



Seeing the Capital Differently

Church Reredos

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

website: www.citytheme.co.uk
e-mail: info@citythemes.co.uk
address: CityThemes PO Box 42530, London E1W 3WL

Enjoy Your Explorations

the reredos (altarpiece) is the carved or painted screen placed above or behind the altar. Often incorporating images of Christ's life, saints and angels it may consist of two panels (diptych) or three panels (triptych) and may vary a great deal in size and ornateness

Hampton Court Palace

East Molesey, Surrey, KT8

020 8781 9500

www.hrp.org.uk

transport: Richmond u/g, Hampton Court rail; buses 111, 216,411,416,461,513,727,R68; boat Hampton Court facilities: audio guides in 6 languages; disabled access (wheelchairs available); disabled wcs; parking; Tiltyard Tearoom or Privy Kitchen Coffee Shop, ice cream kiosks; 4 themed shops (Base Court, Garden, Tudor Kitchen, Barrack Block); costumed guides and family trails; free group tours (choose from daily programme)

opening: daily mid Mar-Oct Mon 10.15-18.00, Tue-Sun 09.30-18.00 (last admission 17.15); Nov-mid Mar Mon 10.15-16.30, Tue-Sun 09.30-16.30 (last admission 15.45) admission charge

the Palace has many pieces of woodcarving by Grinling Gibbons (1648-1721) including overmantles and overdoors in the King's Apartments, castellations and mouldings in the Banqueting House and the lovely oak reredos in the Chapel. Gibbons is known for his intricately carved fruit, flowers and cherubs' heads. This reredos has cherubim above drops on either side of a framed oval. The Corinthian pillars & segmental pediment are by the architect, Christopher Wren

St Brides Church and Crypt Museum

Bride Lane, Fleet Street, EC4

020 7353 1301

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

facilities: sales desk

opening: Mon-Sat 08.00-17.00; Sun for choral services only 11.00 and 18.30

this reredos is a memorial to the Pilgrim Fathers - English religious dissenters who established Plymouth Colony in America in 1620 after crossing the Atlantic in the 'Mayflower'. The reredos has columns and flambeaux with an oil painting of the Crucifixion and a stained glass panel of Christ in His Glory

Temple Church

Inner Temple, King's Bench Walk, EC4

020 7353 8559

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: 10.00-16.00

this church, restored by Sir Christopher Wren in 1682, has an oak reredos designed by Wren, carved by the joiner and woodcarver William Emmet and inscribed with the Creed, the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer

St James's

197 Piccadilly, W1

020 7734 4511

www.st-james-piccadilly.org

transport: Piccadilly Circus u/g; buses 3,6,9,12,13,14,15, 19,22,23,38,53,88,139,159

facilities: Aroma café (Mon-Sat 08.00-.19.00, Sun 10.00-19.00)

opening: daily. Market Tue 10.00-18.00 (antiques), Wed-Sat 10.00-18.00 (crafts only)

richly carved in limewood with a large segmental arch it is by the woodcarver, Grinling Gibbons (1648-1742)

St George's

St George Street, Hanover Square, W1

020 7629 0874

transport: Oxford Circus & Bond Street u/g; buses 3,6,7, 8,10,12,13,15,23,25,53,55,73,94,98,113,137,139,159, 176,189

opening: Mon-Fri 08.30-15.30

here the reredos is decorated with a painting of the Last Supper by William Kent (1685-1748), the painter and architect

All Saints

7 Margaret Street, W1

020 7636 1788

transport: Oxford Circus u/g; buses 7,8,10,25,55,73,88, 98,176,390,453,C2

opening: daily 07.00-19.00

in this High Victorian Gothic revivalism church of 1859 is an abundance of coloured marble and stonework. There are mosaics, frescoes, rich stained glass windows and a reredos with tiers of red and blue saints under gilded canopies

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

of painted gold wood it depicts the Annunciation and is by the British figurative painter, Ruskin Spear (1911-1990)

St Stephen's

Walbrook, EC4

020 7283 4444

transport: Bank u/g, Cannon Street u/g & rail; buses 8, 11,26,76,133,242

opening: Mon-Thur 10.00-16.00, Fri 10.00-15.00

here is a church that is full of dark wood with detailed carving especially on the organ gallery & case, the pulpit, and the reredos

Church of the Annunciation

High Street, Chislehurst, Kent

transport: Mottingham & Elmstead Woods rail; buses 61, 161,162

this church has a striking Victorian mosaic and painted reredos, lovely stained glass windows and interesting wall paintings

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

embellished with pediments and angels with trumpets the reredos incorporates a modern painting of the events leading to the martyrdom of St Lawrence. The original painting that shows the actual martyrdom is preserved in the vestry

St Benet's Paul's Wharf (now Metropolitan Welsh Church)

St Benet's Hill, Upper Thames Street, EC4
020 7489 8754

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

opening: 1st Monday in the month 11.00-15.30; Sunday
for services only 11.00 & 14.30 (Welsh-language service).
By arrangement at other times

*a gilded reredos, the panels show the Ten
Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Creed*

St Margaret's

Parliament Square, Westminster, SW1
020 7222 6382

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

opening: Mon-Sat 09.30-17.30, Sun 13.00-17.30

*in the form of a triptych, the centrepiece of 1758 is in
limewood and is based on the painting by Titian of the
'Supper at Emmaus'. It is by Siffron Alken*

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

*the Chapel of St Paul has a triptych of gilt bronze showing
the Saint while the Chapel of St Joseph has a triptych of
cast bronze depicting St Joseph and the child Jesus by H
C Fehr. Another reredos in the Lady Chapel is of mosaic*

Queen's Chapel of the Savoy

Savoy Place, Strand, WC2

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: Tue-Fri 11.30-15.30

*this attractive 1864 reredos by Sydney Smirke (1799-
1877) has twelve double panels. At the sides are
tabernacles with figures of St Peter and St Paul. The
painting in the centre is 14th century and of the Madonna
and Child*

St George's

Bloomsbury Way, WC1
020 7405 3044

transport: Holborn u/g; buses 1,8,19,25,38,55,59,68,91,
98,168,188,242

opening: Mon-Fri 09.30-15.30

*the gilded and inlaid reredos on the north wall dates from
1727*

St Mary Abchurch

Abchurch Lane, Cannon Street, EC4
020 7626 0306

transport: Monument & Bank u/g, Cannon Street u/g &
rail; buses 11,15,26,76,133

opening: Mon-Thur 10.30-15.00, Fri 10.30-noon

*another by Grinling Gibbons(1648-1721) intricately
carved in limewood with columns, a segmental pediment,
urns emitting fire, a gilded pelican and trails of fruit &
flowers*

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

*unusually the figures of Moses, David, Isaiah and Aaron
are here painted on zinc. Dating originally from 1885 it
was restored in 1967*

St Mary Woolnoth

Lombard Street, EC3
020 7626 9701

transport: Bank & Monument u/g, Cannon Street u/g &
rail; buses 8,11,26,40,133,242

opening: Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30

*in Roman baroque style this reredos was designed by the
architect, Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661-1736). It is carved
in oak and has twisted columns*

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

*this 1833 neo-Gothic style church has an altar and
reredos carved from 17th century Flemish oak*

St Margaret's

Lothbury, EC2
020 7606 8330

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

opening: Mon-Fri 09.15-17.15

*Corinthian columns carry two segmental pediments.
Openwork foliage and a bas-relief of the Ascension
incorporate paintings of Moses and Aaron from the 1700s
and carved medallions of the church's patron saints*

All Hallows, North Twickenham

Chertsey Road, Twickenham, Middlesex

transport: Twickenham rail; bus 281

*another 17th century woodcarved example, the pediments
bear the symbols of sacrifice (the Lamb and the pelican)
and seven candlesticks representing the seven churches
of Asia*

St Michaels Cornhill

St Michael's Alley, Cornhill, EC3
020 7248 3826

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

opening: Mon-Fri 08.30-17.00

this reredos is in pink marble of Italian design

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

the three panelled reredos of batik dating from 1982 is by the batik artist, Thetis Blacker. In the centre stands the Tree of Life with the River of Life flowing from its roots. The side panels show an angel holding Alpha & Omega and guarding the Gate, and the beginning & end of Creation

St Magnus the Martyr

Lower Thames Street, EC3
020 7626 4481

transport: Monument u/g; buses 15,35,40,43,47,48,133,149

opening: Tue-Fri 10.00-16.00, Sun 10.00-14.00

another church with good woodcarving on the organ case, pulpit, font cover, pews, reredos & side altars. The reredos has four Corinthian columns, entablature and a pediment with a pelican above

St Mark's

St Mark's Square, Regent's Park Road, Camden, NW1
020 7586 1694 www.stmarksregentspark.org.uk

transport: Camden Town u/g; buses 274,C2

the stained glass and colourful painted reredos are by the architect, Sir Ninian Comper and date from 1959

St Anne and St Agnes Lutheran

Gresham Street, EC2
020 7606 4986

transport: St Paul's & Bank u/g; buses 8,25,56,100,172,242

opening: Mon-Sat 09.00-18.00 Sun 09.00-20.00. 1st Sun at 14.00 Swahili service, 3rd Sun at 14.30 Estonian service, 4th Sun at 14.30 Latvian service

paintings of Moses and Aaron in carved frames have a scrolled pediment with a flaming lamp, gilded cherubs, swags and pilasters

St James the Less

Sussex Gardens, Bayswater, W2
020 7262 9976

transport: Lancaster Gate u/g, Paddington u/g & rail; buses 7,12,15,23,27,38,94,148,205,274,436

this bas-relief sculpture in white marble is of the Last Supper

St Clement's Eastcheap

Eastcheap, EC3
020 7626 0220

transport: Monument & Bank u/g, Fenchurch Street rail; buses 15,35,40,43,47,48,133,149,344

opening: Mon-Fri 07.00-17.00

here there are three main sections enclosed with fluted columns. The four panels depict the Annunciation, St Clement wearing a papal tiara, an anchor and St Martin of Tours. They date from 1933

St Nicholas

Deptford Green, SE8
020 7639 4048

transport: Deptford rail; buses 47,188,199

by Grinling Gibbons (1648-1721) the reredos has a curved pediment with the royal arms of King William and Queen Mary. Corinthian columns enclose panels of the Decalogue and the figures of Moses and Aaron. Side carvings are of Ezekiel and the Valley of Bones

St Saviour's

Middle Park Avenue, Eltham, SE9

transport: Mottingham rail; buses 124,160

this modern style 20th century reredos was influenced by 1920s German Expressionism. It is by the architect who designed the church, N F Cachemaille-Day (1896-1976)

All Saints

Clydesdale Road, Notting Hill, W11
020 7727 5919

transport: Ladbroke Grove & Notting Hill Gate u/g; buses 7,23,52,70

another example of Sir Ninian Comper's work - the Mysteries of the Rosary

St Peter's

310 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11

transport: Vauxhall u/g & rail; buses 2,36,77,77A,88,185,322,344

an alabaster reredos decorated with circular motifs and a mosaic centre-piece

St Mary Magdalene

193 Bermondsey Street, SE1
020 7407 5273

transport: London Bridge u/g & rail; buses 1,42,78,188

constructed in 1907 this example used old panels showing the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer together with paintings of Moses and Aaron

St Edmund, King and Martyr

Lombard Street, EC3
020 7626 9701

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

opening: Mon-Fri 10.00-16.00

here we have six gilded panels and gilt lettering on a red background. From 1833 the panels again show the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and figures of Moses & Aaron

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 17th century painting of Christ and angels in the Garden of Gethsemane is by the Italian artist, Carlo Maratti (1625-1713), well known (especially in Rome) for his altarpieces and frescoes

St Peter upon Cornhill

Cornhill, EC3
020 7283 2231

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

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

another church rich in woodcarving on the doors, pulpits, screen, reredos, communion rails and pews. The reredos shows the Lamb of Sacrifice with the sun/morning star burning the name of Jehovah in rays

Bevis Marks Synagogue (Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue)

between Bury St & Heneage Lane, Bevis Marks, EC3
020 7626 1274

transport: Liverpool Street u/g & rail; buses 8,11,26,
35,42,47,48,78,100,133,149,153,214,242,344

opening: Mon-Wed, Sun 11.30-13.00; closed Thurs & Fri
admission charge

the Jewish equivalent of the reredos is the Ark. In this synagogue it is made of wood in the classical manner with the Ten Commandments written in Hebrew and above in Hebrew the inscription "Know before Whom thou standest". The Ark contains the sacred scrolls of the Pentateuch (the five books of Moses written on parchment in Hebrew)

St Mary's

St Marychurch Street, Rotherhithe, SE16
020 7231 2465

transport: Rotherhithe & Canada Water u/g; buses 1,47,
188,199,381

opening: Mon-Thur 07.00-18.00, Sat-Sun 08.00-18.00

in the chapel the altar table and sanctuary chairs are made from timber from HMS Temeraire, a ship that fought alongside Lord Nelson's ship 'Victory' at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. She was made famous by Turner's 1838 painting 'The Fighting Temeraire' that he composed as she was being taken up river to Rotherhithe to be broken up

Westminster Abbey

Deans' Yard, Parliament Square, SW1
020 7222 5152 www.westminster-abbey.org

transport: Westminster & St James's Park u/g, Victoria & Waterloo u/g & rail; buses 3,11,12,24,53,
77A,88,109,159,211; boat Westminster Millennium Pier
facilities: audio guide & leaflets in 7 languages; guided tours (Apr-Oct Mon-Fri 10.00,10.30,11.00, 14.00, 15.00, Sat 10.00, 11.00, 12.30; Nov-Mar Mon-Fri 10.00, 11.00, 14.00, 15.00, Sat 10.00, 11.00, 12.30)

opening: Mon-Fri 09.00-16.45 (last admission 15.45);
Sat 09.00-14.45 (last admission 13.45); closed Sun
except for worship; Cloister daily 08.00-18.00; Chapter House daily 10.00-17.30 Apr-Oct, 10.00-16.00 Nov-Mar
admission charge; cloisters free

the lovely mosaic of the Last Supper at the High Altar was designed in 1867 by Sir Gilbert Scott

St Paul's

Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, SW1

transport: Knightsbridge & Hyde Park Corner u/g; buses
9,10,14,19,22,52,74,137,414,C1

the rood screen and reredos were designed in 1892 by the Victorian architect, G F Bodley (1827-1907). It shows Christ & four of the Apostles and two towers with angels, seraphim & two saints

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

dating from 1680 and made of oak this reredos has Corinthian pilasters with gilded capitals. The two centre panels have the Commandments with cherub's heads above and God's name in Greek & Latin. The curved pediment has a dove with scrolls and flaming urns

Brompton Oratory (Oratory of St Philip Neri)

Brompton Road, SW7
020 7808 0900

transport: South Kensington u/g; buses 14,74,414,C1

opening: daily 07.00-20.00

built between 1880 and 1884 this was the first new Catholic church in London after the Reformation. It has the third widest nave in Britain after Westminster Abbey & York Minster and is of High Baroque (Italian Mannerist) style with an interior decorated with gold, Siena marble & Venetian mosaics. The reredos in the Lady Chapel is inlaid with precious stones as is the altar. The Oratory is well-known for its music and solemn masses sung in Latin

Croydon Parish Church of St John the Baptist

Church Street, Croydon, Surrey

transport: East and West Croydon rail, Church Street tramlink; buses 50,109,154,166,194,197,367,403,405,
412,450,T33,X26

opening: Mon-Wed, Fri 10.00-16.00, Sat 10.00-20.00

this church dates from 15th century but was rebuilt in 1867 by Sir Gilbert Scott. It is the burial place of six Archbishops of Canterbury. The reredos is of alabaster with a relief of the nativity, crucifixion and resurrection

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.

© CityThemes 2006