



ST STEPHEN WALBROOK

# VENUE HIRE

A PLACE OF CELEBRATION



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# WELCOME TO ST STEPHEN WALBROOK

Nestled in the heart of the bustling City of London lies a hidden treasure steeped in history, the church of St Stephen Walbrook. Revered as a "Place of Celebration" since Roman times, although its location and design have evolved over the centuries, the essence of this iconic venue has remained unchanged since Sir Christopher Wren's masterful reconstruction after the Great Fire of London.

Today, St Stephen Walbrook continues to unite the community of the Square Mile through regular events,

including weekly congregations and services, concerts, recitals, as well as exclusive venue hire opportunities. With its neoclassical architecture, hailed as the "pride of English architecture" by Sir John Summerson, and Wren's domed ceiling taking centre stage, this spectacular space offers an unparalleled setting for unforgettable moments. Imagine hosting an intimate dinner under the magnificent dome or a dazzling drinks reception around Henry Moore's circular altar.

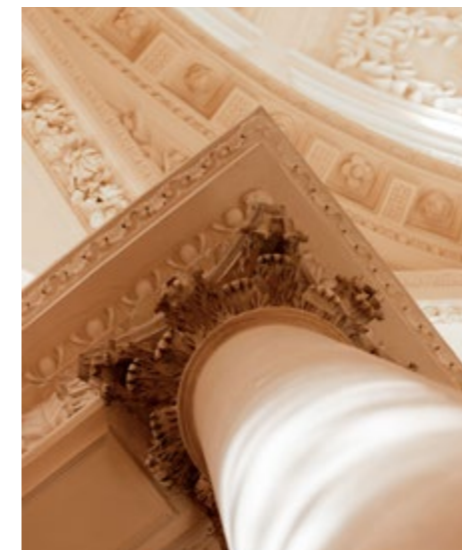
'WHEN THE LIGHT HITS THE HENRY MOORE ALTAR THE EFFECT IS QUITE MAGICAL. IT IS HERE THAT WREN FORGES A VITAL LINK BETWEEN SCIENCE AND ARCHITECTURE.'

Amanda Leveté, The Times



By choosing to exclusively hire St Stephen Walbrook for your event, not only will you be supporting the preservation of this historic building, but you'll also be helping to ensure that this free-to-access ministry can continue to serve the community now and for generations to come.

At St Stephen Walbrook, our team is committed to providing bespoke experiences for your most significant occasions, be it a corporate function or a private celebration. Explore the opportunities that await you and your guests in the pages to come, and let us bring your vision to life. We look forward to the privilege of serving you.



# THE HISTORY OF ST STEPHEN WALBROOK



## ROMAN TEMPLE

A temple of Mithras stood on the bank of the Walbrook, a stream which brought life to the area. Roman soldiers worshipped here and also built a series of baths.

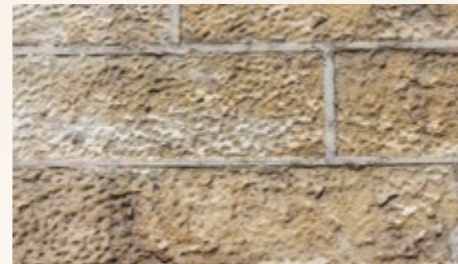
2ND CENTURY - 410AD



## THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON

The Great Fire of London began and within 24 hours, St Stephen Walbrook was burnt to the ground. Over three quarters of the City of London was destroyed and King Charles II appointed a commission to plan rebuilding the City.

2ND SEPTEMBER 1666



## BUILDING WORK BEGINS

St Stephen Walbrook began to be rebuilt, Wren's own parish church, he lived at No.15 Walbrook. It cost £7,672, a large amount of money at the time.

1672

## CELEBRATION DINNER

The Vestry planned a dinner for the architect, masons and joiners, as the Church was ready for use.

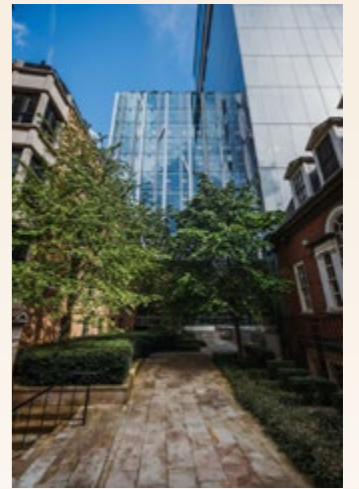
27TH MAY 1679



## THE SAMARITANS

The Samaritans is founded at St Stephen Walbrook by a young vicar called Chad Varah. The first call to the new service was made on 2nd November 1953 and this date is recognised as Samaritans' official birthday. There are now over 200 branches across the UK and Republic of Ireland. The actual telephone is still on display at St Stephen Walbrook.

1953



## A NEW COURTYARD

Lanning Roper was commissioned to undertake the design of the courtyard behind St Stephen Walbrook.

1975 - 1982

700AD

## A CHRISTIAN CHURCH

It was on this site that the first Christians built a church over the temple to eradicate the pagan site.

1428

## EXPANSION OF THE CHURCH

Due to the church and graveyard being too small for the parish, Robert Chicheley, a member of The Worshipful Company of Grocers gave land so a new church could be built approx. 20m to the east of the original location.



1669

## ROYAL ARCHITECT APPOINTED

Sir Christopher Wren was appointed as the King's surveyor and Royal architect, commissioned to oversee the rebuilding programme.



1677-78

## WONDERFUL WOODWORK

William Newman designed and carved the wooden font and pulpit.



18TH CENTURY

## THE PRIDE OF ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE

By the eighteenth century, the building was famous all over Europe. The Italian sculptor-architect, Canova, said he would gladly return to feast his eyes once more on St. Paul's Cathedral, Somerset House, and, most of all, St. Stephen Walbrook, saying 'we have nothing to touch it in Rome'. Sir John Sommerson described the Church as 'the pride of English architecture, and one of the few City churches in which the genius of Wren shines in full splendour'.



1972

## HENRY MOORE

Henry Moore designed and carved the circular altar.



1993

## A SPLASH OF COLOUR

Patrick Heron designed the dazzling and colourful kneelers that surround Henry Moore's circular altar.



# A PLACE OF CELEBRATION

ST STEPHEN WALBROOK IS A VERSATILE VENUE THAT CAN BE TRANSFORMED TO SUIT A WIDE RANGE OF EVENTS

## DRINKS RECEPTIONS

200 GUESTS



With its soaring columns and light and airy atmosphere, St Stephen Walbrook lends itself perfectly to elegant standing receptions for up to 200 guests.

## DINNERS

80 GUESTS



A magnificent backdrop for intimate dinners, St Stephen Walbrook can accommodate up to 80 guests for a pre-dinner drinks reception amongst the columns, followed by dinner around the central circular altar.

## CONCERTS & RECITALS

270 GUESTS



Up to 270 guests can be accommodated for a recital or concert using the pews circling the central altar.

## FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY



With its magnificent neoclassical architecture and stunning domed ceiling, St Stephen Walbrook provides the ideal filming and photography location that exudes a sense of grandeur and timelessness.

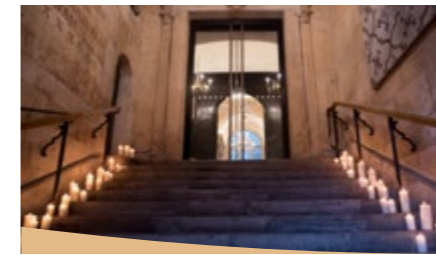
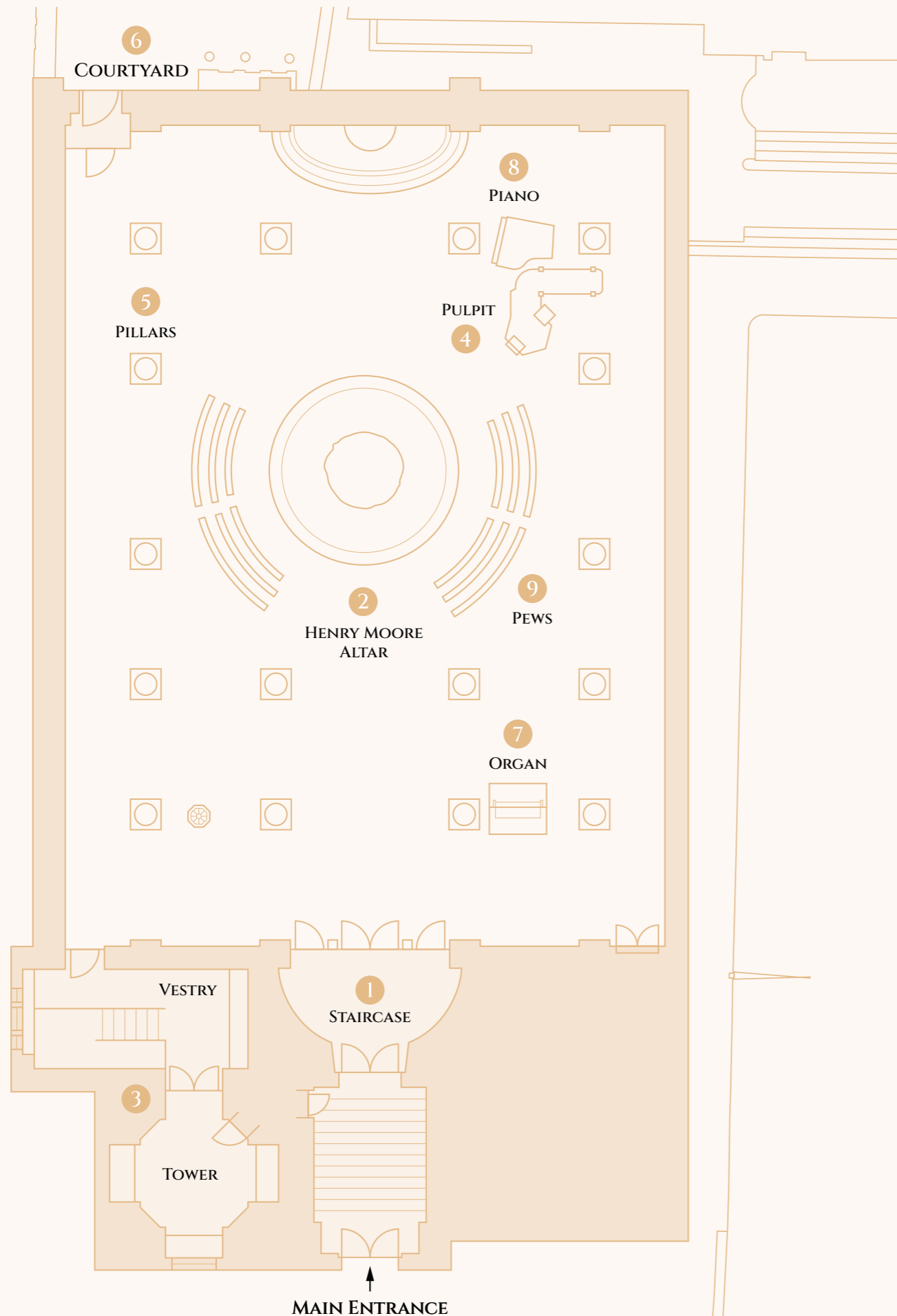
## PRIVATE TOURS & EXPERIENCES

30 GUESTS



Take a step back in time and discover the fascinating secrets of St Stephen Walbrook with our exclusive Morning and Evening Tours, available on select dates throughout the year. As one of only 30 guests, you'll have the privilege of exploring this magnificent church in peace and tranquillity.

# OVERVIEW OF THE VENUE



## 1. MAIN ENTRANCE & STAIRCASE

The main entrance of the church lies on Walbrook, a short walk from Bank tube station. For your event, the double doors will be open ready for you to welcome guests with the support of one of our professional and friendly security guards. Make an excellent first impression by adding a red carpet or lanterns and candles to the stone staircase.



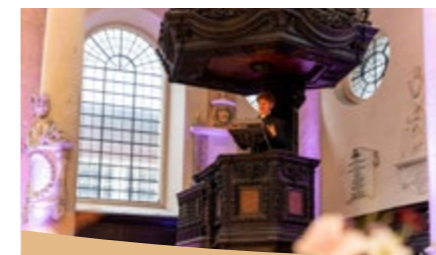
## 2. HENRY MOORE ALTAR

Located at the heart of the church and directly beneath Wren's magnificent domed ceiling lies a central circular altar. The altar was carved by Henry Moore from a single block of Travertine marble and installed in 1987. The bright and colourful kneelers were designed by Patrick Heron in 1993. For confident speakers, the platform surrounding the altar may be used for speeches.



## 3. VESTRY & TOWER

The tower within the vestry is where the venue team office is located. The vestry offers access to the crypt via a staircase where the venue facilities are located. This includes the 2/4 WCs and the kitchen area your caterers will use to prepare food. A catering manager will be located in this area throughout food service to ensure a seamless experience for guests who need to use the facilities while food is leaving the kitchen.



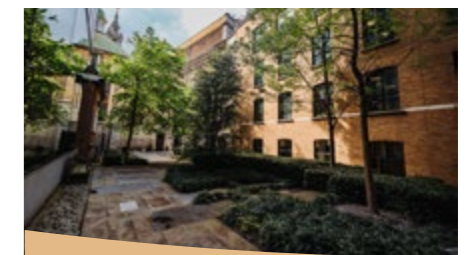
## 4. PULPIT

The beautifully crafted wooden pulpit is frequently used by the priest for weekly sermons and can be used by your speaker for important speeches and announcements. A lectern mic is already installed making impromptu speeches easy to accommodate.



## 5. PILLARS

Soaring neoclassical pillars run around the edge of the main space. We recommend using the pillars within the design of the event space and helping to manage guest flow. Why not position a bar, food station or seating area in between two columns? Add floral urns and uplighters to highlight the beautiful architecture and create a unique space to entertain your guests.



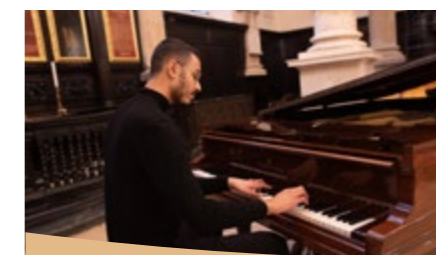
## 6. COURTYARD

Located behind the church is a private courtyard which was designed by Lanning Roper in the late 1970s. Weather permitting, the courtyard offers a tranquil garden oasis in the centre of London for summer drinks receptions and pre dinner drinks. The courtyard even has its own private entrance, allowing you to keep the main church space as a surprise for guests when welcomed into dinner.



## 7. THE ORGAN

The organ is available to use during exclusive venue hire, the church team will be able to recommend and book an organist on your behalf who has experience and is familiar with performing at St Stephen Walbrook.



## 8. PIANO

St Stephen Walbrook frequently hosts concerts and recitals and has a grand piano located close to the pulpit, that can be used for exclusive hire events.



## 9. PEWS

Curved wooden pews surround Henry Moore's altar and offer seating for up to 270 guests. The pews can be removed for dinner and receptions to allow space for furniture and guests to mingle.

# DRINKS RECEPTIONS

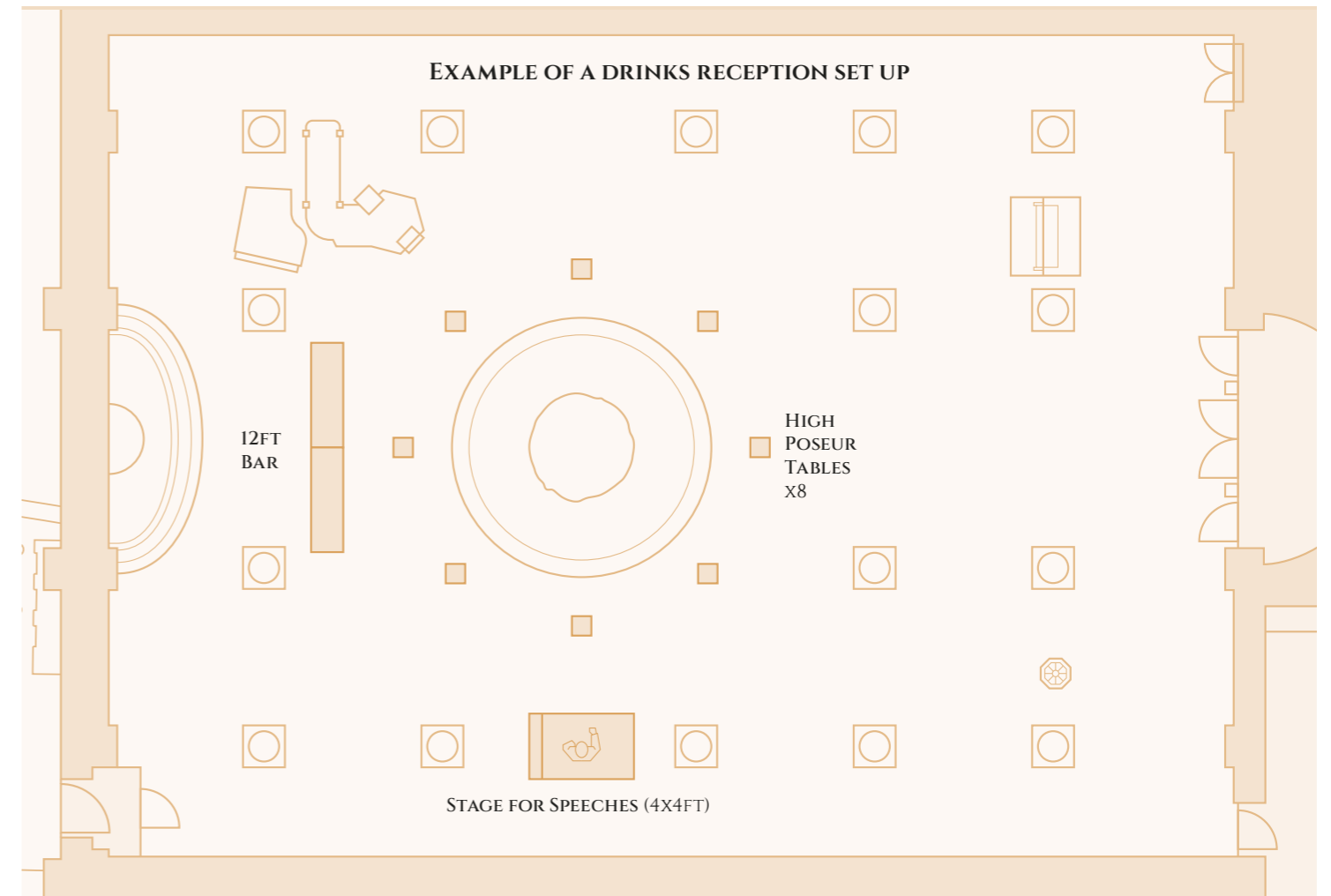
200 GUESTS

ST STEPHEN WALBROOK OFFERS AN EXCEPTIONAL SETTING FOR HOSTING DRINKS RECEPTIONS.



The breathtaking classical renaissance architecture combined with the light and airy ambiance creates a welcoming atmosphere for sophisticated gatherings of up to 200 guests.

Whether it's an intimate affair with smaller numbers or a grand celebration, the venue's versatility ensures it can accommodate a range of guest numbers. Imagine indulging in champagne beneath the magnificent dome while enjoying the acoustic melodies of a live band or mingling with guests around the central circular altar, surrounded by the rich heritage and splendour of this iconic space.



Weather permitting, guests can spill out into the delightful church courtyard, a rare garden oasis in the heart of London.

Create a visual feast by setting up exquisitely designed and scrumptious food stations between columns, offering your guests an opportunity to explore the magnificent space while indulging in a variety of delectable cuisines.

Design inviting and intimate nooks throughout the church, providing comfortable seating areas for networking and socialising. These cosy corners will allow your guests to take in the breathtaking surroundings and relish the ambiance while enjoying each other's company.



WITH THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE LASTING MEMORIES, DRINKS RECEPTIONS AT ST STEPHEN WALBROOK PROMISE TO BE UNFORGETTABLE OCCASIONS THAT YOUR GUESTS WILL REMINISCE ABOUT FOR YEARS TO COME.

# DINNERS

80 GUESTS

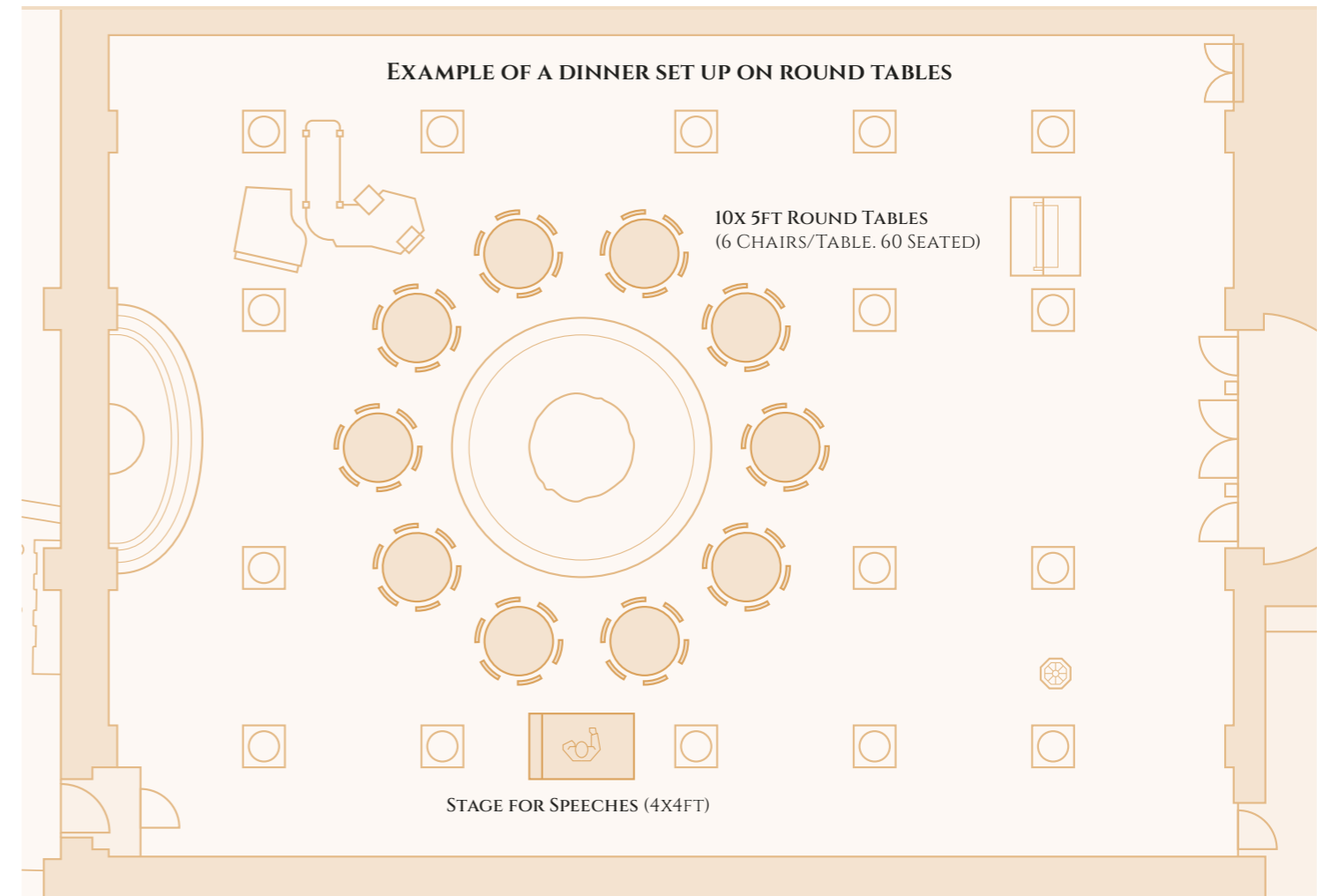
ST. STEPHEN WALBROOK PROVIDES A MAGNIFICENT BACKDROP FOR HOSTING INTIMATE DINNERS.



Accommodating up to 80 guests at round or long banquet style tables. On the night of your event, the evening commences with a pre-dinner drinks reception amidst the columns at the front of the church, allowing guests to mingle and soak in the ambiance. On sunny days, the church courtyard offers an alfresco drinks reception experience with its own private entrance, delaying the surprise factor of the main space, for the ultimate wow moment!



Following the reception, guests will move to the area around the central circular altar for dinner. You can opt for round tables encircling the altar or choose a long banquet style table, both options ensuring a comfortable and relaxed dining experience.



From incorporating your company's brand colours to drawing inspiration from seasonal elements, our team and suppliers will help you to create a beautiful dinner that perfectly complements the surroundings.



THE NEUTRAL SURROUNDINGS ALLOW FOR CREATIVITY IN DESIGNING THE PERFECT TABLESCAPE, AND OUR SUPPLIERS ARE ON HAND TO ASSIST WITH STYLING.

# CONCERTS & RECITALS

270 GUESTS

St Stephen Walbrook is the perfect venue for a recital or concert, with seating for up to 270 guests on the pews that encircle the central altar. Our church offers a unique and enchanting experience for your guests, where the surroundings effortlessly elevate the music and amplify their enjoyment.



However, if you have your own specific event in mind, we offer the church for exclusive hire to cater to your unique needs. The church's impressive acoustics, coupled with our grand piano and organ, provide the perfect backdrop for choirs, orchestras, and jazz bands.

At St Stephen Walbrook, we are committed to ensuring that your musical experience is nothing short of extraordinary.



WITH OUR REGULAR PROGRAMME OF MUSICAL EVENTS HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE CHURCH HAS A PROVEN TRACK RECORD OF HOSTING SUCCESSFUL CONCERTS AND RECITALS THAT CAPTIVATE AUDIENCES.



## FILMING & PHOTOGRAPHY

St Stephen Walbrook has a unique blend of ancient grandeur and contemporary elegance, with a stunning array of unique features that make it stand out from other filming and photography locations. Boasting a rich history and beautiful surroundings that are sure to captivate your audience, St Stephen Walbrook offers a variety of visually stunning backdrops for your project.

Depending on the size of your crew and the content being filmed, we can accommodate various capacities, and our



team will review each case on an individual basis to ensure that your project runs smoothly.

Located in Bank, our church's exterior is a testament to its ancient history, standing in contrast to the more modern city buildings. As you step onto the stone staircase and pass through the tall, heavy wooden doors, you will be immediately struck by the magnificence. From the dome ceiling, to the white marble floors, neoclassical columns, and the magnificent carved stone altar, our church offers a range of focal points that are sure to add visual interest to your film or photography project.



THE NATURAL LIGHT THAT POURS IN THROUGH THE LARGE WINDOWS ENHANCES THE BEAUTY OF THE SURROUNDINGS, PROVIDING THE PERFECT AMBIANCE FOR CAPTURING STUNNING VISUALS.

St Stephen Walbrook, is an unforgettable setting that is sure to bring your creative vision to life.

In 2021 The Church was the backdrop for HBO/BBC production *The Girl Before*.

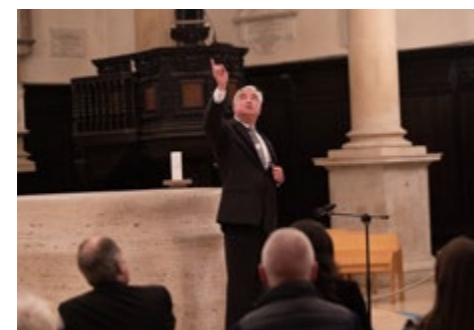
# PRIVATE TOURS & EXPERIENCES

UP TO 30 GUESTS



Experience the wonders of an architectural masterpiece with an exclusive private tour of St Stephen Walbrook. Our tours provide unparalleled access to this stunning church outside of regular opening hours, offering a unique opportunity to explore the historic City of London church with up to 30 guests.

During the 45-minute guided lecture, guests will discover the fascinating history of St Stephen Walbrook, from its inception to the present day.



BE AMAZED BY THE INTRICATE DETAILS AND STUNNING DESIGN OF THIS IMPRESSIVE CHURCH AS YOU LEARN ABOUT ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN LONDON'S RICH HISTORY.

For an even more memorable experience, upgrade your evening tour package to the 'Gin & Tour' option. Upon arrival, guests will be treated to a delicious G&T cocktail, allowing time to mingle and admire the breathtaking architecture before the formal tour begins.



We understand that every group is unique, which is why we offer tailored tour content to suit your interests. Whether you're interested in exploring the architectural features of the church or delving deeper into the connection with the Samaritans, we can customise your tour to meet your specific needs.

Don't miss your chance to discover the wonders of St Stephen Walbrook with our exclusive private tours. Book now to unlock this hidden gem and create lasting memories with your friends, family, or colleagues.

# VENUE HIRE SUMMARY

## EVENT CAPACITIES:

Type of Event	Guest Numbers
Standing Reception	200
Seated Dinner	80
Recital or Concert	270 <i>(Using St Stephen Walbrook pews)</i>
Filming & Photography	To be reviewed on an individual basis
Theatre Style	200 with pews removed <i>(Chairs to be hired)</i>

## INCLUDED WITHIN VENUE HIRE:

- Exclusive Access to venue for entirety of venue hire period
- Venue Event Manager
- Cleaner on site from set up to end of event
- 1 x Security Guard
- 1 x Welcome host
- For recitals and concerts:  
Pews to remain in situ
- For dinner and drinks receptions:  
Porters to remove pews if not required for the event.

## NEXT STEPS:

### 1. TELL US ABOUT YOUR EVENT:

The first step is to provide the event details such as the date, number of guests, and type of event to the team at St Stephen Walbrook.

### 2. YOUR EVENT PROPOSAL:

After receiving the event details, the team will create a tailored proposal based on the requirements provided. The proposal includes details such as the available spaces, pricing, and any additional services that may be required.

### 3. VISIT THE VENUE:

If you are happy with the proposal, we are delighted to invite you to visit the space in person to see the location and discuss your event in more detail with the team. This allows you to get a better understanding of the space and how it can be used for your event.

### 4. CONTACT OUR SUPPLIERS:

The team at St Stephen Walbrook recommends contacting approved suppliers as soon as possible to ensure that you can get an understanding of costs and begin planning the event. We can recommend suppliers depending on your budget or event style, just ask!

### 5. HERE TO HELP:

If you require any further information before making a decision, the team at St Stephen Walbrook are happy to provide it. Our goal is to make the planning process as smooth and stress-free as possible for you, so that you can feel confident in booking St Stephen Walbrook for your event.

# APPROVED SUPPLIERS LIST



Due to the historic and delicate nature of St Stephen Walbrook, we have a responsibility to ensure that events are delivered safely and that the venue is treated with the utmost care. Therefore, we have a carefully curated Approved Supplier List for catering, floristry, production, entertainment and furniture hire. All suppliers must come from the list, and we are happy to make recommendations based on your budget and event style.



The supplier list not only guarantees compliance with H&S regulations and the venue's strict rules, but it also ensures that we work with high-calibre suppliers who will deliver an excellent event experience for everyone involved.

Rest assured that our approved suppliers are all reputable and experienced, and have been carefully selected based on their track record of delivering successful events at St Stephen Walbrook and within the London events industry.

The Approved Supplier List can be found as an email attachment in the email sent to you by the St Stephen Walbrook events team.



# HOW TO FIND US



- BANK STATION (Exit 8) 1 minute
- MANSION HOUSE 4 minutes
- CANNON STREET 2 minutes
- MONUMENT 5 minutes

## GET IN TOUCH:

- 020 7626 9000
- [events@ststephenwalbrook.net](mailto:events@ststephenwalbrook.net)
- @ststephenwalbrook
- @StStephenEC4N
- [www.ststephenwalbrook.net/exclusive-hire](http://www.ststephenwalbrook.net/exclusive-hire)
- St Stephen Walbrook  
39 Walbrook, London EC4N 8BN



ST STEPHEN WALBROOK  
VENUE HIRE