

UNLOCK

Virtual LONDON WALK 2021

Stage 4 - Discernment

St Bartholomew the Great to City Temple

Unlocking Real life stories of urban people

Revealing Good News of the down to earth Christ

Releasing life changing skills and confidence



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



On leaving through the gateway turn left to pass the front of St Bart's Hospital ([wikipedia.org/wiki/St Bartholomew%27s Hospital](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Bartholomew%27s_Hospital)) and there is a gateway that will take you into St Bartholomew the Less Church ([wikipedia.org/wiki/St Bartholomew-the-Less](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Bartholomew-the-Less)) where you can spend a few minutes of reflection and pray for those who are patients here, their families and the staff who work tirelessly for all who enter these gates.



Continue further around the circle until you reach the Smithfield Market buildings ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Smithfield, London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smithfield,_London)) . Ahead across the road is a grand arched entrance to the aptly named Grand Avenue where there are ample noticeboards providing details of the history of the Market and the area (smithfieldmarket.com/the-market/history-of-the-area/). This was the area just outside the City Walls where livestock grazed after their long journey to the market here and it is where St



Bartholomew's Fair ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartholomew Fair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartholomew_Fair)) was held. Being a large open public space, it was the ideal place where other





gatherings, for sport and entertainment took place and was one of the major sites for public executions, perhaps even back to the days of the Romans. Plaques and information boards tell us that the area saw the killing of political figures such as William Wallace ([wikipedia.org/wiki/William Wallace](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Wallace)) and Wat Tyler ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Wat Tyler](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Wat_Tyler)), and many killings of people of faith from many different denominations and Christian groups; a place of martyrdom for all, which underlines the senselessness of such acts.

One surprising fact revealed by the information boards on the Grand Avenue is that the 19th century saw a series of notorious auctions here, where men sold their wives for money. This practice was believed to be a source of inspiration for Thomas Hardy's novel – the Mayor of Casterbridge ([wikipedia.org/wiki/The Mayor of Casterbridge](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mayor_of_Casterbridge)).

But the most prominent use of the land here has been as a livestock and meat market which expanded on an industrial scale through the 19th and much of the 20th century. Below your feet is a huge railway terminal designed to serve this market and, now that much of the market's activities have moved elsewhere, the Museum of London ([museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-](https://museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london)



[london](https://museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london)) plans to take over much of the site and expand its displays, activities, teaching and archiving work here.

Continue through the building and emerge onto Charterhouse Street where you turn right and then you soon take the left fork in the road, which is still Charterhouse Street. Eventually you will enter Charterhouse Square with the original Charterhouse to your left.

The Charterhouse ([wikipedia.org/wiki/London Charterhouse](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Charterhouse)) was built in 1371 as a Carthusian monastery, and played a significant role right through to the later medieval and early Tudor period. The dissolution of the





Monasteries saw it becoming a grand house and then, in 1611 Thomas Sutton ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas Sutton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Sutton)) bought it and made it a combination of alms houses and a school. The School (which established the Settlement in Bermondsey along with St Hugh's Church) moved to larger premises in Godalming in 1872, but the Alms Houses remain and can house just over 40 "brothers" who live independently here, but also act as a community, too. (thecharterhouse.org/)

On the Square, to the right of the Charterhouse, you will see a very fine Art Deco block of flats. As well as being pleasant to look at, this building was used as the residence of Hercule Poirot ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Hercule Poirot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hercule_Poirot)) in the long running TV series of that name.

Continue around the square and then, at the bottom, turn right to eventually re-join Charterhouse Street. Walk on with the main market buildings on your left and a row of buildings to your right that were once all part of the market, too, but are gradually turning into cafes and restaurants to serve the tourists and office workers rather than the needs of the market

traders who once filled these streets.

Eventually, you will cross the junction with Farringdon Street and continue on up Charterhouse Street to turn into a grand cul-de-sac called Ely Place ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Ely Place](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ely_Place)). Walk down this fine street of Georgian houses and, on your left, you will find tucked between Georgian and Victorian buildings, St Etheldreda's RC Church, a truly ancient Catholic Church in London. It was the town chapel of the Bishops of Ely (who owned the land around here and had a large palace next door) from about 1250 to 1570 and is the oldest Catholic church in England - one of only two remaining buildings in London from





the reign of Edward I ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_I_of_England](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_I_of_England)) (we've just walked from the other one!). The church has a long and fascinating history and the cul de sac has featured in a number of stories by Dickens (including David Copperfield [wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Copperfield](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Copperfield)) and has continued to play an important role in the Catholic Community to this present day.

Returning to Charterhouse Street, turn right and at the major junction cross over from Hatton Garden to New Fetter Lane where you will see,

on your left, the grand building of St Andrew's Church, which is the church of the Bishop of Fulham and a centre for Anglo-Catholicism in England. St Andrew's Holborn also has ancient origins, but the present building was completely rebuilt by Wren (his largest church – excluding St Paul's, of course).

However, he kept the medieval tower and clad in marble, giving it a very grand appearance. It also has a long history of being a high Anglican church and had, as its rector in the early 18th Century, Henry Sacheverell ([wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Sacheverell](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Sacheverell)), who had also been Chaplain at St Saviour's (now Southwark Cathedral). He helped the Tories win a landslide victory in 1714 which led to the government sponsored building of a number of major churches

around London, including Christ Church Spitalfields

([wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_Church,_Spitalfields](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_Church,_Spitalfields)) which the Unlock walk visited recently.

Turning left across New Fetter Lane you have the church on your right and Holborn Viaduct ahead of you. Continue and the City Temple is on your right ([wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Temple,_London](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/City_Temple,_London)).

City Temple's heritage is nonconformist, which contrasts greatly with St Andrews. It also aims to be a poly-cultural Church which welcomes everyone and seeks to bring everyone together to cause a transformation that forms a greater sense of unity, respect and love among people. It is a Bible-centred church famous for its preaching and the only historic English Free Church in the City of London worshipping in its own building every Sunday (city-temple.com/).



Thinking about Discernment

On our journey today we have stood in places that have seen great changes. The history of the country has been played out here and decisions made hundreds of years ago are still having an effect today.

It could be quite easy to dismiss some of the behaviours of the past as being irrelevant to today's world, but we have the opportunity to reflect on them today and try to learn from them. St Bartholomew's Hospital was the result of a dream or vision. The story may appear quaint, but we know that inspiration from God still touches us today and often results in great works and acts. But even when you are completely convinced that the course of action you are about to undertake was a direct result of God's hand on your shoulder, you still have to step back and examine your plans carefully. You need to pray for discernment before you act.

And, of course, when we discover what has been done in the past, we can still find ways to learn and grow through careful examination and reflection. Each of the churches and other places we have walked past have undergone several stages of transformation. Their stories reflect the dominant ideas of the time and, in a time when we have been facing huge changes and disruption, it is always worth our while to view the troubles we are currently facing through the lens of other times.

As we explore this further, let's also make a note of the signs of hope we have seen during today's walk.

On the following pages you will find , 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.**

Discernment Reflection/Prayer

Jesus, I know that you are here, with me
listening to my thoughts.
You are not surprised at the shock I feel
reading about how cruel humans can be to each other
knowing the sadness it brings
and the fear that our cruelty just lies there
not very deep under our skin.

But I know that this is simply me
needing your help
to find a better view of myself and all around me.

And, as I stand in front of a block of flats
used in a stylish TV detective series
I pray for some of that cleverness
to see between the lines
to analyse the patterns of my life
and see the truth that lies within.
Then, as I wait for your answer
I begin to see that being clever like a detective
is not enough.

Please stay with me Jesus
and give me the confidence
to learn and make sense of this world
and my small part in it

through the lens of love
that only you can give me
so I can chart my way
making the best decisions
acting with the clearest conscience
and the deepest love I possibly can
so that I can play my small part
in preparing for the Kingdom of God
here on earth.

Ian Smith—Unlock London Walk Team



Unlock Stories:

It's Not My Fault (Liverpool):-

The group told stories about situations when they had been blamed for something someone else did, we then watched a video of the crucifixion

As it finished two group members were sat teary eyed and deeply moved. At which point someone else said, 'The bread smells ***** great, I'm gettin it out!' Despite this seemingly divided reaction, the time eating what we have cooked actually provides a space for Reflective discussion and eating the food means that more dominant chatty participants make room for others to talk! So as we chewed it over (sorry!) it became clear it was the first time that any of the group had made the connection that Jesus was taking the blame for them.



Square Peg in a Round Hole (Hull):-

It was during one of the early EUTP Festivals (Unlock used to be known as EUTP) when Stuart Robinson (then curate of St Martin's) led a Bible Study as part of his post-ordination training that I had a kind of **Damascus experience**.

He gave us a passage and asked us "What do you feel?" It was the first time someone had related a Bible passage to our lives and it had a huge impact on me.

Some time later Andy Dorton had a meeting at his house where Bill Bullin came to speak with Jim Hart. As Bill spoke everything he said made complete sense. All the things I've felt instinctively had a grounding.


I'd struggled at theological college and often twagged off. I felt a square peg in a round hole. When Jenny Richardson came to do some training with us much later on, she made me feel much better about myself. All the things I did instinctively Jenny explained. She put the meat on the bones if you like.



Unlock did for me what, the theory is, we do for others. It helped my theological development. And what was the most exciting thing, above all, was watching people blossom and seeing them express themselves. It's a levelling thing. It's not the one with the degree who leads but the one with the story.



Bible texts on Discernment



**The Fear of the Lord is the
beginning of Wisdom
Proverbs 1:7**

FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT
YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER
ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS,
SAITH THE **LORD**. FOR AS
THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER
THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY
WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR
WAYS, AND MY THOUGHTS
THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.
ISAIAH 55:8,9

James 1:5

*If any of you lacks
wisdom, let him ask
God, who gives gen-
erously to all without
reproach, and it will
be given him.*



<https://beingwoven.org/2017/04/23/this-is-the-way/>
Whether you turn to the
right or to the left,
your ears will hear
a voice behind you,
saying,

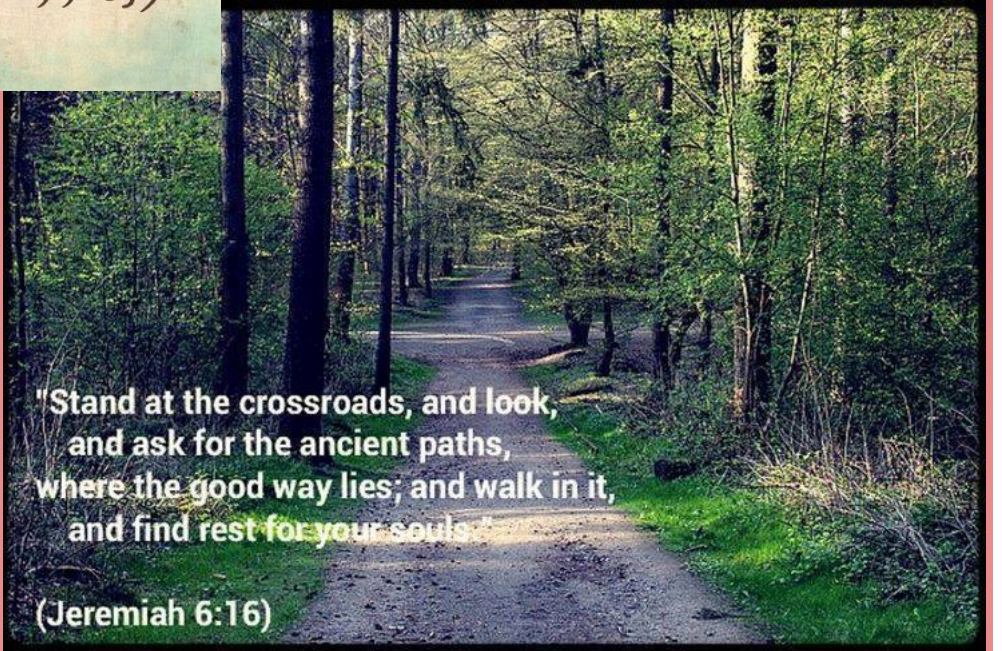
**This is the way;
walk in it.**

isaiah 30:21

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own under-
standing.*

*In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.*




"Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls."

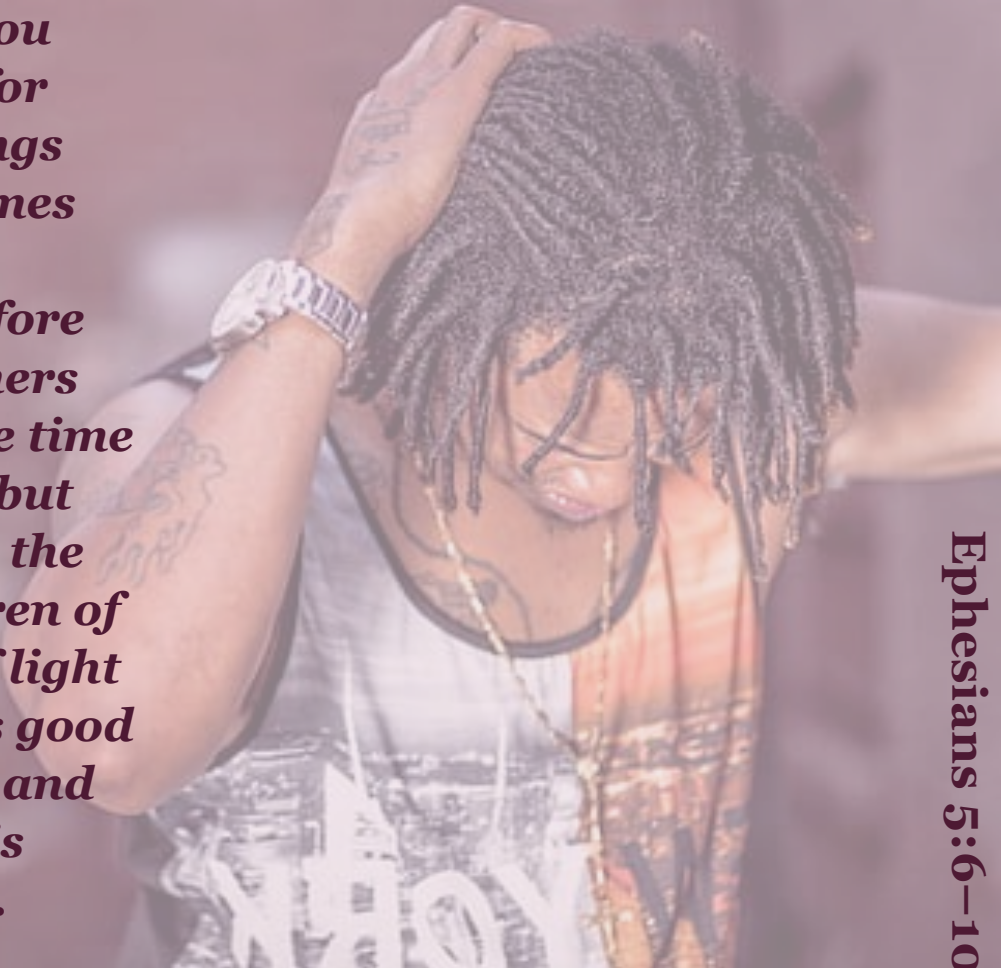
(Jeremiah 6:16)

Bible texts on Discernment

Philippians 1:9–10



And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.



Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:6–10

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.

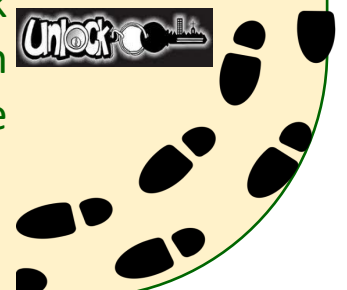
What do you notice as you tune into the sounds, smells and sights of the

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.



ACTIVITY

As you sit on your virtual bench beside the River Thames, shift your position slightly so that you are facing up the river, towards the source

- Watch the water flowing towards you.
- Quieten yourself as you watch the ripples.



This river, ancient as it is, has not always been healthy.

In 1957, the Natural History Museum declared the Thames biologically dead. News reports from that era describe it as a vast, foul-smelling drain. "The tidal reaches of the Thames constitute a badly managed open sewer," the *Guardian*, then called the *Manchester Guardian*, reported in 1959. "No oxygen is to be found in it for several miles above and below London Bridge."

From the late 1960s onwards, the pollution began to reduce through tighter regulations, better water treatment plants and careful monitoring.

Chris Coode, the deputy chief executive of Thames21, a charity dedicated to improving London's waterways explains the process, "You make the river as natural as possible, with clean water and proper flows, and then you'll see the community return. This wasn't about people breeding species in captivity and releasing them. The fish returned naturally."

Now more than 125 species of fish and aquatic animals can be found in the Thames, according to a survey by the Zoological Society of London that ran from 2004 to 2014.

bbc.com/earth/story/20151111-how-the-river-thames-was-brought-back-from-the-dead



In 2015 this was a Good News story.



ACTIVITY

During the nineteenth and early twentieth century the River Thames was a victim of the rapid growth of population, industry and intensive farming practices.

It suffered from people's complacency, carelessness and cavalier attitude.

For life to return to the River someone needed to care; someone needed to establish behavioural boundaries; someone needed to watch and be attentive.

As we begin to emerge from a year of Covid-19 restrictions – globally and locally – what can we learn from this story of how the River Thames was brought back to life?

- What should we care about?
- What is the right way to behave?
- Who is going to watch and be attentive?

The Prophet Micah says this:

No, the LORD has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God.

Micah 6:8

To discern the right way forward following Micah's instructions is a good place to start:



- To care about injustice and to act justly!
- To behave with love, kindness and compassion!
- To keep our eyes fixed on Jesus – watchful and attentive to recognise where he is at work.

Pause to reflect on your own walk with Jesus in the light of Micah's words.

Then listen to:



youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bD5OY-g0iu0



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