



SHINING A LIGHT IN MERTON, MORDEN & WIMBLEDON

MERTON ABBEY

Technically a Priory rather than an Abbey, Merton Priory was an important medieval centre, and the entire walk probably takes place on land which it owned. In 1236 King Henry III held the first English parliament here. The Statute of Merton was the first law passed at this first parliament, relating to the enclosure of common land and nobles' rights of succession. Henry IV was crowned here in 1437, the only coronation outside Westminster Abbey in the last 1,000 years. Like all such establishments, it was abolished during the reign of Henry VIII, and very little remains apart from the arch we pass on the walk - and some sections of local garden walls.

RIVER WANDLE

The river Wandle runs from Croydon to the Thames at Wandsworth. Local resident Lord Nelson enjoyed fishing in the upper reaches, and this is a popular pastime now, but much of the river was far too polluted from sewage and industrial waste for any fish to live in it. There were over 60 water mills producing power for a large range of factories on its banks. The water chemistry made it particularly suitable for dyeing and printing textiles. William Morris and Liberty's department store both had textile works here.

THE FIRST PUBLIC RAILWAY

One of the first railways, the Surrey Iron Railway, opened here in 1802 between Wandsworth and Croydon, linking both to the industrial area along the river. It is said to be the first railway open to the public in the world. Carriages were horse-drawn, and the rails were not strong enough for locomotives, so it closed in 1846. Some of the route is now used by the tram service which opened in 2000, almost 50 years after the last London trams stopped running.

MORDEN AND MORDEN HALL PARK

At the time of the Domesday Book, just 14 people lived in Morden. After the destruction of Merton Priory the area was bought by the Garth family, who lived at Morden Hall for the next four hundred years. The area remained rural until the end of the 19th century; less than 1000 people were recorded in the 1901 census but the arrival of the Northern Line in 1926 (the station was built on farmland) was the start of rapid urban growth. Morden Hall and its surrounding park are now owned by the National Trust, and the water-powered snuff mill has been restored. There is also a children's playground, and a dog-friendly café.

CANNON HILL COMMON

Many commons have ancient origins, but Cannon Hill Common was farming land owned by the Priory. The name comes from the days of the civil war, when the Parliamentarians placed cannons at the top of the hill, which had a very large field of fire. In the 1760's the area became part of the estate of Cannon Hill House, now demolished. The lake was dug as part of the house's ornamental gardens. The land was bought by the local council in 1925, and with its mature trees and wide variety of wildlife is a locally significant nature reserve.

DEEN CITY FARM

This is one of the first of London's city farms, having started in 1978. It's been at the present site since 1994; the land is part of the National Trust's land at Morden Hall Park. The farm has over 120 animals, a riding school, and one of the buildings has a roof made from 5,000 plastic drinks bottles.

DON'T FORGET

- A-Z map of London. (if you have one)
- Some of the churches on the route may provide refreshments.
- A snack or picnic lunch. (some food may be available on the route too)
- We walk whatever the weather.
- Look for things to pray about as you walk.
- Start at any time after 9am at any church checkpoint, but with time to get back again by 5pm.
- Get your map stamped at each checkpoint.
- Do the quiz.
- Take time to learn about the churches you visit and about Unlock.

Please work with us to ensure that the **2019** walk generates more income to fund Unlock's vital work. You can do this by:

- **Seriously & prayerfully** consider how you can support Unlock's ongoing work.
- **Sponsorship** – get as many sponsors as you can, by explaining to them what you are raising money for; and ensure that they gift aid their sponsorship wherever possible.
- **Promoting Unlock's work in your church or area** Put up a display in your church, or write something for your church magazine.
- **Bring along some friends** - encourage new people to join you for an Unlock London Walk experience in **2019**.
- **Through your Church** – persuade your church to give funds to support Unlock as part of its regular missionary giving.
- **Donations** – you can make a personal donation to Unlock's work, either on a one off basis, or better yet, at regular intervals.

The aims of the Unlock London Walk are:

- **To raise money for Unlock's work in deprived urban areas across the UK.**
- **To raise awareness of the issues of exclusion that Unlock exists to address.**
- **To showcase the ministry of churches in urban areas. Come and see what God is doing in the city.**
- **To encourage churches in more affluent parts of the country to support the work of their fellow Christians in the inner city.**
- **To give 100s of people an opportunity for an unusual and enlightening day out in London.**

Unlock works by running local projects in UK cities, where a trained Unlock Development Worker, accompanied by a local team, is employed to encourage and enable local people and their leaders to grow in faith and confidence by:

- **UNLOCKING REAL LIFE STORIES OF URBAN PEOPLE**
- **REVEALING GOOD NEWS OF THE DOWN TO EARTH CHRIST**
- **RELEASING LIFE CHANGING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE**

2018 walk sponsorship and donations have reached over £25,500. In a difficult economic climate this is a fantastic testament to the commitment of our faithful band of walk supporters, and we really appreciate it. However, we must not be complacent and Unlock continues to need your support. Unlock relies heavily on income from the Unlock London walk to fund our work. Because we are directly engaged in Christian Mission it is very difficult to secure other types of funding. So please keep up the momentum and do all you can to maximise the returns from the 2019 Walk. Unlock local projects are making a real difference, bringing the gospel to people that the churches haven't been able to reach; and there's more we can deliver if we have the resources!

MAKING YOUR DONATION COUNT EVEN MORE

Donating on-line saves Unlock valuable staff time and money and is quick and easy to do via:

Virgin Giving

If you want a quicker simpler way to solicit and collect your Unlock sponsorship you can now register with Virgin Giving, who will collect all your sponsor money, claim the gift aid, and send it all to Unlock on your behalf. This allows you to promote your fundraising for Unlock via your facebook page or by e-mail, and to collect sponsorship from people at a distance who you do not regularly meet up with. It saves you managing a pile of small change or writing a cheque. It also saves Unlock time and money, making your support more valuable to us, because more of it can be channelled straight into our front line work with the Bible amongst the urban poor.

For further details on how to request sponsorship or make a donation go to unlock-urban.org.uk/support_walk.php

Give as You Live - For On-line Shoppers

Would you like to support Unlock every time you shop online at no cost to you and no cost to us? With Give as You Live, thousands of major brands including Amazon, Play.com, John Lewis and Expedia have signed up to donate a percentage of every purchase you make online to Unlock. The average shopper will raise £2.10 per month through what they already buy online. Give as You Live is easy to set up and use. Simply visit Give as You Live at <http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/unlock> for full details, try it today and help raise valuable funds for Unlock.

The following are available from unlock-urban.org.uk, or from the Unlock National Office:

- **More copies of this map brochure & sponsor forms.**
- **Resources to help you promote Unlock's work.**
- **Information about Unlock local projects – real stories of real people.**
- **Unlock resources free to use.**

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UNLOCK LONDON WALK 36 MERTON, MORDEN & WIMBLEDON SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2019 9AM TO 5PM



SHINING A LIGHT



Registered Charity: 313454

