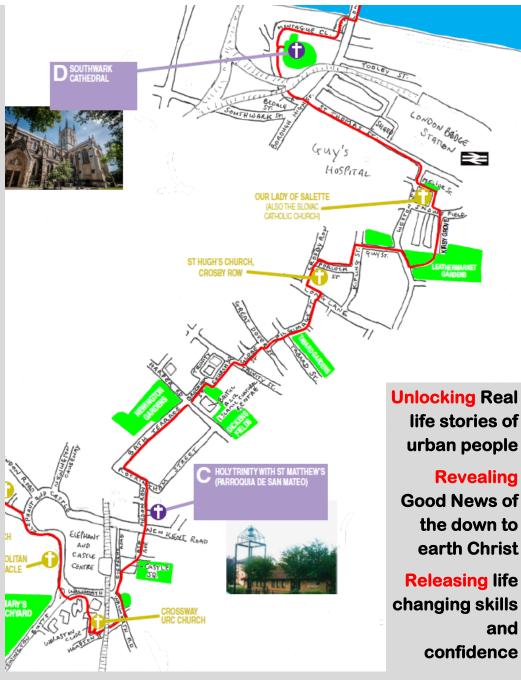
UNLOCK

Virtual LONDON WALK 2021

Stage 2— Lament Crossway URC Church to Southwark Cathedral

The 2021 Unlock London Walk is in the form of 6 online daily episodes starting on Sunday April **18th**. We expect to be able to hold a 'real' walk again on April 23rd 2022. We hope you enjoy this 'armchair' version of the walk and then please donate to Unlock just as you would have done if you had been out walking the **London Streets for us this** year, if not more so! See page 6 for details. 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 essential! We are relying on you to make that possible. We are already preparing resources to help people to process the difficult emotions that the Pandemic has created for

all of us; the materials in



these walk episodes are based on them. A taster pack is already on the website and the full resource will be in the same place shortly - or on request from the Unlock Office.

www.unlock-urban.org.uk/resources_projects.php#bible_study_resources

WALK THIS WAY



Turning left out of the church we walk under the railway line and back onto the Walworth Road. You will note new tower blocks of flats all along the other side of the road and further beyond the road. This is the new development on the site of the old Heygate Estate. Carefully cross over the road and turn left and carry on until you reach Elephant Road on your right. Turn in here and notice, on your left, the many Latin American shops

huddled together in the Railway arches below Elephant and Castle station. To your right, is the new Castle Square with a



set of sea containers clad in wood and converted into a couple of blocks of small shops and cafes. This is the

remnants of the mainly South American and Afro-Caribbean businesses that used to occupy the Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre. Controversially, the developers have only found temporary accommodation for a



percentage of these small businesses here, despite huge pressure from the local community. Turn right into the Square and cut diagonally across it to Ash Avenue, a new street between two of the tower blocks (the one on your left is mainly student accommodation).

Emerging onto the New Kent Road, you cross over and enter Meadow Row. The church of St Matthews at the Elephant is on your right. Now connected with Holy

Trinity, it still serves the estate you are entering, while now also devoted to serving the

local Latin American community here, too. St Matthews has been at the centre of community action and engagement since the late 1960's and 1970s when the Rockingham Estate (www.londonpicturearchive.org.uk/embed-item? i=271004) became a "sink estate" riddled with crime and deprivation and was a very bleak place to be. St Matthews, along with Crossway Church were active in the antiracism movement that was strong in this area and many of the



people in these parishes took part in the marches, protests and Rock Against Racism events in the area. wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock Against Racism

Continue to Rockingham Street, then turn left and follow to a junction on your right where you turn into Bath Terrace. As you turn the corner you will notice, on your right, a raised triangular area of grass in front of the block of flats. There are a number of raised banks like this on the estate and they are WW2 bomb shelters for the tenants here. Like many other areas of London, the people here preferred to go down and spend the night in the local Tube stations rather than sit out the bombing in these shelters. As you note the shelters, examine the metal and wire fences fixed into the walls along the road. During the war, the original railings were removed and in the 1950's Southwark Council bought a large stock of metal and wire stretchers used by the volunteer emergency

services during the blitz. The fences here are the repurposed stretchers from the war.

At the end you will reach the junction with Harper Road. On your left is Newington Gardens also known as the Jail Park. This was the site of Horsemonger Lane Jail (wikipedia.org/wiki/Horsemonger Lane Gaol) and the grand, arched entrance to that jail was here on Bath Terrace. Above the entrance they had a set of gallows where they regularly held public hangings. When the jail



was pulled down in the late nineteenth century, the land was set aside as a park and gardens with a commitment that a jail would never be built on the site ever again.

The Rockingham Estate was built in the early 1930s as part of a "slum clearance" programme. Near here, a famous doctor from Barbados established himself in 1918 to serve the community in this area. Dr. Cecil Belfield

Clarke (wikipedia.org/wiki/Cecil Belfield Clarke) had won a scholarship to Cambridge and had qualified as a surgeon, but chose to practice in one of the most deprived parts of London. When the slum clearance began, Dr Clarke moved to another deprived area in Peckham where he continued his work, but he is still celebrated here as an important figure, too.



Diagonally across on your right is the Baitul Aziz



Islamic Cultural Centre where, every Friday, more than 2,200 men worship. The Rockingham Estate has had a small but significant population of Asian Muslim families (mainly Bengali) living here and the Mosque can boast having three generations of local people praying together here every week. Cross over and into Brockham Street and ahead is a Georgian Square with a church in the centre. Turn right here into Trinity Church Square and continue around until you reach Trinity Street. The church was decommissioned in the late 1970s, was renamed the Henry Wood Hall and has been a rehearsal space/recording studio for orchestras and choirs ever since. The land occupied by this Georgian estate has been owned by the Trinity Trust since the seventeenth century and revenue from it still supports lighthouses and continues to work for the safety of mariners around the world.

Turn right then left into Globe Street, cross over Great Dover Street and enter Pilgrimage Street which then takes you across Tabard Street and past Tabard Gardens on your right. Tabard Street is named after a

coaching inn on Borough High Street. There were a number of coaching inns there from the medieval

period onwards, each serving coaches to different destinations. The Tabard inn, once called the Talbot Inn, served the coaches to Canterbury and was where the pilgrims for the "Canterbury Tales" (wikipedia.org/wiki/The Canterbury Tales) gathered before setting off on their pilgrimage. Tabard Street was the original road everyone took as they headed out to Kent and Canterbury.



Eventually you reach Long Lane where you cross over and turn left. Almost immediately you turn right into Crosby Row. St Hugh's Church is on your right. It was established near the end of the nineteenth century as part of the Charterhouse School Settlement, which aimed to serve the deeply impoverished communities here. This and another site nearby were sold by the Settlement Charity in





2009 and demolished 2011. The charity still operates as a local trust and St Hugh's serves the still very mixed community here.

The church is on the corner with Porlock Street where you turn right. At the end of Porlock Street you turn left into Kipling Street then right into Guy Street with Guy Street Park to your left. At the end turn right into Weston Street and cross the road to enter Leathermarket

Gardens. Apart from some areas such as the grand square we passed earlier, most of Southwark was seen as "undesirable" and so was left to house the worst forms of foul smelling and noisy manufacturing processes in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This area of Bermondsey was given over to leather tanning and

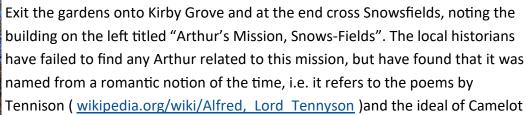
working, hence it was also where the leather market resided.

Use the path that forks to your left past the "Village Hall" and to your left you will see a fine set of Guinness Trust homes, still mainly social housing. Note the truncated look of these buildings. A series of bombs destroyed the top half of these buildings in WW2 and, as homes



were

desperately short in supply, the Trust trimmed off the top, ruined floors and put on a new roof. Despite never being returned to their former size, they are still a fine set of homes.



and the Arthurian legends which were used as a metaphor for the longed for Kingdom of God on earth. There is also a plaque on the wall there commemorating the Metropolitan Tabernacle Sunday School on this site, and refers to the



Ragged School (wikipedia.org/wiki/Ragged_school) work, also carried out in this area.

Enter Melior Place which becomes Melior Street when you go round to your left at the Horseshoe Inn. Pass the Manna Day Centre (www.mannasociety.org.uk/) on your left and





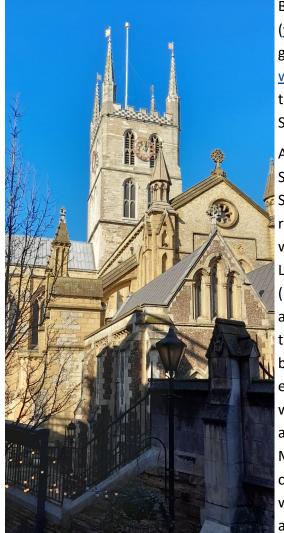
the "little garden near London Bridge" on your right. The high walled building on the other side of the garden is the Immigration Enforcement Centre. The staff and a number of guests of the Manna Centre know this building well. On the left is the Our Lady of Salette RC Church and the Slovak Catholic Mission in London. Continue then right into Weston Street then right into St Thomas Street where

you have the newly refurbished London Bridge station on your right and Guy's hospital on your left.

Continue and you will have the Shard towering over you on your right but there are still a

number of fine Georgian buildings remaining on this street including one where John Keats (wikipedia.org/wiki/John Keats) lived for a while and, on your right is a church that houses a famous 18th century operating theatre (now a museum) which is the only remaining building from the original St Thomas' Hospital. St Thomas' Hospital is the second oldest continuously operating hospital in London and began in the priory associated with St Saviour's Church (now Southwark Cathedral). After the great fire of Southwark in 1212 (www.historynaked.com/





great-fire-southwark-1212/), the hospital was relocated to this side of Borough High Street and was renamed after St Thomas Becket (wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas Becket) shortly after he became a Saint. It grew into a massive hospital and Guy's was established (by Thomas Guy wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas Guy) next door in the 18th Century. When the land was needed to build the railway line (and London Bridge Station) in the 19th century St Thomas' was forced to relocate.

At the junction with Borough High Street, cross over and enter Bedale Street which takes you through Borough Market and eventually to Southwark Cathedral on your right. As you pass through the market remember the eight people who were killed and many more injured when, in 2017, three attackers ploughed a van into pedestrians on London Bridge before launching a knife attack in this market (wikipedia.org/wiki/2017 London Bridge attack). The Cathedral was a key player in the work to both remember all who suffered then and those attacked in 2019 in Fishmongers Hall just the other side of the bridge. Members of the Baitul Aziz Islamic Cultural Centre you passed earlier worked closely with the Cathedral in the following months and,

when the Mosque in Finsbury Park was attacked a few weeks after the Borough Market attack, members of the clergy and congregation of the cathedral joined the worshippers and local people at the mosque and stood in solidarity with them, protecting it from other potential threats.



Thinking about Lament

We have walked through a landscape with a turbulent past. Each victim of poverty, greed and violence can be a cause for us to lament. It would seem that people now, as in the past, are prepared to cause harm and distress to others for financial and political gain. We have even passed places where cruel punishment was treated as entertainment and where, even today, severe overcrowding in housing is seen as a legitimate financial model to pursue. Much cause for lament. But lament is not a negative action. We can celebrate the value lives bring in every type of circumstance and lamenting becomes a way of honouring and remembering, of examining and reflecting on events and the people who go through them. It is also a chance to reflect on what has been lost and so, what needs to be replaced or renewed.

The thoughtful work done by the people at Southwark Cathedral, for example, has helped the community and the people involved in the terrorist attacks to find solace and begin healing. The need to restore balance and trust is part of that process and Southwark Cathedral continues to provide spiritual and emotional support while building stronger links across the community that will help make the area more resilient and ready to work with all the faith groups, here.

As we explore the topic further, please look at our journey today and make a note of any causes for hope that you have found on the way.

On the following pages you will find a factsheet for Holy Trinity St Matthew's, a reflection, Bible Texts, an Unlock story, a prayer and a selection of activities.



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 quoting house number and postcode if eligible for Gift Aid
- By cheque to 'Unlock', mailed to: Unlock, 15 Station Road, Rotherham, S60 1HN

Due to COVID 19 the Unlock Office will be running on fairly minimal staffing over the summer of 2021.

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

For this year only, we may 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.

SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2021 UNLOCK LONDON WALK 38





stmatt.co.uk



Saint Matthew's is a healthy and growing bilingual faith community that brings people to Jesus, forms disciples, and sends them out to transform the world. We believe that all are called to be on a spiritual journey and what matters is not where a person is on that journey, but actually being on the journey itself. Therefore, we seek to welcome all people regardless of the stage of their spiritual life, their struggles and failures.

St Matthew's Church is the first truly bilingual Anglican church community in England with both English and Spanish as official languages. We have different groups in English and Spanish, and just like Jesus called God his Father Abba in his own mother tongue (Aramaic), we too worship God and pray in our own language. Our model is taken from the letters of St Paul, when he reflected on the nature of the Church. We are one body, one parish, one community, one family. Just as a human body, we breathe through our two lungs. Each of the lungs has its own characteristics and needs, its richness and challenges, its uniqueness, but having both is what makes us what we are; a very open, inclusive, friendly and welcoming family. As a reflection of this, our parish meetings and other official gatherings of the whole parish are all spoken and recorded in both languages.

St Matthews has been at the heart of the community in the Elephant and Castle for a very long time, and has been at the centre of community and social activism, supporting local people since it was established. Elephant and Castle has also become, over the last couple of decades and more, a major hub for Latin American people arriving for the first time in London. The community has become so large and significant that it made great sense that St Matthews should become the church to serve that community, too.

This unique mix makes St Matthews a life filled church with a lively mix of local people, and we are a major hub for many local charities, community groups and faith building activities, from free music lessons and a new youth choir, through to a food and clothes bank, night shelter and many more, serving our large Latino and BAME communities all under one roof.

Our activities also stretch out to support local people through education and training too and we provide advice, offer shelter and support, acting as a strong anchor holding the community steady in an area that is rapidly changing all around us.

St Matthew's Church/Parroquia de San Mateo Rector: Fr Hugo Adan Associate Rector: Fr Antonio Garcia Churchwarden: Mrs Omowale Adebowale Meadow Row, SE1 6RG Tel: 020 7357 8532 admin.eng@stmatt.co.uk



Reflection/Prayer

Someone told me they saw Jesus, today.

They said that he was standing selling fruit from a stall in Borough Market.

"You're mad", I said, "it was just a market trader!"

And she turned to me and asked, "How do you know?

You were not there, you didn't see his face."

She walked away from me and I watched her disappear into the crowds

milling around and through the market. I could hear people hawking their wares telling me to buy their bread and cheese holding up fruit and calling to me saying hello and welcoming me to their stalls.

At first, I just walked and looked I listened for a special voice then I began to look closer studying every face I found wondering, "Is this my Lord? Is this one Christ on earth?"

My head began to spin there were too many people and everyone demanded my attention but my heart was breaking Why could she see his face when all I saw were ordinary people nothing special anywhere.

Eventually I found an old box and sat down in despair "Oh Christ! I long to see you, but you've gone!" Then I heard a voice, a young man touched my shoulder, "Are you alright, mate?" his voice fuzzy, as if even my hearing was now blurred.

I looked up, expecting a market trader hoping to catch an easy sale, and I saw the broken features of a young homeless man and I felt ashamed; there was nothing wrong with me.

"Let me help you up," he said, "Were you just a bit dizzy? Can I get you anything."

"No, thanks." I replied,
"I was just looking for someone.
Sometimes, you can't even see what's in
front of your face,
can you?"

"Right. Well, if you're OK now?" He looked carefully in my eyes checking for stability there, and I nodded, "Thanks again."

He nodded, smiled, and turned away.

That longing inside me for that feeling of Christ's presence had slipped away from me.



It had been answered not through my powers of observation but through my weakness and failure to see.

Ian Smith—Unlock London Walk Team

Unlock Stories:

God's love turns our shame to honour

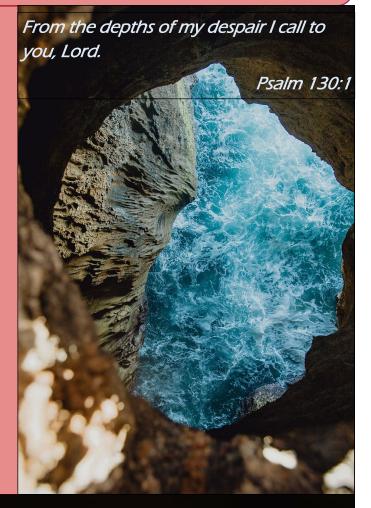
At the Unlock session on celebration we looked at Zephaniah 3:14-20. It was great to hear celebratory stories of how long people had been drug and alcohol free, some for days, others months, and one for over 21 years. One lady who is coming through the Narcotics Anonymous programme said how it is God enabling her. She also said that in the end it all comes down to people needing to know that God loves them. Another who is just starting the road to recovery picked out the verse about God turning our shame to honour. One man couldn't read yet he still engaged with the session. Another lady who recently spent time in a women's refuge was in



tears afterwards as she told us how much people in the women's refuge need to hear this message.

Bible texts on Lament







ACTIVITIES - introduction -- Thoughts along the River

Choose whichever focus appeals to you and start there.

You can visit the others later if you would like to.

Together they provide a helpful way to process
the last twelve months and help us look forward.

Welcome!

Take a moment to fetch yourself a cuppa, then come and sit on a virtual bench. This is an opportunity to take a breather.

The River Thames is never far away on this year's Virtual Unlock Walk. It has played a part in the development of many of the



areas of London you have and will explore as you follow the route of the Walk. You crossed the Thames on London Bridge, walked along the Northbank and under Southwark Bridge. On the way back to



Lambeth you crossed the Thames again on Blackfriars Bridge.

As you enjoy your drink, take your time, breathe in and out slowly. Close your eyes and imagine your bench is on the edge of the river.

What do you notice as you tune into the sounds, smells and sights of the

flowing river? How do you feel?

Think about the water flowing past your feet. This river has been flowing since the last Ice Age, over 10 000 years ago.

Turn your head to look down the river to the east. Think about where that fresh water is going – out into the salty North Sea.

Turn your head to look up the river to the west. Think about where that water is coming from – all the way from the Cotswold Hills, through farmland and towns like Reading and Windsor.

Looking back in Lament

Imagine you are on your bench. Shift your position so that you are facing down the river.

Sit quietly, thinking about the water that has flowed past. This water represents the tide of events that flooded our lives and the lives of

millions across the globe over the last twelve months. What a year it has been!

Covid-19 has had a devastating impact. This impact has not been distributed evenly across the world or even across the UK.

The pictures at the end of this section (Page 16/17) may remind us of some of the events that unfolded during 2020.

The worst of the pandemic's impact has been felt by individuals and families who have lost loved ones or been left with life-altering complications by the virus.

The poem on page 12, My Sister is not a Statistic by Dorothy Duffy expresses some of the anguish that many have experienced.

She penned the poem shortly after her sister's death, telling *Liveline* (wikipedia.org/wiki/Liveline) that it came from,

"Grief and loss and frustration and not being able to be with her children and her grandchildren. I was doing it for all the other families up and down the country," Ms Duffy explained, "because their family's loved ones, they're not statistics either. There's a story behind every one of those losses."

Read or listen to the poem, 'My Sister is not a Statistic':

As you sit quietly imagining the sound of the river.

Let the words of this poem speak into your heart.

Feel the raw emotion.

If you want to - identify with the pain.





MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Tomorrow, when the latest Deathomoter of Covid is announced in sonorous tones,

While all the bodies still mount and curl towards the middle of the curve

Heaped one atop and alongside the other

My sister will be among those numbers, among the throwaway lines

Among the platitudes and lowered eyes,

an older person with underlying health conditions,

A pitiful way to lay rest the bare bones of a life.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

Her underlying conditions were

Love

Kindness

Belief in the essential goodness of mankind

Uproarious laughter

Forgiveness

Compassion

A storyteller

A survivor

A comforter

A force of nature

And so much more

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

She died without the soft touch of a loved one's hand

Without the feathered kiss upon her forehead

Without the muted murmur of familiar family voices gathered around her bed,

Without the gentle roar of laughter that comes with memories recalled

Evoked from a time that already seems distant, when we were

connected by the simplicity of touch, of voice, of presence.

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

She was a woman who spanned the seven ages.

A mother

A grandmother

A great grandmother

A sister

A friend

An aunt

A carer

A giver

MY SISTER IS NOT A STATISTIC

And so, she joins the mounting thousands

THEY ARE NOT STATISTICS ON THE DEATHOMETER OF COVID

They are the wives, mothers, children, fathers, sisters, brothers

The layers of all our loved ones

If she could, believe me when I say, she would hold every last one of your loved ones, croon to and comfort them and say - you were loved.

Whilst we who have been left behind mourn deep, keening the loss, the injustice, the rage.

One day we will smile and laugh again, we will remember with joy that, once, we shared a life, we knew joy and survived sadness.

You are my sister and I love you.

Dorothy Duffy 4th April 2020



For the source of this poem, information and image see www.irishpost.com/news/sister-not-statistic-mayo-coronavirus
-victim-remembered-heart-wrenching-poem-183605

You can hear this poem read aloud at either of these links: youtube.com/watch?

v=kOJHEgfg2M4
youtube.com/watch?

v=KotYlc5C4Ec



On this year's virtual Unlock Walk:

- You have visited areas of stark inequality; places where many people have nowhere to sleep at night and where teenagers grapple with drug gangs such as 'County Lines'.
- You have passed through residential areas stripped of affordable homes where communities are in crisis through no fault of their own.
- You have visited the streets where recent terrorist incidents took place and where historical executions were common.



Thinking now about both the pandemic and the streets you have walked:

- How does God feel?
- What emotions are stirred in you by these things?

As your emotions surface, you can take this opportunity to express them in a physical action.

Take a chalk or stone and go outside.

With your chalk or stone score the emotions that surface onto a concrete path (if you prefer, use a stick and score your emotions into a patch of earth).

When you go back inside, listen to this song by Rend Collective, 'Weep with Me' Rend Collective - Weep With Me (Audio) - YouTube

Pause as you think about the words of the song.

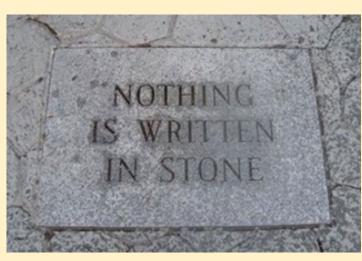
Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light." Matthew 11:28-30



- With this in mind, revisit the emotions you wrote on the path or in the soil.
- Fill a container with water and carry it outside. Imagine Jesus carrying it with you.
- Together, you and Jesus, pour the water over the words and watch them fade...

This is a picture of Jesus giving you rest, lifting each burden, each worry, every fear, the raw grief and sadness, the resentment and anger – all these heavy loads and any others you carry.

Lifting them off you and putting them on his own shoulders.



As you carry your empty container back into the house, welcome Jesus' arm resting around your shoulders,

drawing you Close.

Feel his rest.



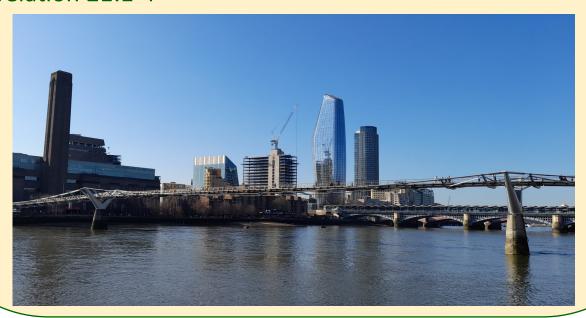
Towards the end of her poem Dorothy writes,

'Whilst we who have been left behind mourn deep, keening the loss, the injustice, the rage.

One day we will smile and laugh again, we will remember with joy that, once, we shared a life, we knew joy and survived sadness.'

The Apostle John describes this day in his vision:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea vanished. And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: "Now God's home is with people! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared." Revelation 21:1-4



COVID Lockdown picture collection

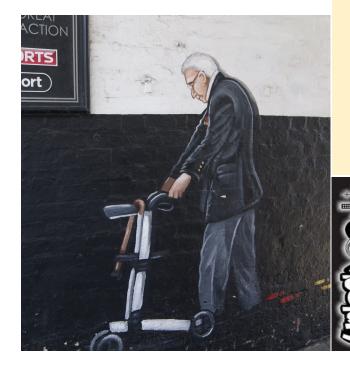










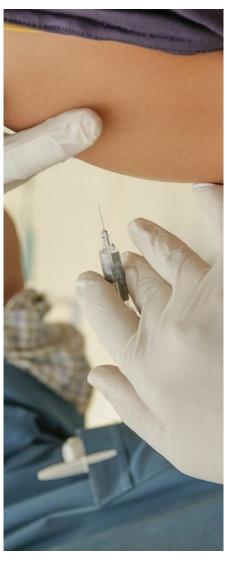


-Resources

Lament—Resources













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