

The Citizens' Memorial

An appeal for comments on a proposal to turn Christ Church, Greyfriars into a memorial for the wartime citizens of London

www.citizensmemorial.wordpress.com



The Citizens' Memorial aims to transform the ruined City church of Christ Church, Greyfriars, and give it a new purpose – the creation of a memorial of national significance to commemorate the heroism and sacrifice of the citizens of London during the Second World War, and in subsequent bombings.

The main points of the proposal

• Giving Christ Church a meaningful purpose and thoughtful restoration.

The Christ Church site has for too long been an unsightly and unacceptable ruin in the heart of the City. Burnt out in 1940, since the War the nave area has always been envisaged as a memorial garden.

• Honouring the citizens of London with a unique memorial.

The City lacks a significant memorial to honour the fortitude and sacrifice of the London's wartime generation – they served their country no less than the armed services, but theirs is the 'missing memorial'.

• Restoring the walls to Sir Christopher Wren's design.

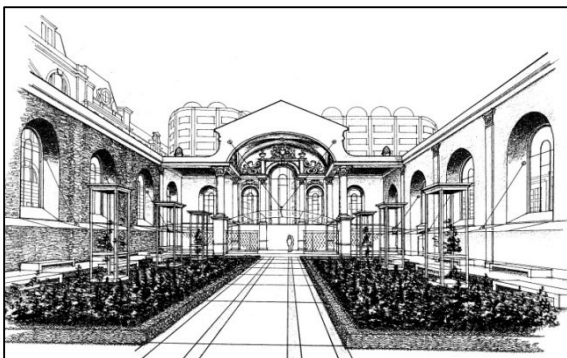
The missing walls of the church were demolished for a road-widening scheme in 1973 which now no longer affects the site. Together with the bay adjacent to the east wall, they would be meticulously restored to Wren's design, and would create the perfect memorial – dignified, eloquent, and unostentatious.

• Creating an urban sanctuary for today's citizens.

Restoring the walls for the Memorial would also transform the garden into a peaceful sanctuary, and other design improvements would make it more welcoming, comfortable, and enjoyable.

• Offering Londoners a unique opportunity.

The street pavement at King Edward Street is aligned inside the church site itself, so it would become a walkway through the Memorial, allowing pedestrians the unique experience of passing through a sacred space as part of an everyday journey.



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Top image: the fabric of Christ Church as it would have appeared if the demolition had not taken place, and how it would appear again restored as the Citizens' Memorial.

Lower image: the garden and the Memorial looking east. The existing pedestrian route on King Edward Street now passes through the sixth bay of Wren's church, restored as the Memorial.