafalgar Way, Poplar, E14  
020 7987 1118 [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)

transport: Blackwall/West India Quay DLR; buses 15,D6, D7,D8

opening: Tue-Sat 05.00-08.30

*the original Billingsgate Bell that hung in the original market in the City of London has been preserved in the modern market*

### **Grocers Company**

Princes Street, EC2R  
020 7606 3113 [www.grocershall.co.uk](http://www.grocershall.co.uk)

transport: Bank u/g, Liverpool Street u/g & rail, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 8,11,21,26,35,47,48,76, 133,149,242,344

admission by prior application

*this City of London Livery Company has the oldest bell in the City. Dated 1458 it came from the Church of All Hallows in Staining Lane*

### **St Lawrence Jewry**

Gresham Street, EC2  
020 7600 9478

transport: Bank & St Pauls u/g; buses 8,56,76,100,133, 172,242

opening: Mon-Fri 07.30-14.00

*considered the best peal of eight in the City of London, these bells were made at Whitechapel Bell Foundry. peal The small bell in the Tower Chapel has the inscription 'Eece Post Igne, Vox' ('after the fire a (still small) voice')*

### **Trinity House**

Trinity Square, Tower Hill, EC3

transport: Tower Hill u/g, Tower Gateway DLR, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,42,78,100; boat Tower Millennium & St Katharines Piers

*this building houses the body responsible for lighthouses throughout Britain. On display is the ship's bell from the Royal Yacht Britannia and a Chinese gong used in 1832 as a fog signal on board light vessels*

## **Further Afield**

### **St Albans Clock Tower**

Market Place, St Albans, Herts, AL1  
01727 751810

transport: St Albans City rail

facilities: *no disabled access*

opening: Sat-Sun Apr-Oct 10.30-17.00. To arrange tours at other times telephone 01727 751821

admission charge

*built in 1405 this is the only medieval town belfry in England. The top for fine panoramas of the town and cathedral is accessible by 93 very small spiral steps, The bell hanging in the Tower is the original one and is 4ft (1.2m) in diameter & weighs 1 ton (1016kgs)*

A great deal of care has been taken in collecting the information in this leaflet but *CityThemes* cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of that information. It can cover only a few of the many interesting sites to be found in London and therefore must not be considered a definitive guide.

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