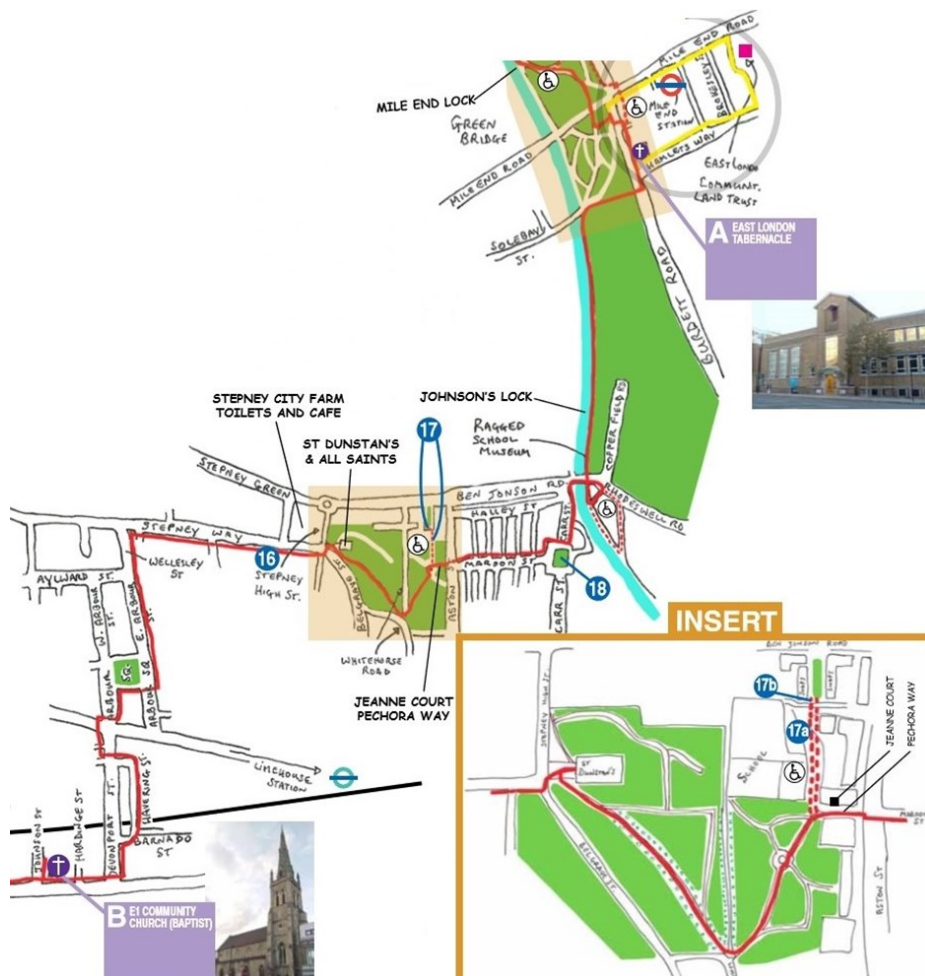


UNLOCK

STAY AT HOME LONDON WALK 2020

Stage 5 — Learning.

E1 Community Church to East London Tabernacle



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 5 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



Return to Cable Street and turn left along the pavement and head east. Much of what you have seen of Cable Street has been council estates (apart from St George's Town Hall and the pub beside the mural on the previous stage).

As we walk you will see a small remnant of what used to be much of the housing stock along the road. Passing the repurposed public house on your left you will see on your right a short row of Victorian, terraced artisan houses with honey coloured London Brick and rounded arch doorways. The red front doorsteps have not been cleaned and polished for many years.

Continue past the mixed medium to low rise modern buildings and turn left onto Devonport Street flanked on either corner by slightly taller, more recent blocks.

Further up the road, before the railway arch, we take a slight detour to walk down Barnardo Street and through the next arch into Havering Street. Similar housing stock to the terrace in Cable Street, we can now experience what the area was like when it was originally built in the early Victorian period. The road curves round to take you back to Devonport Street where you can turn and look back at the rear of the houses on Havering Street. Note how the horizontal line of the front façade of the terrace is contrasted with the saw-tooth profile of the rooves from the rear.

Turn left at the junction and cross Commercial Road at the crossing opposite the East London Food Centre

and turn back (right) to

follow the road around to the beginnings of Arbour Square, a small but very fine Georgian Square.

Reaching the square, turn right and keep going then left in front of the New City College which used to be Raines Foundation School.

Henry Raine was a devout Christian who decided to found a school where poor children could get a free education (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raine%27s_Foundation_School). He built it in Wapping, where he lived, and named it "the Lower School". It opened in 1719. In 1913 the school moved to this site. It became a comprehensive in 1977 and moved to Bethnal Green in 1985. We will see the buildings to which it moved opposite the Methodist Church in Approach Road near the end of the walk. Sadly, after 300 years of educational provision the school



Railway arches on Barnardo Street



Havering Street



New City College Building

*"Come in and learn your duty to God and man".
(Raines School Motto)*

will close in August 2020.

Walk north along East Arbour Street, passing more Victorian terraced houses on the right and after passing the Art Deco block of flats on the left, you will note a large red brick Edwardian building that stretches from here to the end of the road and round into Aylward Street. This is the old Arbour Square Police Station. Here, amongst many dangerous people, they held the Kray Twins and also Provisional IRA suspects. Passing this, cross over into Wesley Road and at the end turn right onto Stepney Way.



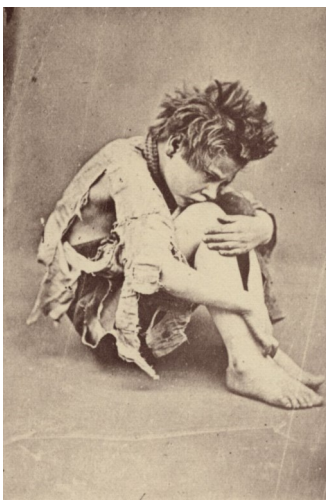
Old Arbour Street Police Station

With Stepney Green Park on your left and, eventually Sir John Cass Redcoat School on your right, you will reach a junction with three other roads. Crossing two of them you can then turn right into the churchyard of St Dunstan's, Stepney – an old favourite of Unlock walkers. It is known as the mother church of the East End and was originally founded by St Dunstan when he was the Bishop of London in 952. This building is mainly from the 15th Century. Its bells feature in “Oranges and Lemons” (they are the bells of Stepney, of course) and there is a lot of history here. The churchyard is also lovely to walk through and we will take the path to the right of the church along an avenue of trees till we reach the gate, turn left and, through the line of bollards blocking traffic from two paths, take the one that curves to the right, into Whitehorse Road Park.



St Dunstan's Church

The roundabout at the end of this path has three other paths leading off it. The one straight ahead (the second path) leads towards brand new tower blocks with a large covered area. Pass on through this area to take a brief look at a blue plaque on the left-hand side of a small council estate shopping parade. It is between Rabia Grocers and Karwoo takeaway.



Thomas John Barnardo was born in Dublin in 1845 and moved to London in 1865 to train as a doctor. When he arrived, he was shocked to find children living in terrible conditions, with no access to education and conditions were so bad that one in five children died before their fifth birthday. When a cholera epidemic swept through the East End, leaving 3000 people dead and many orphaned children, he felt an urgent need to help.

His first step, in 1867, was to set up a 'ragged school' (<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/who-we-are/our-history>) where children could get a free basic education. One evening a boy at the mission, Jim Jarvis, took Barnardo around the

East End, showing him children sleeping on roofs and in gutters. What he saw affected him so deeply he decided to abandon his medical training and devote himself to helping children living in poverty.

In 1870, he opened his first home for boys. As well as putting a roof over their heads, the home trained the boys in carpentry, metalwork and



“No child should be turned away” - Dr Barnardo

shoemaking, and found apprenticeships for them. To begin with, there was a limit to the number of boys who could stay there. But when an 11-year-old boy was found dead — of malnutrition and exposure — two days after being told the shelter was full, Barnardo vowed never to turn another child away. He refused to discriminate between the ‘deserving’ and ‘undeserving’ poor. He

accepted all children, regardless of race, disability or circumstance and believed that every child deserved the best possible start in life, whatever their background. This philosophy still guides the charity today.

After a brief reflection on Dr Barnardo and his work, retrace your steps and continue on what is now your left-hand path, between new buildings and onto Aston Street.

You will be facing Maroon Street which is at the beginning of an interesting 1950’s council estate of mainly semidetached houses with in-fill housing designed, mainly, to patch up bomb sites.



The final stage of the road is occupied by a relatively modern development built by the Gateway Housing Association (<http://www.gatewayhousing.org.uk/>). You emerge onto a large square with a fenced in garden area where Maroon Street crosses Carr Street. This Square, along with the buildings on Jamuna Close which runs along by the canal, is all social housing and is a marvellous contrast to Arnold Circus. The two areas occupy the top left and bottom right corners of the Unlock walk and are separated by over a hundred years. Gateway Housing Association was originally the Bethnal Green Housing Association and was started in 1926. Their social housing is concentrated mainly between here and Bethnal Green (<https://www.londonremembers.com/subjects/bethnal-green-and-east-london-housing-association-gateway>).



Turn left and walk north up Carr Street (originally named after the Rev. Charles Carr of St John’s Church, Limehouse) and turn right over the canal bridge, into Rhodeswell Road (originally named Rogues’ Well Road, leading to the common of that name) and turn right onto the Regents Canal heading north (another right turn).

After passing under



the road bridge you will see the Ragged School Museum in the building on your right. Here you can find out more about how Thomas Barnardo opened his first “ragged school” where children could gain a free basic education.



Passing the Museum, you follow the canal until you reach Solebay Street bridge where you head off across the common and end up on Burdett Road facing the East London Tabernacle.



On the following pages you will find the factsheet for East London Tabernacle Church, 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.

ELT

East London Tabernacle Baptist Church



HISTORY

East London Tabernacle Baptist Church or the Tab as it is familiarly known began life a mile or so west of here on Stepney Green. In 1867 the deacons of a Baptist church there asked the famous preacher CH Spurgeon to recommend a pastor. He recommended Archibald Brown who had been one of the students at his Pastors' College and had already planted Bromley Baptist Church. Under Brown's ministry the church grew so much that it was decided to relocate and build a new and larger chapel on the site of the present building. The new Tabernacle (meaning a temporary place for God's people to meet with him) seated 3000 people which it filled on Sundays in the following decades. Since then the East End has changed a lot. The original building was destroyed by a bomb during World War Two and replaced in the 1950s with the present building.

Today a congregation of about 200 meets on Sunday mornings and about 50 in the afternoon. The church is made up of some 45 nationalities and has people of all ages and social backgrounds. We have a large youth ministry reaching local young people through clubs and activities in the community centre and schools as well as ministries to the homeless and older people and many more. Recently we planted a Russian language church which meets in the building and we are partnering with London City Mission in transitioning a congregation in its Forest Gate centre to becoming a church.

In all this our desire is to reach the local community with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ as people come to faith in him and become his disciples.

Church life consists of:

Youth Ministry – Clubs and activities in the local community as well as the building reaching children and young people with the gospel.

Crossway – A lunch club on Mondays for older people.

English Language School – Classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the many immigrants who need to learn English.

GROWTH Night Shelter – During the winter we work with other local churches in providing meals and places to sleep for homeless people

Community Outreach – Reaching local people by means of street outreach and door-to-door visitation.

Outreach to Muslims – A programme of training and evangelism to reach the many Muslims in the area.

Credo – A programme of training in understanding the Bible and doctrine for Christian life and ministry.

PRAYER POINTS

We would value your prayers for:

- To increase our impact in the area and see more people coming to Christ
- To thank God for the opportunity our church has to serve Him in such a diverse area.

www.eltbaptistchurch.org

East London Tabernacle Baptist Church, Burdett Road, Mile End, E3 4TU

Minister: Rev Kenneth Brownell

Tel: 020 8980 6125 Administrator: Portia Omo-Bare admin@eltbaptistchurch.org

Reflection

Since the 1990's there has been a thing called Continuous Professional Development. Amazingly, professionals before then could choose whether or not to keep up to date with their profession. A lot did so in informal ways, reading their trade publications and so on. Some attended courses from time to time but now it is mainly built into the job. You often can't get ahead in your profession if you don't keep up with the training.

Such an approach is not alien to most Christians. We do Bible studies, we listen to the lessons in church, we read the Bible and pray and worship together. This is a sort of continuous professional development. Some of us even get inspired to take special courses in order to learn more, deepen our understanding and so on and we may even go away to a retreat centre to help ourselves get back on track.

This is plenty evidence that Christians see education as important; and Christians have a lot to offer others when it comes to education. Because as we learn about God and his relationship with us, we begin to see that education as a matter of life and death. It is very important to us and so making sure that everyone gets the message and understands it properly is lifesaving; but we always want to go further. If you can learn and understand, but are not inspired and moved by what you have learned, what have you really gained? Our sort of education and development changes people's lives.

So, it should not be a surprise to discover that some of our greatest social reformers were both Christians and involved in education; and what they achieved was always more than simply teaching people. They were always about inspiring and changing people's lives, too.

Remember the first word that Mary Magdalen exclaims when she suddenly recognises Jesus after his Resurrection. She says, in Aramaic, "Rabbuni!" which means "Teacher". Take a little time to think about those who have helped develop your faith. Teachers and pastors may be obvious candidates but we have friends and family who often give us the keystone and there are books and articles, children's' questions, someone on the Radio or TV and sometimes a song or hymn that helps us develop our faith and learn the important things we need to know.

Where would you be now without those people and those moments?

Ian Smith—Unlock London Walk Team

Unlock Stories:

Finding God's story within your own (Birmingham):-

Through short stories and video clips, and talking through issues such as bullying, weddings, and normal day to day life struggles, such as depression, I have been able to help the ladies engage with stories in the Bible that relate to them as people, and hopefully giving them a sense that they are valued and loved. The biggest learning curve for me through working with Unlock's approach is that taking the Good News to people is not complicated and doesn't have to be. It's about allowing yourself to be incarnate in each context you find yourself in and being relevant. For me also it's about allowing and enabling each person to find God's story within their own narrative.



Humble and Grateful Vicar.

Our Lent course has had a very strong Unlock influence and it's been such a great experience. We are a church full of very practical, down to earth people who tend to be quite private about what goes on inside them and not have huge amounts of confidence. Unlock has enabled us to share our experiences of prayer and God in a much more open way. That, in turn has led to a new courage and willingness to pray for and with one another, which makes me a very humble, grateful, happy Vicar indeed.



Proverbs 22:6

Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do right. See that justice is done — help those who are oppressed, give orphans their rights, and defend widows.

PRAY FOR

I thank you Christ, my Teacher, for staying with me when I didn't understand, for helping me look when I didn't want to see and for giving me the strength that I never knew I had; and thank you for the love that has brought me closer to you each day.

Give thanks for what Raines and Barnardo and so many teachers have achieved.

Pray for an education system that treasures every child and helps them realise their own full potential that our homes, churches and schools will not turn any away. Pray for all of us to go on learning all of our lives.

ACTIVITY

- Think back over the whole of your life
- Make a list of the people who have helped you to learn and grow in your faith.
- Annotate your list with small symbols; a book for someone who helped you learn, a heart for someone who showed you love, a flower for someone who helped you grow, a flying bird for someone who set you free (you can add your own ideas too). Some people may deserve more than one symbol!
- Give thanks to God for each of those people (and if you've never thanked them consider letting them know how they helped you).
- Ask God at help you use all that you have learned for his Glory and his Kingdom.



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