

#### Welcome to the 26th Annual Unlock Walk

#### Stumbling across Generosity

The 26th Annual Unlock Walk now feels like an uncovering of that fruit of the Holy Spirit which is generosity. The churches on the route are a mixture of the big, (some very big!) and the small, with remarkable faithfulness to Christ in serving the world around them.

Over the many years of our walks, I have from time to time heard this comment from walkers: "the churches we visit here are doing far more with the scarce resources they have than we are doing with ours back home." Today's walk reveals that yet again. The way a small Methodist community has used its modest but practical building to become the base of a group of charities dealing with people over 50. This is a much needed provision far beyond the capacities of the congregation itself, but can happen by generously sharing their building with others.

One wonders why the gigantic Anglican buildings were ever built amidst terrible 19th century poverty. They became centres of great Anglo-Catholic ministries, amongst the urban poor of the East End as they spread north into Hackney, flowing from a deep Christ-inspired social conscience. It was as if they said "let's sprinkle cathedrals around these desperate districts, to the glory of God and to give some joy to his poorest people". They must have cost a lot then, and they must be big problems now, but they expressed a reckless generosity of spirit.

Generosity is the sixth fruit of the Spirit in St. Paul's list, often translated as "goodness", but meaning pro-active goodness. Imaginative generosity can be the magic that brings great things from small resources. May we return to our homes and churches after today fired by such examples, to use our resources with the same generosity in the service of God's kingdom, maybe not sprinkling cathedrals around again, but in generous open-ness, offering our resources to all who work in compassionate service amongst their neighbours.

# Towpath Code of Conduct Pedestrians have priority Considerate cycling permitted





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#### HOW TO GET THERE BY RAIL

Most stations are National Rail, overground, and unsuitable for wheel-chair users. The area is badly served by tube, only the Victoria line (via Euston and Kings Cross) to Highbury and Islington, which is just west of the walk route.

## BY BUS

(recommended for all wheel-chair users, as all London buses make that provision)

- 48, from London Bridge Station (via Liverpool Street) to City Farm, Hackney Road.
- 21, from London Bridge to Newington Green.
- 26, from Waterloo East, also to City Farm, Hackney Ed.
- 149, (also via Liverpool Street) to Dalston, Kingsland High Street.
- **476**, from Euston, via Kings Cross, to Essex Road.
- 73, from Victoria, via Euston Road, and Kings Cross, to Essex Road.

## **UNLOCK STOP**

St. Matthias Anglican Church, east of Newington Green.

# LENGTH OF ROUTE

Approx 7.5 miles.

## **DON'T FORGET**

The route can be walked in either direction You can begin anywhere on the route

Start at any time after 9am at any church checkpoint, but with time to get back again by 5pm.

Get your map stamped at each checkpoint Do the quiz

Take time to learn about the churches you visit and about Unlock

## For wheelchair users How to get there:

Where possible use buses from main-line stations.

The **orange** line on the map is an alternative route. We recommend all wheel-chair users should take the orange alternative, unless you can already see that a slope is manageable.



**Unlock Glasgow** also run an annual walk, usually in the summer. Contact the Unlock Office, if you'd like to try an Unlock walk in completely different location.

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.

#### Acknowledgements:

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