



# Broad Street

## Austin Friars' Dutch hidden gem

**By Rev. Bertjan van de Lagemaat, Minister of the Dutch Church**

People who visit the Dutch Church for the first time, tend to be a bit late. Not that Dutch people are known for being late. The problem is that our church is hard to find. We are located in Austin Friars. In medieval times Austin Friars was a flourishing Augustinian Monastery (Friary) on the edge of the walled City of London. But the present-day location of our church is tucked away between tall office buildings and can only be reached by leaving the main streets of Old Broad Street or London Wall through small archways into Austin Friars. It is a hidden gem.

Austin Friars has been home to the Dutch Church since 1550. In the middle of the sixteenth century there was quite a significant group of Dutch immigrants

living in London, many of whom had fled the Low Countries (The Netherlands and Flanders) because of persecution for their Protestant views. The founder of the church, John a Lasco, had a good network in London. He used his connections, like Hugh Latimer and the King's uncle Edward Seymour, to ask King Edward VI for a place of worship for the Dutch Protestants. In 1550 King Edward granted the Protestant foreigners a Royal Charter, giving them part of the former Augustinian Friary as a place to worship. At first it was called the Strangers Church, but over the course of those early years it eventually became known as the Dutch Church with its services held in the Dutch language. It is still the oldest foreign church in the UK and the mother

church of all Protestant denominations in the Netherlands.

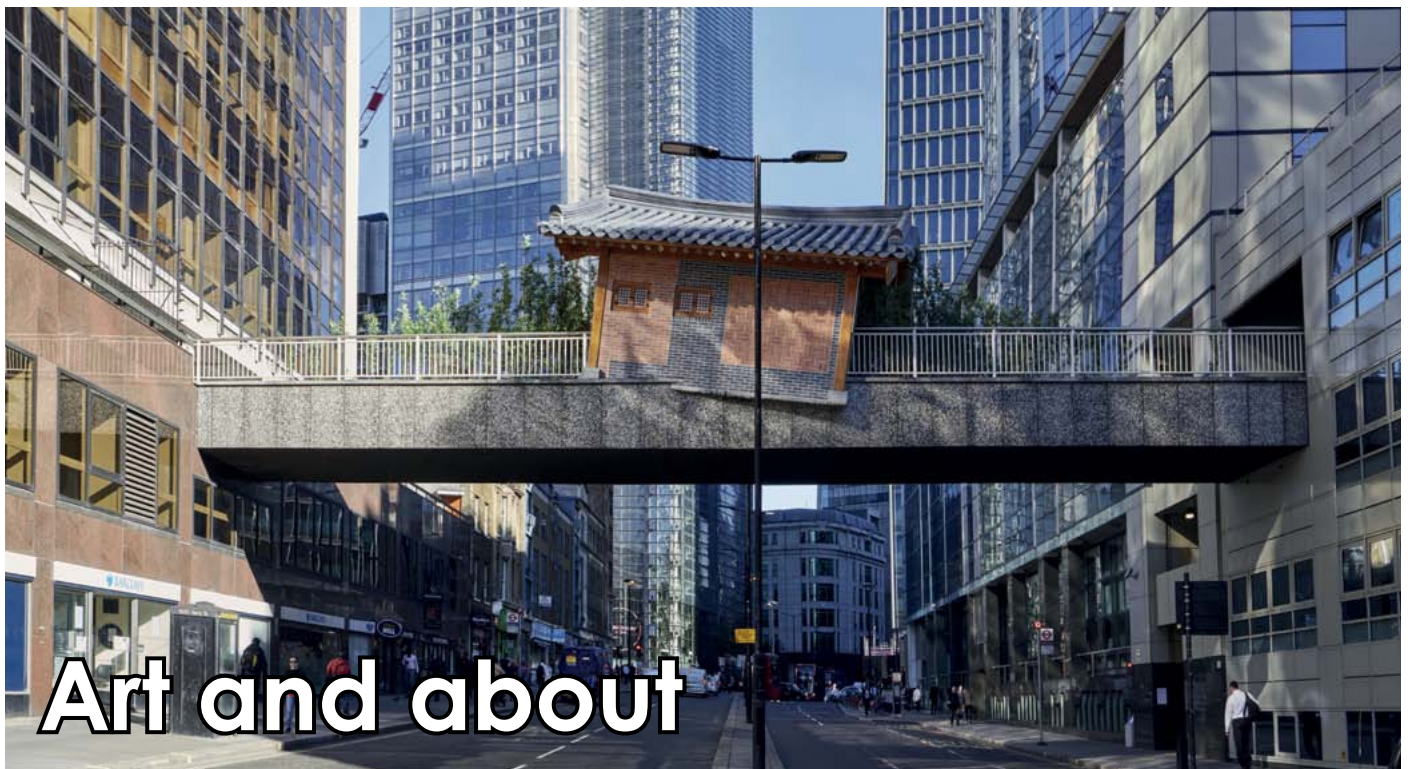
The founding of the church marks the start of a longstanding and important presence of the Dutch community in the City and we still cherish that history. We are proud of our library with a large collection of 16th and 17th century books. In May we welcomed a group of students from Oklahoma State University who are doing research on our collection. We also hosted a theatre event on the Mayflower. We are involved in the Mayflower400 project because the Dutch Church played an important role in bringing the Protestant Separatists and the people in Leyden together. Next month we will have a small memorial service in the Dutch Church for the Dutch fisherman who brought eel into London, to help feed starving Londoners after the Great Fire of 1666. The Dutch received the right of free mooring at Billingsgate to thank them for their help. At the end of June a replica of a traditional Dutch Eel-ship will cross the North Sea and sail up the Thames to moor near Billingsgate and we will be there to commemorate it! In the 19th century Vincent van Gogh visited the Dutch Church. A pen drawing he made of the church is currently being exhibited in Tate Britain. And during the second world war Queen Wilhelmina visited the church regularly and helped with the rebuilding of the church after it was hit by a bomb during the Blitz.

It tells a lot about our rich history that we want to keep alive. We want to share our heritage with the Dutch community as well as with our City neighbours. But the Dutch Church is not only about the past. Today we are a progressive oecumenical church, the only church in England that conducts same sex marriages. On July 7th we will hold a 'pink' service in our church celebrating diversity. With our Dutch Centre we bring Dutch Culture to the City. We have our Low Countries Film festival, a Dutch Comedy Night, and we invite



The Dutch Church in Austin Friars

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# Art and about

The ninth 'edition' of Sculpture in the City returns to the Square Mile at the end of June.

Each year the exhibition showcases contemporary works from internally renowned artists across the City's public spaces. Sculpture in the City is free and accessible all year round. It is delivered by the City

of London Corporation in partnership with Aon, Aviva, Beaumont, Bloomberg, British Land, Brookfield, CC Land, Generali, Hiscox, Nuveen Real Estate, Tenacity, Tower 42 and Twentytwo.

Image shows Bridging Home by Do Ho Suh, who responded to the migrant history of the

East End and the City with this ambitious commission installed on the footbridge over Wormwood Street. It is a to-scale replica of Suh's childhood home, a traditional Korean house.

**More information**  
[sculptureinthecity.org.uk](http://sculptureinthecity.org.uk)  
[@sculpturecity](https://twitter.com/sculpturecity)

## Status check

If you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, you and your family can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. It's free to apply to the scheme.

Except in a few cases, you need to apply if:

- you're an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen
- you're not an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, but your family member is
- The EEA includes the EU countries and also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

This means you need to apply even if you:

- were born in the UK but are not a British citizen – you can check if you're a British citizen if you're not sure
- have a UK 'permanent residence document'
- are a family member of an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen who does not need to apply – including if they're from Ireland
- are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen with a British citizen family member.

If your application is successful, you'll get either settled or pre-settled status. The EU Settlement Scheme is open.

You can apply now if you meet the criteria. You will need to be living in the UK before it leaves the EU to apply. You do not need to apply if you have indefinite leave to enter the UK, indefinite leave to remain in the UK or have British or Irish citizenship (including 'dual citizenship').

The deadline for applying is 30 June 2021.

[www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](http://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families)





# One door closes...



Snow Hill Police Station will close this summer almost 100 years after it first opened.

It has been home to many police and support teams since 1926. At present, finance, HR and Community Policing teams are among those based there. The building, owned by the City of London Corporation, is an underutilised asset and in need of much modernisation. As with many police forces in the UK, the City of London Police

continues to face budgetary constraints, and after a review of its policing footprint in the City, the decision was taken to close this station.

The City Police and City Corporation are working together on an ambitious plan to build a state-of-the-art police station and court complex near Fleet Street. This space will be designed to house the various teams needed to deliver a cohesive modern policing service for the City's communities.

Following the closure of Snow Hill, the nearest City of London Police station will be Wood

Street, a 1-minute walk away. You can also continue to report crimes online or call 101 or 999 in an emergency, or reach us via our website [cityoflondon.police.uk](https://cityoflondon.police.uk)

The level of service the City Police offers the City's communities will not be affected by the closure and if you have any concerns or issues you wish to raise in relation to it, please email [community@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk](mailto:community@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk)

# All charged up

Three brand new fully electric vehicles are joining the City of London Corporation's fleet, bringing the organisation a step closer to realising its goal of being the first authority to run a fully zero-emission fleet.

The EV80 will help the City Corporation deliver some of its key services across London. The vehicles will service the Barbican Library in the Square Mile, the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium in Manor Park and the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre at Heathrow Airport.

The EV80 is the first fully electric vehicle launched as part of Heathrow LDV's range of commercial vehicles. It boasts



a 120-mile range on a single charge and, thanks to its high-capacity lithium battery, can be fully charged in less than 90 minutes.

The vehicles, which are Ultra Low Emission Zone compliant and designed for urban driving, are already being used by delivery and utility companies,

together with selected city councils across the country.

The vehicles are fitted with an award-winning Brigade Quiet Vehicle Sounder and white noise reversing rear for enhanced pedestrian and cyclist safety. Full driver training will be provided to City Corporation staff by the team at Heathrow LDV.

In April this year the City of London Corporation awarded a pioneering new tech-driven waste collection, street cleansing and ancillary services contract to Veolia – covering the Square Mile. As part of the contract, the City Corporation aims to become the first authority in the UK to run a fully electric fleet of Refuse Collection Vehicles.



# Broad Street

## Who We Are



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Planning & Transportation  
Police  
Policy & Resources (Vice Chairman)  
Property Investment Board



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Museum of London

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## CONTACT US

To write to any of your Members, to let us know if you wish to receive this newsletter by email in future, or to inform us if you wish to be taken off the distribution list write c/o

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We are always happy to talk to workers and residents within the Ward about any issues you may wish to raise. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

## COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY OF LONDON



### *continued from the front page*

interesting guests for all sorts of talks. Last year we hosted a Brexit evening with European correspondents from 'der Spiegel', 'Le Figaro' and the NOS (Dutch BBC), we had an evening talk on the issues surrounding euthanasia with a doctor from the Dutch End of Life Clinic and a journalist who wrote a 'long read' on the subject in the Guardian. And next month there will be an evening on the Circular Economy in cooperation with the Dutch Embassy.

Last but not least we want to be a meeting place for our Dutch community. A good example for that is King's Day. We organised a big event in and around the church on 27th April, with a lot of Dutch organisations participating. We celebrated our King's birthday with traditional Children's games, an arts and crafts market, Dutch food and drinks and Dutch singers performing well known Dutch pop songs. Austin Friars turned orange that day. It was a big success with over 500 people visiting our hidden gem.

**And that's exactly what we have in mind. Because we want to be 'the not so hidden gem' of Austin Friars!**

**Fun, games and plenty  
to eat inside & outside  
on King's Day**

