

In the Steps of Martyrs

This year is the 400th anniversary of the King James Authorised Version of the Bible. Our 28th walk is framed with the theme of Bible translation, including its grim history of two centuries that led to the King James Version in 1611. As usual, however, we are also walking through housing estate areas, and visiting churches of various denominations that did not even exist in 1611. The walk takes us to places with a dark history, and to churches with a continuing mission in our times. The points on the walk relating to the KJV theme are:

Lambeth Palace gateway, Lollards Tower - where Lollards were imprisoned, mostly humble people who treasured the first Bible in English, translated by John Wycliffe from Latin in 1392. Some were burnt to death at Smithfield Market.

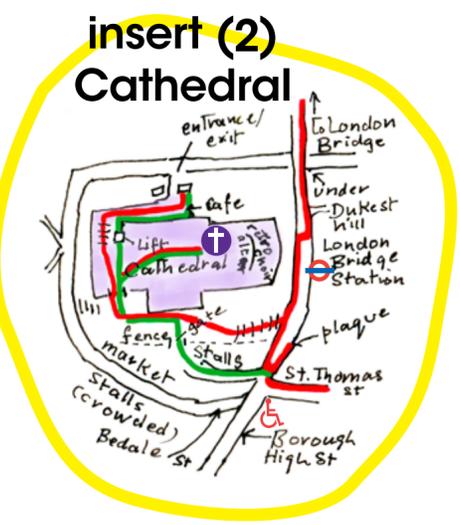
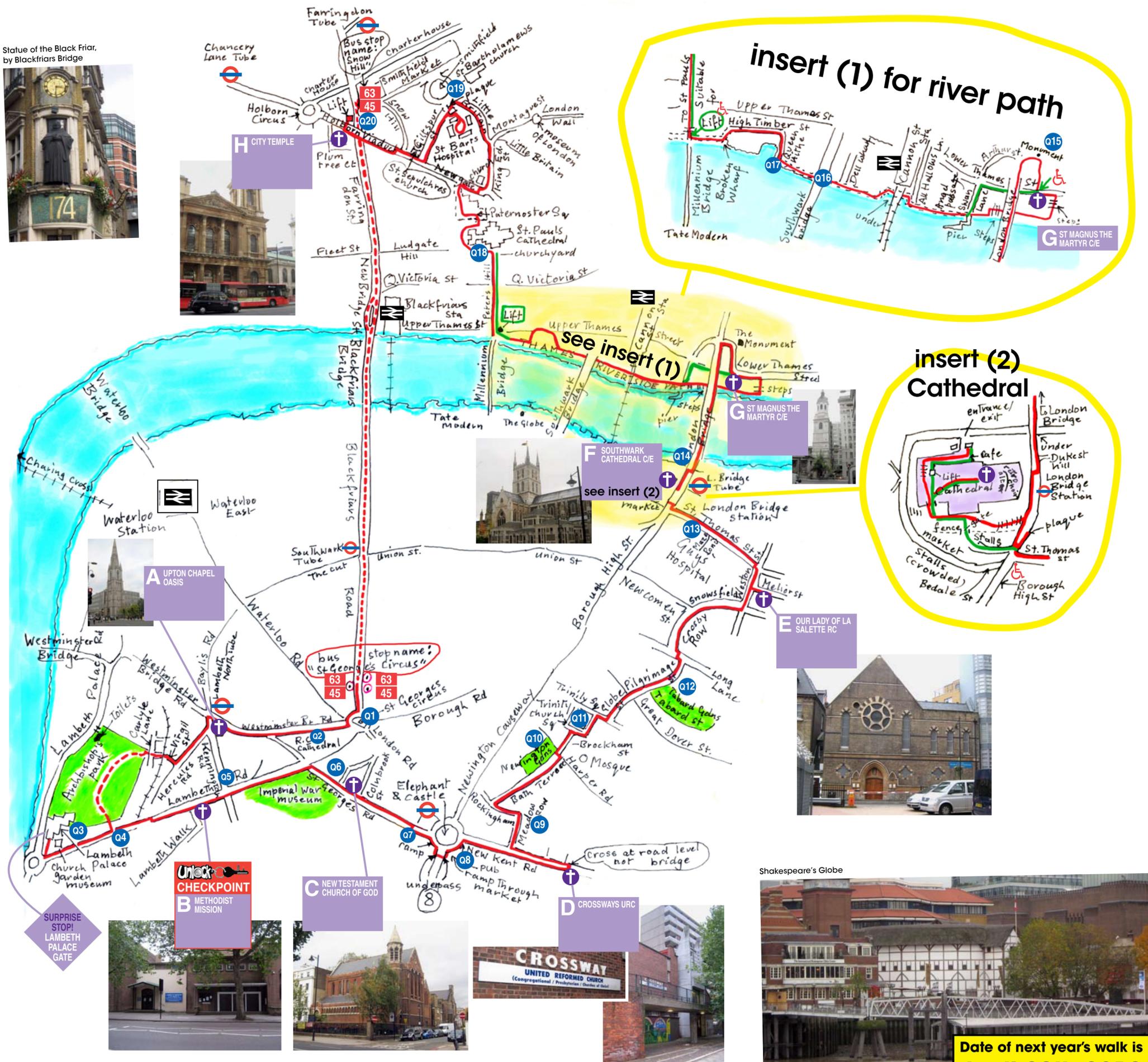
Southwark Cathedral, (Anglican) - where I served as a bishop, and never noticed that the oldest bit, the retrochoir at the east end, was where the Protestant martyrs were tried and sentenced to death by Queen Mary's court under Bishop Gardiner! They were then taken to Smithfield to be burnt, the statutory sentence for heresy from the days of the Lollards. One such was John Rogers, Vicar of St. Sepulchre, Smithfield, who edited the "Matthews Bible". It was the first English translation to be printed in England in 1537, and put in churches from 1540 onwards by Cranmer. (See plaque on Post Office on the east side of the main road opposite the Cathedral). Also the tomb of Bishop Lancelot Andrewes, a key figure in producing the King James Version.

St. Magnus the Martyr, (Anglican) - where the Vicar in Elizabethan times was Miles Coverdale. In 1536, he completed William Tyndale's work on the first English Bible taken directly from the Hebrew and Greek, but published in Europe. John Rogers used it in the "Matthews" Bible. Tyndale was martyred in Belgium, but Coverdale, though exiled four times, was the only one of these translators who died in his bed! Such was the cost of our English Bible.

Smithfield Market - outside the city walls, was the place of many executions by burning, (see the modest plaque). Our walk between Southwark and Smithfield is in their steps. This is a walk which we can do with a renewed sense of gratitude for the wonderful heritage of the King James Bible, and the many translations that have followed it in recent times. And yet again, in our 28th year of walking, a sense of joyful astonishment at the imagination and determination by which Christians in inner urban areas, so often faced by "knock it down and start again" regeneration plans, are being faithful to Christ's call.

Peter Hall

Statue of the Black Friar, by Blackfriars Bridge



A UPTON CHAPEL OASIS



F SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL C/E



E OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE RC



SURPRISE STOP! LAMBETH PALACE GATE



C NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD



D CROSSWAYS URC



Shakespeare's Globe

Date of next year's walk is April 28th 2012

HOW TO GET THERE

BY RAIL & TUBE

Very easy access by rail and tube, starting from main line stations. London Bridge Station is on the route, connecting with Euston* and Kings Cross* by Northern Line, east loop, and with Southwark and Waterloo by Jubilee Line.

- Paddington* and Waterloo* connect via the Bakerloo Line with Lambeth North*, and with the southern end of the route.
- Farringdon*, (Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith lines, together with Thameslink), connects well with the northern end of the route.
- Liverpool St* connects with Farringdon*, or with Chancery Lane* by Central Line.
- The Docklands Light Railway terminates at Bank*, and links with the Monument, which is on the route.

Note: * may not have wheelchair access.

LENGTH OF ROUTE

Approx 6 1/2 miles. (bus route not included)

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.

USING THE BUS

Walkers have sometimes felt that taking a bus is somehow "cheating". Because of the Bible translation theme, this walk has more stops than usual, which will take time. Please use the buses, nos. 45 and 63, which now have named stops (see on the map) so that you can see and hear when to get off.

By Tube: Lambeth North* to Chancery Lane* either way, changing at Oxford Circus*, is an expensive alternative.

For wheelchair users

The green line on the map is an alternative route. The short detours are at each end of London Bridge, but the main obstacles are the crowds in the Borough market around Southwark Cathedral, and also in the market in the underpass, no 8, at the Elephant. Public lifts: it is always possible that a lift is not working just when you need it! For those going anti-clockwise: a small amended map will be given out at St. Magnus the Martyr showing how to avoid the steps for which the lifts are normally available. For those going clockwise: the same map will be given out at the City Temple, but before you can get there, you may already have been blocked by the failure of the lift up to Holborn Viaduct. You can get round that by going further up Farringdon St. (after getting off the bus), turning first left into Charterhouse, and again first left into Holborn Viaduct.

- CHURCH CHECKPOINT
- WALK ROUTE
- WALKERS BUS
- ROUTE FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS
- DISABLED ACCESS TOILET
- TUBE
- RAILWAY
- BUS NUMBER QUESTION

Unlock Glasgow also run an annual walk, usually in the summer. Contact the Unlock Office, if you'd like to try an Unlock walk in completely different location.

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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