

What did the dragon say when he saw the knight in shining armour?

I hate tinned food.



Life at St Mary at Hill

Most people living in London in the middle ages were Christian. They prayed to specific saints for help and went on pilgrimage (a journey to a holy place), bringing back these small pewter badges to wear. Thomas Becket, a curate at St Mary-at-Hill, was a patron saint of London and many Londoners travelled to the site of his murder in Canterbury.



Did you know?

In the 1200s and 1300s an average pair of shoes cost about five- or sixpence – approximately the same amount as a skilled labourer

London was dominated by St Paul's Cathedral. By the 1320s it was the largest building in medieval Britain. Most schools and hospitals were run by the Church and it decided which days were holidays and even what and when you ate.

ST MARY AT HILL

Children in the middle ages...



While children's lives in medieval London were very different to today, there was still time for playing. Many children did not survive childhood due to illness and accidents. Children only went to school if their parents were rich enough. If you were poor you went to work as soon as you were able to – sometimes as young as seven.

Many children worked as maids, page boys and had other jobs in wealthier households. If you could afford it you would be sent to learn a trade as an apprentice from the age of fourteen. Toys were limited – small pewter dolls and toys have been found and a description of the late 1100s describes boys playing ball and in the winter going sledging and skating, using animal bone skates.



Hello!! I'm Tom the choirboy.



Burials in the churchyard were stopped in 1846, but before that you had to pay 16s 8d, to be buried in the church or 8d to be buried in the churchyard!

Thanks for visiting us!



WELCOME TO ST MARY-AT-HILL

THE CHURCH WAS DESIGNED BY THE FAMOUS ARCHITECT SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

A GUIDE TO THE CHURCH AND THE AREA FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

St Mary-at-Hill has served in the Parish of Billingsgate for nearly a thousand years.



We've hidden lots of images of Tom the choirboy in this leaflet. How many can you spot??

It took nearly 50 years to rebuild the burnt area of London. St Paul's Cathedral was not completed until 1711. The city and the cathedral looked very different afterwards.

87 churches were destroyed in the Great Fire.

Children in Tudor London

Tudor London was a dangerous place for children due to the risk of disease. Many children died when they were very young. Objects found in London show that Tudor parents cared deeply for their children. They bought their children toys and carefully knitted clothes, like this mitten, to keep them warm in winter. The mitten was probably lost by a child one winter while out playing in the fields outside the City walls.

About 2,000 children were pin makers in Tudor London. Masters employed children because they were cheap labour and had small, quick fingers.



While most poor children did not have a chance to attend school, families with more money could pay for children to be taught by the parish clerk or at a grammar school such as St Paul's. School days were long: from 7am until 5pm in the winter and 6am until 6pm in the summer. Lessons involved lots of reading aloud and learning by rote and children were beaten if they got things wrong.

At about 14 years old, children could become apprentices to learn a trade. Apprenticeships lasted for seven years – apprentices worked for free in return for food, clothes and a bed.

In Tudor London, people suffered from a great number of diseases in the over-crowded city. Sweating sickness, smallpox, tuberculosis, plague, typhus, cholera and dysentery were all common.

Still reeling from losing 1 in 5 of its inhabitants to the Plague, the Great Fire of London (1666) started in Pudding Lane, a stone's throw away from St Mary-at-Hill. It consumed the interior of the church leaving only the walls and the brick work of the tower.

Throughout 1667 people cleared rubble and surveyed the burnt area. Much time was spent planning new street layouts and drawing up new building regulations. By the end of the year, only 150 new houses had been built. Public buildings, such as churches like St Mary's, were paid for with money from a new coal tax.

After the Great Fire, the new St Mary-at-Hill was completed in 1677 at the cost of £3,980.



The Great Plague killed an estimated 100,000 people, about 15% of London's population.. The cause was the bite of an infected rat flea.



DID YOU KNOW?

The fire of London destroyed around 13,200 houses, 84 churches and 44 company halls.

The Great Fire of London is one of the most well-known disasters in London's history. It began on 2 September 1666 and lasted nearly five days. One-third of London was destroyed and about 100,000 people were made homeless.

The City of London also had over 1,000 pubs and alehouses by

In medieval times, theatres were popular. Theatres flew flag to show that a play was on that day.



What would your home be like in medieval London?

In the early medieval period the houses of ordinary Londoners, including those around St Mary-at-Hill had thatched roofs with clay and timber walls. Floors were made of clay with straw spread on them. Activity in the house took place around the hearth, the only source of heat in the winter and where food was cooked throughout the year.

As London became more crowded houses grew taller and the streets narrower. By the end of the 1200s three storey houses were common. The upper floors partly overhung the street. London suffered many fires and laws were introduced banning thatched roofs, but many people ignored them.

People who could afford to, built stone houses. The nobility and wealthier clergy lived in fine, large houses, often with courtyards and gardens.



There was no fire brigade in London in 1666 so Londoners themselves had to fight the fire, helped by local soldiers. They used buckets of water, water squirts and fire hooks.

Equipment was stored in local churches, like St Mary-at-Hill. The best way to stop the fire was to pull down houses with hooks to make gaps or 'fire breaks'. This was difficult because the wind forced the fire across any gaps created. The mayor, Thomas Bludworth, complained, 'the fire overtakes us faster than we can do it.'