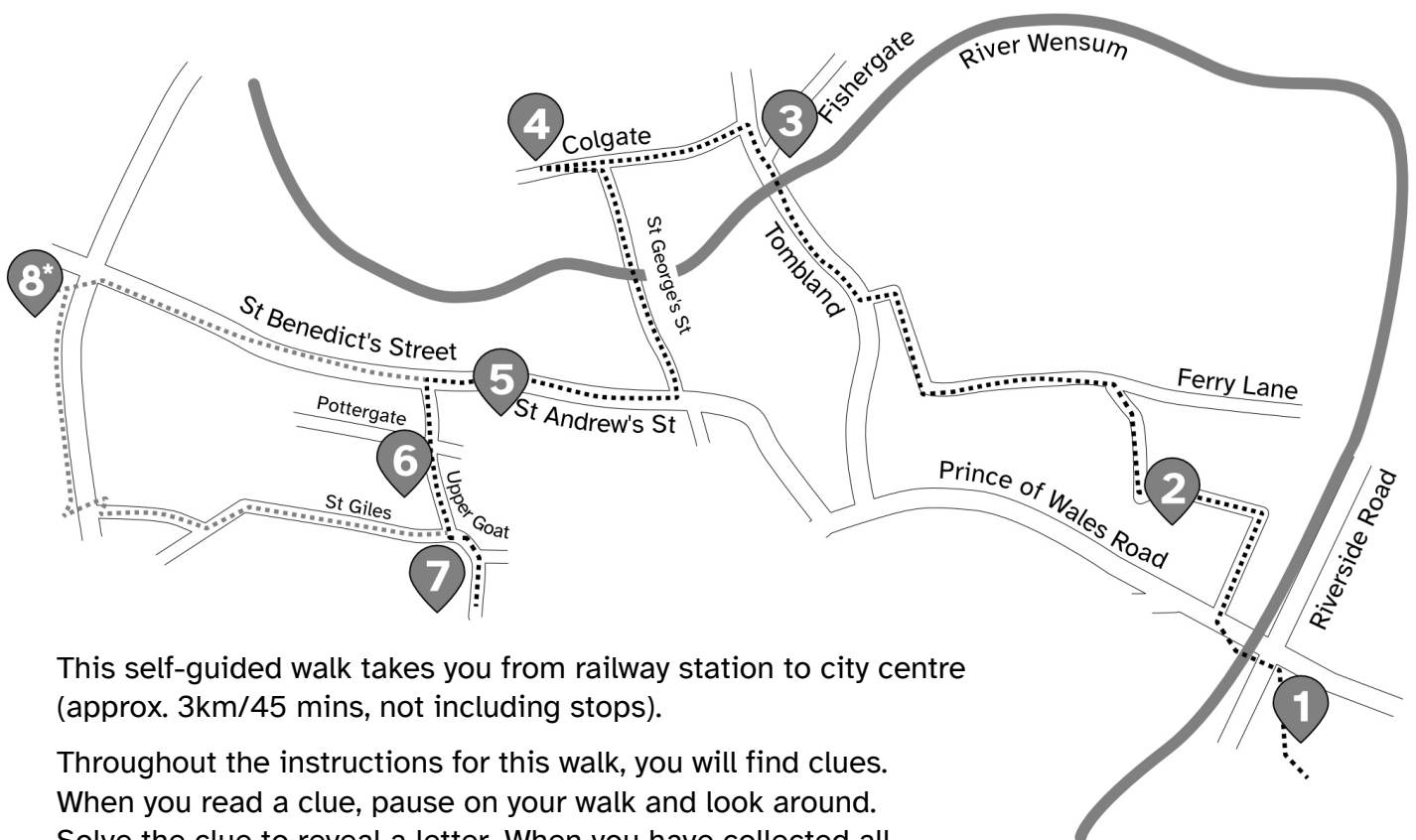




Norwich Community Garden Festival Puzzle Trail 2026



This self-guided walk takes you from railway station to city centre (approx. 3km/45 mins, not including stops).

Throughout the instructions for this walk, you will find clues. When you read a clue, pause on your walk and look around. Solve the clue to reveal a letter. When you have collected all the letters, rearrange them to make a very fitting word.

The letter clues finish at Strangers' Hall where you can decide to continue either on the shorter or longer walk.

Extra notes have been provided at the end of this document for places highlighted in ***bold italic***. Find them starting on page 9.

What's included

- Pages 2 - 7 Puzzle walk
- Page 8 Longer walk (additional 1km)
- Pages 9 - 11 Things of note along the route
- Page 12 What to look out for on St Benedict's Street (for the longer walk option)

This trail has colour photos but it is fine to print in black and white!

1

Norwich Railway Station

Outside the station building, turn left towards Riverside and enjoy the plant beds by the covered walkway. Return to the station to continue the route.

- From the **Norwich Railway Station**, take pedestrian exit toward city
- Use pedestrian crossing to cross to diagonally opposite corner of the junction and continue over Foundry Bridge toward Compleat Angler pub
- Continue on road, past Compleat Angler
- Take first right into Recorder Rd, continue on Recorder Rd as bends to left
- A short way down the road, James Stuart Garden can be found on left

2

James Stuart Garden

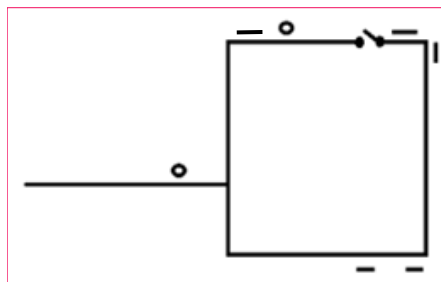
This city garden is over 100 years old, laid as a memorial to James Stuart (see also the **Stuart Court** almshouses opposite). This is a tranquil green space away from the bustle of Prince of Wales Road, with benches to rest.

Saturday 25th April 2026, 11am – 3pm: Come and meet volunteers from the Friends of James Stuart Garden Group. You can play garden board games, enjoy artwork by children from Charles Darwin primary school, find out more about the garden and its namesake James Stuart. Refreshments available to purchase.

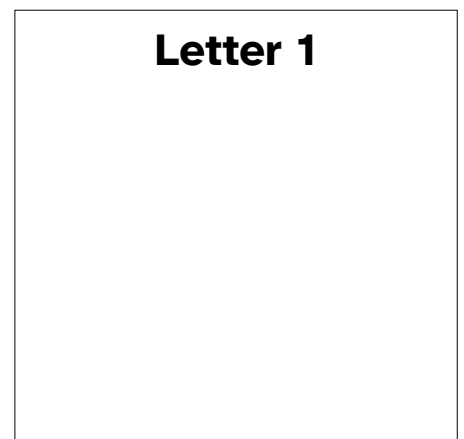


Clue 1

In the James Stuart Garden, once you've worked out what this represents you need the 3rd letter of a circle, and the 3rd letter of a dash. If you've worked it out correctly, they will be the same letter!



Letter 1



- Exit through stone archway on corner
- Take the road diagonally right (not back on to Recorder Rd) and almost straight away take the pedestrian path to the right of a small, grassed area bound by hedges
- Continue on this path through two open gates. Enjoy views of **Norwich Cathedral**.
- At end of pedestrian path, turn left into **Ferry Lane** following blue sign 'Cathedral & City centre'.
- Ferry Lane very soon becomes Cathedral Close. Continue along Cathedral Close. (Beware there can be cars).

Clue 2

You need the first letter of the house number (written as a word) that displays this pattern.



Letter 2

- Eventually, you will pass a herb garden on the right and see the **Ethelbert Gate** straight ahead of you.
- As you reach the last building on the right (still within cathedral grounds), turn right with the green area and statue of Wellington to left.
- Continue on footpath, say hi to Paddington, then follow footpath diagonally through the green area, past statue of Nelson. The **Carnary Chapel** is the white stone building to your right.
- Go out of the Cathedral Close through the **Erpingham Gate**. Straight ahead of you, you can see **Augustine Steward's** (wonky) **House**.

Clue 3

You're looking for this terracotta-coloured font. Once you've spotted it, you need the last letter written using it. Other colours don't count.



Letter 3

- Turn right, cross the road toward the **Maids Head Hotel**, keep the hotel on your right and continue down Wensum St
- Cross the **Fye bridge** into Fye Bridge Street. The Oasis is on your right immediately after the bridge

3 The Oasis is a charming spot with lots of different plants, a bug hotel, views of the river and a children's play area. It's also in the vicinity of several cafes including The Merchant's House so it's a good place to sit for a while with a takeaway drink!



Clue 4

At the Oasis, you need the letter that appears twice in the name of the mini-beast found top right on the roof of the bug hotel!

Letter 4

- Cross Fishergate toward Merchant's House, continue down Fye Bridge Street (Merchant's House now on your right)
- Turn left into Colegate (after the church) where you will pass the **Old Meeting House** and the **Octagon Chapel** as you continue along this road

Clue 5

Look out for this sign. The letter you need is the only letter that appears just once on this blanked out sign.



Letter 5

- Continue along Colegate, past **Henry Bacon's Tudor House** on the right. On the next corner you find **St George's Church**, Colegate

4 St George's Church

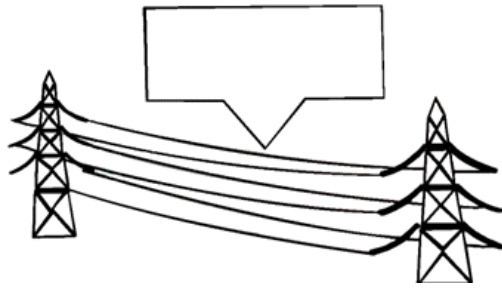
As well as a lovely small garden, St George Colegate hosts 4 planters containing food as part of the Big Issue's Big Grow initiative which creates edible landscapes and teaches valuable skills.



- From the church, backtrack very slightly and turn right into the pedestrian zone on St George's St (toward Last Brasserie)

Clue 6

You're looking for the first letter of the word found in this box.



Letter 6

- Continue along St George's Street. On the left you will eventually see a **Barbara Hepworth Sculpture**.

Clue 7

On the end of something you can sit on, you're looking for the first letter of name of this constellation (lines not included).



Letter 7

- Cross the Blackfriars' Bridge and continue, with **The Halls** on your left.

Clue 8

When facing this Victorian toilet, if the orange building **Armada/Garsett House** is to your:
left, the letter you need is L
right, the letter you need is R



Letter 8

- At St Andrews Brewhouse, you can see **Cinema City/Suckling House** ahead of you on the other side of the road. Use the zebra crossing to cross the road, turn right and then continue along St Andrews Street with **St Andrew's Church** on your left
- A little further on, on the left, you'll see the odd looking segment of what was once **Rugge House** in a car park, just before the large building that was once the **Norwich Telephone Exchange** (your next clue is close by, so pause here)

Clue 9

Find the following shape pattern so you can count how many triangles are perched on top of it. You need the last letter of that number when it's written in word form.



- Use the pedestrian crossing to cross Exchange Street and continue on St Andrews
- Cross St John Maddermarket noticing the **old water pump** at the bottom of the graveyard and shortly after on Charing Cross you reach **Strangers' Hall**

Letter 9

Clue 10

The letter you need is the last letter of the last name of the person who gave Strangers' Hall to the City of Norwich.

Letter 10

5

Strangers' Hall This tranquil walled garden is a hidden gem. Bounded by Strangers' Hall and St Gregory's Church, the garden includes a recreation of an Elizabethan knot garden.

Note: access to the garden is through Strangers Hall which is open Saturday 10-4. Access to the garden is free of charge. Access to the museum is ticketed.



Congratulations, you now have all the letters to complete the puzzle!



Continue this self-guided walk to see more community gardens. The shorter walk continues for another few minutes from here. The longer one will add approx 1km. Choose now - the short walk is on page 7 and the slightly longer walk starts on page 8. And, if you'd like to explore other green spaces taking part in the Norwich Community Gardens Festival, the full programme is available at linktr.ee/ncgf. Find more puzzle walks at norwichtalesandtrails.co.uk.



SHORTER WALK OPTION

- On leaving Stranger's Hall, turn left and continue into St Benedict's Street.
- Just after **St Gregory's Church** on the left, take a left into St Gregory's Alley
- Continue along pavement into **St Gregory's Green** keeping the buildings to your immediate right, up the steps (use the level area to left if required) cross into **Upper Goat Lane** (not to be confused with Lower Goat Lane which is the next lane to your left!)
- Pass **The Quakers' Meeting House** on your right.
- Continue along Upper Goat Lane, past Flint Hair on your right.

6

Upper Goat Lane This tiny green space is a great example of how volunteers in the local community have enhanced their environment by introducing and caring for nature, planting bulbs and litter picking.

- Continue along Upper Goat Lane, at the end cross Upper St Giles and follow road round to the right to reach **City Hall**.
- From City Hall, looking out over **Norwich Market**, you are well placed to enjoy a day in Norwich.

7

City Hall This grand building at the centre of the city is brought to life with exuberant colourful flower beds – like all community green spaces included here, this work is undertaken by volunteers. In fact, it's the same group who look after the greenery at Norwich Railway Station.



- You have now complete the short version of the walk. The shortest route back to the station is via Gentleman's Walk, London Street, Bank Plain and Prince of Wales Road. There are more scenic options!

LONGER WALK OPTION

Taking in Grapes Hill Community Garden. Adds approx. 1km / 15 mins.
Go to page 12 for details on some of the things you'll see on this route.

- On leaving Stranger's Hall, continue into St Benedict's. At end of the road (having crossed over Wellington Lane) use the pedestrian crossing to get over the busy main road.
- Turn left on the pavement heading uphill and soon after take small cut through into permit-only carpark in front of Grapes Hill Community Garden.

8 Grapes Hill Community Garden

This is the first ever community garden in Norwich.
The garden is open to all, every day from 9am -6pm.

Saturday 25th April 2026: hosts on site 11am - 2pm,
short tours at 11.30am and 1.30pm (no booking required).

Sunday 26th April 2026: hosts on site 1pm - 4pm,
volunteer gardening session, face-painting and family
friendly games.



- Exit garden, back onto pavement beside main road and turn right continuing up the hill.
- At the top of the hill just before the pedestrian bridge you will get a great view of Roman Catholic Cathedral (Norwich is 1 of only 2 cities in UK to have 2 cathedrals).
- Take pedestrian bridge over main road. Continue down main slope to Upper St Giles (do not take extra slope down to right).
- Turn left into Upper St Giles and continue. Cross Cow Hill and continue.
- Follow road round to left as it becomes St Giles Street, continue. Cross Willow lane, continue, passing St Giles multi-storey car park. After Indigo tattoo studio turn left into Upper Goat Lane.

6 **Upper Goat Lane** This tiny green space is a great example of how volunteers in the local community have enhanced their environment by introducing and caring for nature, planting bulbs and litter picking.

- Retrace your steps back out of Upper Goat Lane to St Giles. Cross the road and follow it to the left to reach the front of City Hall.

7 **City Hall** This grand building at the centre of the city is brought to life with exuberant colourful flower beds – like all community green spaces included here, this work is undertaken by volunteers. In fact, it's the same group who look after the greenery at Norwich Railway Station.



- From City Hall you are well placed to enjoy a day in Norwich.
- The shortest route back to the station is via Gentleman's Walk, London Street, Bank Plain and Prince of Wales Road. There are more scenic options!

Things of note along the route

Norwich Railway Station	Norwich Railway Station, built in 1844, is the only survivor of the city's original 3 stations. Unlike many other old stations elsewhere that were demolished or rebuilt, it has remained in continuous passenger use since opening.
Stuart Court	Stuart Court consists of alms-house flats, built in 1914 as a memorial to James Stuart, funded by his widow Laura Elizabeth Stuart (née Colman) and her sisters Ethel and Helen Colman. Stuart Court reflects the Colman tradition of practical philanthropy.
Norwich Cathedral	The foundation stone of Norwich Cathedral was laid in 1096. Building started on the right (east), moved westwards and took nearly 50 years to be completed.
Ferry Lane	The lane was once the site of a canal, built to carry stone for building from the river up to the cathedral for use. The stone originally came from Caen, France.
Ethelbert Gate	This gate was paid for and built by Norwich citizens as pay-back for destroying the original gate during a dispute over tolls between the cathedral priory's monks and townspeople at an annual fair that escalated into violence. The riot lasted several days and saw parts of the cathedral attacked and burned.
Carnary Chapel	The Carnary Chapel (now part of the Norwich School) was built in 1316 and the crypt was filled up with bones that had resurfaced from the over-crowded medieval graveyards. As it was believed these bones contained souls, mass was said in the chapel above.
Erpingham Gate	This gate was funded by Thomas Erpingham, the chief archer at the Battle of Agincourt. Built in about 1420, rich people hoped 'gifts' like this would reduce the amount of time they spent in purgatory - a temporary place of suffering or purification, meant to cleanse sins so souls could eventually reach heaven.
Austine's Steward's House and Tombland	Augustine Steward's wonky house, was built around 1549. He was a wealthy merchant and three-time mayor. Tombland is a Saxon name referring not to tombs but to 'empty space'.
Maid's Head Hotel	The Maid's Head Hotel dates back the 1200s - although the Victorians redid the front in the mock Tudor style seen now. Famous guests include: Queens Catherine of Aragon and Elizabeth I, Cilla Black and Morecambe and Wise!
Fye Bridge	Fye Bridge is at the site of one of the oldest city crossings - part of a Saxon north-south route. A ducking stool (where people were tied to a chair and dunked in river) was once used here as a punishment.

Meeting House Octagon Chapel Non-conformists	Nonconformists were religious groups outside the Church of England who played a key role in the city's social, educational and charitable life from the 1600s onward. They pushed a lot of social change. Two of their places of worship are found on Colegate: The Old Meeting House and the Octagon Chapel – both set back off the road.
Henry Bacon's (Tudor) House	Built before 1548, this was the grand house of wealthy cloth merchant: Henry Bacon. His initials can be seen carved above the door.
St George's Church	St George's Church, Colegate is a medieval Church renowned for its Grade I-listed historic architecture and long continuous use. Its main structure was built between 1459 and 1513. Its impressive Perpendicular Gothic windows and a tall west tower reflects the wealth of the city's late medieval wool trade. People happily donate to churches to reduce time in purgatory.
Barbara Hepworth Sculpture	Sea Form (Atlantic) is a striking bronze work created in 1964 that shows Hepworth's typical abstract style and use of holes!
The Halls	The Halls were once the church of the Black Friars. They were saved from destruction during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries (in 1538) because Augustine Steward (the man who lived in the wonky house) bought them for the city and turned them into non-religious halls for the city to use. They have had many uses: a library, a workhouse, a mint, a corn market, performance hall etc.
Armada/Garsett House	Garsett House (also historically known as Armada House) was built in 1589 for alderman Robert Garsett. Local tradition holds that it incorporates timbers from Spanish Armada wrecks of 1588. Over the centuries the building has been used in various ways e.g. school, offices and residential use.
Cinema City/ Suckling House	Suckling House is a medieval merchant's house dating to the 1100s and much reshaped and added to over the years. The building had various uses before Ethel and Helen Colman restored it in the 1920s, converting it into a public hall, adding Stuart Hall, and later gifting it to the city for educational and cultural use.
St Andrew's Church	St Andrew's Church current building was completed by 1506. After the English Reformation, it became a notable centre of Puritanism (a strict form of Protestantism that sought to 'purify' the Church of England by removing remaining Catholic practices and emphasising simple worship).
Rugge House	This odd-looking, narrow fragment is one bay (of 5) of the Rugge House that was a once-grand 15th-century merchant's house.

Norwich Telephone Exchange	The substantial building of the Norwich Telephone Exchange started in 1939 as part of a nationwide programme by the General Post Office to modernise Britain's telephone network in major cities. Although '1939' is recorded on a stone plaque, the outbreak of the Second World War caused delays due to shortages of labour and materials and the building did not become fully operational until around 1942.
Old water pump	Before public health studies helped the population understand how diseases were caused (germ theory), water pumps were often funded by church parishes and therefore situated close to, or next to, churchyards. Water was a 'gift' of the parish - sometimes blessed or seen as spiritually pure. However, these churchyards were full of decaying bodies and as a result, the water often caused disease.
If you are doing the longer walk switch to 'What to look out for on St Benedict's Street' on page 12.	
St Gregory's Church	This medieval church's east end is unusually built over an alleyway that is thought to originally have been the bed of a stream and later used as a processional route around the church.
St Gregory's Green	On the pavement in St Gregory's Green you'll find a selection of names of people from Norwich's history. For example Will Kempe who Morris danced his way from London to Norwich in just 9 days in 1600.
Goat Lane – Stonegate Magna	Goat Lane was named after the Goat Inn. Before that, it was called Stonegate Magna -probably because the road was originally Roman and paved with stone. Long after the Romans left, their roads were still used but no longer maintained to the same high standard.
The Quakers' Meeting House	The current Quakers' Meeting House, dates from 1820. Quakers value peace, equality, simplicity and truth and the community has included notable members such as Elizabeth Fry – the well-known prison reformer who was born in Norwich.
City Hall	Norwich City Hall was completed in 1938 in striking Art Deco style. Designed by architects Charles Holloway James and Stephen Rowland Pierce after a public competition, it was officially opened by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.
Norwich Market	Norwich Market is one of the oldest and largest open-air markets in England, operating on its present site for over 900 years. It has around 200 stalls selling food, clothing, crafts, flowers and more.

What to look out for on St Benedicts Street

<p>The Lanes</p>	<p>St Benedicts Street forms part of the historic ‘Norwich Lanes’: a maze of narrow medieval streets and alleyways celebrated for its medieval architecture, Great British High Street Award and an exceptionally high concentration of over 300 independent eateries, boutiques, cafes, bars and specialist shops.</p>
<p>Five medieval churches</p>	<p>Norwich has 31 remaining medieval churches. Four of these (and one remaining tower) are found along St Benedicts Street. In the order you’ll encounter them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Gregory’s with an unusual alleyway under its east end. • St Lawrence's - which shows St Lawrence being griddled on the right top corner of its west door – halfway down St Lawrence’s Little steps. • St Margaret’s – St Margaret was said to have been swallowed by a dragon and escaped unharmed, only to later be beheaded. You can find her dragon on the paving in front of the church. • St Swithin’s – This church’s tower was taken down in 1882 after it was declared unsafe. The building is now used as an arts venue with regular performances. • St Benedict's Church tower – All that remains of this very old church is its tower after it was bombed in Hitler’s Baedeker Raids in 1942. The Baedeker Raids were German air attacks that bombed famous buildings listed in Baedeker travel guidebooks.
<p>Finials</p>	<p>Along St Benedicts Street you will find several finials: red posts topped with metal sculptures. Look out for patterned tops showing the Madder plant - used in Norwich’s thriving cloth trade to dye cloth the same bright red the posts are painted. Further along you’ll also see violin playing cherubs! They were created in 2007 by Oliver Creed and commissioned by Norwich HEART (Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust).</p>
<p>Green plaques</p>	<p>Look out for several green plaques on the pavements along St Benedicts Street - placed by Norwich City Council and other local groups to mark historic buildings, sites or former businesses (such as old pubs) and to tell stories from Norwich’s past. The plaques certainly give you an idea about how many more pubs Norwich once had!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look out for plaques commemorating: • A mineral water works from 1883 • The Queen of Hungary pub 1760-1930 • William Hinds, Rope Manufacturer. • Many more pubs!

<p>Yards</p>	<p>You can still see several yard names along St Benedicts Street. Yards were often named after pubs adjacent to their entrances.</p> <p>As Norwich's population grew rapidly in the 1800s, wealthy merchants moved out and their properties were divided up to create clusters of tiny dwellings around yards and courts, where several families shared a single pump (if lucky) and toilet. Many of these yard were destroyed in slum clearances and more people moved out into the suburbs.</p> <p>Look out for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaffers Yard • Queen of Hungary Yard • Little Pough Yard • Plough Yard • Selfs Yard • Lord Howe Yard • Hinde Yard
<p>City wall</p>	<p>You can still see some of Norwich's medieval city wall before you cross the busy ring-road.</p> <p>The walls were built around 1295 - 1350 to protect against threat of attack and to control trade into the city. They were paid for through local taxes authorised by the Crown and with contributions from local benefactors such as Richard Spynk. They ran for about 2½ miles on the north, west and south sides (the River Wensum protecting the east). They incorporated towers and at least eleven major gates. By the late 1700s the walls and gates were seen as obstacles to traffic and trade and also thought to be keeping bad air in, so most gateways were demolished in the 1790s-1808, the (dry) ditch outside it was filled in.</p> <p>St Benedict's Gate was largely taken down in 1793 but the south side of the gateway survived only until it was severely damaged by bombing in World War II, shortly after April 1942.</p>
<p>St Benedict</p>	<p>Before you leave St Benedicts Street, look out for the relief sculpture of Saint Benedict of Nursia, founder of Western monastery practice of which there was a lot of in medieval times. The relief is found near the former site of St Benedict's Gate. The artwork was re-erected in 1957 after wartime damage to the area and a plaque at its base reads 'Saint Benedicts Abbot'.</p>