

Holy Sepulchre, London: rekindling the past to build our future

July 2026 Newsletter



YOUNG HERITAGE DETECTIVES FROM HARRIS BERMONDSEY DISCOVER HIDDEN STORIES

We welcomed students from Harris Academy Bermondsey for an immersive Heritage and Art History Workshop as part of our project. The workshop was designed to inspire curiosity through exploration rather than traditional classroom teaching, the Year 7 students were invited to become heritage and art detectives, uncovering the hidden stories hidden within the art and stained glass of one of the City's oldest churches.

Many of the students were visiting a church for the very first time. Throughout the day they explored the building's historic architecture, examined centuries-old carvings, investigated stained glass windows, sketched intricate details and discovered the church's famous collection of Raphael copies. One of the highlights was the opportunity to climb into the historic pulpit, giving students a unique perspective on the church and its craftsmanship.

The workshop also prompted thoughtful discussion about the history of the building, from the people commemorated within the church to the burials beneath its floor, with students asking insightful questions about the church's past and its continuing role within the City of London today.

Amelle, one of the students, stated: *"I enjoyed the activities, especially when it involved looking around. The paintings look massive and detailed, and each one has a story behind it."*

Another student, Lujan said: *"I liked doing the creative workshop because it felt like we were contributing to the Church, Even if I am not a Christian, it makes me feel like I am part of the Church community."*

The workshop forms part of Holy Sepulchre's wider programme of heritage engagement, which is testing new ways of connecting diverse audiences with the church's nationally significant history.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING THIS MONTH

- Our Architects have prepared a Condition Survey, detailing the repair needs and priorities of the church fabric. This is currently being costed by our Quantity Surveyors. Next month, we'll be working together to develop a strategy for the repair of St Sepulchre.
- Our Business Planners have been in 'consultation mode', to better understand the needs and views of our friends and partners. This will help to shape our future plans and secure our long-term sustainability. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO COMPLETED OUR SURVEY**, this data is currently being analysed!
- Our Heritage Consultants have been continuing to gather and review information about the history of our important building. They have developed illustrated plans that tell us how St Sepulchre changed over time and also ways of understanding it's significance. This understanding is critical to guide proposals to improve the building.
- With a better understanding of the significance of St Sepulchre and our future needs, our Architects are starting to explore options to improve our building that will support our mission, community programmes and income generation.
- Our programme of trial activities is well underway! Next month we'll be delivering wellbeing walks (check the Holy Sepulchre Website for bookings).
- Our Evaluation Consultants are guiding us to reflect and learn lessons to inform our decision making throughout the project.



Images from the Condition Survey

WE'RE TAKING PART IN OPEN HOUSE!

Saturday 19th September, 12-4pm

OPEN HOUSE FESTIVAL

12-4pm - OPEN DAY, drop in at any time.
Have a look at our emerging plans and enjoy our heritage engagement activities

1-1.45pm- Talk on the history and new learnings at Holy Sepulchre, led by architectural historian Helen Bradbury

2-3pm- Walking Tour: Exploring Belonging, led by Fr Nick Mottershead.
Booking on the [Open House website](#)

JULY PROJECT CELEBRATION



Moses's sister Miriam inspired a spirit of communal joy and reminds us that history is not just lived, but shared. This Heritage Project celebrates our collective journey, past, present and future, and the beautiful mutuality of a community travelling together.

Fr Nick Mottershead