

In which year was the Great Fire of London?
(1666)

Where did it start?
(In a baker's shop in Pudding Lane).

Why did the Fire spread so quickly?
(Most buildings were wooden, and were very close to each other).

How did the Fire stop eventually?
(In some areas the fire burned itself out when all the buildings had been destroyed. In other places, King Charles II's brother - who would become King James II - ordered that houses in the path of the fire should be blown up, so that there would be a gap, a "firebreak").

Some people thought that the Fire must be a great punishment for what they must have done wrong. They had all the more reason to think this because another great disaster had hit them, starting two years earlier in 1664. What was that disaster?
(The Great Plague, killing 75,000 in London alone).

The Great Fire of London destroyed the oldest part of the city. After the Fire, King Charles II ordered that special buildings be re-built, one of which was St Paul's Cathedral, which bears a large dome. Who was the famous architect of St Paul's Cathedral?
(Sir Christopher Wren).

1 It was on this day in 1723 that Sir Christopher Wren died. In St Paul's, people can read an inscription about Christopher Wren near his tomb. The words were written by his son:

*"If you seek his monument,
look around you."*

2 Those words about Sir Christopher Wren - "If you seek his monument, look around you" - remind us to be aware of how we are building our lives.

3 *Let us pray:*

**Lord, be the foundation
on which I build my life.
May my door be wide enough
that I may be welcoming,
inviting others to grow.
May my door be narrow enough
to keep out what is not good.
May I build no walls
that keep anyone out,
but build your Kingdom
together with all whom you give me
as my brothers and sisters -
valuing all who are a part of my life.
May I live in such a way
that those "who trespass against" me
- who hurt me -
may know my forgiveness and generosity
- as I know yours.
Surround me with your love
and shield me from all harm.
Amen.**

*"If you seek his monument,
look around you."*

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:
www.prayingeachday.org