

# St. Dunstan in the East



## A Vocabulary Preview

- *Match up as many words and meanings as you can. Check this exercise after seeing the words in context.*

___ 1. Patch up	a) much smaller than the normal size
___ 2. steeple	b) to form from a solid material by cutting
___ 3. sympathetic	c) ability to recover quickly from illness, depression, adversity
___ 4. nave	d) grass-covered land
___ 5. take down	e) in harmony or agreeing with one's taste, mood or nature
___ 6. carving	f) repair, fix, mend, settle
___ 7. blitz	g) disassemble, dismantled
___ 8. resilience	h) bits of brick, stone from (sth) destroyed
___ 9. rubble	i) the principal, longer area of the church
___ 10. lawn	j) any woody climbing plant, <i>Hedera</i>
___ 11. ivy	k) ornamental tower of a church, bell tower
___ 12. dwarfed	l) a sudden, swift and overwhelming military

## The Church of St. Dunstan in the East

Read the text below which describes the historical events of the Church of St. Dunstan in the East has suffered.

The church of St. Dunstan-in-the-East is located halfway between the Tower of London and London Bridge. It was built in about 1100 during Saxon times. The English parish church has survived many catastrophes during its 900-year history, including the Great Fire of London in 1666. Although the fire caused terrible damage, the church was **patched up** between 1668 and 1671 instead of being completely rebuilt.

A **steeple** was added in 1695–1701 to the designs of Sir Christopher Wren<sup>1</sup>. It was built in a gothic style **sympathetic** to the main body of the structure, though with decorative horizontal bands of a kind not used in the Middle Ages. In 1817, the weight of the **nave** roof had pushed the walls seven inches out of the perpendicular. It was decided to rebuild the church from the level of the arches, but the state of the structure proved so bad that the whole building was **taken down**.



The restored church had wooden **carvings** by Grinling Gibbons an English sculptor and woodcarver. But in 1941, during WWII the church was devastated by the **Blitz**<sup>2</sup>. A direct hit destroyed everything apart from the north and south walls, and Wren's steeple. The night of December 29th saw the most ferocious, as the Luftwaffe blanketed London with bombs; that event was called -the Second Great Fire of London. By the end of the Blitz, over 1,000,000 London homes were destroyed, including much of the old Saxon church.



In the re-organisation of the Anglican Church in London following the war, it was decided not to rebuild St Dunstan's. The slow rebuilding process began after the war, with much of London in the **rubble**, but the church remained in ruins. In 1967 the City of London Corporation decided to turn the ruins of the church into a public garden, which opened in 1971. A **lawn** and trees

were planted in the ruins, with a low fountain in the middle of the nave.

Hidden away on a side street, long since dwarfed by The City's modern steel and chrome structures, it remains one of London's secret gardens. One of the last Blitz-damaged buildings left in the United Kingdom, overgrown with trees, **ivy**, and wall-climbing flowers growing amongst the ruined arches, it's a touching living memorial to the horrors of the Blitz and a testament to the **resilience** of the City of London which survived it. Occasional open-air services are held in the church, such as on Palm Sunday before a procession to All Hallows by the Tower, along St Dunstan's Hill and Great Tower Street.



<sup>1</sup> Sir Christopher Wren was an English anatomist, astronomer, geometer, mathematician, and one of history's most highly acclaimed English architects.

<sup>2</sup> Blitz: German bombing campaign against the United Kingdom in 1940 - 1941, during the Second World War.

## **B Reading Comprehension**

1.- Mark each statement as either true (T) or false (F)?

- a) The Church of St. Dunstan was built in 1666. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) The second Great Fire of London was in 1941. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The night of December 29<sup>th</sup> was the most ferocious. \_\_\_\_\_
- d) After the Second World War, the church was rebuilt. \_\_\_\_\_
- e) The Church is now a public garden. \_\_\_\_\_

## **C Tasks instructions**

a) Students must make a table with two columns and ten rows. Put the following headings below at the top of each of the two columns.

1.- Year

2.- Historical event description

- b) The information in the table must show the dates from the oldest to the newest events.
  - c) Use the space below to construct the table.
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