

History



Hello! Welcome to Cloth Fair. My name is Anne, it's 1669 and I'm 8 years old. I've lived on this street all my life with my mum and dad and three little brothers Peter, Henry and James. My dad works as a supervisor at the cattle market in Smithfield – he has to make sure the herdsmen control their animals and make sure they don't go charging into nearby shops and houses!

A few years ago, my family and I were awoken by shouts and screams from all around. We went outside to see what all the fuss was about and saw the sky growing bright orange and the smell of thick smoke all around. The city of London was on fire and it was getting closer and closer to our street. I've never been so scared – even though this isn't the nicest place to live, with it being so crowded and dirty, it is still our home and I was afraid we'd lose everything!

Fact:

The Great Fire of London started in a Pudding Lane bakery in the middle of the night on the 2nd of September 1666.

People had been warning of the danger of a great fire in London for years, in fact King Charles II wrote to the Lord Mayor warning him only a year before the fire broke out!



Mum tells me that we were very lucky that the fire didn't burn our house down. We don't have fire engines with great hoses, or fire extinguishers like you do today. The local people used buckets, axes, fire hooks and ladders to fight the fire. Look at the picture above, you can see the people pulling the thatched roof off a building with big hooks to slow the spread of the fire. Dad says that to stop the fire around the Tower of London, they used gunpowder to blow up the surrounding buildings!



The fire blazed around us for more than four days. On day three dad had us packing up our important belongings in case we had to flee to the countryside.

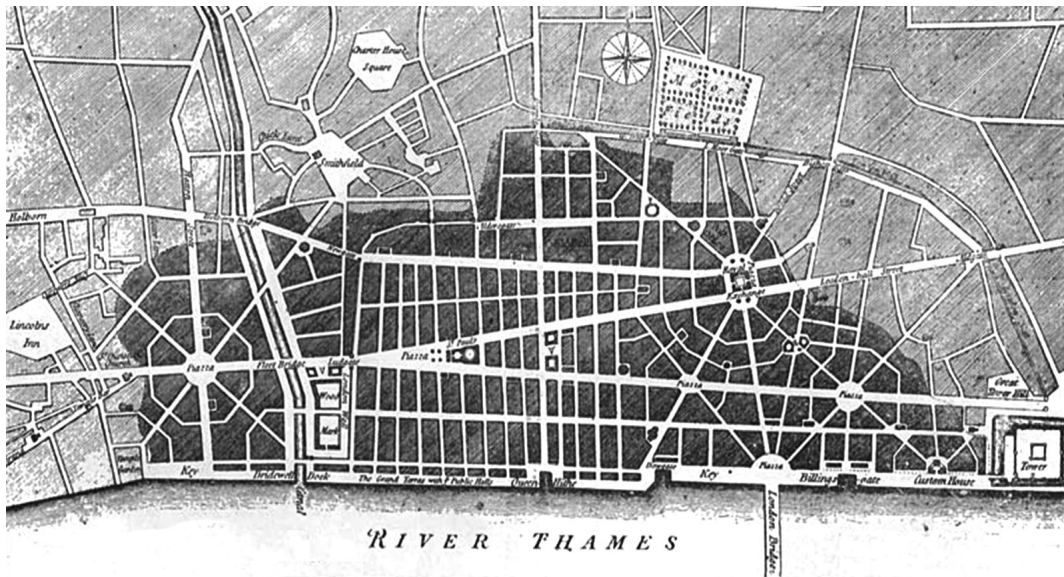
Luckily, the wind changed direction and became less strong so the fire started to die down and people were able to put out the smaller fires.

What a scary time to be alive! Has anything so dramatic happened in your lifetime?



Our house is one of only a very few that survived the fire in this part of London. Three years on from the fire and we're still re-building the city; there's still so much cleaning up and work to do. My brothers and I watch people working on St Bartholomew's Church opposite – it looks like really hard work! Can you see the church from where you're sitting now?

Mum says a famous **architect** (say *ark-i-tekt*) called Christopher Wren drew up plans for the new city, which include wider streets so that fires can't take hold so quickly in future.



Sir Christopher Wren's plans to rebuild of the City of London imagined a city with grand, straight roads. Instead, many of the streets were rebuilt on the same old wriggly routes.

I love drawing and think that one day I might like to be an architect and design new buildings and city plans. Perhaps you'd like to have a go at planning a city in the box below? I wonder what your buildings will be made of – I'd choose something that doesn't catch fire easily!



Unruly Rulers

Who were the Stuart kings and queens?

The Stuarts were the first kings of the United Kingdom. **Stuart** is the family name of the kings and queens. The first Stuart was James I in 1603 and they lasted till Queen Anne in 1714. Then the Georgians took over. George I was King James I great-grandson.



King James I

What a silly king, he kept thinking witches were trying to kill him! He even wrote a book on witches.

1603



King Charles I

Bad King Charlie wanted to rule without Parliament. That started a civil war which he lost. Onto the block went Charlie's head. One chop and he was dead.

1625



Oliver Cromwell

Not a king but still a ruler. He didn't like the royals and made himself Lord Protector of England. He didn't last too long.

1649



King Charles II

A merry monarch who brought back fun and games Oliver had banned!

1660



King James II

A bit dim was this king. He tried to make everyone Catholic again, then ran away when they said no.

1685

Queen Mary II & William III

She and her husband took her dad, James II's throne in the Glorious Revolution. Not so glorious for James.

1688



Queen Anne

A sickly queen who loved to eat!

1702-1714





Meet Charles II – who ruled when Anne lived at Cloth Fair.

Hi Charlie!

So when did you become king?

I became King on the 20 May 1660 when I was 30 years old.

Why were you King in Scotland?

My grandad James was James VI of Scotland. When his cousin Elizabeth I died, grandad was next in line – so he became King James the First and Sixth.

What are you most famous for?

My family had the throne taken away from them by Oliver Cromwell. But I got it back once Cromwell died!

What is your nickname?

Everyone called me the Merry Monarch. I loved partying, playing games and having fun. Who wants to be boring?

What is the naughtiest thing you've ever done?

I pretended to be a Protestant as Parliament wouldn't let me rule if I was a Catholic. Hah! Just before I died I got a priest to convert me officially to being a Catholic. That'll show them!





What does 45a Cloth Fair look like?

Can you walk all the way around it?

Can you use any of these words to describe the building? Draw a circle around the ones that do.

Does 45a Cloth Fair look similar to the buildings around it?

Castle

Tall

Pretty

Industrial

Stone

Brick

Symmetrical

Home

Square

Elegant

Friendly

Low

Cloth Fair was built in the late 16th century by Robert, 3rd Baron Rich – the street was full of **tenements** that were three or four storeys high.

The buildings today look very different to how they looked when they were built. They were refaced in red brick in the 18th century - originally they were timber-framed buildings and may have looked similar to the jettied buildings below.

Buildings in medieval London were packed close together, part of the reason the great fire spread so easily.



Facts:

Tenements are large buildings with lots of smaller living spaces inside for people to rent. Tenements in the 1600's weren't very nice places to live – they were often cramped and dirty with many people living in small spaces.

Unsanitary means dirty and unclean enough to harm your health.

A **conservationist** is somebody who helps protect and preserve buildings, wildlife or the environment.

Blue Plaques serve as historical markers of important places or people.

In 1914 city officials decided that the crowded streets around Cloth Fair were **unsanitary** and unsafe and they were pulled down. Cloth Fair was due to be pulled down too but it was saved by two architects named Paget and Sealy in the 1930's.

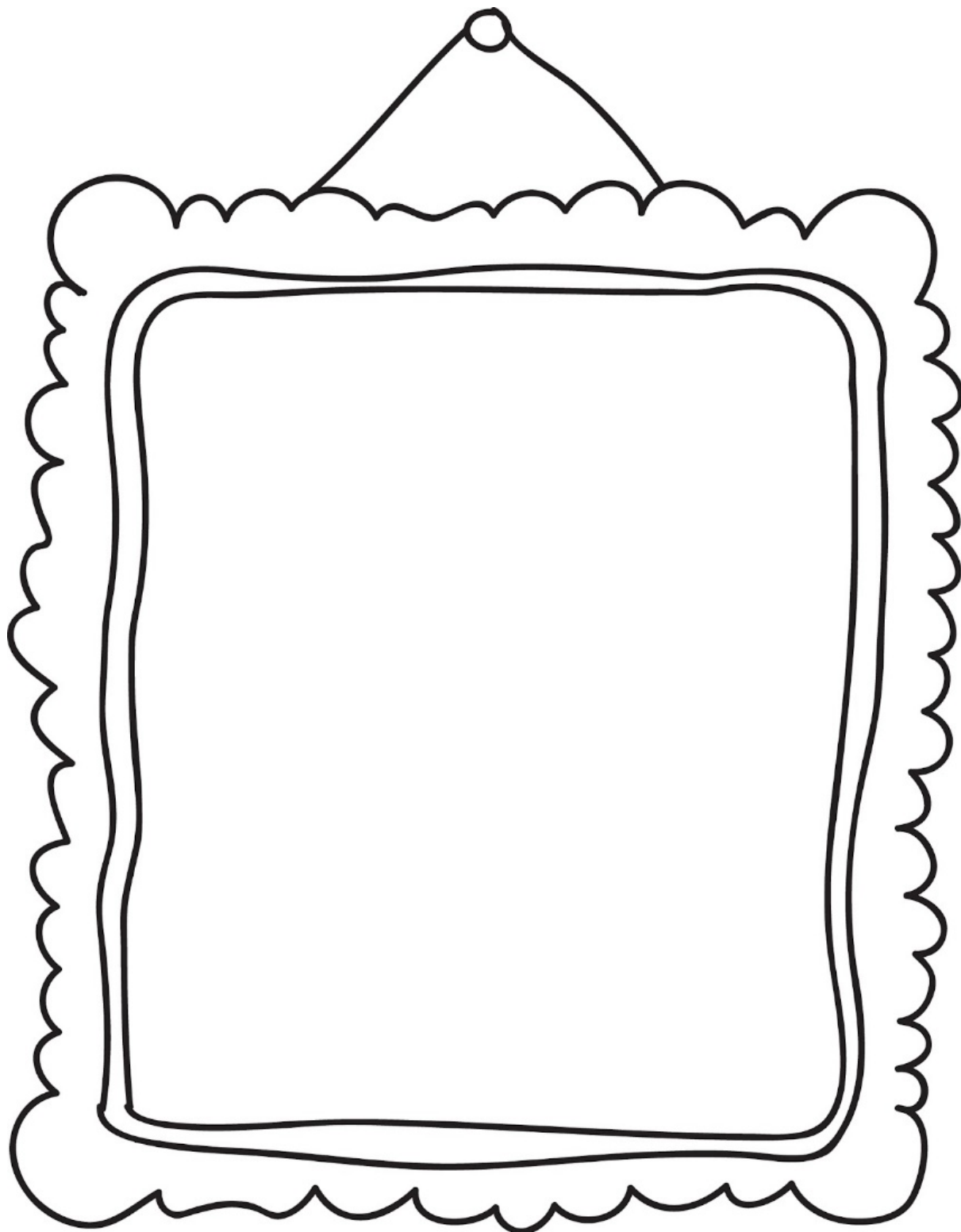
Later, Paget met a poet and architectural **conservationist** called John Betjeman – the poet rented number 43 Cloth Fair from the architects and used it as his London home. If you go to the front door, you can see the **blue plaque** (say *plak*), commemorating him.



Buildings are quite easy to draw. They are usually made up from lots of geometric shapes, like squares, triangles and circles.

Have a go at drawing the front of 45a Cloth Fair. Or you could draw the view from the sitting room window.

If you go outside, please take an adult with you – London streets are busy!





What is Cloth Fair made from?

Cloth Fair are timber-framed houses covered by a brick outer-layer – the brick layer is a bit like the icing on a fruit cake.

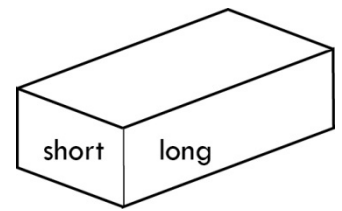
The original wood frames date back from the late 16th century – the bricks were added almost 200 years later!

Fact:

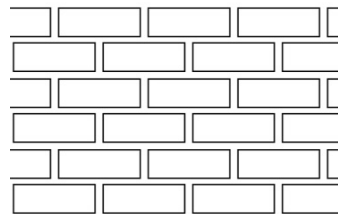
The earliest bricks date back to about 7,500BC and were made of mud. The mud was packed into wooden moulds. They were then turned out and left to dry in the sun until they were hard. The first fired bricks were made around 3,000BC. Fired bricks (which are 'baked' in a kiln) are harder and last longer in wetter climates.

Today we make bricks in factories by mixing together clay, sand and lime. This mixture is poured into a mould, dried and then fired in an oven at 1100 degrees.

Bricks have a long and a short face like this.

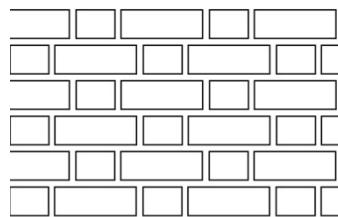


They are arranged in layers, or courses which have different patterns.

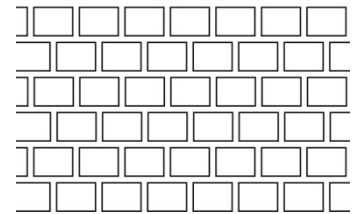


Stretcher bond

The simplest bond to lay – using the long face of the brick.

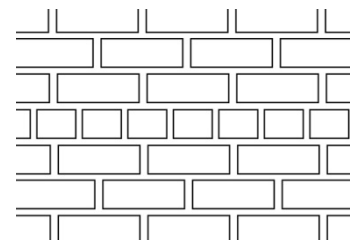


Flemish bond Bricks are laid with one header and one long face.



Header bond

The bricks are laid with the header facing outwards. The header is the end of the brick.

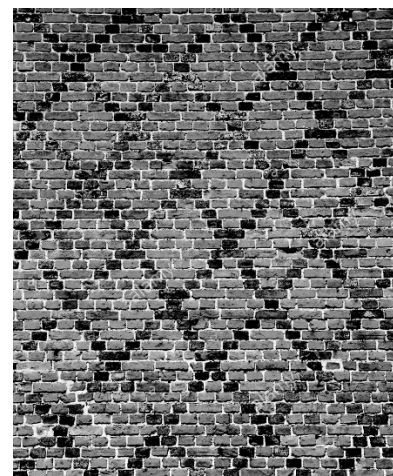


English bond

Three rows of long face and one row, of headers.

Tick the brick bond Cloth Fair is built in .

Some architects and builders were a bit more creative and designed very beautiful walls like these ones here. They used different coloured bricks to make these patterns.



Quest



Discover more about 45a Cloth Fair

Cloth Fair has been a home for around 400 years. In that time, many things have changed both inside and outside of the building. Follow this Quest to discover more about it.



Spot the difference...

This photograph was taken when The Landmark Trust bought 43-45 Cloth Fair in 1970. Can you write down the differences between the photo and how the buildings look today?

Can you find this plaque?

Sir John Betjeman lived in 43 Cloth Fair, he was Poet Laureate which means he was a poet chosen by the government to make up poems about a special occasion or event.

The dates on the plaque show when he was born and when he died. Can you work out how old he was when he died?



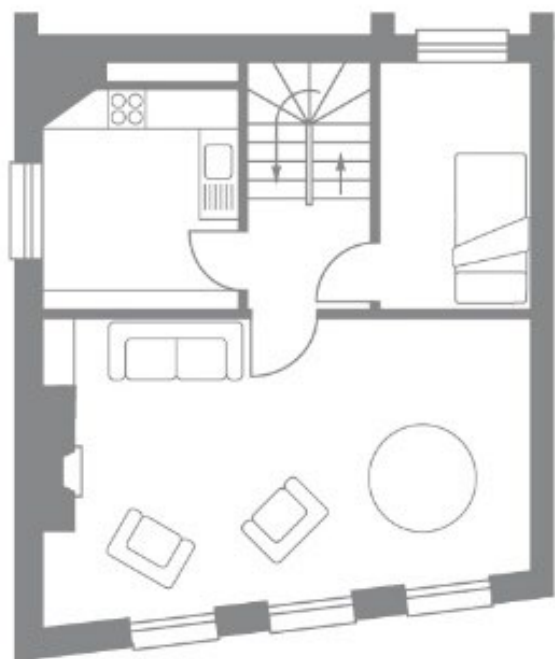
The church that you can see from the windows of Cloth Fair is called St Bartholomew the Great. The church also survived the Great Fire of London and later, the Blitz – that's when the Germans bombed the UK during World War II.

The church is the oldest parish church in London and dates from 1123 when it was founded as an Augustinian Priory. A hospital with the same name sits next door to the church. When Landmark bought 45a, the nurses from the hospital were using number 39 as a hostel.

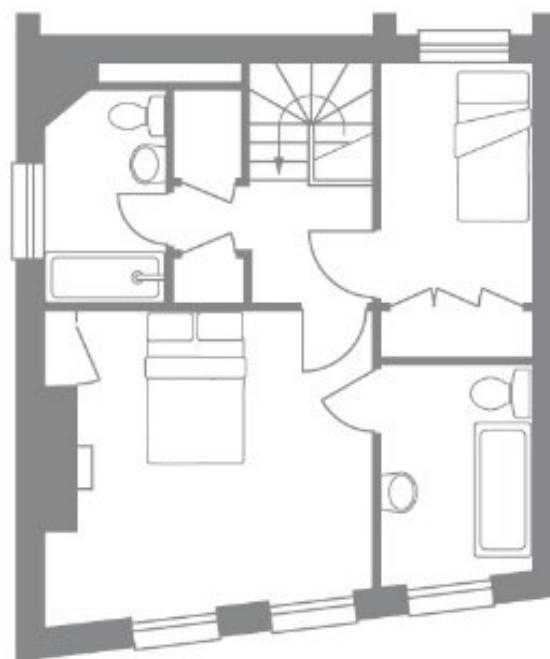


Living in Cloth Fair

The floorplan of a building is a map of the rooms. Cloth Fair has two floors -take a walk around each floor. Can you identify the rooms and write on the plan how they are used. Mark the bedroom you are sleeping in with a star.



No. 45a First floor



Second floor

We use these symbols to show where beds, tables and bathrooms are. Add the symbols on to the floorplans to show where the furniture is today on each floor.



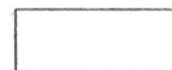
Bathroom



Cooker



Bed



Rectangular (or a round) table



Sofa



Kitchen sink



Can you find an example of each of these things inside 45a Cloth Fair. Describe, or draw the object when you find it.

Your favourite chair

The fireplace (is it an open fire or does it have a stove?)

The pattern of a rug on the floor

Fact:

Did you know that during the Blitz, London was bombed every day and night, except for one, for 11 weeks. Wow – no wonder so much of it was destroyed. For the second time in its existence Cloth Fair escaped destruction. It's clearly a very lucky building!

In the space below, draw the view from your bedroom window. Can you see all the different rooftops and chimneys? Does anyone have a garden on a balcony or on a roof?

Puzzle



Can you answer these questions about London correctly?

1. What is the big clock on the Houses of Parliament called?

Big Billy

Big Becky

Big Ben

Big Baby

2. What is the big ferris wheel in London called?

London wheel

London circle

London eye

London tyre

3. Where does the Queen live?

Buckingham Palace

Hampton Court

Conwy Castle

Highclere Castle

4. What is the big river running through London called?

The River Wye

The River Thames

The River Severn

The River Bovey

5. Who tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605?

Guy Eagle

Guy Pigeon

Guy Fawkes

Guy Blackbeard

6. Where are the crown jewels kept?

The Queen's draw

Buckingham Palace

Windsor Castle

Tower of London

7. What year was the Great Fire of London?

1066

1666

1966

1266

8. How many tube stations are there in London?

168

270

356

82

9. What food is Brick Lane famous for?

Curries

Fruit

Pizza

Chinese

10. What animal makes silk?

Silk hedgehogs

Silk worms

Silk monkeys

Silk rabbits

To find the answers skip one page...



Cloth Fair Word Search

Now have a go at the Cloth Fair word search. When you were exploring London did you see any of these? The words to find are at the bottom of the page.

R	B	V	M	Y	T	Y	T	F	N	W	E
D	E	A	C	M	R	N	P	I	P	Z	S
R	G	P	C	H	E	R	B	R	F	B	U
A	T	V	A	M	U	X	U	E	X	J	O
U	U	A	E	R	P	R	P	C	E	F	H
G	X	N	A	A	C	N	C	W	Z	C	N
U	E	S	U	B	E	S	E	H	I	M	W
T	H	A	M	E	S	L	Y	T	E	A	O
T	K	O	U	D	S	Z	Y	K	Q	R	T
G	U	Q	X	S	P	O	H	S	S	K	D
U	D	B	U	G	C	R	O	W	N	E	N
B	Y	H	E	E	B	D	P	X	W	T	V
S	D	L	E	I	F	L	A	T	I	P	S

SKYSCRAPER
BUS
SHOPS
TUBE
FIRE

THAMES
CURRY
TENEMENT
CHURCH
MARKET

CAB
CITY
CHURCH
PUB
GUARD

JEWELS
QUEEN
CROWN
SPITALFIELDS
TOWNHOUSE

How many of these words did you find? Put your score in the box.

/
20

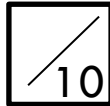


Answer sheet:

Quiz answers:

1. Big Ben
2. London eye
3. Buckingham Palace
4. The River Thames
5. Guy Fawkes
6. Tower of London
7. 1666
8. 270
9. Curries
10. Silk worm

How many did you get right?



Fact:

The **Tower of London** is over 900 years old and has held lots of prisoners in its time. In 900 years there have been 22 executions (say 'ex-e-qu-shun').

Execution is the death of a prisoner who the law has sentenced to die. Once people had their heads cut off or were hung by the neck till they died. How horrible!

It is no longer allowed in the United Kingdom to execute people, they go to prison instead.

Below is an extract from John Betjeman's poem, *Diary of a Church Mouse*. Have a read and have a go at making up your own on the next page – if there are any words you don't understand, ask a grown up).

Here among long-discarded cassocks,
Damp stools, and half-split open hassocks,
Here where the vicar never looks
I nibble through old service books.

The cleaner never bothers me,
So here I eat my frugal tea.
My bread is sawdust mixed with straw;
My jam is polish for the floor.

Christmas and Easter may be feasts
For congregations and for priests,
And so may Whitsun. All the same,
They do not fill my meagre frame.

For me the only feast at all
Is Autumn's Harvest Festival,
When I can satisfy my want
With ears of corn around the font.

I climb the eagle's brazen head
To burrow through a loaf of bread.
I scramble up the pulpit stair
And gnaw the marrows hanging there.

It is enjoyable to taste
These items ere they go to waste,
But how annoying when one finds
That other mice with pagan minds
Come into church my food to share
Who have no proper business there.



Cook up a Curry

In 1638 King Charles allowed people to sell fruit, vegetables and meat from a field nearby. The market soon became a very popular and famous market. It still exists today and is called the Old Spitalfields Market, but no longer sells fresh market food. Today, there is plenty of choice in the local shops and some quite unusual vegetables from India and Asia can be found on Brick Lane. The local restaurants serve dishes from all over the world.

See if you can find some unusual vegetables and make a basic curry. Here's a simple recipe for you to try. You will probably need the help of an adult.

1 tablespoon olive oil	1 vegetable stock cubes
1 Onion, chopped	Around 300g mixed vegetables
2 tablespoons curry powder (less if you're not sure about the flavour).	340ml water
2 tablespoons tomato puree	Salt and pepper to taste
1 (400g) tin chopped tomatoes	

- In a large saucepan over medium high heat, heat oil and sauté onion and garlic until golden.
- Stir in curry powder and tomato purée, cook 2 to 3 minutes.
- Stir in tomatoes, vegetable stock cube, mixed vegetables, water, salt and pepper to taste.
- Cook for around 20 to 30 mins until vegetables are well done
- Serve with warm naan bread, rice or with a baked potato.

Which vegetables did you decide to use?

Write their names down here or draw a quick sketch of them in the basket. When you are back home, see if you can find them in your local supermarket.



Draw the London Skyline

In the box below, draw some of London's most famous Landmarks. Will you draw Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral, the London Eye, or perhaps you'd like to draw the Landmark you're staying in right now. Make your drawing as bright and colourful as you like.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to draw the London skyline.