

Battersea, the Thames, Chelsea & Fulham

House window in Sialaburn Street

Lofts Road power station

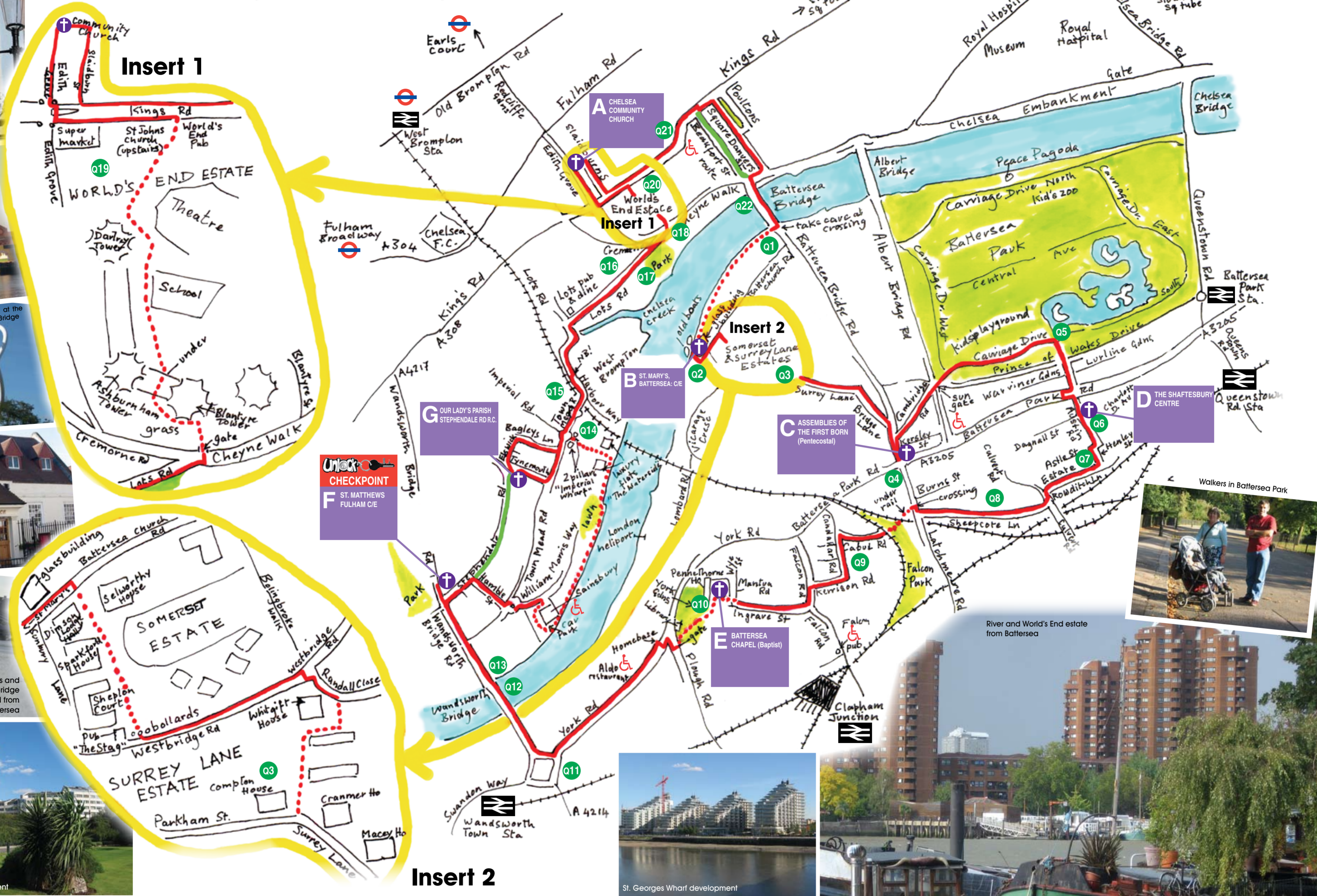
Sculpture on the roundabout at the southern end of Wandsworth Bridge

Hall of Remembrance on Beaufort St.

The Thames and Albert Bridge viewed from Battersea

Chelsea wharf development

St. Georges Wharf development



HOW TO GET THERE

The area is well served by train and tube.

BY TRAIN

Clapham Junction, from almost anywhere, but wheel-chair users see special note. Small stops on either side of Clapham J., - Wandsworth Town, Battersea Park, and Queenstown Rd. may be convenient. Also West Brompton, (near Earl's Court).

BY TUBE

District Line, which serves mainline stations north of the river, to Earl's Court, West Brompton, or Fulham Broadway. Also, Piccadilly Line to Earl's Court.

HOW YOU CAN SHORTEN THE ROUTE

Between the two church stops, at St. Matthews Fulham (C of E) and Our Lady's Parish, (RC), the route goes in a loop in order to include the riverside path. By simply going straight along Stephendale Rd. in either direction, you can save approx. 0.8 of a mile.

Length of route: approx 8 miles, (shorter route 7.2 miles)

DON'T FORGET

The route can be walked in either direction. You can begin anywhere on the route.

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.

ALWAYS use pedestrian crossings.

For wheelchair users !

How to get there:

We recommend avoiding Clapham Junction, because the provision there is slow and cumbersome. From whichever direction you are travelling, go to mainline stations Victoria or Waterloo. From Victoria take the 239 bus to Battersea Bridge, or the 11 bus to Kings Rd.; from Waterloo, take the 77 bus, at Stop W, to Clapham Junction, getting off at Debenhams. For Kent walkers, better to return from Debenhams to Charing Cross on 85 bus.

Also: on route walking either way between Kings Rd. and Battersea Bridge, use Beaufort St., as Danvers St./Paultons Sq route is uneven ground.

THIS YEAR'S ROUTE IS APPROXIMATELY 8 MILES LONG

- CHURCH CHECKPOINT
- WALK ROUTE
- SHORT CUT
- DISABLED ACCESS TOILET
- TUBE
- RAIL
- QUESTION

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.

Acknowledgements:

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Welcome to the 25th Unlock London Walk

MIND THE GAP

The booming reminder to watch our step, whether coming off or getting on trains, has long been an attractive catch phrase for Christians to use in promoting the Good News, whether in Christian drama, music, or concern for Third World justice issues. It is a key theme in today's sponsored walk. Psalm 123, (only 4 verses) cries, "We have endured much ridicule from the proud, much contempt from the arrogant." Our faith is very gap-aware, between ourselves and God, and the resultant gaps between each other as

his creatures. On previous walks in this area, in 1987 and in 1999, we noted the great contrasts, poor and rich all muddled together. Now the river is being sealed away, if not to say stolen, by huge blocks of grotesquely expensive property, which dominate the banks and stare blankly across the water at each other. Only one poor estate, called "World's End" perhaps prophetically, is left with a patch of riverside in view. One or two still empty stretches, or old disused industrial plant, feel very vulnerable to the further advance of glass structures for the wealthy. We have to be thankful for the riverside walks which so far have been protected, even if occasional gates are put

there to remind us we are there on suffering. Jesus' parable of the rich man with the poor man Lazarus at his gate spoke of gaps which could not be bridged, between hell and heaven, Luke 16, v 26, and between heaven and earth, v 31. What huge urgency does that story give to the Gospel message in such a world of glass fortresses hiding the Thames away from all who live behind them. Let us visit, look and listen, and then pray for those who have to proclaim such a gap-closing God, bridging the way to Him and to each other. And we bear away that message in our own hearts with the same urgency.

Peter Hall

Date of next year's walk is
April 25th 2009

