

## [A Walk beyond Time and Place](#)

### **Haunted London: Ghosts of London**

London is the most haunted capital in the world. Given its history and legends, this claim seems to have a true ring to it. For centuries, ghosts have been seen or sensed in the city's streets and in its buildings. They seem to occupy churches, pubs (of course), theatres and the Underground. Ghost hunters and urban explorers have tried to find them all over the capital. Ghost stories are part of every walk that I have written or that I have conducted. Are these legends only a result of London's brutal and gruesome past, or is there more to it? No one can deny that walking London's quarters at night can not only feel atmospheric, but sometimes rather dark and sinister. Have you ever had to walk through a dark alleyway and had the feeling that you heard footsteps behind and then you turned around and no one was there? It is easy to feel anxious, as if someone or *something* is nearby. Of course, I can give no guaranteed proof that you will encounter a ghost on this tour. But you might feel your neck skin crawl when you walk through the city's dark alleyways and courtyards and perhaps, just perhaps, you might encounter a ghostly presence in one way or another...

This walk will of course take you through the oldest part of London, the wealthy City, and its labyrinthine passages that are tucked away between towering office blocks. There are places that have not changed in hundreds of years and these are the right locations to see a shadow quickly disappear into the darkness or to smell or hear something that cannot be there...or was there hundreds of years ago and left its mark in the walls and buildings, just like a song that has been recorded on tape and can be played over and over again.

Do you have a fear of the dark or are you ready to follow me into the darkness?

# LONDON BEYOND TIME AND PLACE

with PHILIPP RÖTTGERS

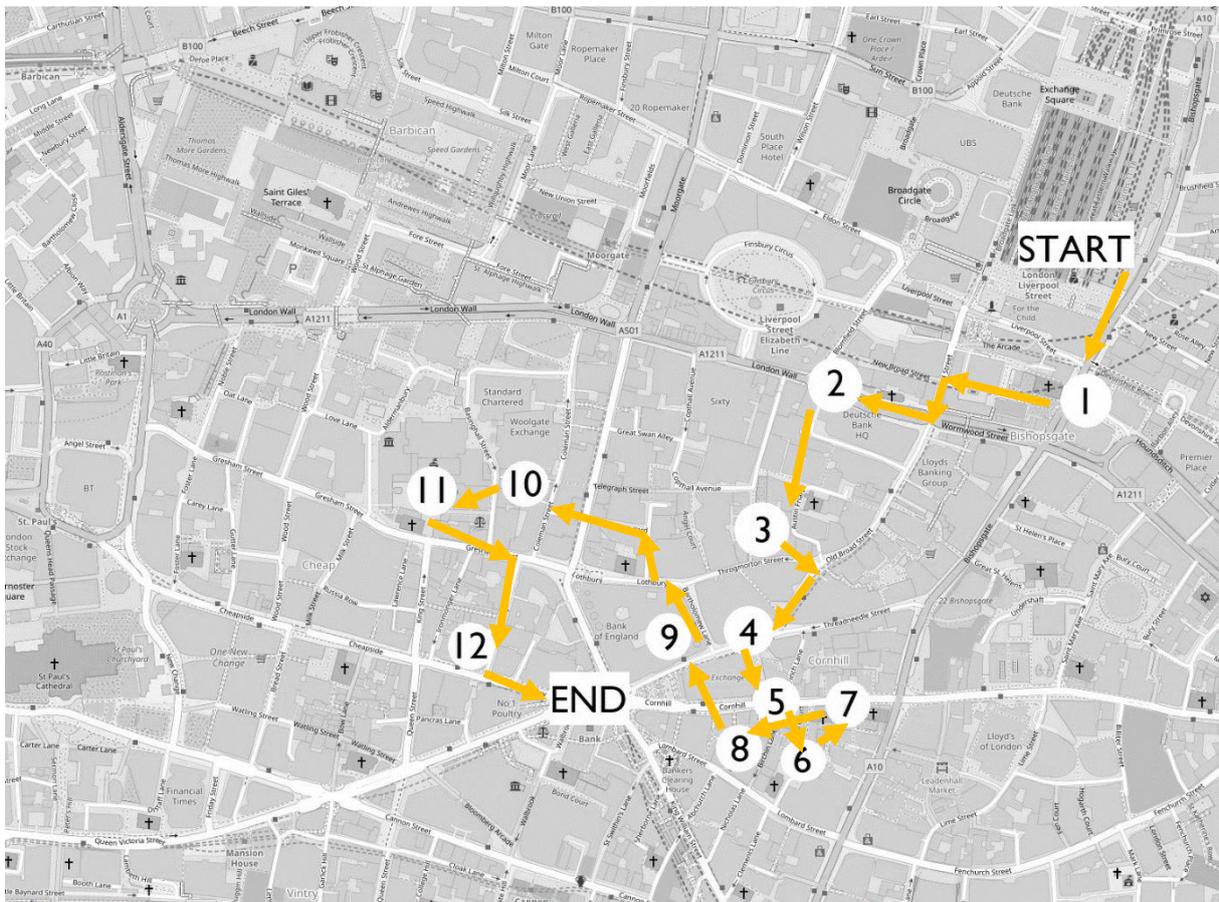
## The tour

**Start:** Liverpool Street Station

**End:** Bank Station

**Duration:** 1 hour 30 minutes (approximately)

**Start:** Liverpool Street Station – **1:** St Botolph's Bishopsgate – **2:** London Wall – **3:** Austin Friars – **4:** Royal Exchange – **5:** Simpson's Tavern – **6:** The George and Vulture – **7:** St Peter upon Cornhill – **8:** Birchin Lane – **9:** Threadneedle Street – **10:** Mason Avenue – **11:** Guildhall – **12:** Frederick's Place – **End:** Bank Station



# LONDON BEYOND TIME AND PLACE

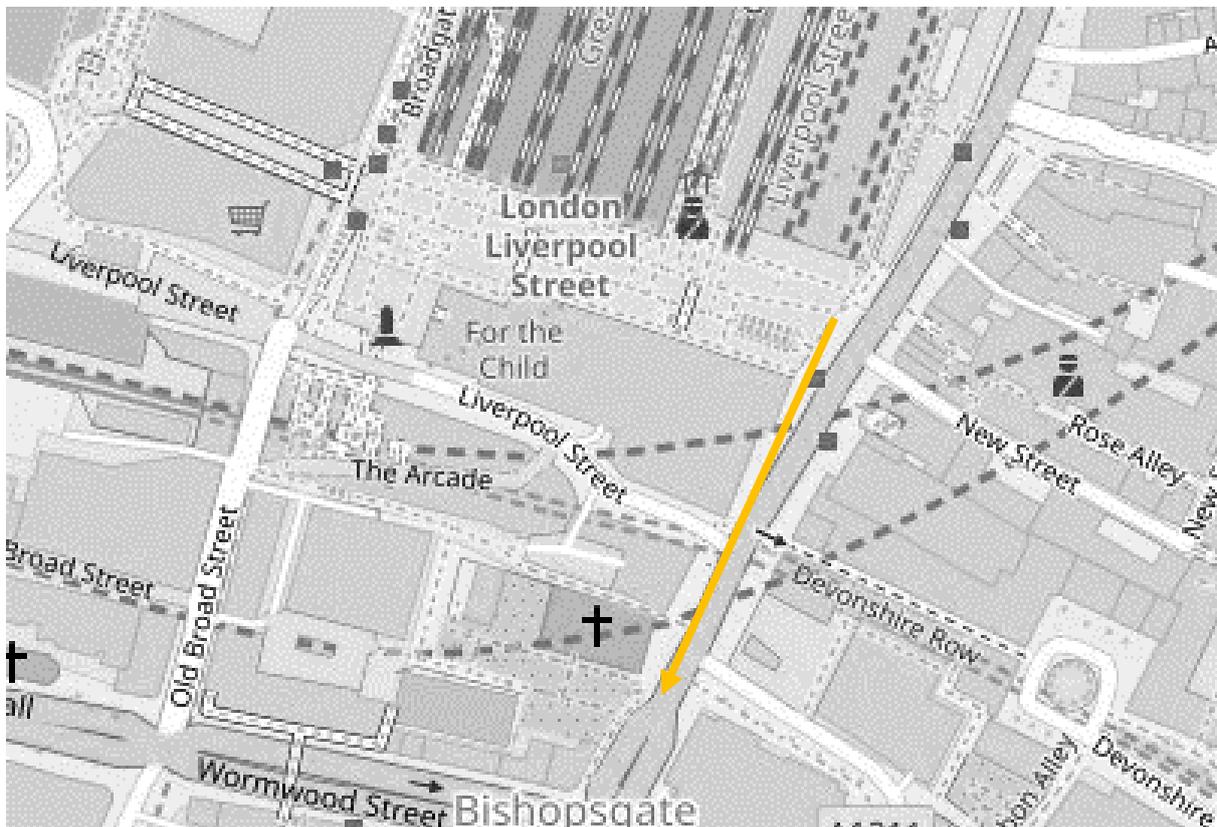
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**Note:** The best time to take this walk is in the evening after 7pm, when most of the City of London is deserted and the streets and courts are quiet and eerie.

**Please be careful on your walks!** Pay attention when you cross roads while reading the tour guide. If you get lost, just try to get back to the former point on the route or to one of the main thoroughfares.

## Start: Liverpool Street Station

*Liverpool Street Station – St Botolph's Bishopsgate*



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We are starting at the busy **Liverpool Street Station**. Leave the station via the **Bishopsgate exit**. On this walk I will not give the usual opportunity to stop for a pint or to turn it into a pub crawl; however, if you want to have a refreshment **before** the tour starts (or return here after it), I can recommend **Hamilton Hall**, which is directly to the right of the station, if you have just left it and turn around. Another excellent place to have a pint is **Dirty Dick's** on Bishopsgate. Standing in front of **Liverpool Street Station** and looking left along **Bishopsgate**, you can see it on the other side of the road. The early eighteenth-century pub is named after Richard, also known as Nathaniel, Bentley, who lived in the building and stopped washing after his bride had died the night before the wedding.

As **Liverpool Street Station** and the surrounding area is very busy, my advice is to turn right and walk down **Bishopsgate**, cross **Liverpool Street** itself and stop at **Alderman's Walk**, tucked away between a building and the church of **St Botolph's Without Bishopsgate**, about which we will hear in a minute, to start reading this tour guide. But first let us start with the haunting of **Liverpool Street Station**.

Depending on how and when you arrived at the station, you might have come via the Central Line. If you did, have you noticed a man wearing a white overall?

After the Underground stations have been closed for the night, they appear very different from when we commuters and travellers experience them throughout the day. Gone are the masses of people and all that is left is an empty, eerie station that is supervised through CCTV by a line controller in a separate location. In the summer of 2000, one of these controllers noticed a man on a platform of Liverpool Station at 2 a.m. in the morning. The station was obviously closed by this time, so the controller rang the station supervisor, who had over twenty years of work experience. He went down to the eastbound entrance to the Central Line, where the man had been seen on CCTV, but nobody was there. The supervisor called the line controller via the telephone at the bottom of the escalator explaining that he could not find the man. The controller answered back "The guy was right next to you; how could you not see him?" The supervisor went out to investigate and again saw nobody. So, he called the controller again, who responded "I can see the man standing next to you on CCTV right now." The supervisor thought it might have been an error on CCTV and went one more time to the eastbound platform of the Central Line. On a bench, he noticed a white paper

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overall, which had not been there before. It sent a shiver down his spine, for he knew that if anybody had left the platform, he would have had to pass him on the bottom of the escalators.

Recently, an excavation above **Liverpool Street Underground station** uncovered hundreds of bodies from mass burials. At some places there were eight bodies per cubic metre, and all buried without a coffin. So, beware when you travel the Central Line on **Liverpool Street Station**: You may find a white overall on the eastbound platform.

Now, leave **Alderman's Walk** again and keep walking along **Bishopsgate**, passing the church of **St Botolph's** on your right. You get a better view of it from the other side of the road; but keep in mind that we keep walking and enter the path through the churchyard on your right, so if you want to switch the sides of the road for taking a picture, make sure to come back to the church afterwards.



The poet John Keats was baptised here at **St Botolph without Bishopsgate**, but “taking pictures” is also the start of the ghost story for this church. In 1982, photographer Chris Brackley took a picture inside the church. Apart from him, only his wife was present. On the photograph however, a mysterious figure of a woman stands on the right-hand balcony. Years later, when the crypt was restored, a builder knocked down a wall on the mentioned balcony and

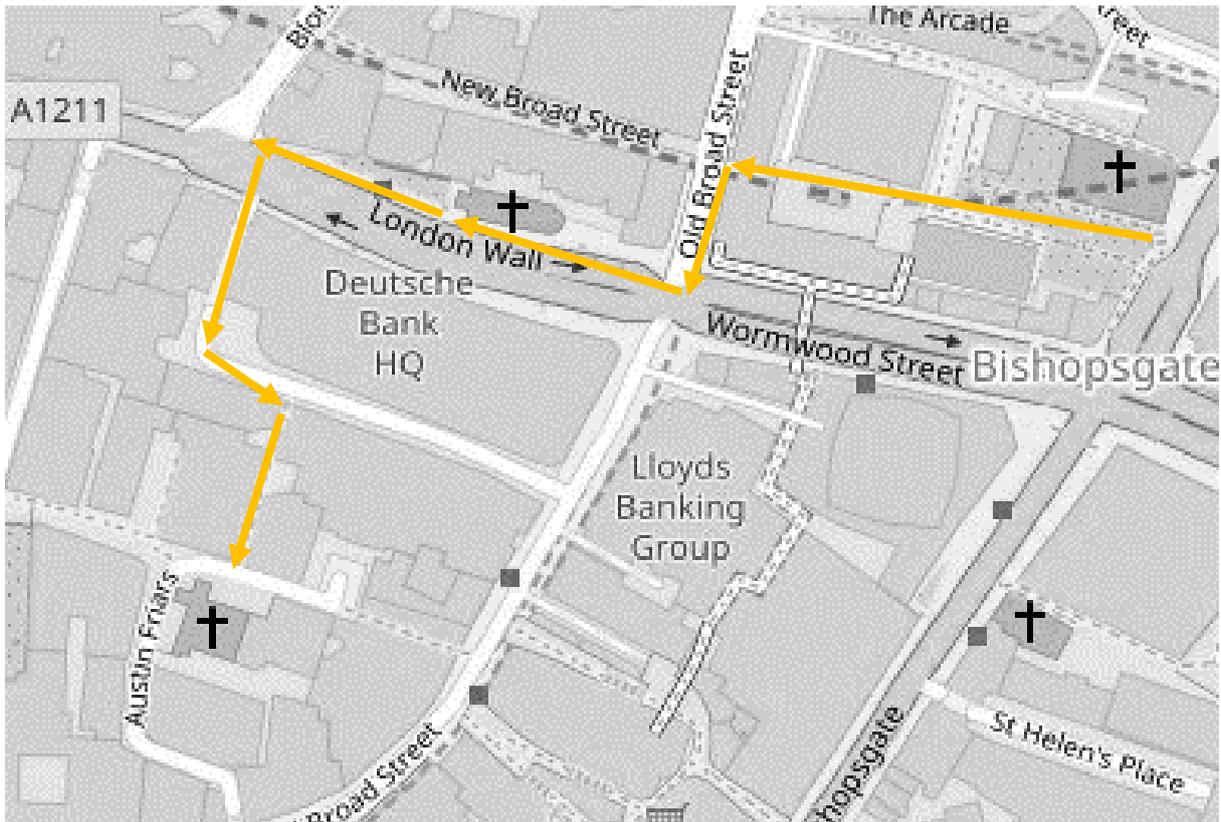
stumbled over some old dusty coffins. One of them contained the rather well-preserved body

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of a woman. Was it the woman on Chris's photograph? I do not reproduce the photograph in this walk, as I do not own the rights, but with a quick search on the internet you can find it and make your own conclusions.

## *St Botolph's Bishopsgate – Old Broad Street – London Wall – Austin Friars*



Keep walking along the path through the churchyard. At its end you will reach a **Turkish bath** from the Victorian era.

Walk through the exit between the two buildings and you reach **Old Broad Street**. Turn left and follow the street to the crossroads. At the traffic lights, turn right and cross **Old Broad Street** and follow **London Wall** until you reach the church **All-Hallows-on-the-Wall**. At its entrance, turn towards the steps and ascend them,

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but instead of turning towards the doors, take a look at the wall in front of you. Here, you can see parts of the old **Roman Wall**. The **City of London** is the oldest part of London. It is the area which was once called “Londinium” and its boundaries mark the boundaries of the Roman’s first settlement by the river Thames. So, the City of London is the part of London with the longest history and probably with most of its ghosts.



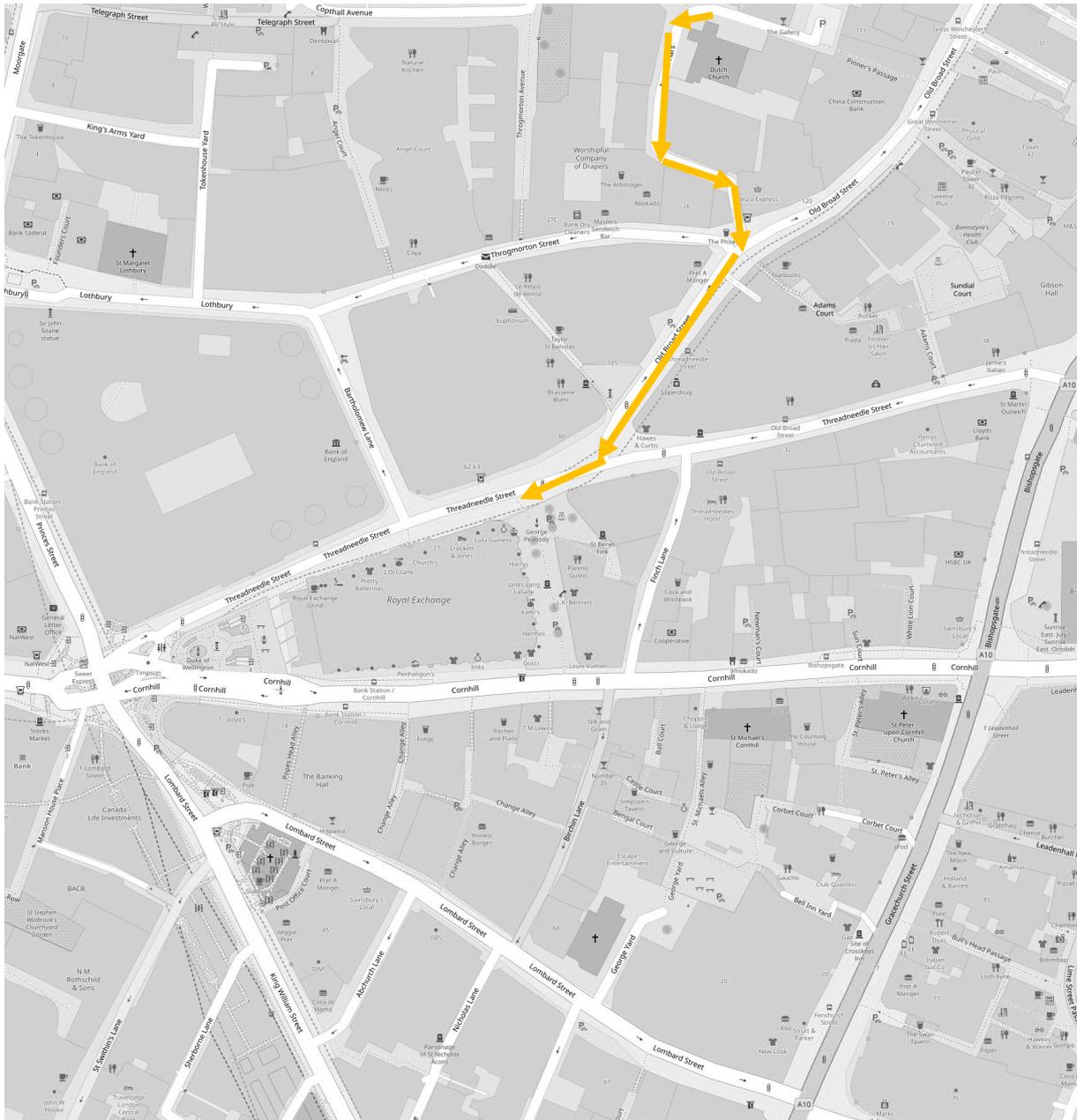
Keep following the street **London Wall** and cross the road to the other side at the next traffic lights. You already see the entrance to the passage in the building on the other side of the road. Enter the passage, which is **Great Winchester Street**. Walk through, walk along the curve and do not miss the entrance to **Austin Friars Passage** on your right. Enter the small and old alley and walk through until you come out on **Austin Friars**. **Austin Friars** was an Augustinian monastery from its foundation, probably in the 1260s, until its dissolution in November 1538. Turn right and walk alongside the church. Follow the curve of the street **Austin Friars** and notice the eerie statue of the monk with staring eyes on your left.



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## Austin Friars – Old Broad Street – Threadneedle Street



At the end of **Austin Friars**, you arrive on **Old Broad Street** again. Follow it; it becomes **Threadneedle Street**. Cross **Threadneedle Street** and stop by the statue of American banker and philanthropist **George Peabody** right behind the mighty **Royal Exchange** building. George Peabody was also the founder of Peabody Trust, which has provided quality low-cost housing in London since the 19<sup>th</sup> century for those who were not as well off.

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Turn around and take a look at the mighty building on the other side of the road. This is the “**Old Lady of Threadneedle Street**” – it is the **Bank of England**. The current building from the 18<sup>th</sup> century appears fortress-like (which it should be as the nation’s gold reserves are kept there). Of course, this building has its fair share of hauntings, too. The most famous ghost is that of Sarah Whitehead, also called the Black Nun. Some even claim that she is the original “Old Lady of Threadneedle Street”.



The legend goes that Sarah’s brother Philip Whitehead worked at the bank and was executed for forgery in 1811 or 1812. Philip had made sure that his devoted sister would not find out about his crime and also about his execution by having her stay at friends just off Fleet Street. However, Philip obviously did not return home after some time, so Sarah went to the **Bank of England** and asked the staff: “Have you seen my brother?” Knowing about his fate and how he had kept it from his sister, they kept telling her politely “He is not in today, Sarah, but we’ll tell him that you were inquiring after him.” This went on day in and day out and every time, Sarah would smile at the answer and leave the bank. One day, she asked a young bank employee, who was not familiar with her. He told her right away about her brother’s crimes and that he had rightly been hanged for it. This was too much for Sarah. Refusing to accept his

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guilt and his death, she kept returning to the bank every day, wearing a black crepe dress and asking the same question “Have you seen my brother?”

Her mental and physical state declined rapidly and she stopped washing. In 1818, the bank’s governor offered her a sum of money if she never returned to the bank. She accepted, having made a great deal (this, dear reader, is a rather brilliant way of making money). In some versions of the story, it is said that she approached Baron Rothschild on the steps of the Stock Exchange, demanding a vast fortune and the whole of the Muswell Hill estate as hers, and accusing him of defrauding her of her fortune. Tactfully, Rothschild handed her a half-crown and she accepted it and proceeded on her way.

Whichever version is true, she was seen after her presumed death (dated sometime between 1818 and the 1830s/40s). Right here on **Threadneedle Street**, more than one weary traveller was approached by an old lady in black late at night who asked him “Have you seen my brother?” So, take a look around to see if you can spot her somewhere in the dark.

There is a great documentary about the case on YouTube by my friend “Curious World”, which I highly recommend you to watch. For example, he states that no Philip Whitehead can be found in the archives of the Old Bailey (the Central Criminal Court), but that in late 1811, a Paul Whitehead, clerk of the Bank of England, was executed for forgery. So, there is truth in the legend and some of the facts may have been changed when the story was retold over the years.

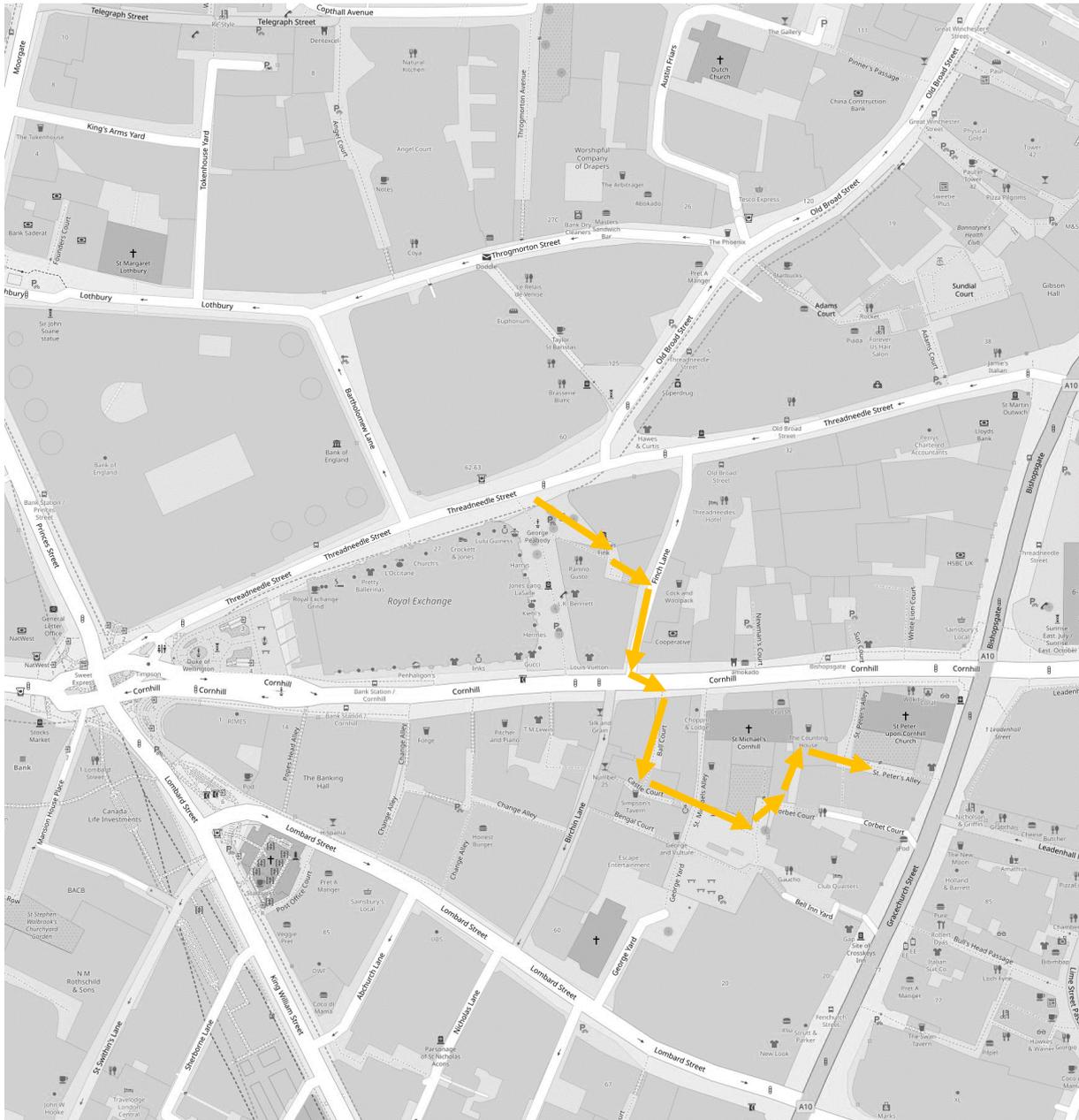


*Sarah Whitehead (Wellcome Library no. 1967i, Photo number: V0007302)*

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Royal Exchange Avenue – Finch Lane – Ball Court (“Simpson’s Tavern”) – Castle Court (“The George & Vulture”) – St Michael’s Cornhill – Corbet Court – St-Peter-Upon-Cornhill



Standing in front of Peabody’s statue, turn left and follow **Royal Exchange Avenue**, passing **No. 1, Royal Exchange Avenue**, which would make a perfect location for Ebenezer Scrooge’s counting house in Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. We know that Scrooge was visited by three ghosts and we are about to visit some of the locations connected to the story

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and these visits, but for a proper *A Christmas Carol* walk, you can visit my website and purchase it there.



Follow **Royal Exchange Avenue** and you arrive on **Finch Lane**. Turn right and follow **Finch Lane**. Cross **Cornhill** at the traffic light on your right, then turn left and follow **Cornhill** until you reach the entrance to **Ball Court**. Don't miss it! Enter **Ball Court** and you step into the atmospheric passageways of the **City of London** where time appears to have stood still. Staggering through the dark, you reach **Simpson's Tavern** with its barrels in front, a traditional chop house dating back to 1757 where the gentlemen of the City of London used to eat mutton chops and roast beef. This is a possible location for Scrooge's "melancholy tavern" in *A Christmas Carol*.



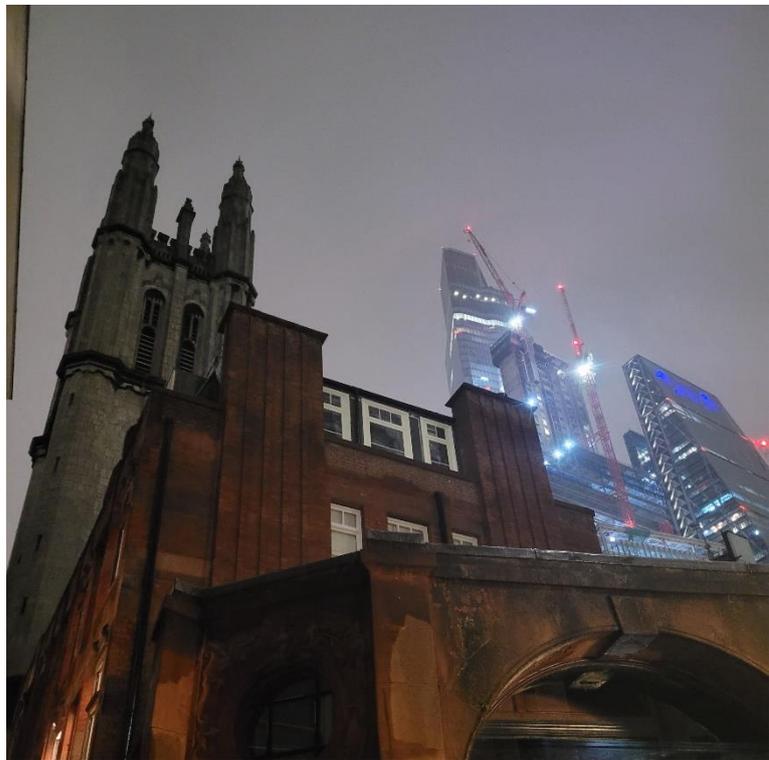
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Before you follow **Ball Court** through the small passage on your left, wait for a moment and listen. I do not know how you feel, but when I walk through here alone, I feel scared to take a look at the dark corners, because I sense that something is watching me. Walking through the passage in front of you, you will feel a cold wind of air coming out of nowhere and maybe a female voice can be heard. So now you can go on and listen closely.

When you come out of **Ball Court**, you come into **Castle Court** and you see the **The George and Vulture** in front of you. The **George and Vulture** is mentioned by Dickens several times in his works (most notably in *Pickwick Papers*) and the author himself went here many times, although he probably knew the place as “Thomas’s Chop House”. Apart from **Simpson’s Tavern**, this is most likely the location where Scrooge has his “melancholy dinner in his usual melancholy tavern”.

Turn left and follow **Castle Court**. On your left, you pass the **Jamaica Wine House**, where the first coffee house in London was opened by Pasqua Rosee in 1652. Behind it towers the ancient church tower of **St Michael’s Cornhill**. Again, it is suggested by some that Charles Dickens placed the office of Scrooge in this neighbourhood. Follow **St Michael’s Alley** along the fence of the churchyard (note the back entrance to the



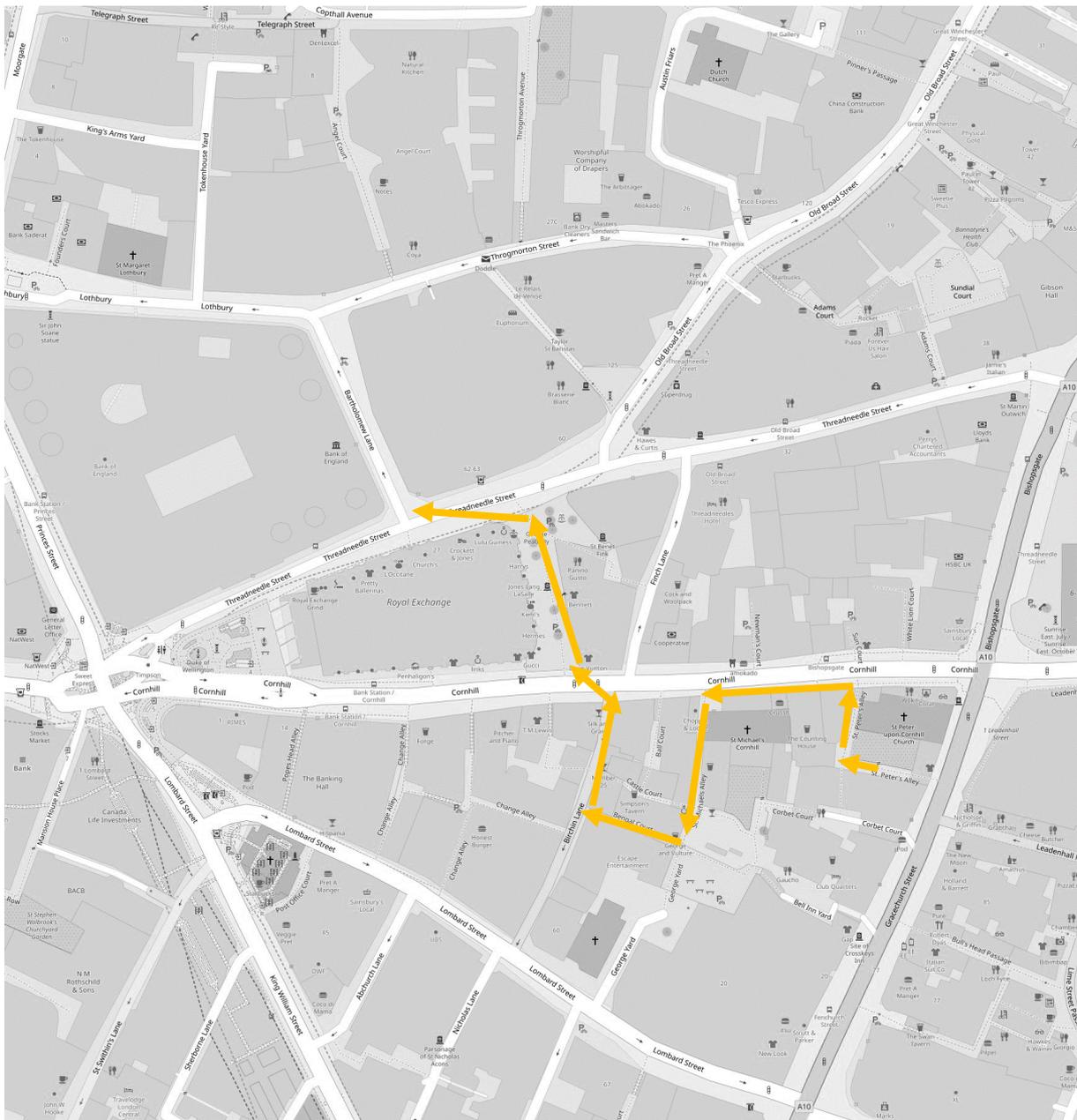
brilliant “**The Crosse Keys**” public house, which is situated in a former bank), then right and down some steps (be careful here in the dark!) onto **Corbet Court**. Turn left, follow **Corbet Court** until you reach the church of **St Peter-upon-Cornhill**. Walk along the fence of **St Peter’s churchyard** until you reach the iron gate. Push it open and enter the small and spooky graveyard. It is here that the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come leads Scrooge to their final stop. Of course, we do not know for sure which churchyard of the City Dickens had in mind, but this one fits the description and the other locations of the story. Entering it, it is easy to imagine spectres between the graves and seeing a grave stone that bears the name

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Ebenezer Scrooge. Dickens also mentioned the cemetery in *The Uncommercial Traveller* and *Our Mutual Friend*.

**St-Peter-Upon-Cornhill – St Peter’s Alley – Cornhill – St Michael’s Alley – Bengal Court  
– Birchin Lane – Cornhill – Bank of England**



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If you get to stand on **Cornhill** and look at the front of **St Peter Upon Cornhill** during daytime (maybe not on this tour), you will see two ferocious looking demons on the building next to it, looking down upon the entrance of the church. When the building was planned, it would have encroached on land owned by the church. The vicar of St Peter's caused a great furore, so that the architect, a Mr Runtz or Rentz, had to redesign the building at great cost. As a result of the feud, he added the grotesque devils and allegedly modelled one of its faces on that of the vicar.

Leave the churchyard and backtrack along **St Peter's Alley**. At the back entrance of **The Counting House** (a brilliant pub/hotel that was once a bank), turn right and follow **St Peter's Alley** back to **Cornhill**. Turn left and follow **Cornhill** until you reach the magnificent spire of **St Michael's Cornhill**. Turn left and follow **St Michael's Alley** until you reach the main entrance of the **George and Vulture**. Notice the golden brass plate and breathe in the timeless atmosphere of this real Dickensian landmark. Walk past the main entrance and at the end of the passage, turn right and enter **Bengal Court**. The passageway is filled with a



haunted aura. When you walk through it, turn right at the first window to see a white marble bust of Charles Dickens himself, face inwards to the **George and Vulture's** dining room. The author still watches the everyday customers of this tavern. Every Christmas, his descendants come to the **George and Vulture** and have their family Christmas dinner in the upstairs room. Dickens's bust is placed at the top of the table with a Santa's hat put upon.

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Of course, this three-hundred-year-old landmark has its ghost, too. The upstairs room, the window of which you can see from **Bengal Court**, is occasionally visited by a Victorian lady in a long grey dress, who materializes out of a sudden fog and then floats around the rooms and corridors silently. Can you see her face in the window?



Follow **Bengal Court** until you reach **Birchin Lane**. Turn left and immediately stop and turn to your left again. On the wall, there is a plaque installed by the Royal Navy in memory of the tragic tale of Captain Ralph Douglas Binney. On 8 December 1944 Binney walked along the southern side of **Birchin Lane** (the **Lombard Street** end) and witnessed some men raiding a jeweller's shop here. He was alone and when they had just jumped into their car to escape, he bravely confronted them and shouted "In the name of the King, stop!" They drove him over and he was dragged beneath the car. They crossed the river over London Bridge as far as Tooley Street with him still trapped beneath. He survived another three hours and died in hospital.



Go back past the entrance to **Bengal Court** and follow **Birchin Lane** to **Cornhill**. Cross the street via the traffic light and walk along the back side of the **Royal Exchange**. Pass the statue of George Peabody again, go left over **Threadneedle Street** and keeping ahead into **Bartholomew Lane**, with the **Bank of England** on your left.

Sarah Whitehead's ghost was seen within the bank's walls and in its inner garden way into the 1970s. Two bank clerks watched her from the upper galleries staggering along a garden path and then falling to her knees and clapping the stones

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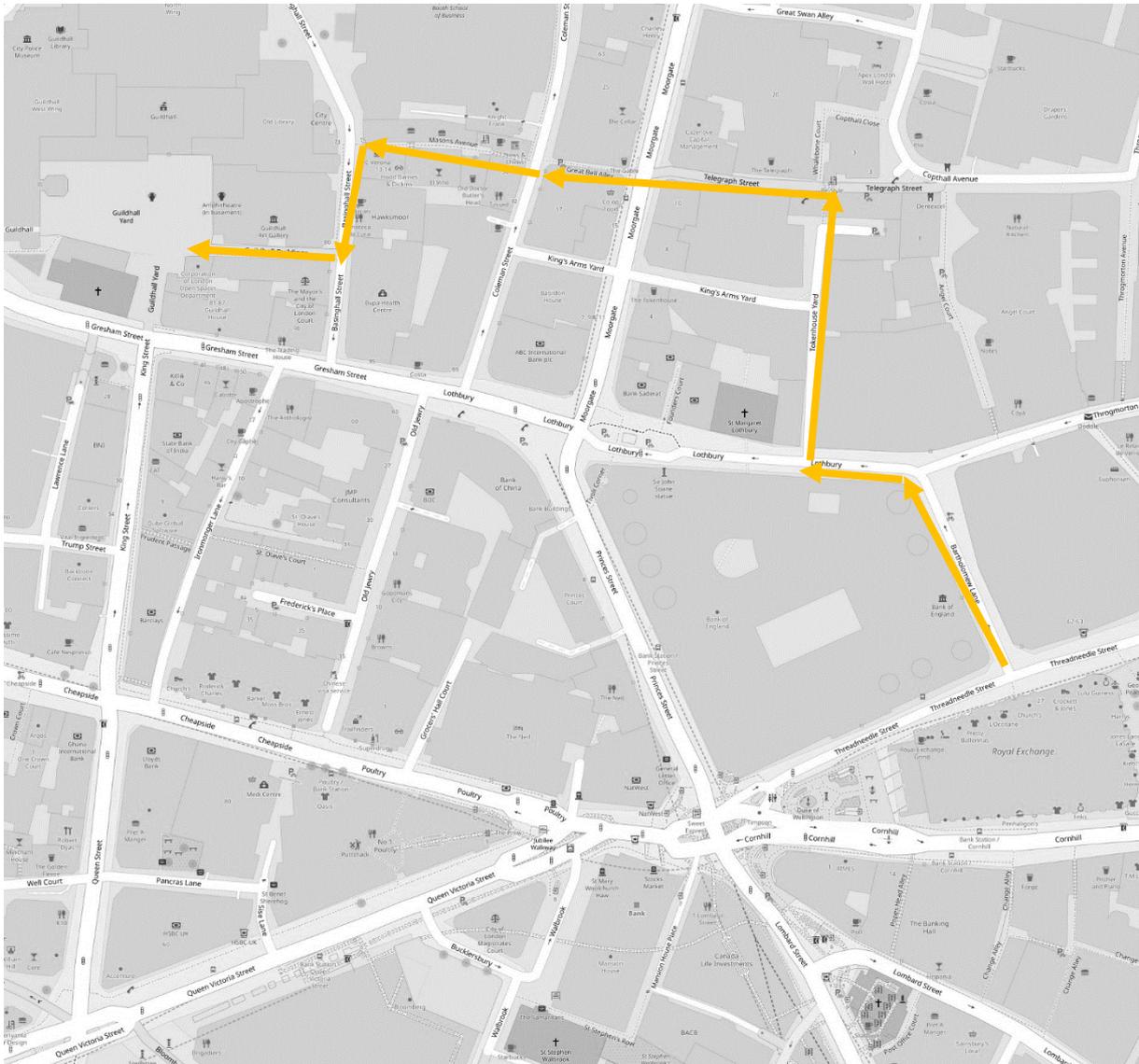
with her fists before vanishing from sight. The path's stones are made up from old gravestones from the cemetery of the church of St Christopher le Stocks. Some sources of the Sarah Whitehead legend say that she had been buried in the mentioned churchyard just behind the bank. However, the church was demolished in 1782 to make way for an extension of the bank, and her life dates do not fit this theory.

It is said that the ghost of a giant also haunts the **Bank of England**. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the so-called "Resurrectionists" started an unusual business (about which I also did an episode of "Talks beyond time and place", that you can listen to on my website). The "Body-Snatchers" as they were also called, were gangs of men who dug out freshly buried bodies from London's overflowing cemeteries and sold them to doctors and hospitals. The mentioned "giant" from the **Bank of England** was a cashier of enormous stature that lived during the body-snatchers' reign. Because of his height, he was afraid that his body would fall into their hands after his death and so persuaded the Governors of the Bank to be buried within its surroundings. Since then, his ghostly apparition was said to haunt the Guardsmen of the Bank, but it seemed to have stopped since CCTV has taken over the surveillance in the 1970s. Nonetheless, an eighteenth-century lead coffin was found during excavation works, seven feet eight inches in length, with an iron chain wrapped around it.

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*Bartholomew Lane – Lothbury – Tokenhouse Yard – Telegraph Street – Great Bell Alley – Masons Avenue – Basinghall Street – Guildhall Buildings – Guildhall Yard*



Follow **Bartholomew Lane** around the corner (the street becomes **Lothbury**), then turn right into **Tokenhouse Yard** and follow the road to its end. There is a small covered passageway that leads on. While walking through, many people have had the experience of listening to a couple arguing or even fighting, but when they reached the other side, no one was there. So now it is up to you: Please enter and listen closely!

When you have reached the other side, turn left and follow **Telegraph Street**. Cross **Moorgate**, enter **Great Bell Alley**, cross **Coleman Street** and enter **Masons Avenue**.

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On your left is the pub **Old Doctor Butler's Head**, named after “the greatest physician of his time”, an eccentric drunkard named William Butler.



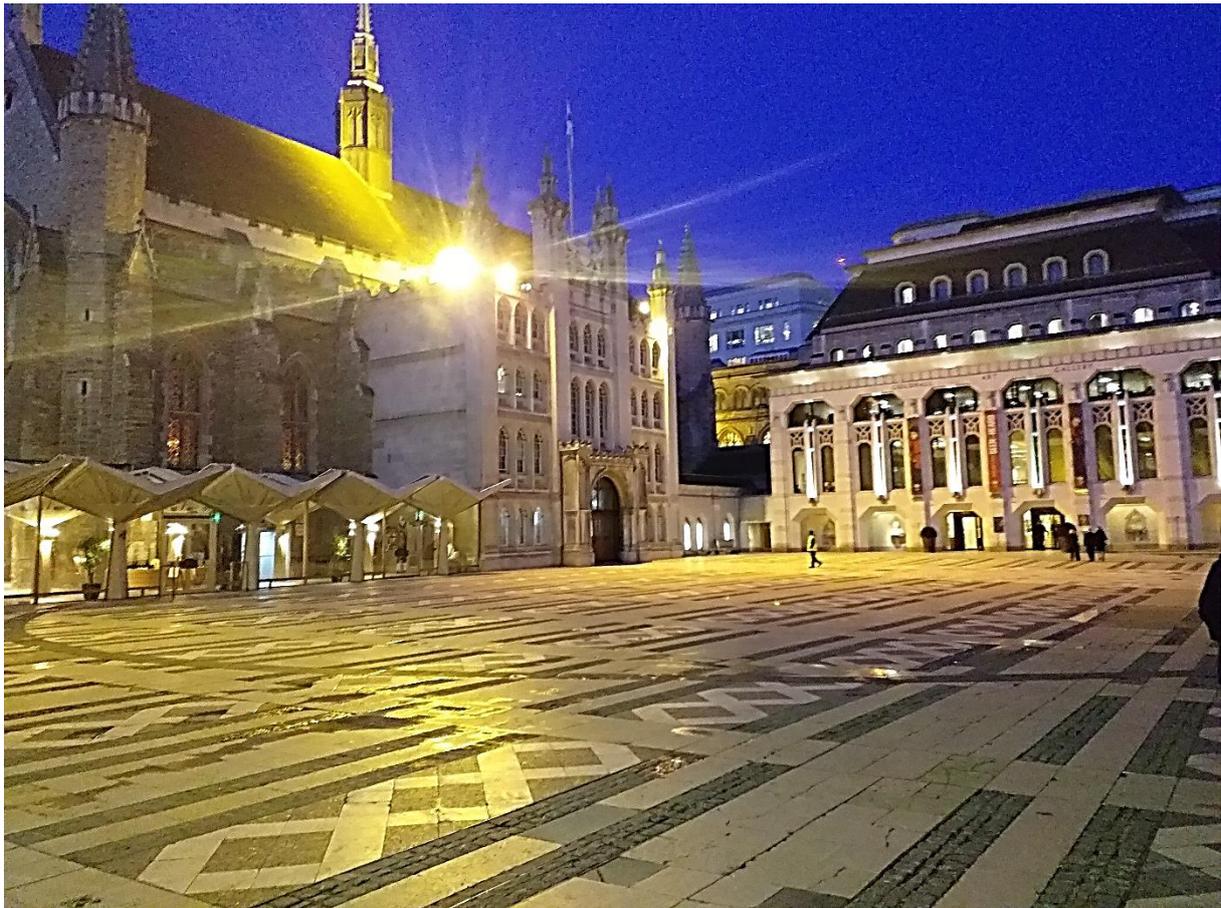
Dr Butler was a 17th century self-proclaimed specialist in nervous disorders. One of his “miracle cures” included holding consultation on London Bridge, during which his unfortunate patient would be dropped through a trapdoor into the torrent below. Despite his lack of qualifications, he became court physician to King James I., developing a medicinal ale for gastric ailments, which was available only from taverns which displayed Dr Butler's head on their signs. *Dr Butler's purging ale* was popular in 17th-century England. He acquired a number of ale houses in London, of which **The Old Dr Butler's Head** is the last one standing. It was originally established in 1610, the present building dating back to just after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Of course, the pub is said to be haunted: Whenever the staff is alone before or after closing time, they hear the door opening, followed by footsteps in the bar area as if someone has entered the pub and walked up to the bar. When they come to serve the customer, no one is there.

Follow **Mason Avenue** to **Basinghall Street**. Turn left and follow the street until you can go right into **Guildhall Buildings**. Follow until you reach the magnificent yard of the

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**Guildhall** itself. **Guildhall** has been the City of London's centre of power for at least 500 years. In 1988, archaeologists discovered the remains of a previously undocumented amphitheatre beneath the 15<sup>th</sup> century crypt (now located under **Guildhall Art Gallery**). It's somehow appropriate that a dark and violent city like London built its centre of power upon the site of a former Roman theatre full of spectacle and violence. Almost 2000 years later, you can see the curved outline of the amphitheatre marked out in the yard. The Roman blood sport is still visible today.



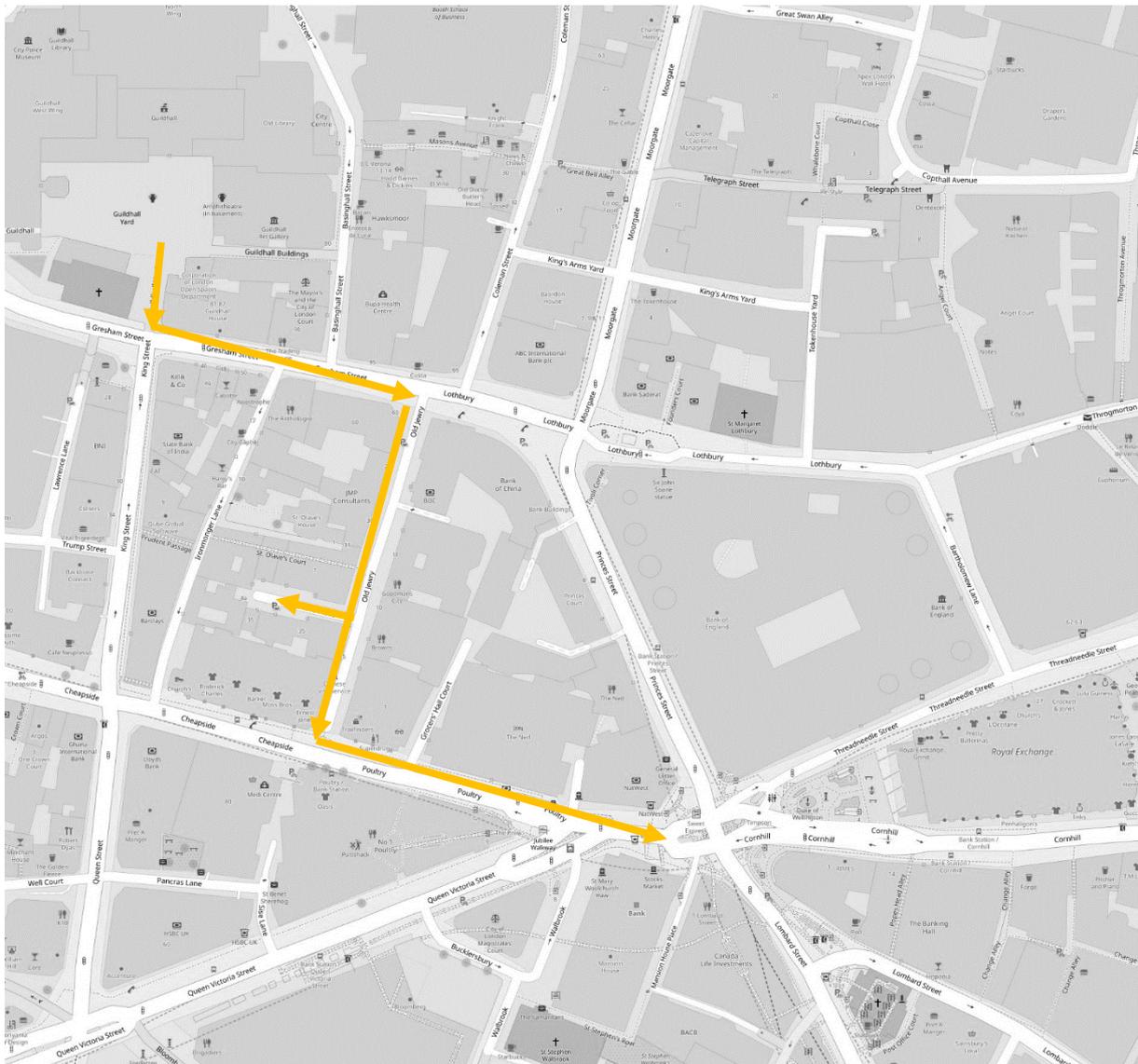
**Guildhall** itself is worth a visit, one should definitely see the two effigies of Gog and Magog inside. Gog and Magog are part of a legend: Britain was colonized by Brute or Brutus the Trojan, a grandson of the famous hero Aeneas. The island was inhabited by a race of giants, the mightiest being the giant Goemagog. Once defeated, the Trojans could settle and built New Troy, which is now London. The giant has many names, from Goemagog and Goemagot to Gogmagog until in later versions it were Gog and Magog, after the giant became curiously divided into two characters. After Brutus had captured Gog and Magog (in later versions of the story also named as the brothers of the giant Albion) they were chained as porters to the gate of the palace built by Brutus – presently the site of **Guildhall**.

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Also, you can see the red and golden coach used on Lord Mayor's Day on 9<sup>th</sup> November every year when the new Lord Mayor is officially inaugurated. It is displayed in a glass cage on the other side of the yard.

## *Guildhall – Gresham Street – Old Jewry – Frederick's Place – Poultry – Bank*



Standing in the middle of the yard (or the former amphitheatre where so many people and animals have lost their lives in bloodshed), turn to the exit that is left of **Guildhall Buildings**, the way that you came in through. Leave the way via **Guildhall Yard**, turn left and follow **Gresham Street**. Cross the road and follow **Gresham Street**. Cross

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**Ironmonger Lane**, the name being first recorded in the twelfth century, but the road has been here since the Romans. Since the Great Fire of London, the ground level has risen by three and a half feet, but the buildings are on the same ancient alignment, giving it still the exact same width which allows two carts to pass each other.



*Ironmonger Lane*

Cross **Ironmonger Lane**, follow **Gresham Street** and turn right into **Old Jewry**. Follow the street and towards its end, turn right into the atmospheric and old-fashioned **Frederick's Place**, another throwback to a bygone age. The tiny courtyard dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century with some wonderful old buildings, one of which was the working place of Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, who worked there in the 1820s.

Some years ago, the place was paved with cobblestones. After a ghost tour of my friend and colleague Richard Jones (of London Discovery Tours – highly recommended), he got a phone call from a lady who wanted to know the location of the courtyard. She and her family had been on one of his Halloween ghost-tours and one of her girls had taken one of the loose cobblestones from **Frederick's Place** home with her. There it was put on a shelf. Two weeks later the mother made the mentioned call, because ever since the cobblestone had been in their house, they had nothing but trouble. A ghostly girl was seen running up and down the stairs, footsteps were heard around the house and a disembodied child's voice and laughter could be heard. Sometimes the family saw a child, but when they looked again it had vanished. One Sunday evening, when they were all watching television, the lights began to flicker and they heard footsteps upstairs. When they went to investigate, they saw from under the door that the light in the girl's bedroom was on. They could hardly open the door, because the drawers had been pushed against it from the inside. The whole room had been trashed. So, in November, they came back into this courtyard and placed the cobblestone back where it

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belonged. That seemed to have been the end of their ghostly troubles. Do you get goosebumps?

I do not encourage you to take cobblestones or anything else for that matter. Instead backtrack along **Frederick's Place**, turn right into **Old Jewry** and left at its end. Follow **Poultry** until you reach the crossing of **Bank Station** with the **Royal Exchange**, the **Bank of England** and **Mansion House**, the home of the Lord Mayor.



*Royal Exchange*

**Bank Station** is where we finish our haunted London walk, but it is also the final haunted location for tonight. A dreadful smell is said to emerge from several of its entrances, “like an open grave” and a feeling of melancholy is said to hang in the air late at night. Sometimes, maintenance workers had to run up from the depths because the air was so bad. There is a close proximity from **Bank Station** to Liverpool Street Station, where we started, and where the site of a plague pit had been discovered, which seemed to have been behind the Bank of England – so perhaps it has influenced the station as well?

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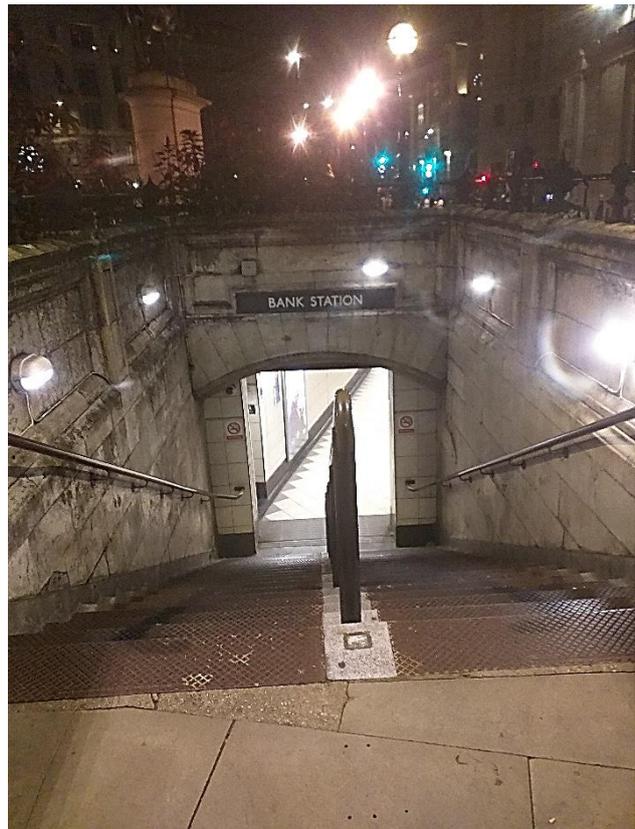
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Also, the story of Sarah Whitehead is connected to the station. In some versions of the legend, it is believed that she was buried in the vicinity of where **Bank Station** is now and that her grave was disturbed during its construction. The crypt of the church of **St Mary Woolnoth**, which you can see in front of you on the corner of **King William Street** and **Lombard Street**, was demolished to build the station's ticket office there. **St Mary Woolnoth** is the only City church by architect Nicholas Hawksmoor, whose churches are said to influence its surroundings in a dark and sinister way. You can find a walk along his

East End churches on my website **LONDON BEYOND TIME AND PLACE**.

During the building of the ticket office in 1900, many bodies were exhumed and relocated from the crypt. Was Sarah Whitehead's body one of them? Chris Archibald, a station worker, saw an old woman on a CCTV monitor at **Bank Station** at 2 a.m., long after the station was closed. He went to investigate and indeed saw her standing in the corridor. She looked up at him, then cast her eyes down, turned around and walked around the next corner. He hurried after her and when he turned the corner, she was gone. He called his colleague, who operated the CCTV cameras, to check if he could see her anywhere. He checked over one hundred cameras and there was no one to be seen. Sightings of Sarah Whitehead, "the black nun" at **Bank Station** run as late as 2001.



Also, another station worker was on night shift in the station in 1982. Part of his duty was to check the lifts. He did that and after shutting down the first lift, he went to the next

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one. While walking away, he heard several knocks on the first lift's door. Knowing that he had just checked it and that nobody had been there, he ignored it and walked to the control room to switch off the station's lights, leaving the emergency lights on. As he walked through the ticket hall, he heard a door slam behind him. It scared him so much that he never went to work on this side of the station at night again.

After all the stories, do you dare to go down to **Bank Station**, one of the oldest Underground stations with some of its longest tunnels, some going as far as Monument Station? If you choose to stay a while longer, I can recommend to visit the mentioned **Counting House** on Cornhill or **The Crosse Keys** on Gracechurch Street (walk along **Cornhill**, turn right and enter it opposite **Leadenhall Market**) to steady your nerves. But remember, the longer you will stay here, the darker and lonelier it will get...and the shadows will begin to move...



We thank you very much and hope you have enjoyed the walk!

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We are also on social media: [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [YouTube](#)

Leave us a comment if you liked the tour or have anything to mention!

Thanks!

Philipp Röttgers of [London beyond time and place](#)

Photos by Dorothee Schröder and Philipp

Image of Sarah Whitehead: Wikimedia Commons: "Miss Whitehead, an eccentric, known as the 'Bank Nun'. Coloured lithograph by G.L. Lee." Wellcome Library no. 1967i, Photo number: V0007302

Text by Philipp Röttgers

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