



# Sites of memory City of London

The guided walk in this leaflet was devised by Jon Wright and Jo Moore of the C20 Society, to encourage people to look more closely at some of the best C20th war memorials in London. These combine outstanding sculpture with strong architectural forms and are an impressive legacy of national mourning and individual loss. The design of memorials formed a significant part of the work of important British architects and sculptors, particularly in the years following the First World War, but this walk also includes many more recent memorials.

Initially the team led guided tours along this route, but this leaflet enables you to take yourself at a time to suit you.

The C20 Society campaigns for the

preservation of the best architecture and design created since 1914. Its research and lobbying is underpinned by trips to look in detail at all styles and forms of C20 buildings. To learn more, join and have the opportunity to come on future trips go to [www.c20society.org.uk](http://www.c20society.org.uk).

For more photographs and background information on C20 war memorials in Britain and abroad visit: [www.c20society.org.uk/war-memorials/](http://www.c20society.org.uk/war-memorials/). This walk is part of the C20 Society's Sites of Memory project, which provides self-guided tours and architectural information on more than 120 war memorials in London, Belgium, France and Northern Italy, and has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. For more information on these C20 war memorials visit: [www.c20society.org.uk/war-memorials](http://www.c20society.org.uk/war-memorials).

**Trinity Square  
Gardens,  
EC3N 4DR**

*The next memorial  
is immediately  
to the north*

**Trinity Square  
Gardens,  
EC3N 4DR**

*Walk east along  
Tower Hill, which  
becomes Byward  
Street, bear right  
into Great Tower  
Street and turn left  
into St Dunstan's  
Hill. The garden  
is on your right*

**St Dunstan's  
Hill  
EC3R 7ND**

*Leave the garden  
on the west side,  
and turn right into  
Idol Lane and  
then left into Great  
Tower Street.  
Turn next right  
into Rood Lane,  
left into Fenchurch  
Street, right into  
Lime Street, and  
the next monument  
is to your left on  
Leadenhall Street*

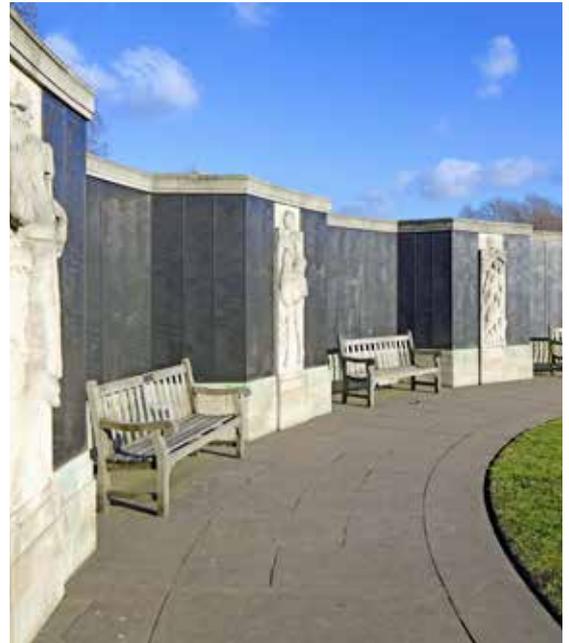
**Mercantile Marine Memorial**  
**Architect: Edwin Landseer Lutyens**  
**(1869-1944)**  
**Sculptor: William Reid Dick (1879-1961)**  
**1928, Listed Grade II**

Lutyens was commissioned in 1925 by the Imperial War Graves Commission to design a memorial to the 12,674 members of the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets lost at sea. He originally designed a massive beam on Roman Doric columns straddling two arched pylons for a different site on Temple Steps, but this was rejected by the Royal Fine Art Commission. For this new site he designed an open Doric temple with a central monumental attic and a longitudinal tunnel. The names of the missing sailors are on bronze panels treated like rusticated stonework.



**Mercantile Marine Memorial: Second  
World War, 1950-5**  
**Architect: Edward Maufe (1883-1974)**  
**Sculptor: Charles Wheeler (1892-1974)**  
**Listed Grade II**

A sunken garden, with the 23,765 names of those lost recorded on bronze commemorative panels on the surrounding wall, arranged by the ship in which they were serving. These are interspersed with stone reliefs by Wheeler, bearing allegorical figures representing the Seven Seas. From the air, the memorial garden resembles the east end of a ruined church, with radiating chapels – a resonant image in the bombed out city. It also reflected changes in memorial design: by the 1950s a place for quiet reflection was considered more suitable for the expression of grief than monoliths like the Cenotaph. Note the two fine sculptures: on the west an officer, on the east a seaman of the merchant service, with an inscription between them.



**Ruins of St Dunstan in the East  
Memorial garden: 1967-71**

Originally founded around 1100, the church was damaged in the Great Fire of 1666. The Gothic steeple was built in 1695-1701 to designs by Sir Christopher Wren, and the main church re-built in 1817-21, designed by David Laing. The church was gutted by bombing in the Second World War. The spire was reconstructed by Sir Herbert Baker & Scott in 1953, and the garden was landscaped in 1967-71 by the Corporation of London Architect's Department. In 1970 the tower was restored by the Seely & Paget Partnership for use as a rectory, and the tracery of the church was restored.

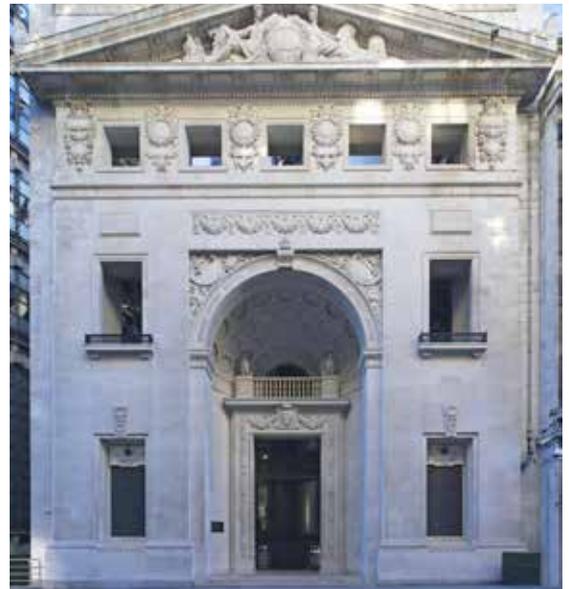


**8 Leadenhall Street, EC3V**

**Lloyd's of London War Memorial Arch**  
**Architect: Sir E.L. Lutyens**

The memorial to the members of Lloyd's who died in the Great War was designed by Lutyens, placed in the insurance brokers' premises in the Royal Exchange and unveiled in 1922. It was carefully transferred to Lloyd's new purpose-built home by Sir Edwin Cooper in Leadenhall Street in 1928. After Cooper's magnificent 1920s building was replaced (a case which was the catalyst for the foundation of the C20 Society in 1979) by the current structure by Richard Rogers no place could be found for the memorial inside, but it has now been installed in Leadenhall Street.

*Continue along Leadenhall Street, straight across the junction with Bishopsgate, and turn left into St Michael's Alley*



**St Michael's Alley EC3V 9DS**

**Memorial at St Michael Cornhill, 1920**  
**Sculptor: Richard Reginald Goulden (1876-1932)**  
**Foundry: A.B. Burton of Thames Ditton**

The central figure is the Archangel St Michael standing poised as in victory, holding a flaming sword. The contorted cat-like beast on the left bites another, symbolising war. Goulden had served with the Royal Engineers in France in 1914.

*Continue up St Michael's Alley to emerge on Cornhill and turn left to reach the front of the Royal Exchange*

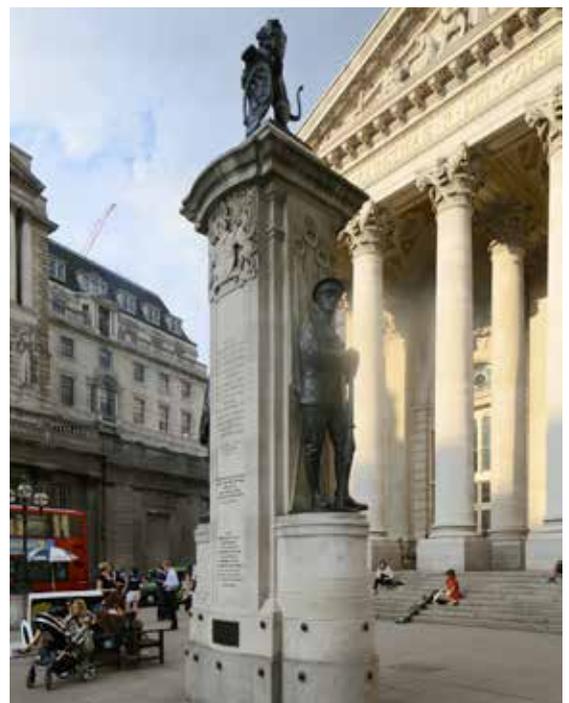


**Royal Exchange EC3V 3DG**

**City of London Troops Memorial, 12 Dec 1920**  
**Architect: Sir Aston Webb (1849-1930)**  
**Sculptors: Alfred Drury (1859-1944), William Silver Frith (1850-1924)**

The City and County Joint Committee was set up to permanently commemorate those who had fallen, as well as hosting a march of returned troops through the streets of London on 5 July 1919. They sought contributions from the major banks and Guilds of the City, and consulted Sir Aston Webb. His first proposal, which incorporated 75-foot masts and figures of Peace and Victory, was deemed inappropriate by the Street Committee. Shortly after the march, Webb presented this final design: a 'Lion Pillar' flanked by soldiers in uniform.

*Cross the junction at Bank and take Queen Victoria Street opposite. Turn right into Watling Street, and follow it to emerge on New Change opposite Festival Gardens*



**New Change at junction with Cannon Street EC4M 6QQ**

*Walk west along St Paul's Churchyard, and cross the road and gardens to reach Carter Lane, opposite the south transept of St Paul's*

**Festival Gardens 1951**  
**Architect: Sir Alan Richardson**

Festival Gardens was established in 1950-1 in a historic part of the City that was heavily bombed in WWII. The gardens were intended by the Corporation of London to be a contribution to the Festival of Britain, and 'a permanent war memorial'. The fountain was a gift from the Master Wardens Assistants and Commonalty of the Company of Gardens of London in 1951. The lion's heads of the fountain were the first sculptural forms to be added to the garden after its formation; Georg Erhlich's 'The Young Lovers' was erected to the west of the fountain in 1969.



**St Paul's Churchyard/ Carter Lane EC4M 8BX**

*Cross back to St Paul's and walk to the west end of the Cathedral*

**Firefighters Memorial 1990-91**  
**Sculptor: John W Mills**  
**Founders: Meridian Foundry and Maycast**

The Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust was established in 1990 by founder members of the then City of London Guild of Firefighters. It enabled the commission of a National Memorial to the men and women of the United Kingdom Fire Service, who had lost their lives in World War II. The Memorial Statue was unveiled on the 4 May 1991. The octagonal base bears the names of 997 men and women who lost their lives during the conflict. The sculpture features two firemen 'working a branch' while a sub-officer directs others to assist, and was based off a small bronze commissioned in 1984 by Cyril T. Demarne O.B.E. ex Chief Officer of the West Ham Fire brigade. There are clues to the identity of the sub-officer. The letters CTD are amongst the debris on the ground.



**St Paul's Churchyard EC4M 8AD**

*Walk round the end of the Cathedral into Paternoster Square, continue north to Newgate Street*

**Memorial to the Londoners killed in WWII Bombardments, 1999**  
**Sculptor: Richard Kindersley**

The memorial was sculpted out of a single piece of Irish limestone and installed in 1999, reflecting the contemporary desire to commemorate civilians though not necessarily of the armed forces. The words 'In War, Resolution: In Defeat, Defiance: In Victory, Magnanimity: In Peace: Goodwill', are taken from Sir Edward Marsh writing after the Great War, but quoted again by Winston Churchill in history of the Second World War. Paid for by money raised by Evening Standard readers and a donation from the Queen Mother, who found the monument 'beautiful - wonderfully understated and just as it should be'. The memorial remembers 30,000 Londoners killed by air raids.



**81 Newgate Street  
EC1A 7AJ**

**Ruins of Christ Church Greyfriars  
Memorial Garden: 1989  
Architect: Sir Christopher Wren**

The church was severely damaged in the Blitz on December 29, 1940, in one of the war's fiercest air raids on London. The spire was disassembled in 1960 and put back together using modern construction methods. The surviving east wall was demolished in 1974 to make way for a widening of King Edward Street. In 1981, neo-Georgian brick offices were constructed against the southwest corner of the ruins, in imitation of the 1760 vestry house that had been in that place. In 1989, the former nave area became a public garden and memorial.

*Continue north west on Newgate Street and Holborn Viaduct. St Andrew's is on your left just before Holborn Circus*



**5 St Andrew Street  
EC4A 3AB**

**St Andrews, Holborn  
Rebuilt to design of Sir Christopher Wren**

On the night of the 7th May 1941 St Andrews was bombed and gutted. All that remained of the original building was the exterior walls and tower. It was decided that it would be restored 'stone for stone and brick for brick' to the original Wren designs. The present building was opened in 1961 with its new status as a Guild Church.

*Cross Holborn Circus, cross the road and continue along Holborn. The Prudential Assurance building is on your right*



**Waterhouse Square,  
140 Holborn,  
EC1N 2ST**

**Prudential Assurance, 1922  
Sculptor: F.V. Blundstone RBS**

Prudential Assurance lost 786 employees in the Great War, leading the General Manager to suggest that the company erect a memorial at its headquarters. Staff were asked to contribute to 'a personal share in the tribute by subscribing to the cost of the memorial' of between one and five shillings.

Blundstone's cenotaph is composed of a granite base and bronze pedestal set with female figures to each corner, flanking bronze scrolled panels with the dedication and roll of honour. The women hold wreaths and objects symbolizing the National Service and each of the military services. The memorial is topped with a life size sculpture of a slumped soldier and two angels standing over him, with hands and wings outstretched. The memorial was originally located in front of the great arch in the first courtyard, clearly visible from the street.

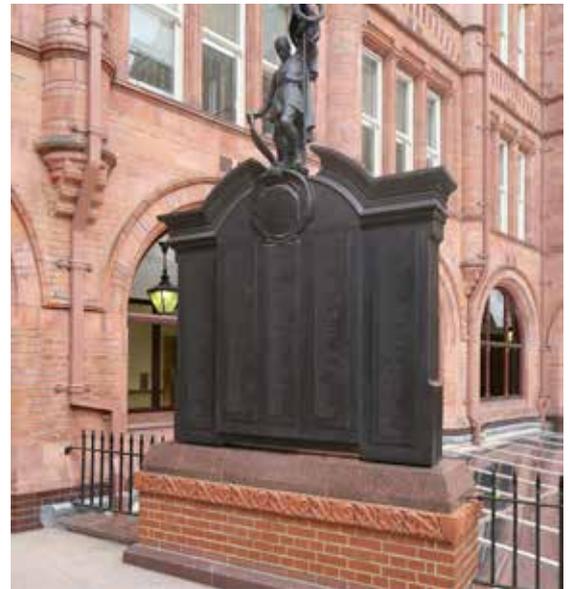


**Waterhouse Square,  
140 Holborn,  
EC1N 2ST**

*On leaving  
Waterhouse Square  
turn right into  
High Holborn, and  
the next memorial  
is before Chancery  
Lane tube*

**Prudential Second World War Panels,  
1950  
Sculptor: F.V. Blundstone RBS**

Blundstone's second memorial for the central office is in two parts, made of bronze and topped with ornamental terracotta on a granite and brick base. The north panel lists names A-K, the second K-Z. Each is topped with a broken pediment set around a wreath, with a figure of St George on top. St George was a common character used in war memorials, but those of the Great War or Second World War often used contemporary-style portraits, associating the 'Tommy' soldier with the traditional hero. These carry spears with wreaths and banners, and shields with the St George's flag.



**High Holborn**

**Royal Fusiliers Memorial, Holborn, 1922  
Architects: Cheadle and Harding  
Sculptor: Albert Toft  
Founder: A.B. Burton**

The Royal Fusiliers derive from the two independent companies of foot soldiers who garrisoned the Tower of London, and were nearly all Londoners. Like many figures on London's war memorials, the soldier on the Fusiliers Memorial was a portrait based on an actual fighting man, a sergeant who fought throughout the First World War and died of his wounds on the last day of the Second' (Blackwood, 1989, p. 280). A version of the figure of the soldier was erected at Flers on the Somme, where the 26th and the 31st Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers went into attack, and a further version makes up the central figure in the war memorial by Albert Toft in Oldham, Lancashire

*Walk along High  
Holborn, turn left  
down Kingsway,  
and right into  
Great Queen Street*



**60 Great Queen  
Street  
WC2B 5AZ**

**Freemasons' Hall, 1927-33  
Architects: HV Ashley  
and Winton Newman**

This massive building in a stripped classical style was built as the Masonic Peace Memorial Building as a memorial to the 3,225 Freemasons killed on active duty in WWI. The building is the central headquarters of English Freemasonry. 1927-33. The architect's ingenious fitting of the plan to the irregular polygonal site won them the commission as the result of a competition. The building has long facades, emphasised in its external detailing, and culminates across the west angle in a corner tower which echoes the form of the Temple entrance beneath. The effect defies the diagonal axis the Temple is set on, as well as its processional access route.

*Retrace your steps  
to Kingsway, turn  
right, and then bear  
left along Aldwych  
to find the church  
on your left*



**Strand**  
**WC2R 1DH**

**St Clement Danes**  
**Rebuilt to design of Sir Christopher Wren**

The original church was the only church outside the City of London to have been rebuilt by Wren (1681). The steeple was added in 1719. On 10 May 1941 incendiary bombs gutted the building leaving only the walls and tower standing. In 1953 the church was handed into the keeping of the Air Council and a world-wide appeal was launched to rebuild it. The church was re-consecrated in 1958 as a perpetual shrine of remembrance to those killed on active service and those of the Allied Air Forces who gave their lives during the WWII.



*Walk down  
Arundel Street  
to reach Victoria  
Embankment*

**Victoria  
Embankment**

**National Submarine War Memorial**  
**Architect: A. Heron Ryan Tenison**  
**Sculptor: Frederick Brook Hitch**  
**Founder: E.J. Parlanti**

Submarines changed the nature of war on water into a game of stealth, creating dense coverage of the sea and the increased vulnerability of battleships and supply fleets. Submarines underwater position however, meant that once struck they were far more likely to become submerged, and the service suffered heavy casualties, losing a third of its personnel in the Great War, the largest proportion of fatalities in any branch of the armed forces.

The memorial is a mixture of narrative and symbolism. The central figures recreate the scene inside a submarine, exaggerated into a small claustrophobic tunnel. Around the vessel sea creatures appearing to trap the submarine in fishing nets, a reminder that submarines were as much prey to the elements as they were to the enemy. The memorial was opened in December 1922 and amended in 1959 to include the casualties of the Second World War.



*Cross Waterloo  
Bridge and cross  
the roundabout  
to reach Waterloo  
Station*

**Waterloo  
Road, SE1  
8SW**

**Waterloo Station**  
**Architect: John Robb Scott**  
**Sculpture: Charles E. Whiffen**

The Victory Arch at Waterloo Station commemorates 585 servants of the London & South Western Railway who lost their lives in the Great War. This monumental entrance was an afterthought to the 1908 reconstruction and enlargement of the terminus (originally opened in 1848). The final phase of rebuilding was designed in 1916 but executed in 1919-22.

John Betjeman commented that Scott was determined to outdo Ralph Knott's nearby County Hall and that "He had had a look at Piranesi, the etchings of Brangwyn and Muirhead Bone and the rich Edwardian baroque of provincial town halls". A year after, in 1922, Queen Mary opened the rebuilt station.



Photographs  
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