

## London Trip – Part #1

September 1, 2017 – September 4, 2017

After Overnight flight from Kampala, Uganda, we landed in London, England for a few days. We took a London Black Taxi Cab. Uber no longer operates in London.



Along the way, we saw a few famous London sights from our Black Taxi Cab including:

London Tower Bridge

The London Eye



Big Ben



Our room at our Hotel was not ready when we arrived, so we took off on foot and in just a few minutes, we were at Buckingham Palace!



The most surprising thing was the limited crowds!!! There was practically no one there! Probably due to tourist concerns following the Bombing at Manchester Arena during an Ariana Grande Concert where 22 people were killed and many were injured earlier this year in May. But, it was a beautiful Fall day and we had the place to ourselves for watching the changing of the Guards!



We were able to stand right in the middle at the fountain directly in front of Buckingham Palace!



The Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace is a colorful ceremony of British pageantry when one regiment takes over from another. The Guards are in charge looking after the Queen's safety while she is residing in her royal residency. They are accompanied by a full military band and have been in service since 1660.



We also walked to Westminster Palace where the tower more commonly known as Big Ben is located. Big Ben is the nickname for the Great Bell of the Clock at the north end of Westminster Palace. The tower is officially named the Elizabeth Tower since 2012 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. Prior to that, Big Ben was known simply as the Clock Tower. Big Ben is the name for the largest of the five bells in the clock's mechanism. Unluckily for us, Big Ben had just begun a four-year renovation and the bells were silent during our visit. The work should be completed in the 2020's.



St. Margaret's Church is in front of Westminster Abbey and is an Anglican Parish Church for the House of Commons in the Palace of Westminster. They chose to hold their Parliamentary services in a church more suitable than Westminster Abbey. It was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and is dedicated to Margaret of Antioch. It has been called "the last church in London decorated in the Catholic tradition before the Reformation".



We toured Westminster Abbey, a large Gothic Church to the west of the Palace of Westminster. It is the traditional place of Coronations and Burial Sites for British Monarchs. Construction of the present Abbey began in 1245. Since the coronation of William the Conqueror in 1066, all coronations have been held here. There have also been at least 16 royal weddings since 1100 including Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011. In 1997, the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales was held here. In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI was the first Pope to set foot in the Abbey.



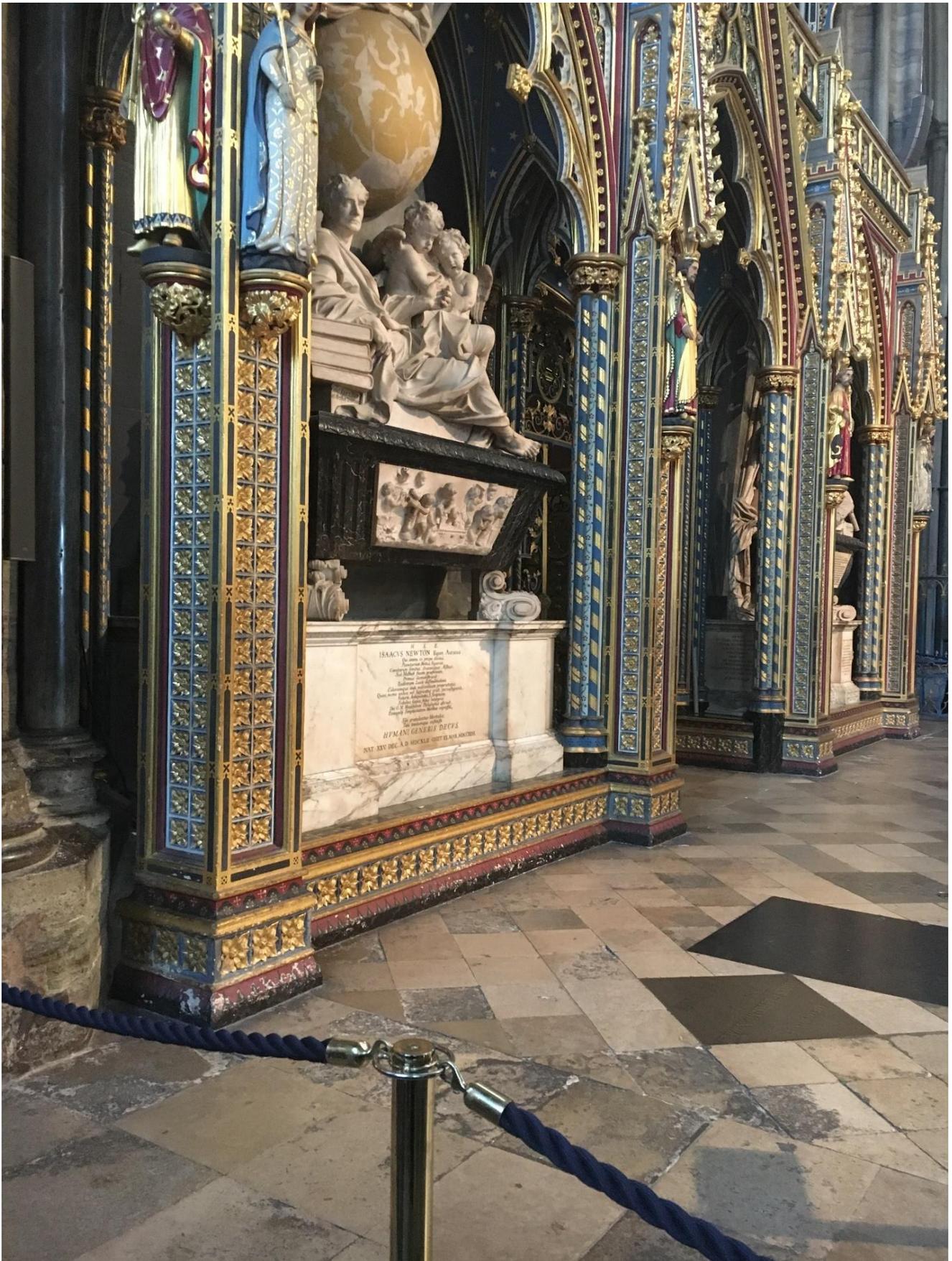
The Great North Doors at Westminster Abbey – In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, “I am the door. If anyone enters by me he will be saved.” This is why doorways to churches have always been important and many are superbly decorated. The saints and martyrs invite the pilgrims inside.



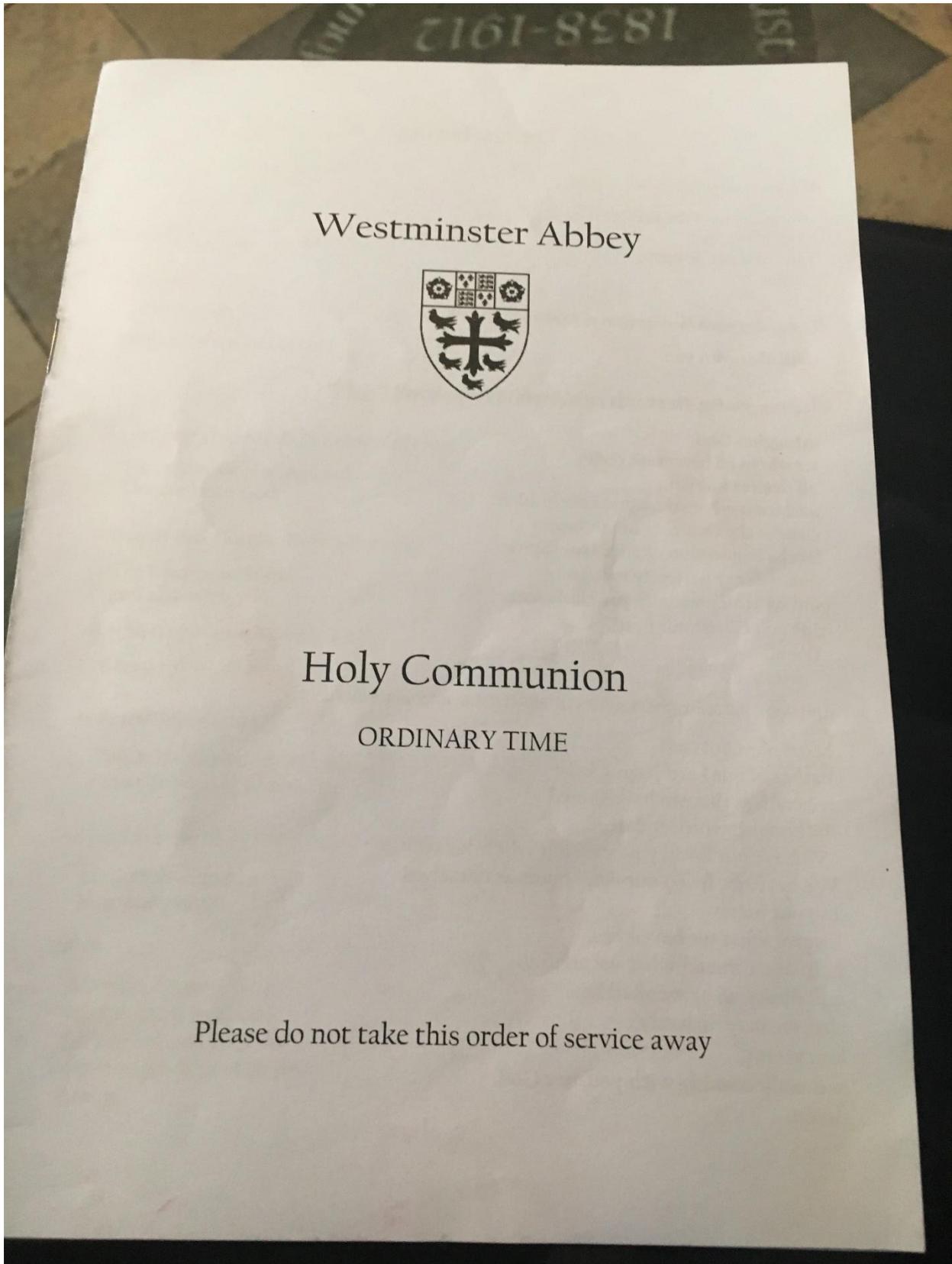
Nave Inside Westminster Abbey – Tradition says in the 960's, a young fisherman had a vision of St. Peter near this site. Therefore, the Abbey was originally dedicated to St. Peter. The expression “Robbing Peter to pay Paul” was said when money meant for the Abbey was diverted to the treasury of St. Paul’s Cathedral.



Illegal Pic of Sir Isaac Newton's Tomb – Photography of any kind is not allowed in any part of the Abbey at any time. They want you to buy their postcards instead. Of course, I dared to snap a picture of the tomb of one of the most important scientific men in the world!



We attended Holy Communion Service at Westminster Abbey. We worshipped with people from all over the world and took their Holy Communion. While a different tradition than ours, we were moved by the scriptures and homily during the ceremony. The Abbey Rector even mentioned the recent death of Cardinal O'Connor. There was also a woman Celebrant who helped hand out Holy Communion. However, as a Catholic, I couldn't help making comparisons to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. There is no fee to enter St. Peter's and you may take all the photos you want.



Colorful Bus Sculpture named Westminster near Westminster Abbey – This sculpture is part of the trail throughout London to showcase the vital role London buses play in the life and economy of London.



Westminster Cathedral – A warm and welcome sight to see is the seat of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the Mother Church for Roman Catholics in England. The building was opened in 1903 in the early Byzantine Architecture of the Mediterranean of striped brick and stone.





## WELCOME TO WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

 Westminster Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Roman Catholic community in England and Wales and is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It was designed in the early Christian Byzantine style by John Francis Blore. The foundation stone was laid in 1895 and the Cathedral was opened in 1903.

Today, Westminster Cathedral is:

- The focal point for Catholics throughout England and Wales, where a wide range of national and diocesan events take place.
- A vibrant parish that is deeply involved with the local community and actively supports charities for young people and the homeless.
- The home of a world-class choir that sings the Divine Office and Mass every day.
- A Grade I listed building that is widely recognised as one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture and Byzantine art in the world.
- A patron of world-class mosaics. *Parts of the Cathedral (including the main ceiling) are unfinished because the intention is that each generation should add mosaics until the work is completed.*

Above all, Westminster Cathedral is a living House of Prayer, where Mass is celebrated, Confessions are heard and praise is offered to God every day of the year.

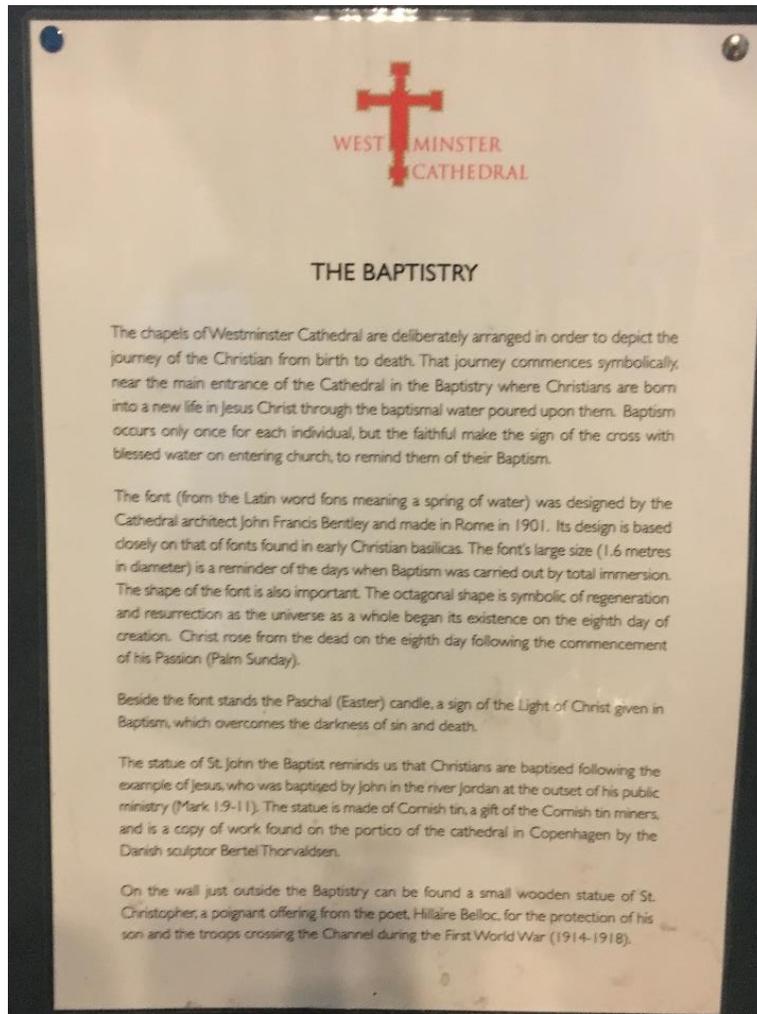




In 1977, as part of her Silver Jubilee Celebrations, Queen Elizabeth II visited the Cathedral. Although there was no religious service, it was highly symbolic as the first visit of a reigning monarch since the Reformation. Two Popes, Pope John Paul II in 1982 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2010, celebrated mass in the Cathedral.



The Baptistry at Westminster Cathedral – The First of seven sacraments and frequently called “the door of the Church”.



Brass Monkey – After eating African food for a week, we found a pub around the corner from our hotel and had burgers!



## Line of London's Traditional Black Taxi Cabs







Present **WICKED**  
 Music and Lyrics **Stephen Schwartz**  
 Book **Winnie Holzman**  
 Based on the novel by **Gregory Maguire**  
 Starring **Michelle Carn**  
 Also Starring **Bradley Jaden**  
**Martin Ball** **Jack Lansbury** **Sarah McNicholas**  
**Jennie Abbotts** **Ashley Birchall** **Nicole Carlisle** **Nicholas Corre** **Conor Crown**  
**Kerry Enright** **Aimée Fisher** **Joseph Fletcher** **Carina Gillespie** **Alexandra Grierson**  
**Katy Hanna** **Tom Andrew Hargreaves** **Olivia Kate Holding** **Claudia Kariuki**  
**Will Lucas** **James McHugh** **Danny Michaels** **Ellie Mitchell** **Rosa O'Reilly**  
**Matt Parsons** **Laura Pick** **Alex Pinder** **Sam Robinson** **Paulo Teixeira**  
**Samantha Thomas** **Hannah Toy** **Russell Walker** **Sasha Warcham** **Libby Watts**  
 and **Melanie La Barrie** **Andy Hockley**  
 Settings **Eugene Lee** Costumes **Susan Hilferty** Lighting **Kenneth Posner** Sound **Tony Meola**  
 Projections **Elaine J. McCarthy** Wigs & Hair **Tom Watson** Associate Set Designer **Edward Pierce**  
 Music Arrangements **Alex Lacamoire & Stephen Oremus** Dance Arrangements **James Lynn Abbott** US Associate Director **Lisa Leguillou** US Dance Supervisor **Mark Myers**  
 UK Associate Director **Petra Siniawski** UK Resident Dance Supervisor **Hannah Toy** UK Music Supervisor **James Draisey**  
 UK Production Manager **Richard Bullimore** UK General Management **Nick Salmon & Nia Janis** for Playful Productions UK Casting **Jim Arnold cdc** for Pippa Athlon Casting  
 Worldwide Management **321 Theatrical Management** UK Executive Producer **Michael McCabe**  
 Orchestrations **William David Brohn**  
 Music Supervisor **Stephen Oremus**  
 Musical Staging by **Wayne Cilento**  
 Directed by **Joe Mantello**

Actors Exiting Apollo Victoria Theater

Sophie Evans as Glinda



Andy Hockley, The Wizard



Alice Fearn as Elphaba



Melanie LaBarrie, Madame Morrible



## Le Pain Quotidien

This is the same chain of bakery-restaurant we waited at in New York's Manhattan while waiting for my passport. This was across from our Hotel in London.



Little Big Ben – A cast iron miniature clock tower erected in 1892 copying the real Big Ben.



Walking in London







