

clock tower of  
er "Big Ben",  
the name of  
de the clock.

The clock has been  
ticking since 1859.  
It keeps very  
good time.


**Hello!** There's **me**, and that's my mum! We've just  
got off the bus in Westminster – in the heart of central **London!**

A tall clock strikes. "That's **Big Ben**," Mum tells me.  
"It's eleven o'clock. Good, we're just in time..."



London is the capital  
city of the United Kingdom.

Double-decker buses have  
been riding London's streets  
since 1900.



Over a thousand  
trees grow in  
St James's Park.

**"In time for what?" I want to know.  
"Wait and see!" Mum smiles.  
"This way – through St James's Park."  
The park is full of water,  
and the water's full of ducks.  
So are the benches...**

**"Hello!" I say.  
"That's a pelican," Mum says.  
"It's very rare to meet one."**

The first  
pelicans to live in  
St James's Park were given  
to King Charles II in 1664  
by the Russian Ambassador.

"Here we are!" Mum says. We've reached the **biggest house I've ever seen!**

"*Buckingham Palace* is where the royal family live," Mum tells me. "Every day, new sentries come to guard it – and there's a ceremony called the **Changing of the Guard.**"

In the yard, a smart black car is waiting. "I think the royal family are going for a drive!" I say.



A flag always flies above the Palace. There are two flags – one for when the monarch's away, and this one for when the monarch's in London.

Buckingham Palace has 775 rooms, including the Throne Room, the Music Room, the Marble Hall, the Picture Gallery, the Drawing Room, the Chinese Luncheon Room and the Ballroom.

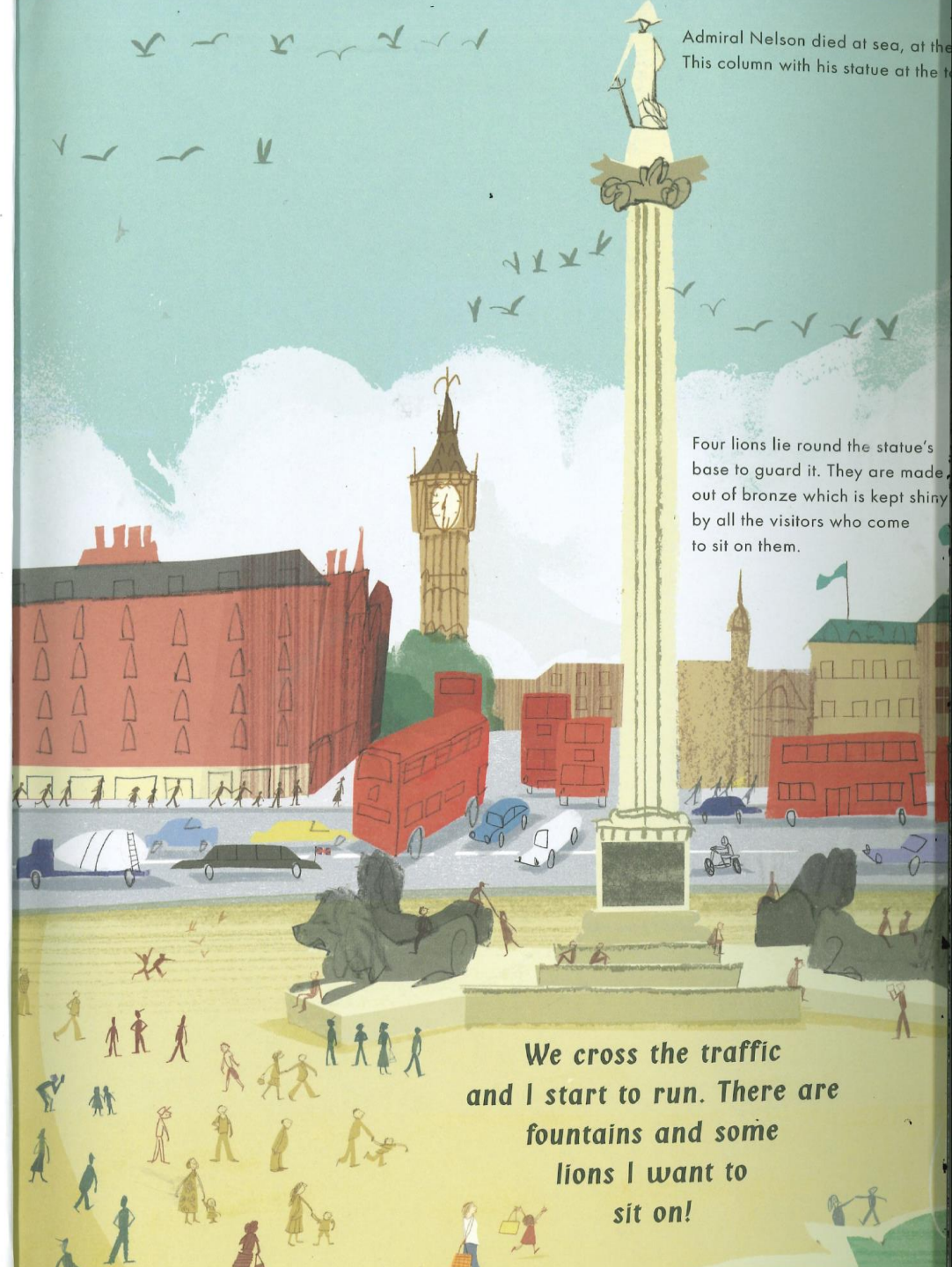




Not many people know that London's official central point is on a roundabout just south of Trafalgar Square.

**After the ceremony, Mum takes me to a special place to stand.  
"Now you're standing at the very centre  
– of the centre –  
of London!" she tells me.**

**We listen to a visitor reading from his guide book:  
"From this spot, Manchester is 296 kilometres, Rome is 1,799,  
Sydney is 16,898 and the moon is about 386,000..."**



Admiral Nelson died at sea, at the  
This column with his statue at the top

Four lions lie round the statue's  
base to guard it. They are made  
out of bronze which is kept shiny  
by all the visitors who come  
to sit on them.

**We cross the traffic  
and I start to run. There are  
fountains and some  
lions I want to  
sit on!**

**I'm really hungry! Mum takes me to a café where you can sit outside to eat. We ask for fish and chips.**

**"This is COVENT GARDEN PIAZZA," Mum says. "No cars allowed!"**

**Instead the road is full of acrobats and jugglers...**

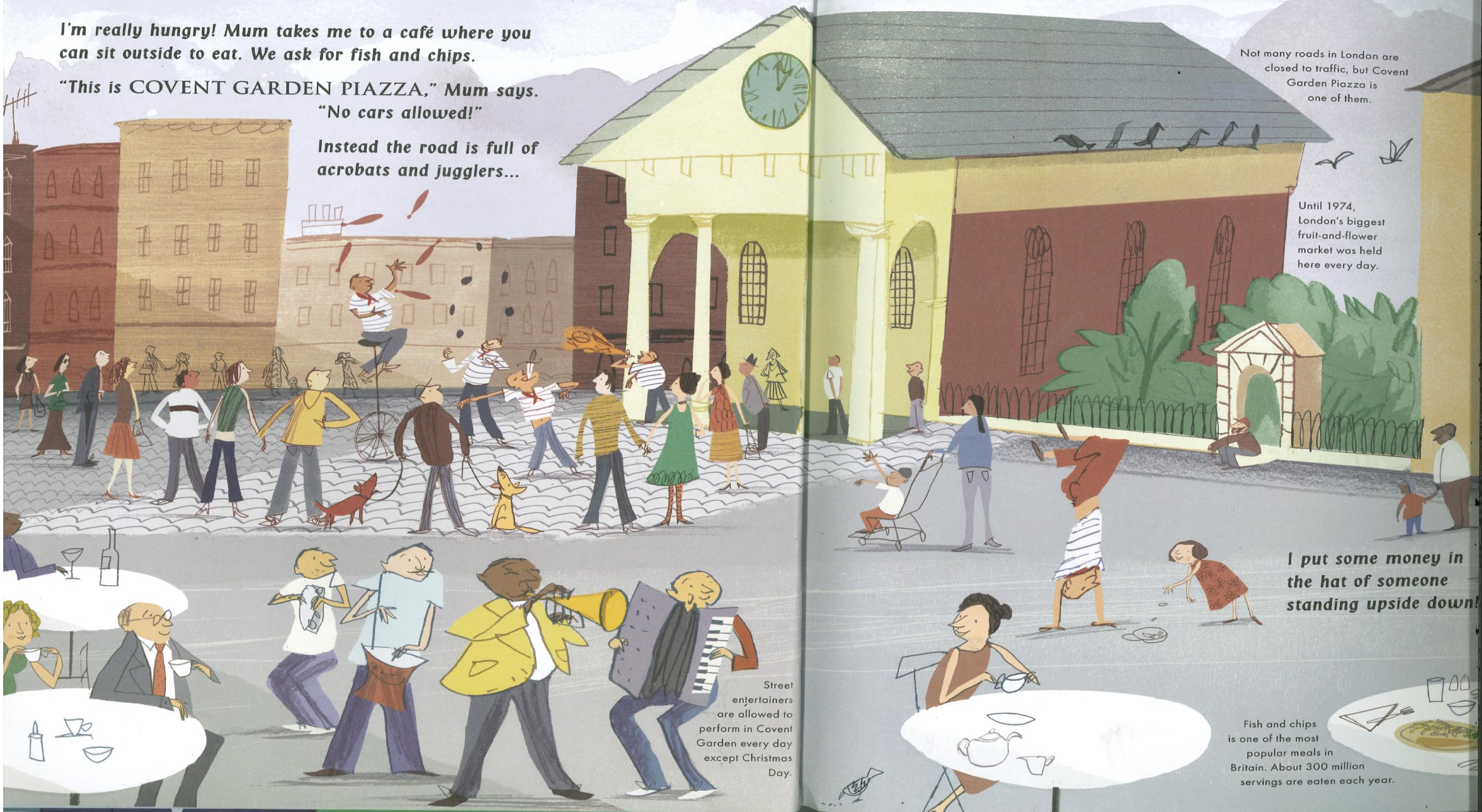
Not many roads in London are closed to traffic, but Covent Garden Piazza is one of them.

Until 1974, London's biggest fruit-and-flower market was held here every day.

**I put some money in the hat of someone standing upside down!**

Street entertainers are allowed to perform in Covent Garden every day except Christmas Day.

Fish and chips is one of the most popular meals in Britain. About 300 million servings are eaten each year.





THEATRE  
ROYAL  
DRURY LANE

NEW  
MUSICAL

London is  
Europe's third-  
rainiest city.  
About 580  
millimetres of  
rain falls here  
every year.

FOOD & NEWS

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WE SELL  
UMBRELLAS

Oh dear! It's  
raining! Some  
people have  
umbrellas, and  
some – like  
us – forgot!

The streets  
turn shiny.  
We cross one  
to a shop that  
sells exactly  
what we need!

A London telephone box is a good  
place to wait out a shower.

East of the dragon,  
it's called Fleet Street  
and its postcode is  
E (east) 1.

It's nice and dry under our new  
umbrella. But "Careful, there's  
a dragon!" I warn Mum.

"So far we've walked in  
Westminster," Mum laughs,  
"but if we step beyond  
the statue, we'll be  
in the oldest part  
of London ...

The City  
boundary  
is called  
Temple Bar.

is a dragon  
dragons  
the City  
's banks are.



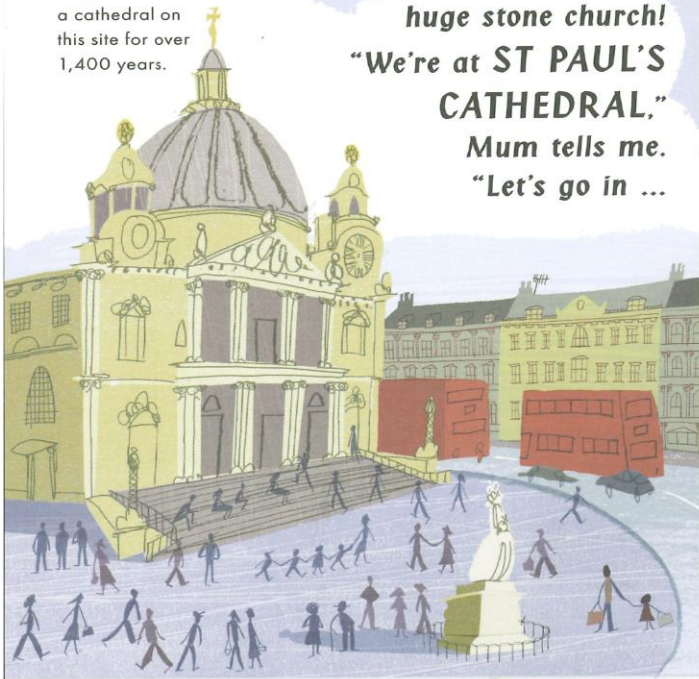
'the City'. The City's full of history."  
It's full of sunshine too!  
The rain has gone  
away.

The City is  
sometimes  
called the  
Square Mile,  
because that's  
how big it is.



FAST DINNER  
Traditional English Food  
Local beer  
and wine

There has been a cathedral on this site for over 1,400 years.



Next we reach a huge stone church!  
"We're at ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL," Mum tells me.  
"Let's go in ..."

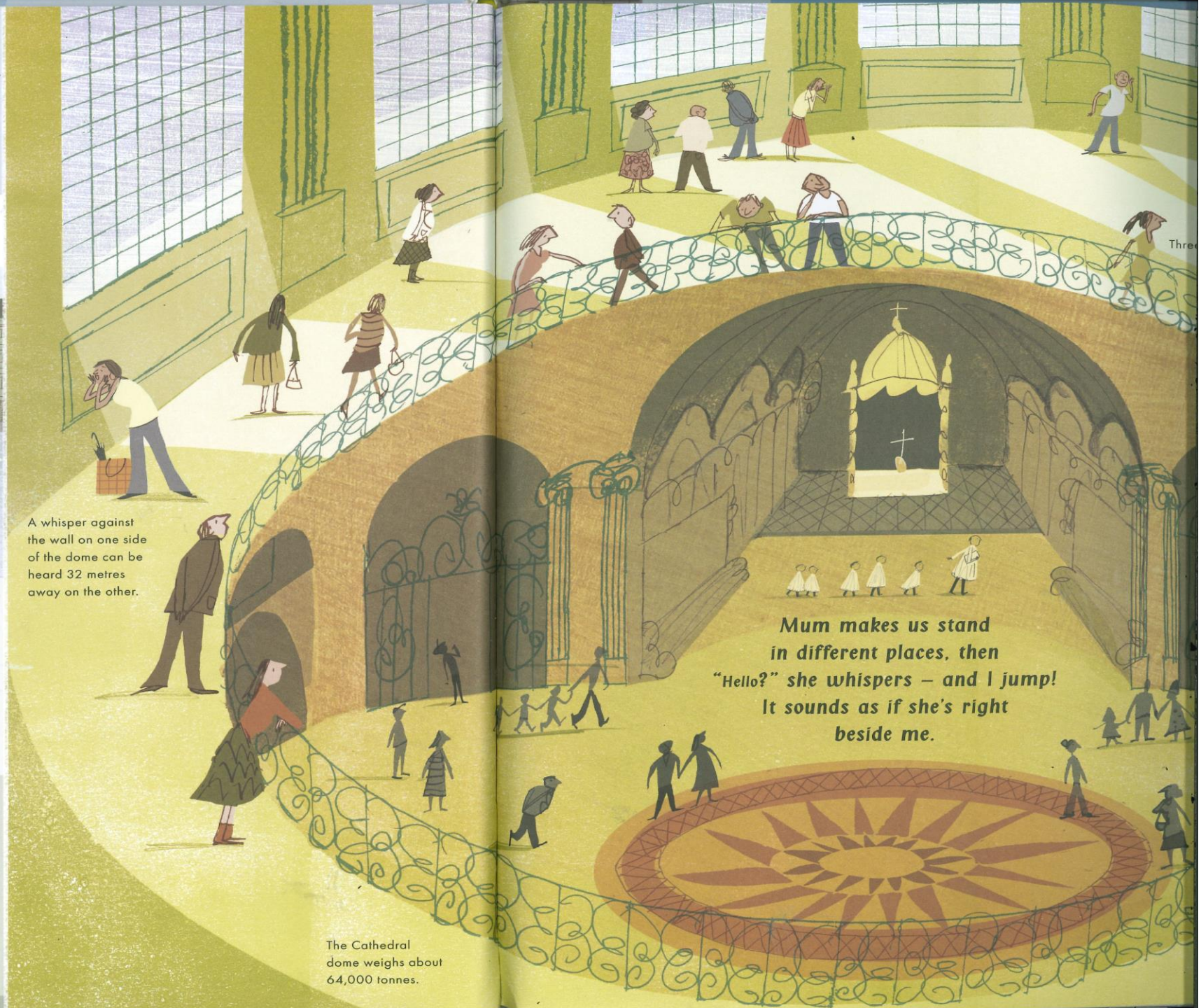
there's a Whispering Gallery inside."

We climb round and round

and round, until we're in the dome.



A whisper against the wall on one side of the dome can be heard 32 metres away on the other.



Mum makes us stand in different places, then "Hello?" she whispers – and I jump! It sounds as if she's right beside me.