

ALLEYWAYS OF THE CITY

2 miles

This walk is easy going. No map is supplied since it would be too complex, so follow these directions carefully and perhaps take an A-Z, although not many of these alleyways can be found in it. Whatever happens you can't get too lost!

1 Start by travelling to Blackfriars station - train from Bowes Park or tube to Kings Cross then a 45 or 63 bus from right outside the station. Note that Blackfriars underground station is currently closed for a major rebuilding scheme. There is the mainline Thameslink train from Kings Cross to Blackfriars, however this doesn't normally run at weekends (the same rebuilding work).

2 Go ahead a few yards from the bus stop to see 'Black Friar' PH. on the left. Not much to look at from the outside but it is Listed Grade II* on account of its truly remarkable interior. Go inside for a drink - it really is remarkable. Retrace your steps a short distance the way the bus has just come then follow these directions - R for right, L for left.

R into Apothecary St to cross Thameslink railway on bridge over tunnel mouth. The **3** railway formerly stayed on level and crossed Ludgate Hill on a bridge (which didn't do much for the view of St Pauls).

R into Blackfriars Lane. Note Apothecaries Hall (City Livery Company Hall).

L into Playhouse Yard.

L at Cockpit PH into Burgon St. Playhouse Yard and the 'Cockpit' are both names that are reminders of the past. You will see plenty more.

R at Rising Sun PH into Carter Lane.

R into Wardrobe Place (careful, easy to miss) - out and back into cul-de-sac to see C17th

4 houses. The name is a reminder that this was once the site of the royal wardrobe, where the Kings formal garments were kept - until it was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666.

R Godliman St.

L Knightrider St.

R at Centre Page PH into Peter's Hill (crossing the approach to the famous wobbly bridge, look back for a view of St Paul's).

L Distaff Lane.

5 Ahead up steps past church.

R at end of church into Old Fish St Hill.

L Queen Victoria St.

Cross road.

Through Cleary Gardens if open (these gardens were laid out on a former bomb site) - either way, it's then -

6 R Huggin Hill.

L Huggin Court.

L Little Trinity Lane. Note Painters Hall (Livery Company Hall).

R Great Trinity Lane.

L Garlick Hill - Past Hatchet PH.

Ahead is Bow Lane (having crossed main roads).

7 Pass Ye Olde Watling PH on the corner of Roman Watling Street.

L into Grovelands Court - out and back to see Williamsons Tavern.

L into unnamed alley next to Grovelands Court.

L Bow Churchyard, then R beside church (St Mary Le Bow - as in the Great Bell of Bow,



St Mary le Bow Church

- 8** R Cheapside.
L Honey Lane, passing City Tavern.

R Trump St.

L Lawrence Lane.

R Gresham St.

L Guildhall Yard.

R Guildhall Buildings. You are now opposite the Guildhall, seat of city government and largely rebuilt following wartime bomb damage. Note gas lamps and a now rare police phone box.

R Basinghall St.

R Gresham St.

L Ironmonger Lane.

L St Olaves Court.

- 9** R Old Jewry. The name is a relic of the fact that this was once the city's Jewish area.

R Fredericks Place - out and back to see C18th buildings, including former home of Benjamin Disraeli. Note torch snuffers outside houses.

L Cheapside.

R Bucklersbury Passage.

Ahead and left into Bucklersbury.

Ahead St Stephens Row - Beside St Stephen Jewry. This church ("One of the ten most important buildings in England" - Pevsner) was used by Christopher Wren as a dress rehearsal for St Pauls's. Note gas lamp high up on wall on left (may not be lit).

- 10** R Mansion House Place (no street name).
L St Swithin Lane.

R King William St.

L Post Office Court. This was once the site of the city post office. A very important building from which the mail coaches once departed.

R Lombard Street.

You will now find yourself in a maze of narrow alleys. Few people know they are there and this area is very historic.

L Change Alley.

The Guild hall



- 11** R Unnamed alley.
L Birchin Lane.

R Bengal Court (note old shop fronts).

L Beside George & Vulture PH.

L Again down alley.

R into narrow passage to Ball Court and Simpsons PH. An ancient city institution.

- 12** Retrace steps to George & Vulture.
Ahead past Jamaica Wine House (St Michaels Alley). The Jamaica Wine House was once a city Coffee House.

L Bell Inn Yard.

L Gracechurch St (Crosse Keys PH).

R Leadenhall Market. Leadenhall Market is an ornate Victorian market building, now superbly restored and maintained.

Note on the left the extraordinary Lloyds Building.

- 13** R Lime St past Grapes PH.
Ahead Priory Lane.

R Brabant Court to see old building (out and back).

At junction with Eastcheap look up on wall of Café Nero to see carving of mice with cheese.

Ahead Botolph Lane.

R Monument St to the Monument. This was built to commemorate the Great Fire. You can climb the Monument to admire the view - but be warned that it has recently been closed for major rebuilding work.

To get back to Bowes Park:

Monument and Bank underground stations are nearby and the 141 bus back to Wood Green and Palmers Green stops opposite.