

Monuments of Fleet Street

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The Dragon marking the western boundary of the City of London on the site of the ancient Temple Bar. It stands in the middle of Fleet Street, where it joins the Strand. The monument was created in 1880 by Sir Charles Bell Birch. It has a statue of Queen Victoria and commemorative plaques on the plinth below the dragon.



This statue of Queen Elizabeth I originally stood on Lud-gate, which was reconstructed during her reign. It has a barely-legible date of 1586 at the base. Lud-gate was demolished in 1760 and the statue was then placed here. It is believed to be the oldest public statue in London.



This statue of John Wilkes stands on a new pedestrian island at the junction of Fetter Lane and New Fetter Lane.

*The inscription reads:
A champion of English Freedom.
John Wilkes 1727 - 1797
Member of Parliament. Lord Mayor*

When you visit this talking statue, you can listen to a reading by Jeremy Paxman from one of his writings. Wilkes was a complicated and controversial individual, a radical, and a fervent advocate of parliamentary reform.



Hodge was Doctor Johnson's cat. His statue is in Gough Square outside Dr. Johnson's house. This is a talking statue.



The church of St. Dunstan-in-the-West at the western end of Fleet Street has three monuments on its facade. The statue of Queen Elizabeth I originally stood on Lud-gate, which was reconstructed during her reign.

It has a barely-legible date of 1586 at the base. Ludgate was demolished in 1760 and the statue was then placed here. It is believed to be the oldest public statue in London. To Dunstan-in-the-West and above it are Gog and Magog, the legendary guardians of the City, poised with hammers to ring out the bells every hour. The clock was extensively restored around 2018. Below the clock, at street level, is a sculpted head of Lord Northcliffe, a press baron, who gave benefactions to the Church.



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Additional notes

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Sources:

Among the many sources of information, we found these most useful:

www.londonremembers.com/memorials/st-dunstans-elizabeth-i-statue

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Wilkes