

WELCOME TO UNLOCK WALK 39 HOUSING, HISTORY AND HEROES

We know that London is essentially a city of villages, and the East End is a wonderful example of this fact. Many of the routes you will follow have their foundations in the rutted country paths that joined these villages and led people on to the great markets of the city, but you will also be walking in the footsteps of generations of refugees hoping for safety here and of poor country folk seeking work in the factories and docks of the East End. They brought their faith with them, built churches, synagogues and mosques that you will pass and even visit, and the threads of faith that have spread through this area have ensured that each hardship faced by the community has been answered by love and charity.

The terrible poverty and conditions suffered by East-enders in the 19th Century spawned some of the greatest acts of faith with the Booths transforming people's lives, leading them to the Kingdom, and with Dr Barnardo's visionary works answering some of the most desperate needs of the day. While their work continues, new challenges, new refugees and modern versions of poverty are being faced by today's faithful. The social housing you pass still meets many local people's needs but

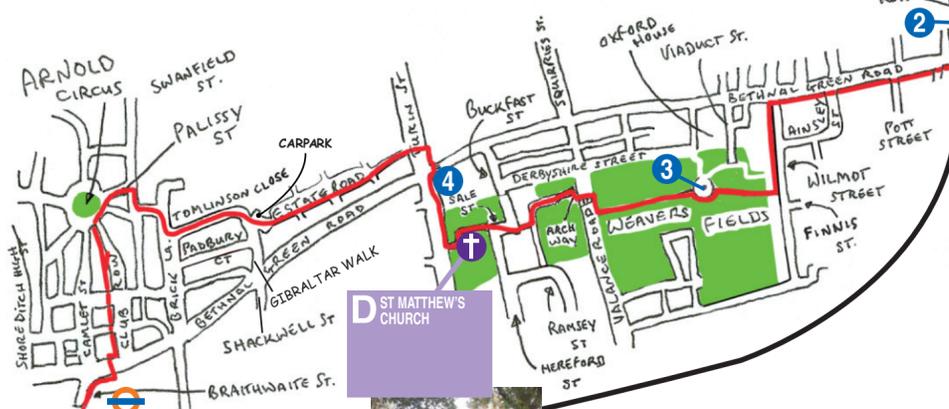
there is not enough of it now, and many local Christians, and people of other faiths, are seeking new answers to the East End's enduring problem of finding homes that are affordable and meet the needs of the local people here.

This year's walk offers each of us the opportunity to reflect on how a city forms, grows and develops. Despite the hardships, squalor and poverty, this area has still managed to welcome those who seek refuge. It has witnessed how great works of generosity, love and faith have transformed lives and how these new peoples have enriched the whole of our society. In doing so it has shaped the urban landscape into a steady unfolding of different interesting and exciting places so, as you walk through the streets, you will feel that vibrant spirit and witness the life of the different communities you pass by and visit.

The contrasts are rich and varied too. So, you will see a new development of luxury apartments sitting next to council flats built to replace slums during the 1930's, and some 1970's tower blocks that still provide affordable housing will sit across the road from

19th century worker's cottages now worth well in excess of a million pounds each. But still, on those same streets, you will find churches alive with the faithful, communities worshipping together and offering each other, and the people around them, love and support. Speaking to them you will find that they were active during the Lockdowns, ensuring that the vulnerable were supported and that families without essentials were not left to do without. Hardship may still be too familiar to many here, but living your faith is still an essential part of the character of the East End.

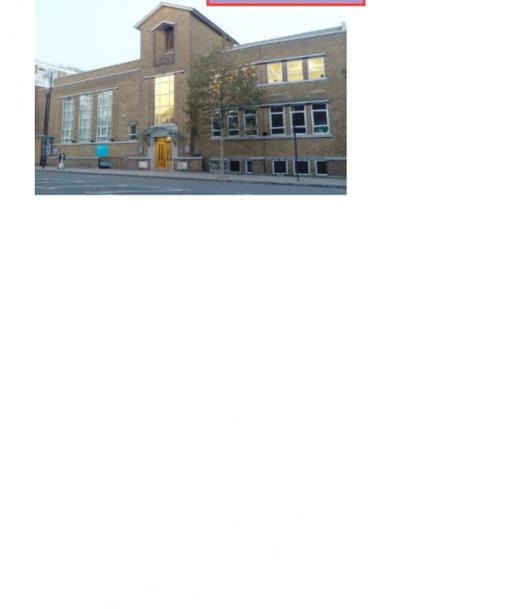
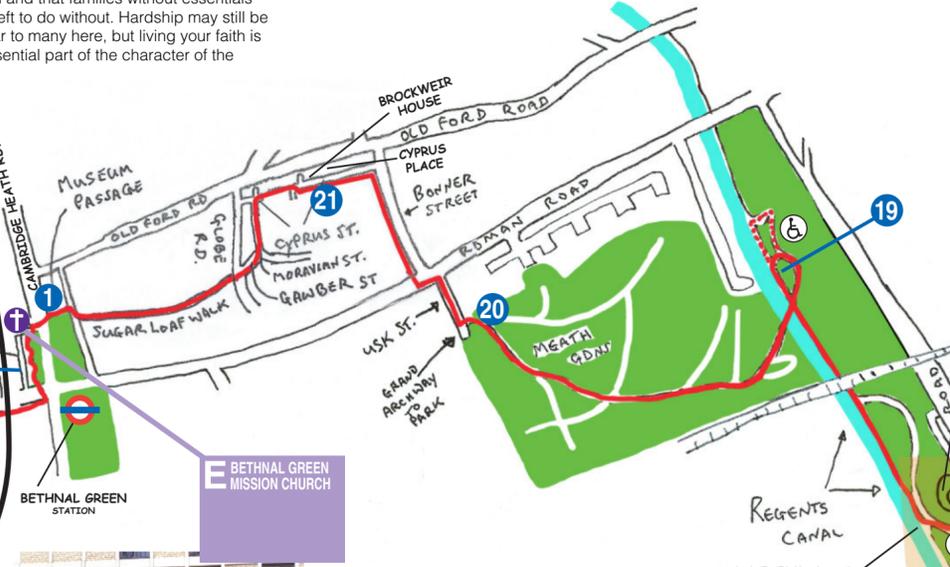
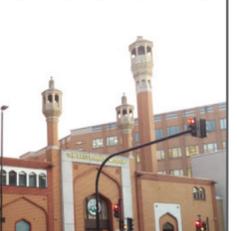
Ian Smith



PLACE OF INTEREST

The population of Tower Hamlets is 308,000 and 38% of these are Muslim, mostly Bangladeshi. This presents a challenge to local Christian ministry. Our walk takes us past three mosques and within a hundred metres of three more. East London Mosque (with the Muslim Centre) is one of the largest in Europe and the biggest in the UK. Whilst not a checkpoint, walkers are invited to go in and take a look. Ramadan (month of fasting) starts in April but a friendly guide will be on hand to give you a five-minute tour.

EAST LONDON MOSQUE



KEY TO MAP

- CHURCH CHECKPOINT
- WALK ROUTE
- ALTERNATIVE ROUTE AND WHEELCHAIRS
- QUESTION

GETTING THERE

As usual walkers are encouraged to start anywhere and go either way, to avoid a bulge at checkpoints. The area is served by two underground lines, the Overground, the DLR and numerous bus services.

TUBE
Bethnal Green, Mile End lines
Central
Aldgate East, Whitechapel (Lifts), Mile End lines
District
Hammersmith & City

OVERGROUND
Shadwell, Whitechapel (Lifts), Shoreditch High Street (Lift).

DLR
Shadwell (Lift)

BUS SERVICES
The walk route is crossed or touched by all the following services:
D3 D6 D7 B 15 25 106 115 135 205 242 254 277 309 323 339 388 425

IMPORTANT NOTE

London buses are cashless. You will need a **Bus Pass**, a **Travelcard**, an **Oyster Card** or a **Contactless Payment Card**. An adult single bus or tram journey on Oyster or contactless card is charged at **£1.55** (change of bus allowed if within 1 hour of start of journey) and multiple bus journeys are capped at **£4.65**. For a mixture of bus, tram and train journeys paid with an Oyster or contactless payment card, daily capping works out cheaper than buying a Day Travel Card. **Travelcards are available from tube/rail stations.**

PARKING

The walk area lies within the newly expanded Ultra Low Emission Zone which operates every day. Drivers of older cars should be aware of the possible daily charge of **£12.50**. You can check your car's registration at <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/>

On Saturdays neither the Congestion Charge nor the restrictions on parking in resident permit bays apply. Virtually all on-street parking is in such bays, but you may have to hunt for a space. It is possible to reserve in advance a parking space on someone's drive or in a hotel car-park for about £12, using **justpark.com**

WHEELCHAIR USERS

Three stations on or close to our route offer step-free access to platforms, namely Shadwell (DLR), Shoreditch (Overground) and Whitechapel (Tube and Overground). All the bus services which could bring you into the walk area accommodate wheelchairs.

The whole route is pretty flat so go either way round. The map indicates which side of roads is advised for wheeled walkers. There are diversions at Tomlinson Close to avoid cobbles, at Mile End to avoid steps, and near to Quiz point 17. There are a few very quiet roads where you may need to go in the road for a short stretch to avoid an up-kerb, namely Wheler Street (under the bridge on cobbles), Wellesley Street, Solebay Street and Usk Street.

Further information is available on the Transport for London website at: **www.tfl.gov.uk**

LENGTH OF ROUTE

Approx 7.5 miles
Map not to scale

Date of next year's walk is
22 APRIL 2023

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Whilst every care has been taken in the design and compilation of this map & notes, Unlock cannot accept any liability arising from any inaccuracy within any part of this document or for any injury sustained whilst doing the walk.