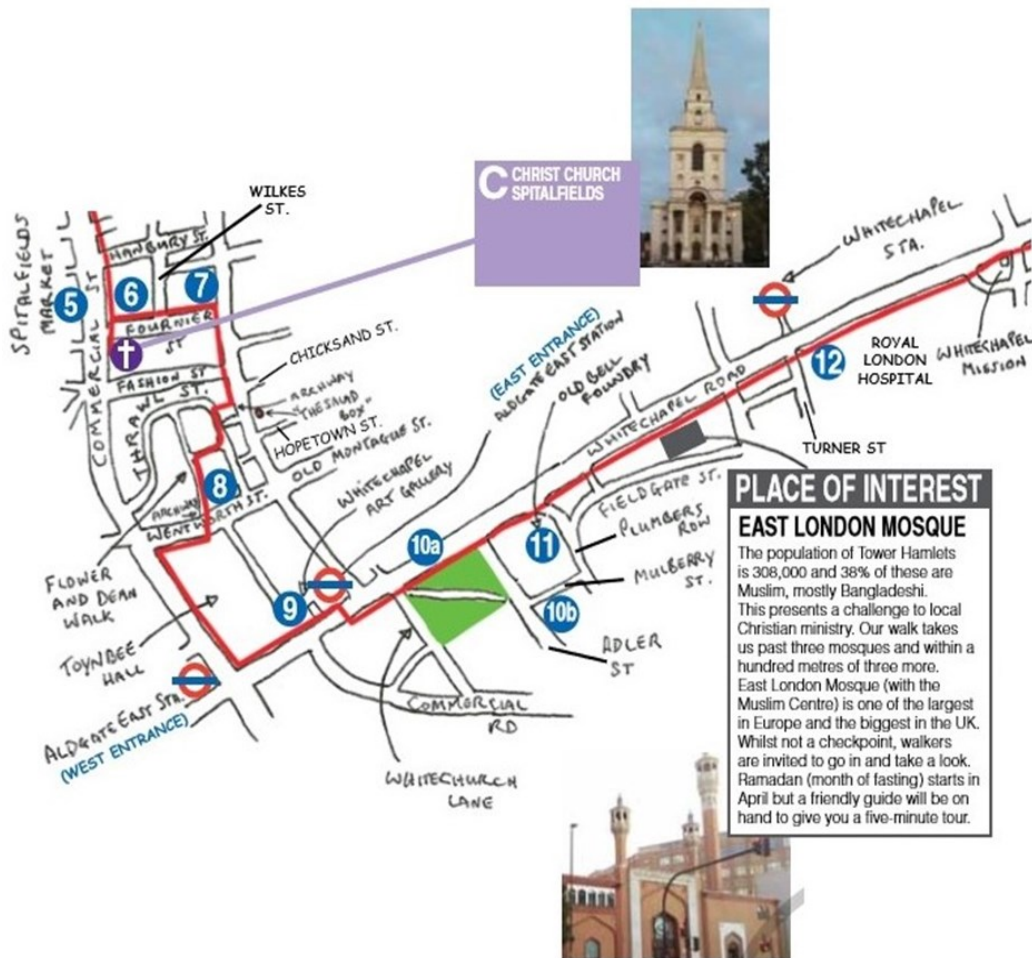


UNLOCK

STAY AT HOME LONDON WALK 2020

Stage 3 — Seeking Peace for all peoples.
Christchurch Spitalfields to Whitechapel Mission



The 2020 Walk in Tower Hamlets is postponed until **24th April 2021**. Please bring your 2020 map and support us then. For 2020 we are providing this 'armchair' version of the walk, in seven sections. We hope that you will enjoy it and then donate to Unlock just as you would have done if you have been out walking the London Streets for us this year, if not more so! See page 6 for details. Unlock needs the funding that you provide more than ever. When the COVID 19 emergency is over the poorest communities will have been hit the hardest and those are the places where Unlock's work will be needed more than ever! We are relying on you to make that possible.

Unlocking Real life stories of urban people

Revealing Good News of the down to earth Christ

Releasing life changing skills and confidence

WALK THIS WAY



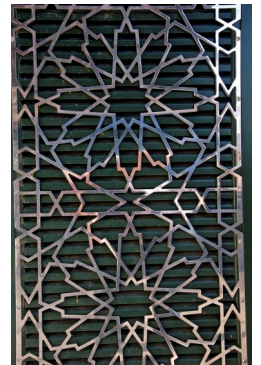
Leaving the church, we turn right on Commercial Street, then immediately right again into Fournier Street. Here you will see a large number of beautiful houses, built in the 18th century for wealthy Huguenot weavers and businessmen. Today some are still occupied by people of wealth and fame. At the end of the street on the left at the junction with Brick Lane, you will find a particularly fine building that is currently being used as a mosque (the Brick Lane Jamme Masjid). The building was originally built in



Houses on Fournier Street

1743 as a church by the Huguenots, then it became the “Great Synagogue” when the Jewish refugees escaping persecution in Russia and Eastern Europe in the 19th Century lived in this area.

Turn right into Brick Lane and enjoy the smells and colourful sights on the street with some of the best food from the Indian subcontinent that you will find in London. As you walk down the street you will notice the attractive gothic school building housing Christ Church Primary School. Although the church’s school origins date back to the beginning of the 18th century, this building was erected in 1874 and its unusual design is worth noting. The school and the Headmaster’s house



Jamme Masjid

were built on the east end of Christ Church’s graveyard, so it was decided to have the classrooms on the first floor raised on arches in order to not disturb the graves. The arches became a covered playground for the children until they were closed in, so they could use the ground floor for other uses such as classrooms.



Brick Lane food market

Continue down

Brick Lane, remaining on the right hand pavement, crossing Fashion Street along a newer set of shop fronts until you see a narrow passageway through to the Flower and Dean Estate, built in 1982-4 (a year after the shops were built).

You are now walking through another of what used to be the one of the most notorious areas in London. Since it was first constructed (by two local bricklayers, Messrs Dean and Flowers) in 1655, it



Christ Church Primary School

had been a slum; but by mid to late 19th century it had become a site full of cheap lodging houses and courtyards filled with the poorest, most desperate and dangerous people in London. The census of 1881 lists no fewer than twenty common lodging houses just on Flower and Dean Street (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flower_and_Dean_Street). This gave a total of nearly 1000 residents of lodging houses alone - No.5 was also part of a property in Brick Lane that was home to 222 individuals.

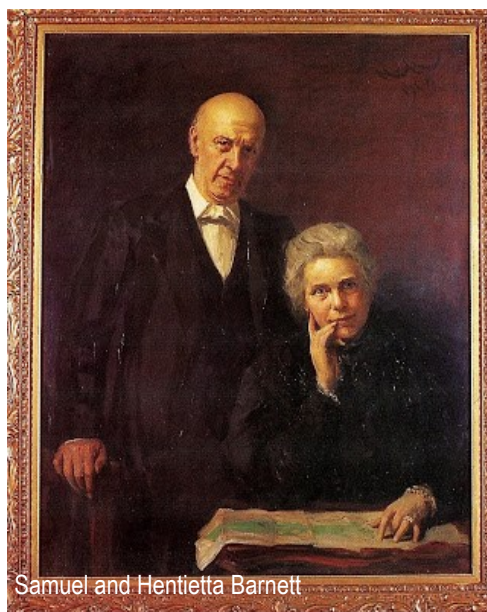


Three of the Ripper's victims lived in this area (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper). Dr Thomas Barnardo (<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/who-we-are/our-history>) visited No.32 to see conditions for himself around that time and listened to the concerns of the women there regarding the murders. Dr Barnardo was later to identify Elizabeth Stride in the mortuary as one of the women he had spoken to during that visit.

Even after the Four Percent Industrial Dwellings Company built on part of the site, it was still mainly a desperate slum and remained a grim place until the 1960's, but it was not cleared until 1977. Walking through the now pleasant estate, only the names of the streets remain as echoes of the area's dark past.

So, through the passage, left along part

of Thrawl street, right along a passage to turn left onto Flower and Dean Walk. You emerge through an archway and turn left into Wentworth Street which takes you onto Commercial Road. Go left down this busy main road passing Toynbee Hall, created in 1884 by Samuel and Henrietta Barnett. Samuel ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Barnett_\(reformer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Barnett_(reformer))) was a Church of England vicar, and Henrietta (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrietta_Barnett) was a teacher, philanthropist and social activist. They established Toynbee Hall in response to a growing realisation that enduring social change would not be achieved through the existing individualised and piecemeal approaches. The radical vision was to create a place for future leaders to live and work as volunteers in London's East End, bringing them face to face with poverty, and giving them the opportunity to develop practical solutions that they could take with them into national life. This was the sort of



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vision that created Oxford House, passed by us during our first stage of the walk.

Continue to the corner with Whitechapel Road and turn left and continue until you reach a pedestrian crossing (next to the White Hart public house). Cross the road and continue in the same direction, but pausing by the stairs leading down to Aldgate East Tube Station in order to look back across the road to the marvellous façade of the Whitechapel Gallery which was founded in 1901 to bring great art to the people of the East End. Next door you will see “The Passmore Edwards Library” which was



Whitechapel Gallery and Passmore Edwards Library building



Isaac Rosenberg

known locally as “the library of the ghetto”. Many Jewish immigrants learned to speak and write English here and there is a blue plaque nearby remembering one of these: Isaac Rosenberg (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/isaac-rosenberg>), a poet who died in the trenches in WW1. The library has now become part of the Art Gallery. The new Whitechapel Idea Store (library with more IT and fewer books!) is further east.

You pass Altab Ali Park on your right, named after a young Asian man who, in April 1978, was chased down Brick Lane by a group of skinheads who caught up with him near this spot and murdered him (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-36191020>).

Pass the building that housed the Old Bell Foundry. The Guinness Book of Records entry asserts that the Whitechapel Bell Foundry is the oldest manufacturing company in Britain. Ironically, shortly after it celebrated its 400 anniversary in 1970, historian George Elphick established that the business dated back to 1420, making it 150 years older.



Old Bell foundry

The Foundry has cast many very famous bells during their long existence including the Liberty Bell, Big Ben and Bow Bells. The premises you see today only date back to 1670 but you will not detect any work inside. (<http://www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk/foundry.htm>)

After the last bell



Big Ben bell

was cast in 2017 the premises were sold to an American financier who wishes to redevelop the site and build an 108 roomed luxury hotel there incorporating part of the historic foundry as a visual addition to his hotel's coffee house.



Sadly, Tower Hamlets ignored all of the protests and counter proposals made by organisers hoping to continue the work of the foundry and gave the financier planning permission in November 2019. Early in December 2019 the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government stopped the application and the protesters await further developments whilst encouraging members of the public to get involved in the campaign to save the foundry (<http://www.savethewhitechapelbellfoundry.com/>).

Now cross the road and reach East London Mosque (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_London_Mosque), established in 1941 but grew from actions at the beginning of the 20th century. It is now one of the largest and most active mosques in the country. It is a place to pause and consider how the life of our country has been so enriched by the arrival of peoples from different and varied faiths, cultures and countries. Working,



East London Mosque



Stalin & Trotsky

active and where Stalin met Trotsky.

praying and reflecting together it will always be possible to continue to build a better, richer society.

After the mosque continue on and cross New Road, and just as you arrive at the facade of the new hospital buildings to your right you can look across the road at the entrance to Fulbourne Street. On the left corner is a modest building with a camera shopfront. This building housed several Jewish societies and clubs including the Jewish Socialist Club where Lenin and Maxim Gorki were

The large site on your right houses what used to be called The London

Hospital. It is at the heart of the East End: this is where Barnardo trained to become a doctor and where William

Booth also worked for a while. You will see the Edward VII memorial drinking fountain and behind it is 259 Whitechapel Road. It is the lower roofed brick building that is currently a jeweller's shop and was the location of Joseph Merrick's (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Merrick) first experience as the subject of a freak show. Known as "The Elephant Man", Merrick ended up living the last couple of years of his life in specially designed rooms in the basement of the hospital building



The London Hospital



Edward VII memorial drinking fountain



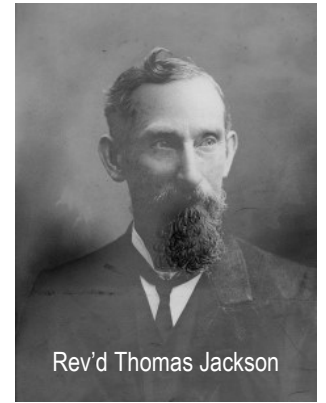


The original Whitechapel Mission
at 285 Whitechapel Road

beside you.

Let's finish this section by continuing along Whitechapel Road to the corner with Sidney Street where the Whitechapel Mission is located. The Mission's origins go back to 1876. However, it was when the Revd Thomas Jackson established The Whitechapel Methodist Mission that it really began to combine social work with evangelical work. Its long history is filled with stories of good works, and these have not stopped as the Mission still continues to help the marginalised and homeless. Whitechapel Mission is one of the few homelessness organisations to remain open during the COVID 19 outbreak. It's

being run by staff rather than volunteers, and they are serving 200 takeaway breakfasts, and letting a few people they know are homeless use the showers.



Rev'd Thomas Jackson



Whitechapel Mission
Bringing hope where there is despair

DUKE ALUMS
ENGAGE

On the following pages you will find the factsheet for Whitechapel Mission, a reflection, a Bible reading, an Unlock story, a prayer and an activity.



PLEASE DONATE TO SUPPORT UNLOCK'S WORK

- Online via Virgin Giving : http://www.unlock-urban.org.uk/support_donations.php
- By Bank Transfer to Account No: 65031179; sort code: 08-92-50; quoting ref: WALK
- By cheque to 'Unlock', mailed to: Unlock, Handsworth Old Rectory, 402B Handsworth Road, Sheffield, S13 9BZ

Due to COVID 19 the Unlock Office will be running on extremely minimal staffing over the summer of 2020.

Donations via Virgin Giving and Bank Transfer save Unlock money and time, and get the funds into our account much faster. Cheques will take considerably longer to process in the current circumstances.

For this year only, we will not be able to acknowledge individual donations (donations via Virgin Giving will be acknowledged automatically) , as we will have neither the staff nor the necessary details to do so.

Please be assured that we are more grateful than we can possibly say for your generous and faithful support.

What The Whitechapel Mission Do

At The Whitechapel Mission, we have been helping Londoners to help the homeless since 1876, meeting the specific needs of each man and woman who walks through our doors. First, we help the homeless by meeting immediate needs: food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. In our recovery programs, we address deeper needs for life-skills and job skills training, and addiction recovery. We measure our progress against four criteria, which indicate to us that a life has been transformed from homelessness to hope: connection to family, commitment to sobriety, a job and a place to live, and a plan for the future.

Today, The Whitechapel Mission is a results-oriented organization that is recognized as one of London's most effective.

We meet basic needs

This is done by offering: hot breakfasts and lunch, showers, clothing, hairdressing, optician, medical care, dentistry, befriending and advising on: night shelters, hostels, benefits, identification documents, form filling, debt counseling, entitlements, finding appropriate help. [Learn more about our Daycentre >>>](#)

Phone Charging

About 70 people a morning will ask us to charge their mobile phones.

Postal Address

A number of people use the Mission for an address, to receive mail and connect with family, employers and landlords.

Resettlement and Tenancy Support

A process which often is long and slow and involves many fresh starts. It can include the following stages.

Housing

Helping with establishing housing rights, referrals to local authorities, permanent and temporary accommodation, special needs housing, help in setting up home, links with specialist services, ongoing support.

Education, training and employment

Basic computer training, help with basic literacy and numeracy, introduction to word processing, links with adult education colleges. [Learn more about our Life-skills Centre >>>](#)

Tenancy Support

Once we have helped find accommodation we continue the support, training and life-skills to encourage a continued tenancy.

Whitechapel House

Provides 13 self-contained flats, offering affordable housing for London's key workers.

Last year we spent almost £600,000, of which less than 2% was for management and fundraising. The rest was direct expenditure. This does not include the value of food and other donations in kind.

Reflection – A Tale of Two Mosques

Our certain identity in Christ means we can be open to interact with those of other faiths and cultures.

The peace of the Lord be always with you!

There is a strange thing about peace. I have experienced it in the quiet of the night and have felt it just as strongly in the middle of a crowd. It is a space that God fills with grace. You know it, but often you are not the force that has created the peace inside you.

Because God works in so many ways it might be something that someone says to you or that you overhear. It might be an action or a face you glimpse or it might be a dog or a car arriving at your feet, or a child laughing.

The route today takes us along streets that have been packed with people for hundreds of years, yet we are not allowed to go there today and so these streets are empty.

The places of worship are closed and so are the shops and bars but the memories of the people are still there written in stone and brick. Imagine how blessed the building on the end of Fournier street must be having housed worshipping communities from all three of the great Abrahamic faiths! People have found peace in that building for hundreds of years.

Now imagine the dark, rat infested streets just a short walk away where people were crowded into nasty, cramped boarding houses and where lives were harsh and cruel. Even on those streets people must have experienced peace from time to time; a brief but welcome pause where the grace of God made its presence felt in someone who needed that peace so much!

The busy kitchens along Brick Lane, the busy roads full of traffic whether it was horse drawn or petrol fuelled vehicles, have all contained people encountering moments of peace.

And, of course, places like Toynbee Hall, The Whitechapel Art Gallery and the library next door all had an intention of offering those who desperately needed it a moment of peace in their lives.

And if you are a person of faith, a person who loves and trusts in God your strength of faith will be a great source of that peace too and this will help you be a source of that peace as well.

Ian Smith—Unlock London Walk Team

Unlock Stories:

Sally is a 64-year-old mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She is permanently looking after her 14-year-old grandson, 17-year-old granddaughter and a 6-month old great granddaughter. Her own adult children have had their children taken away from them, and the choice was between the children going into foster care or Sally fostering them. Sally has been looking after her very elderly parents in addition to this. In fact, her mother has just died. Although Sally has 4 brothers and sisters, she carries most of the weight on her shoulders.

These are difficult times for Sally and her family. In her own words 'The UNLOCK group is a lifeline to me, and a place to talk and mix with other adults.' She enjoys the peace and space in a small group and finds it a supportive safe environment; whether doing creative work, hearing stories from the Bible or sharing her own story. Sally needs a space to be herself, as well as a daughter, a mum, a grandma and a carer.



Leviticus 19: 33, 34

Do not mistreat foreigners who are living in your land . Treat them as you would a local, and love them as you love yourselves. Remember that you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

PRAY FOR

GIVE THANKS for the peaceful co-existence of Muslims, Christians and those of other of persuasions in a borough where one in three is of Bengali Muslim origin.

PRAY FOR continued peace, those involved in dialogue and those committed to evangelism.

ACTIVITY

- Spend a little time imagining a crowded Victorian street like the ones we have walked through. Try to imagine moments of peace in that busy place.
- Now ask yourself where and when you have experienced such peace today or in the last couple of days..
- Then recall the last time you were able to offer someone else some peace like that.
- Finally, make a decision now about who, where and how you will offer someone peace in the future.



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