

**A WALK IN AND AROUND THE WARD OF CRIPPLEGATE**  
**(WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THOSE OF ALDERSGATE BASSISHAW AND COLEMAN STREET)**  
**IN THE CITY OF LONDON**

by Chris Ruff, City of London Guide Lecturer

Start outside Barbican tube station on the western side of Aldersgate Street

*This walk gives both resident, visitor and City worker the opportunity to explore what you can find in just a small area of the City. Our walk starts at Barbican Station which is served by Thameslink, WAGN, the Metropolitan, Circle and Hammersmith & City Lines. Bus routes 4, 56 and 153 pass by here and it is easy to find. To follow our route, simply use the instructions in **italics**.*

From outside the station, if you look across the road here to the entrance to the underpass you will see a large coat of arms. This is the emblem of the City of London. You will see this all over the 'square mile' and outside the City on property and land belonging to the City of London Corporation. The coat of arms is made up of two heraldic dragons which support the shield which carries the red cross on the white background of St George, patron saint of England and the sword of St Paul, patron saint of the City. The motto is 'Domine Dirige Nos' – 'O Lord Guide Us'.



The City of London was founded by the Romans c.AD43. It was burned to the ground by Queen Boudica and her followers in AD60 and has quite literally been rebuilding itself ever since. It still covers little more than one square mile and it is often referred to as 'the Square Mile'. Trade has always been a key word in the City and today it is the world's leading financial and business centre and as well as exceptional modern business buildings there are a wealth of old and ancient buildings and history waiting to be uncovered by your footsteps.

**Welcome to the Ward of Cripplegate** The City of London is administered by the local authority, the City of London Corporation and is divided up into 25 Wards or electoral districts. The Wards date back to Norman times and they used to be responsible for such things as keeping the peace, supervision of trade, sanitation and local upkeep. The Ward Beadles used to have full time duties but now beadles are the ceremonial attendants of the Aldermen. Each Ward has an Alderman and a number of Common Councilmen and the City Corporation consists of the Lord Mayor, two Sheriffs, twenty-five Aldermen and one hundred Common Councilmen. All Wards have an Alderman and Common Councilmen (they are called Aldermen and Councilmen even if they happen to be female!). Cripplegate takes its name from one of the old gates that were part of the defensive wall and fort that was first built by the Romans. The name may come from cripples that used to beg for alms there as it was located near the church of St Giles who was patron saint of invalids or possibly from the Anglo-Saxon 'crepel' meaning a covered way or passage.



#### The Lord Mayor of London

Citizens have had the right to elect their own Mayor since the Charter of King John in 1215. The Lord Mayor is elected each year on 29<sup>th</sup> October (Michaelmas Day), takes office at the Silent Ceremony in Guildhall on the second Friday of November and is shown to the Citizens of London during the Lord Mayor's Show when he rides in his state coach to swear allegiance to the Sovereign at the Royal Courts of Justice the following day. Cripplegate has provided the Lord Mayor on more than 30 occasions over the centuries.