

# The great fire of London

The Great Fire of London began on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1666. It was Sunday.

Fires were very common in the 17<sup>th</sup> century because people had fires in their homes. It started in Thomas Ferynor's baker's shop in Pudding Lane in the centre of London. Thomas lived with his family in the rooms above the shop. He and his family escaped through an upstairs window. It was hot, dry day and it was late summer. People trayed to put out the fire, but failed. They abandoned the houses and went to the river Thames or safe parts of the cities.

The fire was visible 80 kms from London. It burnt for 4 days. It destroyed 13.000 houses, 87 churches and important historical buildings including St Paul's Cathedral. On Wednesday morning the wind stopped and the fire lost its intensity. Only six people died in the fire, but over 200,000 people lost their homes.

After the fire the city authorities rebuilt London. Christopher Wren rebuilt 49 churches including St Paul's Cathedral. He also built the monument to the Great Fire of London near London Bridge. It's 61 metres high.



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