End
Golden Boy at Pye Corner

We're at the end of our walk and so it's fitting that this spot – which used to be called Pye Corner, was where the Great Fire stopped. Having started in Pudding Lane and ending here - both foody sounding places in an area packed with butchers and bakers, some thought the fire was a punishment from God because City folk ate too much and this statue of a Golden Boy was erected as a warning to future generations...

St. Paul's Cathedral

How would you have fought the fire?

The Great Fire

From the pedestrianised area in front of the Royal Exchange, you can see Mansion House home to the Lord Mayor of the City of London. Now whilst mayors are meant to be in charge, the Lord Mayor who lived here in 1666, Sir Thomas Bloodworth, became a scapegoat for the Great Fire because he couldn't make his mind up...

Back in 1666, a common firefighting method was to pull down buildings to stop fire from spreading. Sir Thomas was woken in the early hours of the fire starting and asked for his permission to do this. However, after assessing the situation, he decided it wasn't worth it. According to Samuel Pepys' record of the events, Sir Thomas even said something rather rude about it being such a small fire that someone could wee on it and put it out! Sadly, it was going to take a bit more than that...

In the end, the King ordered the demolition of houses, which could only be achieved with gunpowder because the fire was advancing faster than the houses could be pulled down by hand. Precious time was wasted – and many livelihoods could have been saved if the Mayor had acted more quickly.

Built to commemorate the Great Fire, Monument stands 62 metres high and is exactly 62 metres from where the fire started in Pudding Lane. If you look up, you'll see a flaming gilded urn, mimicing the fire itself.

Start
Monument