

Who are Unlock?

"Unlock are a vital resource enabling the Christian life to be accessible and open to everyone, particularly those from urban areas."

Andrew Davey
Church of England
Board of Social Responsibility

Unlock is a Christian organisation that has been around for 30 years! It exists to help churches in the inner city - and on outer housing estates - respond to the challenges that they face in their areas. If you have ever had to face a difficult situation and work out "what it means to be a Christian here" you will understand what some of those challenges are.

Unlock believes that God cares about our day-to-day struggles, and we want to help churches to share that Good News! We do this through workshops and Unlock resource packs. Groups meeting in locations as diverse as pubs and prisons have already used these packs.

Unlock began its life in 1972 as The Evangelical Urban Training Project (Eutp). It was set up by, amongst others, Lord David Sheppard, then Bishop of Woolwich.

At that time it was recognised that congregations in inner city and outer housing estate areas were neglected by evangelicals and little understood by a mainly middle class church. Eutp was set up to help such Christians to share the Gospel in their own communities, confident in their own style of faith.

The divide between Christians from different backgrounds sadly still exists. Through our teams of workers we continue to help inner city and outer housing estate people and churches to unlock their own stories of life and faith, and reveal the Good News of the Down to Earth Christ for themselves and their neighbours.

Donations from individuals fund 88% of Unlock's work, they are vital to help us continue to develop & produce Bible study materials, workshops and consultancy.

WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT

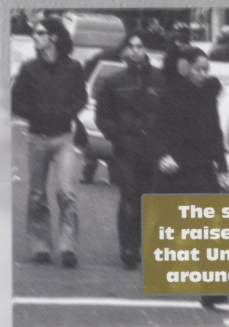
Sponsored Walk:

The walk started in 1984 and is still going strong (1200 people walked the route in 2001).

It is intended to raise the awareness of Christians from affluent areas of the UK as to the problems - as well as the potential - of urban churches. This is achieved by arranging a circular route with stops at various church 'checkpoints', that represent a variety of denominations.

A fact sheet is handed to the walkers at each church, describing the situations faced by that church. Members of each church community are encouraged to be available to welcome walkers and answer questions.

It is hoped that practical links will in this way be forged between inner and outer city churches, and that understanding will grow.



The sponsored walk is vital, it raises over half of the money that Unlock needs to do its work around the country each year.

Please support us if you can

Contact us: Unlock House, 336A City Road, Sheffield, S2 1GA. Alternatively ☎ 0114-276-2038 📠 0114-276-2035 📧 office@unlock.force9.co.uk



Sat
20th
April
2002

The unlock London Sponsored Walk No.19

Leyton

Upper Clapton

Stoke Newington

Lea Bridge Road



Introduction...

Think London, think River Thames - this year's walk focuses rather on the River Lea (or Lee?), which rises in the Bedfordshire hills north of Luton, flows across Hertfordshire and then marks the dividing line between the ancient parishes of Hackney and Low Leyton, joining the Thames at Leamouth - just below Bow Creek.

The river and its surrounding marshland marked the boundary between the Danes and the Anglo-Saxons, divided Middlesex from Essex and even now separates the Dioceses of London and Chelmsford. Londoners moved across the marsh in huge numbers between 1870 and 1910 to improve their lives (economic migrants?), and now both Leyton and Hackney are places through which thousands of commuters travel daily, re-crossing the marsh on their way back into London. Leyton and Hackney feel nevertheless very different places.

Both have experienced immigration on a large scale from many different parts of the world. As our walk visits seven churches on either side of the River Lea divide, it will be very interesting to find out how the Church works with such multi-culture. How can a church be both effective and multi-cultural and should it strive to avoid becoming a 'tribal' church, catering in practice for single cultural groups?

The route crosses the Lea / marsh twice in contrasting styles - Lea Bridge Rd is very busy and urban, whilst Coppermill Lane is comparatively quiet, almost rural. As we cross the divide it is good to reflect on just how daunting have been the divides - geographical, cultural, political, economic - that immigrants have had to cross to make new homes and lives in Hackney and Leyton.

Many stories lie waiting to be Unlocked!

don't forget:

- an A-Z of London (if you have one)
- enough money to cover a small donation (40p) at each checkpoint church
- checkpoints are open 9am - 5.30pm
- food? checkpoints will be selling some food, but we recommend you carry a snack!
- we will walk whatever the weather

If you have comments about this walk please let us know, we will be meeting in May 2002 to plan our 20th walk - suggestions & invitations welcome!

How to get there...



There are no Underground stations in the whole of the London Borough of Hackney, despite long campaigning for one. This is nothing to do with the marshy land but much to do with the low status and influence of the Borough (in marked contrast to last year's walk in West London).

The two best options by Underground are:

- Finsbury Park: Catch the 106 bus from the station forecourt and alight at Bouverie Road (which is on the right). Walk down Bouverie Road to checkpoint G.
- Leyton: Turn right outside station and walk to checkpoint C. This is situated in the Church Rd/ High Rd/ Grange Park Rd triangle and is best approached by forking left from Leyton High Rd into Grange Park Rd.

For churches A & E use the No.253 bus (Aldwych to Euston via Stamford Hill). For church D catch the No.48 from London Bridge, or No.55 from Oxford Circus.

There are local stations along the route but these are on commuter lines. Stoke Newington and Rectory Road are on the Liverpool Street to Enfield Town and Hertford East lines (4 trains an hour). Clapton is on the Chingford line (3 trains an hour). However from Liverpool Street station it is easier to take the 149 bus (using the Bishopgate station exit), alight at Amhurst Road for Stoke Newington Baptist church (F).

An all-day London travelcard can sometimes be bought with a rail ticket; alternatively they are available from underground stations (approx. £5).

Coppermill Lane



You can start the walk at any of the seven checkpoints; from there you can walk clockwise or anti-clockwise. It is likely that you will pass all the walkers going in the opposite direction twice!

