

WELCOME TO UNLOCK WALK 36 SHINING A LIGHT

The idea behind our title for the walk was not just because we had two churches with "light" references - the Lantern Methodist Church in Raynes Park and the Lighthouse Church not far away in West Barnes. I used to live close to the Lantern Church, so I know how this church works hard at bringing Christ's light into people's lives, both their congregation and the community around them; and it does not take a visitor long to recognise the light that clearly shines through the Lighthouse Church, too.

The theme of light also has its origins in the passage from Luke 8:16-17, "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open."

So, the Raynes Park Community Church nestled on the edge of the "Apostles" (the local name for the row of twelve streets here) reveals this light with its Saturday café, where openness and welcome can change people's lives. At the other end of the Kingston Road is the Wimbledon Salvation Army whose Faith in Action Homeless Drop-In seeks to answer both parts of Luke's text. The Salvation Army's work is just as important now as it was back in its founding years, and the voice for those who are most vulnerable is still centred in the need to let everyone see that light. Which takes us to the YMCA where we learn how its Christian origins are still at the heart of all it does. The chaplains here are part of this Christian core; there to serve the community as a whole. They too are responding to the challenge in Luke's text.

When we visit St John the Divine, we will see that this church serves a wide range of people, including the large estate next door. They also serve another estate across the River Wandale from the path we take south, and the Deen City Farm is a great resource we pass, just across the bridge from that estate.

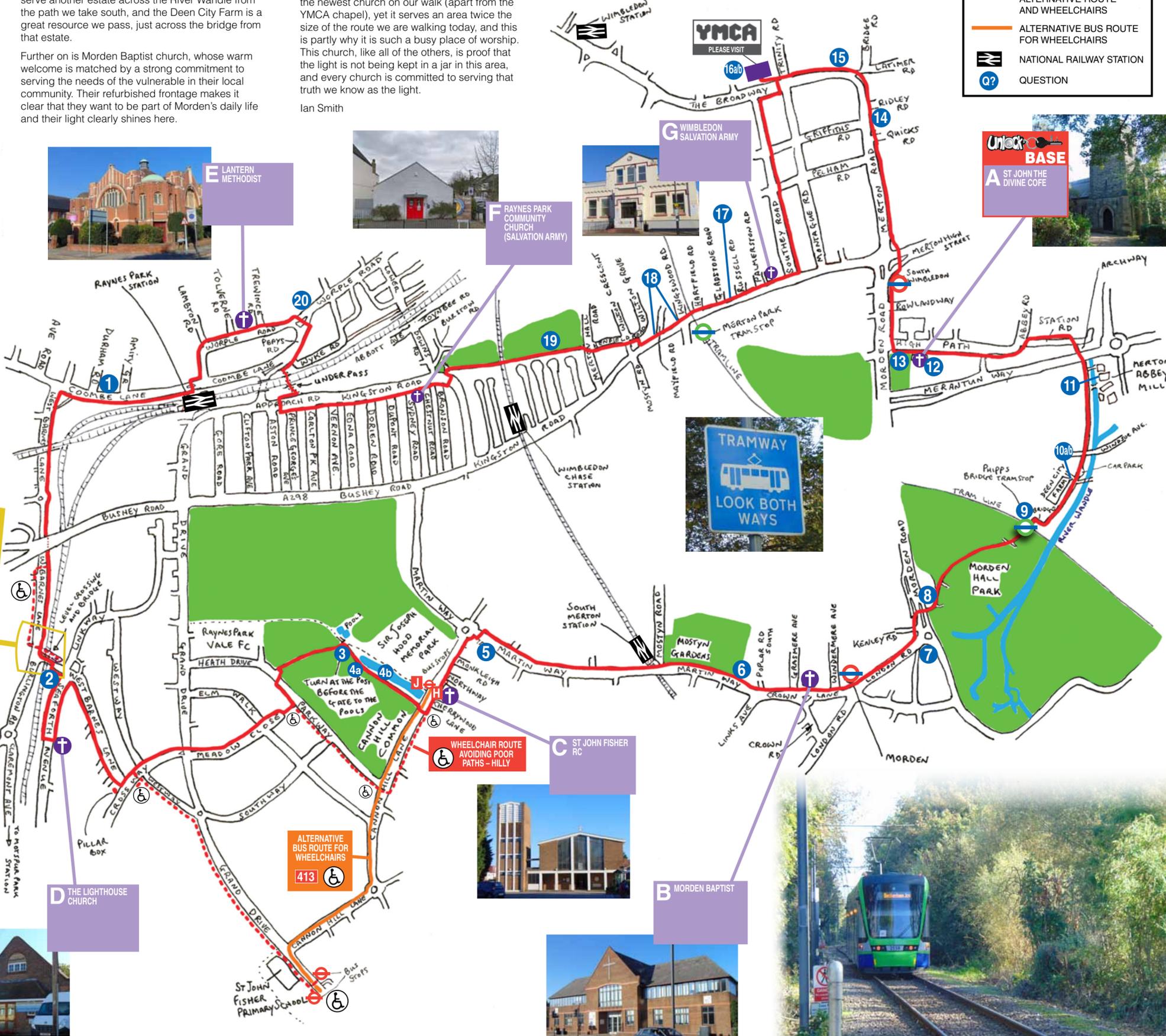
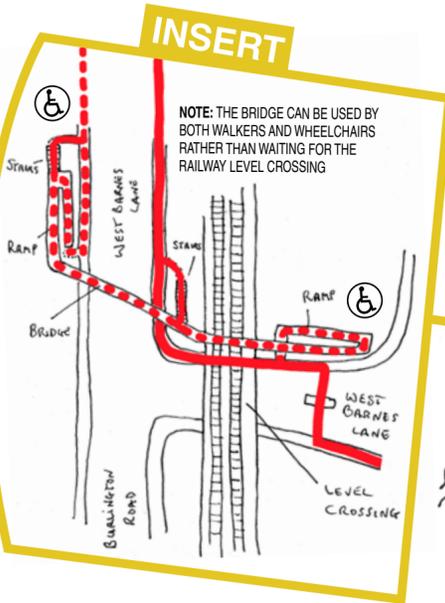
Further on is Morden Baptist church, whose warm welcome is matched by a strong commitment to serving the needs of the vulnerable in their local community. Their refurbished frontage makes it clear that they want to be part of Morden's daily life and their light clearly shines here.

In contrast, St John Fisher RC church seems to be tucked away in a quiet suburban location, but its story is not that simple. It is probably the newest church on our walk (apart from the YMCA chapel), yet it serves an area twice the size of the route we are walking today, and this is partly why it is such a busy place of worship. This church, like all of the others, is proof that the light is not being kept in a jar in this area, and every church is committed to serving that truth we know as the light.

Ian Smith

KEY TO MAP

- PLACE OF INTEREST
- CHURCH CHECKPOINT
- WALK ROUTE
- ALTERNATIVE ROUTE AND WHEELCHAIRS
- ALTERNATIVE BUS ROUTE FOR WHEELCHAIRS
- NATIONAL RAILWAY STATION
- QUESTION



GETTING THERE

As usual walkers are encouraged to start anywhere and go either way, to avoid a bulge at checkpoints. The area is well served by public transport; the walk route actually passes two underground stations, two national rail stations and two Tramlink stops. There are direct services on the Northern Line from Edgware and High Barnet in the north, and by Tramlink from Beckenham in the east. Thameslink offer connecting services from many points outside London, and trains from the south-west serve Raynes Park and Wimbledon stations. The area is served by 19 bus services from different parts of southwest London.

RAIL
 • Raynes Park, Wimbledon South Western Railway
 • South Merton, Wimbledon Chase, Wimbledon Thameslink

TUBE
 • Morden, South Wimbledon Northern Line
 • Wimbledon District Line

TRAMLINK
 Merton Park, Phipps Bridge, Wimbledon

BUS SERVICES

Morden	80	93	118	154	157	163
Raynes Park	57	131	152	163	200	K5
Wimbledon	57	93	131	152	156	163
	164	200	219	493		

Note for the footweary: Checkpoints A and B are linked by bus services 93 and 470, and also by the Northern Line, but you miss an interesting part of the walk, past the farm and the Mills.

IMPORTANT NOTE

London buses and trams 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 **£1.50** (one change of bus allowed) and multiple bus journeys are capped at **£4.50**.

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

There is free on-road parking on Saturdays in residential roads around much of the periphery of the route and in the vicinity of most of the checkpoints, but not A and G.

WHEELCHAIR USERS

Sadly, yet again several of the stations in the area of the walk are not wheelchair-friendly. There is step-free access to all the platforms at Wimbledon Station including District Line and Tramlink. There is step-free access at Morden (Northern Line) but not at South Wimbledon. Tramlink has step-free access to the trams at all stops. At Raynes Park station there is a long steep ramp down from the inbound (eastbound) platform but no equivalent access for westbound trains.

The whole route is pretty flat apart from a climb (either way) to cross the railway bridge at South Merton. If you go clockwise there is a small up-kerb at the Phipps Bridge Tramlink crossing. Across Morden Hall Park to Merton Abbey Mills the path is either metalled or compacted gravel. There's a rough bit just near the Mills, but you could divert through the Mills across the water. To avoid this stretch completely see the note above "for the footweary".

One stretch at Cannon Hill Common is unsuitable for wheelchairs. The alternative road route goes over Cannon Hill. To avoid this use the quarter-hourly 413 bus service.

Clockwise: Stop H "Northway" (outside checkpoint C) to St John Fisher Primary School, then go north along Grand Drive to rejoin the walk route at Crossway.

Anti-clockwise: Divert southwards at Grand Drive to catch the bus outside St John Fisher Primary School. Alight at Stop J "Cherrywood Lane" near to checkpoint C.

Note: The toilet at checkpoint F is not wheelchair accessible.

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

LENGTH OF ROUTE

Approx 7.25 miles

Map not to scale

Date of next year's walk is
25 APRIL 2020

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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.