

Remembrance and Giving Thanks

This is a bird's eye view of a large, marble tile found in the floor at the entrance to St Paul's Cathedral, and is the first item you see when entering through the Great West Doors.



It was placed here in the 1950s as a tribute to the men and women of the St Paul's Watch who volunteered their time, and put themselves in danger, to protect the Cathedral during the Blitz.

Their main role was to put out the fires caused by incendiaries and report any damage made to the Cathedral as they kept watch over it each night during the Blitz. They came from all walks of life; they were architects and academics, civil servants and clergy. There were over 25 women in the St Paul's Watch, many of whom were First Aiders with the St John's Ambulance.

The members of the St Paul's Watch had two things in common: their love for the Cathedral and their desire to do something to help. **They were ordinary people doing extraordinary things in a time of crisis.** Take a look at some photographs of the Watch below.

This tile is here to give thanks for their sacrifice and bravery, without which the Cathedral would have been lost. No matter who comes in, even the Queen, this commemoration to the St Paul's Watch is the first thing they encounter. This is also called a **memorial**.



Activity 1:

Think about the following questions:

- What is a memorial or tribute?
- Can you think of any other ways we remember people or events?

From the selection, circle things that you have done or seen to remember people or events.

Statues

Moments of Silence

Dedicated Trees

Dedicated Benches

Lighting a Candle

Worn a symbol

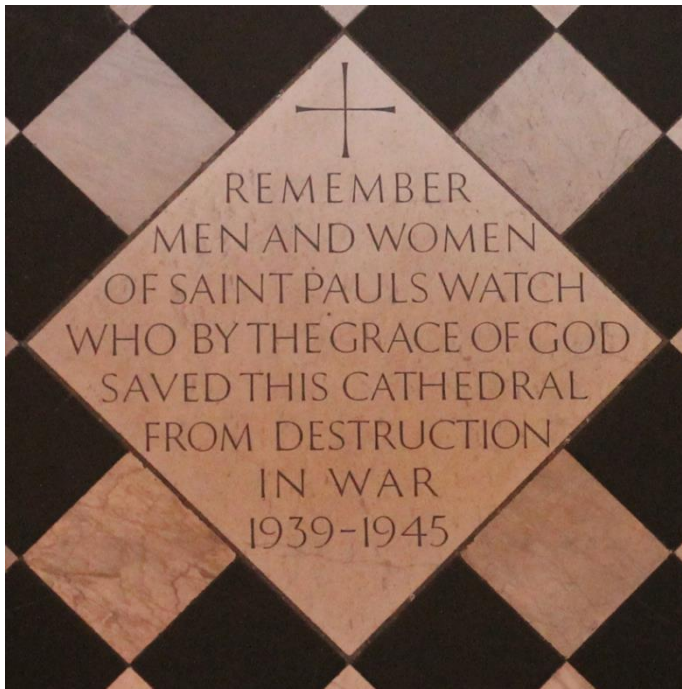
List of Names

e.g. A Poppy

Made art or written a Poem

Commemorated a special day

Activity 2:



Read the words of the memorial and think about what each one means.

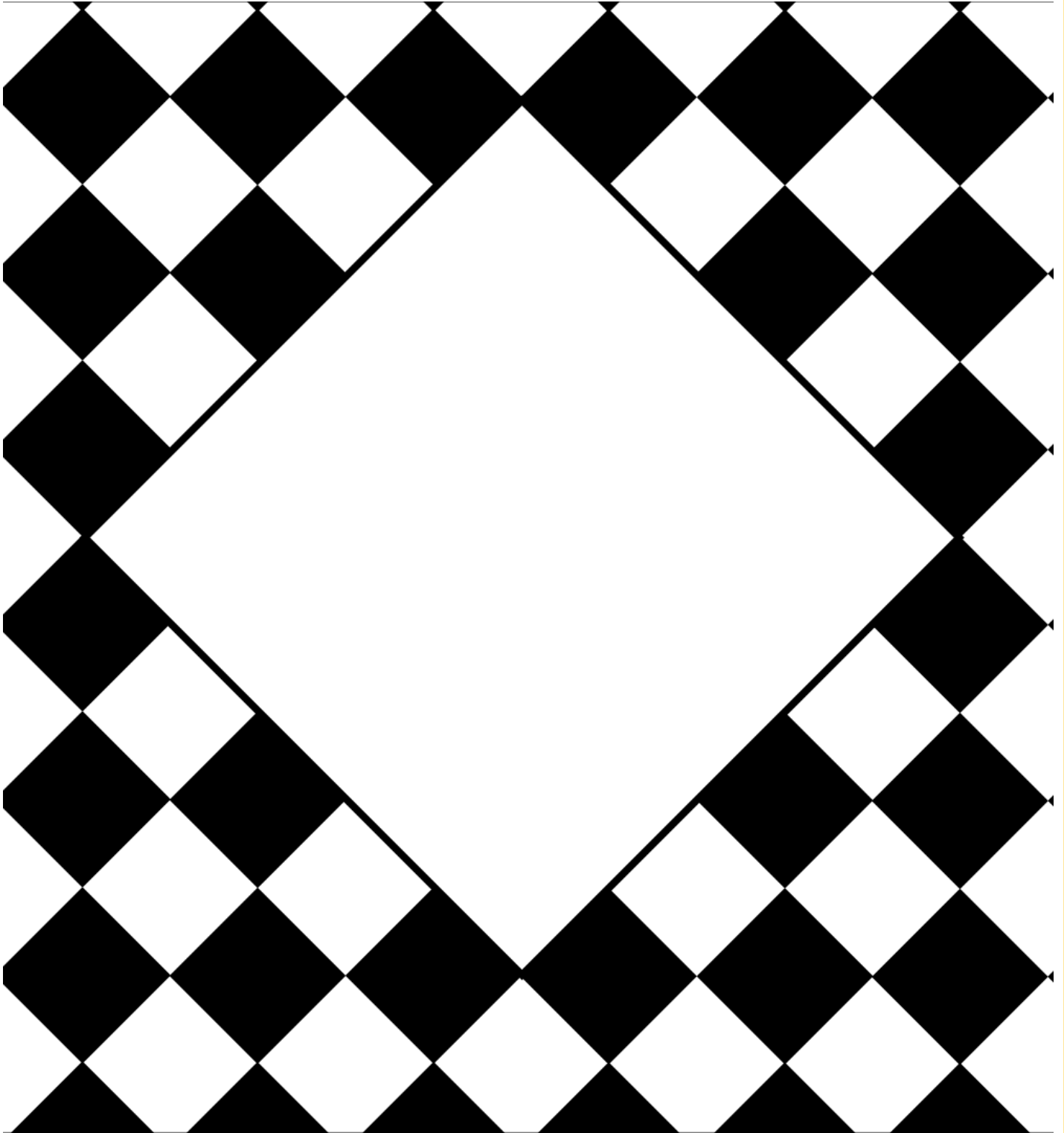
Look at the length and think about how it tells us so much in such a short sentence.

Think about how the memorial makes us feel and what images it makes us imagine.

Find the cross symbol and the numbers and think about what information that gives us.

Reflect on people who are important to you, people providing services that we couldn't go without, or people that are brave, kind or inspiring.

Use the template provided to create your own tile of thanksgiving or remembrance to someone you think is important in the same style as the one we have studied.



Share your thanksgiving tile with us on twitter [@stpaulsedu](https://twitter.com/stpaulsedu) and look out for this memorial next time you visit St Paul's Cathedral.