

ST. PETERS BASILICAN



The Cathedral Choir



Performing during the
Advent Procession

The Grand Organ

On the 19th December 1694 a contract was signed with the eminent organ builder from Germany, Bernard Smith, to supply an organ for the new Cathedral of St Paul's. His price was £2,000 (approximately £2,000,000+ at today's cost). The 27-stop instrument that he supplied was placed on a screen in the Quire as was usual at that time. It had three manuals but no pedals. Pedals were added to the organ at some point later and probably in 1721, although these were only 'pull downs', enabling the organist to play the lowest notes on the keyboard with his feet. But in other ways the organ remained relatively unaltered until the mid 19th century.



The Grand Organ



Organ Stops



The Grand Organ

In 1872, Henry Willis completed an essentially new instrument for the Cathedral. Some 200 pipes of the original Smith organ were retained; a handful of these remain to the present day. The original Wren case was divided in half, modified, and placed against the pillars supporting the Dome on either side of the Quire, where it remains today. This new organ had four manuals. Father Willis made further modifications in 1897 and 1900. In 1930, his grandson, Henry Willis III was responsible for more changes, including the electrification of the whole organ, a new console, and the spectacular Trompette Militaire placed in the Dome.

From 1972-77 N.P. Mander Ltd reconstructed the whole of the action, soundboards and console, preserving the pipework surviving from the Willis instrument of 1872, but broadening the resources of the organ with much new material.

The rebuilding work was completed in 1977 in time for Her Majesty the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Throughout the rebuilding programme, the majority of the organ was in operation. Even the change from the old console to the new was achieved between Evensong of one day and the next.

The 2008 rebuild by Mander Organs Ltd consolidated the 1977 work. The opportunity was taken to replace the manual reeds up in the Dome - the new tubas providing a much more brassy effect, whilst the chorus reeds blend well with rest of the Dome ensemble. Through the generosity of an individual donor in memory of his father, Harry Gabb (a former Sub Organist at St Paul's), a second, mobile console has also been provided. The organ continues to be tuned and maintained by Mander Organs .

Two Smaller Organs

There are two other organs which are used regularly in the Cathedral. The Willis on Wheels is an interesting and indeed unique mobile organ built by Henry Willis in 1881. It is most often used as the Choir Organ in double organ masses from the French tradition by Widor, Vierne and Langlais.

The Continuo Organ was built in 1997 by Kenneth Tickell. It is used as a chamber instrument in works such as Handel's Messiah, the Bach Passions and the July Orchestral Eucharists. It is also used to accompany early music in the services in the Cathedral.




Crypt Organ

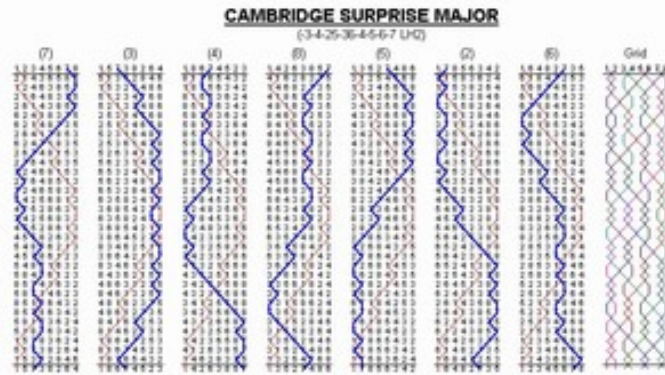
A new two manual and pedal organ of 20 stops is shortly to be constructed in St Faith's Chapel by the English builder, William Drake. The instrument will occupy the first bay to the east of the screen on the north side of the Chapel. The case will be finished with grisaille painted decoration.

The Bells

There are twelve bells in the North West Tower hung for traditional Change Ringing. While there are a number of churches and cathedrals that have twelve bells, they are not that common and it is certainly rare to have bells of such a size.

St Paul's has the second largest ring of bells in the world that are hung for change ringing. They are just over 125 years old and were given by the Corporation and a number of the City livery companies. The smallest bell, known as the Treble, weighs just over half a ton, while the largest, known as the Tenor, weighs over 3 tons (62 cwt). Bells are always measured by their weight in hundredweights, quarters and pounds. The St Paul's ring is in the key of B flat.

		
<p><i>Inauguration of the new peal of bells at St Paul's Cathedral: Images from 'The Pictorial World', 9th Nov 1878. 1) Entrance to the Belfry 2) Back View of the Apostles 3) Daylight at Last 4) A Side Peep going up 5) The Bells</i></p>	<p><i>In addition to the twelve bells in the North West tower, there is the original service bell affectionately known as The Banger. This was cast by Philip Wightman in 1700 when the building of the West towers was completed. It remained alone for 178 years until the ring of twelve bells was cast in 1878. The Banger is still regularly rung to this day prior to the 08:00 Eucharist.</i></p>	<p><i>The South West Tower houses Great Paul, the largest bell in the British Isles. She weighs 16½ tons and is larger than Big Ben. One can hear Great Paul booming out over Ludgate Hill at 13:00 every day. To give an impression of the size, the image below shows our former Dean, Dr John Moses, standing next to the giant Headstock of Great Paul.</i></p>



Change Ringing

Twelve bells means that there will be twelve ringers on the end of the ropes; one ringer per bell. It takes a considerable amount of time to learn to ring a bell. There is the physical aspect to learn; one has to feel the bell's movements through the tensions in the rope and respond accordingly.

There is also a mental aspect to be mastered. Change ringing is not based upon musical notation but on numerical principles. Each bell is given a number or letter (1-12) and a change is a sequence of these numbers where each bell rings once. The order or sequence is changed and each bell rings again. The graph below represents a 'method', a set pattern of changes that is learnt by the ringer. The position of individual bells within the change is marked by blue and red lines and many ringers learn the path of these lines to master the method. This method is for eight bells.

Cathedral & History

About St Paul's

A cathedral dedicated to St Paul has stood on this site since 604AD, and throughout the cathedral has remained a busy, working church where millions come to reflect and find peace.

St Paul's is not only an iconic part of the London skyline but also a symbol of the hope, resilience and strength of the city and nation it serves. Above all, St Paul's Cathedral is a lasting monument to the glory of God.

Its rich and diverse history means there is lots for visitors to the Cathedral to discover.

A History of St Paul's Cathedral

The current cathedral – the fourth to occupy this site – was designed by the court architect Sir Christopher Wren and built between 1675 and 1710 after its predecessor was destroyed in the Great Fire of London.

Its architectural and artistic importance reflect the determination of the five monarchs who oversaw its building that London's leading church should be as beautiful and imposing as their private palaces.

Since the first service was held here in 1697, Wren's masterpiece has been where people and events of overwhelming importance to the country have been celebrated, mourned and commemorated. Important services have included the funerals of Lord Nelson, the Duke of Wellington and Sir Winston Churchill; Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria; peace services marking the end of the First and Second World Wars; the launch of the Festival of Britain; the Service of Remembrance and Commemoration for the 11th September 2001: the 80th and 100th birthdays of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother; the wedding of Charles, Prince of Wales, to Lady Diana Spencer and, most recently, the thanksgiving services for both the Golden Jubilee and 80th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.

Over the centuries, St Paul's has changed to reflect shifting tastes and attitudes. Decoration has been added and removed, services have been updated, and different areas have been put to new uses. Today, the history of the nation is written in the carved stone of its pillars and arches and is celebrated in its works of art and monuments.

In the crypt are effigies and fragments of stone that pre-date the Cathedral, relics of a medieval world. From Wren's original vision, Jean Tijou's beautiful wrought iron gates of 1700 still separate the quire from the ambulatory; children still test the acoustics in the Whispering Gallery; and the 1695 organ which Mendelssohn once played is still in use.

The magnificent mosaics are the result of Queen Victoria's mid-19th century complaint that the interior was "most dreary, dingy and undevotional." The American Memorial Chapel stands behind the High Altar in an area that was bomb-damaged during the Second World War – a gesture of gratitude to the American dead of the Second World War from the people of Britain. An altar has now been installed on a dais in the heart of the Cathedral, bringing services closer to those who attend them.

St Paul's is currently undergoing an historic £40 million programme of cleaning and repair to mark the 300th Anniversary of the Cathedral in 2010. This is the first time in its long history that the building has been comprehensively restored inside and out. Once the programme of cleaning and repair is finished the two million visitors and worshippers who come to St Paul's each year can witness Wren's original vision and see his Cathedral as fresh as the day it was completed.



St Paul's is the cathedral of the Diocese of London. The Diocese is made up of five episcopal areas: Willesden, Edmonton, Stepney, London and Kensington.

Four of these have an Area Bishop, to whom the Bishop of London, The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Richard Chartres, delegates certain responsibilities. The Bishops are assisted by Archdeacons. Archdeaconries are further divided into deaneries which are groups of parishes. The Bishop of Fulham is the Suffragan Bishop for the whole Diocese. In 2004 the Diocese celebrates its 1400th anniversary.

MORE PICTURES OF ST. PETERS BASILICA...



Nave of St Paul's Cathedral



The Wellington Monument



Light of the World, Williams Holman Hunt



The Quire



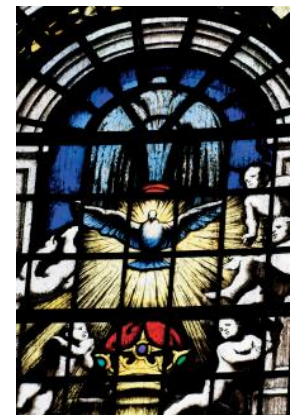
Mother and Child, Henry Moore



Icon of St Paul

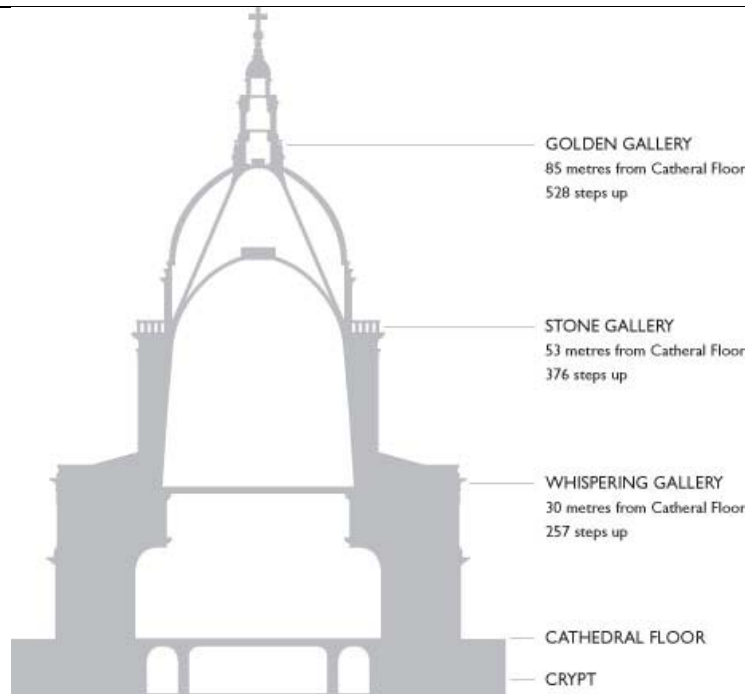


Funeral effigy of John Donne



Dove in stained glass in the American Memorial Chapel

Climb the Dome



The iconic dome of St Paul's, rising 365 feet above the City of London, is one of the largest in the world. Situated at the heart of the building, the space underneath the dome is now used as the principal place of worship in the cathedral.

One of the most awe-inspiring experiences in St Paul's is gazing up into the dome from the floor below. From there you can enjoy the exquisite grisaille murals created by court painter Sir James Thornhill that feature scenes from the life of St Paul. The image pictured on the right shows a detail from the murals, depicting Paul shipwrecked in Malta.

St Paul's is built in the shape of a cross, with the dome crowning the intersection of the arms. It is one of the largest Cathedral domes in the world, 111.3 metres high. It weighs approximately 65,000 tonnes and is supported by eight pillars. Between the arches of the inner dome are mosaics of prophets and saints, which were installed between 1864 and 1888. The murals in the dome were created between 1715 and 1719 by court painter Sir James Thornhill and feature scenes from the life of St Paul.

Did you know?

St Paul's actually has three domes, an inner dome, a brick cone that supports the lantern, and the outer dome 'skin'. The inner dome is 225 ft high with a diameter of 102 ft. The whole structure weights 64,000 tonnes.






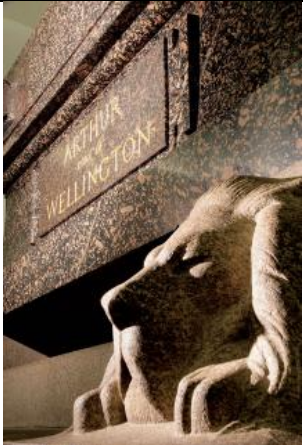


The Whispering Gallery - Climb 259 steps up the dome and you will find The Whispering Gallery, which runs around the interior of the Dome. It gets its name from a charming quirk in its construction, which makes a whisper against its walls audible on opposite side.

The Stone Gallery - The Stone Gallery is the first of two galleries above the Whispering Gallery that encircle the outside of the dome. The Stone Gallery stands at 173 ft (53.4 metres) from ground-level and can be reached by 378 steps.

The Golden Gallery - The Golden Gallery is the smallest of the galleries and runs around the highest point of the outer dome, 280ft (85.4 metres) Visitors that climb the 528 steps to this gallery will be treated to panoramic views of London that take in the River Thames, Tate Modern and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

The Ball and Lantern - The original ball and cross were erected by Andrew Niblett, Citizen and Armourer of London, in 1708. They were replaced by a new ball and cross in 1821 designed by the Surveyor to the Fabric, CR Cockerell and executed by R and E Kepp. The ball and cross stand at 23 feet high and weigh approximately 7 tonnes.

Did you know? The golden ball on the top of the dome is six feet in diameter and has room inside for ten people!

			
<p>View into the Dome</p>	<p>Detail of a mosaic in the Dome</p>	<p>Dome painting, St Paul shipwrecked on Malta</p>	<p>The Whispering Gallery</p>
			
<p>Nelson's tomb in the Nelson Chamber</p>	<p>Detail from the tomb of the Duke of Wellington</p>	<p>Wren's tomb</p>	<p>OBE Chapel kneelers and altar frontal</p>

Discover the Crypt

Find out more about the cathedral's foremost burial place, and the place where those who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of the nation and of the world now rest.

Nelson's Tomb

Admiral Nelson lies at the centre of the Crypt, directly beneath the middle of the Dome. His monument includes a call to national prayer that he wrote while in view of the enemy before the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

Trafalgar was unfortunately to be Nelson's last battle, although he was eerily well prepared for this eventuality, having had his coffin already made for him from the mast of the French ship L'Orient sunk in the Battle of the Nile; one of his earlier victories.

His body had to be preserved for the journey home, so it was put into a large wooden barrel, covered with French brandy and topped up with spirits of wine and camphor at Gibraltar. When Victory arrived back at Portsmouth, the body was wrapped in bandages and transferred to a lead lined casket which was filled with brandy, camphor and myrrh.

When the ship finally arrived at the Nore, near Chatham, Nelson's L'Orient coffin was brought out in the commissioner's yacht and his body placed in it before this in turn was encased in a second lead lined casket. Once ashore, both coffins were placed within an ornate mahogany outer casket finished in black velvet and gold gilt.

Nelson's funeral took place at St Paul's on January 9th, 1806 where he was interred beneath the black sarcophagus originally made for Cardinal Wolsey in the early 16th century.

Wellington's Tomb

Wellington rests on a simple casket made of Cornish granite. Although he was a national hero, he was not a man of glory in his victories. 'Nothing except a battle lost can be held so melancholy as a battle won,' he wrote in a despatch of 1815, the year in which he defeated Napoleon at Waterloo.

The Duke was known as The Iron Duke and as a result of his tireless campaigning, has left a colourful list of namesakes - Wellington boots, the dish Beef Wellington and even a brand of cigars. He also coined some memorable phrases. He gave the expression '... and another thing' to the English language and declared 'The battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton.'

The banners hanging around Wellington's tomb were made for his funeral procession. Originally, there was one for Prussia, which was removed during World War I and never reinstated.

Sir Christopher Wren's Tomb

Sir Christopher Wren, architect of St Paul's is buried in the south aisle at the east end of the Crypt. Beside Wren's tomb is a stone bearing his architect's mark. He is surrounded by the tombs and memorials of his family.

In the same section of the Crypt are many tombs and memorials of artists, scientists and musicians. They include the painters Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir John Everett Millais; the scientist Sir Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin; the composer Sir Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert and Sullivan); and the sculptor Henry Moore.

Did you know? The crypt of St Paul's is the largest in Western Europe, and unusually for a cathedral, is the exact 'footprint' of the cathedral floor.

OBE Chapel

At the east end of the Crypt is the OBE Chapel. It was dedicated to the Order of the British Empire in 1960. The glass panels feature the present sovereign, scenes from the Commonwealth, commerce and the royal founders of the Order. Banners hanging from the ceilings represent members of the Royal Family.

On the Cathedral Floor

The Chapel of All Souls

Situated on the ground floor of the north-west tower, this chapel was dedicated in 1925 to the memory of Field Marshal Lord Kitchener (1850-1916) and the servicemen who died in the Great War of 1914-18 (World War I). It is also known as the Kitchener Memorial Chapel. Among the chapel's artefacts are sculptures of the military saints St Michael and St George, a beautiful pietá - a sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding the body of Christ - and an effigy of Lord Kitchener. The silver-plated candlesticks on the altar are made from melted-down trophies won by the London Rifle Brigade.

The Chapel of St Dunstan

This chapel, consecrated in 1699, was the second part of Wren's building to come into use, after the Quire. In 1905, it was dedicated to St Dunstan, who was a Bishop of London and Archbishop of Canterbury 1,000 years ago. Before this it was known as the Morning Chapel, because the early morning office - a daily service - was said here. The Chapel of St Dunstan is set aside for prayer. Visitors do not have to pay to enter this chapel.



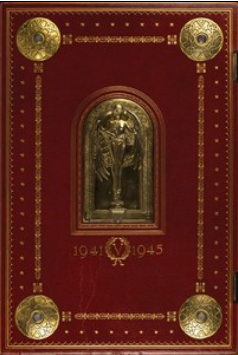

The Chapel of St Michael and St George

This chapel (pictured) is situated on the south aisle and is dedicated to St Michael and St George. Plaques commemorating former members of the Order are set on the book rests, and banner of current knights hang above. The chapel was originally the consistory court - the place where the bishop sat in judgement over the clergy, or priests. It became a temporary studio for the construction of Wellington's monument between 1858 and 1878.

The Middlesex Chapel

The chapel is also known as the St Erkenwald and St Ethelburga Chapel. The Middlesex Chapel is dedicated to members of the Middlesex Regiment and regular services are held here. Behind the altar stands William Holman Hunt's Light of the World (pictured).

The flags in the chapel are the colour of the Middlesex Regiment - the empty pole belongs to a flag that was lost during World War II.

			
The Chapel of St Michael and St George	Light of the World in the Middlesex Chapel	Roll of Honour	The Knights Bachelor Chapel

American Memorial Chapel

At the east end of the Cathedral behind the High Altar is the American Memorial Chapel. This part of the building was destroyed during the Blitz and, when rebuilt in the 1950s, formed a chapel funded by the British people to commemorate the members of the United States forces based in Britain who gave their lives defending liberty during World War II. The Chapel is also known as the Jesus Chapel, as the space was known prior to World War II.

In a case behind the High Altar is an illuminated book of remembrance: the American Roll of Honour, presented by General Eisenhower in 1951, in which their 28,000 names are inscribed.

The American Chapel was designed by Stephen Dykes Bower and constructed by Godfrey Allen, Surveyor to the Fabric 1931-1956. The images that adorn its wood, metalwork and stained glass include depictions of the flora and fauna of North America and references to historical events. The three chapel windows date from 1960. They feature themes of service and sacrifice, while the insignia around the edges represent the American states and the US armed forces. The limewood panelling incorporates a rocket - a tribute to America's achievements in space.

The Knights Bachelor Chapel

The Chapel of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor is also known as St Martin's Chapel.

The Chapel was dedicated by HM the Queen in 2008. The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's had offered the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor the use in perpetuity of an area which, although a chapel in the 1930s, had been disused for many years and was closed off from the main space of the Crypt.

The Chapel is panelled with English oak and in it, in two elegant cases, are kept the Registers which contain the names of all Knights Bachelor from 1257 to date and also the Founder Knights' and Benefactors' Book. Near them is displayed Queen Victoria's sword with which she knighted many famous men; this is on loan from Wilkinson Sword Ltd. The stalls of the Officers bear heraldic stall-plates. The cross and candlesticks were made by Mr Gerald Gilbert, and many other fine craftsmen from Houghtons of York have worked to make the Chapel noble and traditional in design.

The Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor

Knighthood is the oldest non-Royal title of honour; the first knights probably received their accolade late in the tenth century. The dignity of Knight Bachelor appeared in the reign of Henry III and almost certainly derived from the Norman French word *battelier*, a battle knight. The Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor was founded in 1908 and was given the title of 'Imperial' by Royal Warrant of George V in 1912.



HM the Queen dedicates the Chapel of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor

The OBE Chapel

At the east end of the Crypt is the OBE Chapel (Chapel of the Order of the British Empire), also known as St Faith's Chapel. This was dedicated to the Order of the British Empire in 1960. The glass panels feature the present sovereign, scenes from the Commonwealth, commerce and the royal founders of the Order. Banners hanging from the ceilings represent members of the Royal Family.

The Duke of Edinburgh is the Grand Master of the Order and attends the Service of Dedication which is held every four years. The Queen attends alternate services. The last service was on 21st May 2008, attended by the Duke of Edinburgh.