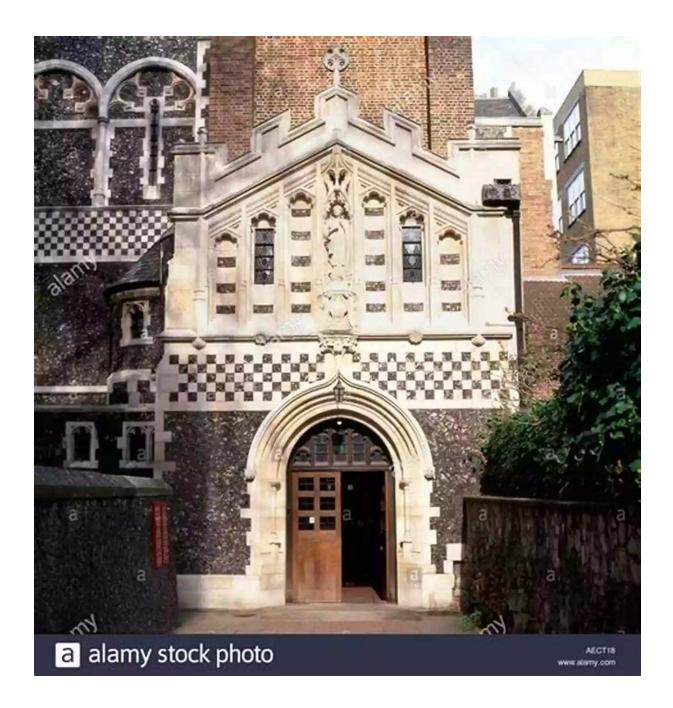
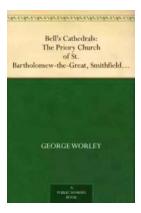
# The Priory Church Of St Bartholomew The Great Smithfield - A Short History



Have you ever wondered about the historical wonders hidden within the bustling city of London? One such marvel is the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, located in Smithfield. Its rich history, breathtaking architecture, and significance make it a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts and architecture admirers alike.

### **A Place of Ancient Origins**

The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great dates back to the 12th century, making it one of the oldest surviving churches in London. Founded in 1123 as an Augustinian priory, it has witnessed centuries of history unfold before its grand doors.



Bell's Cathedrals: The Priory Church of St. Bartholomew-the-Great, Smithfield A Short History of the Foundation and a Description of the Fabric and also of the Church of St. Bartholomew-the-

**Less** by Robert F. Hartley(Kindle Edition)

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At its inception, the priory stood as a symbol of monastic life and devotion. Lavish portions of the church were constructed in Norman and Early English architectural styles. These elements, despite undergoing minor alterations throughout the years, still adorn the church's design, making it a remarkable example of medieval architecture.

### **Magnificent Gothic Structure**

One cannot help but be captivated by the grandeur of the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great. Its magnificent Gothic design is a sight to behold, evoking a sense of awe and reverence. Its soaring arches, intricately carved stonework, and beautiful stained-glass windows reflect the craftsmanship of the craftsmen who worked on it throughout the centuries.

The church's breathtaking central nave, adorned with impressive rib-vaulting, leaves visitors spellbound. As you walk through the echoing halls, you can't help but imagine the countless faithful who have sought solace within these walls over the years.

#### A Witness to Historical Events

Throughout its existence, the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great has witnessed significant historical events that have shaped the world we live in today. From the dissolution of the monasteries during the reign of King Henry VIII to surviving the Great Fire of London in 1666, this church has stood the test of time.

During World War II, the church endured severe damages due to bombings, but its resilience prevailed. Today, it stands as a reminder of the strength and endurance of London and its people.

#### A Haven for Film Enthusiasts

The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great has not only attracted history buffs but has also become a popular filming location. Its stunning medieval setting has been featured in numerous films and television series, including blockbusters like "Four Weddings and a Funeral" and "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves." If you're a fan of period dramas or enjoy seeing famous sites on the big screen, then visiting this church will allow you to step into the world of your favorite characters and immerse yourself in their stories.

### A Welcoming Community

Today, the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great continues to hold regular services and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. Whether you're seeking a quiet place for reflection, want to witness a religious ceremony, or simply wish to soak in the history and beauty of this magnificent structure, you will find warmth and tranquility within these ancient walls.

Guided tours are also available, providing unique insights into the church's rich history and architectural significance. Exploring the hidden corners and learning about the fascinating stories attached to this place will surely leave you in awe.

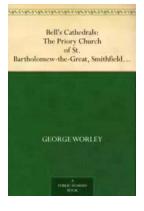
### Don't Miss Out!

The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield is a gem that shouldn't be overlooked when exploring the vibrant city of London. Its ancient origins, stunning Gothic architecture, and historical significance make it a destination worth visiting for anyone with a curiosity for the past and an appreciation for remarkable structures.

So, make sure to include this enchanting church in your itinerary and experience the magic of stepping back in time within its hallowed halls.

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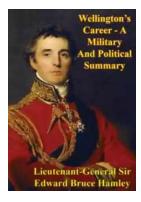
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