

# ESTATES POOR AND POSH IN ELTHAM

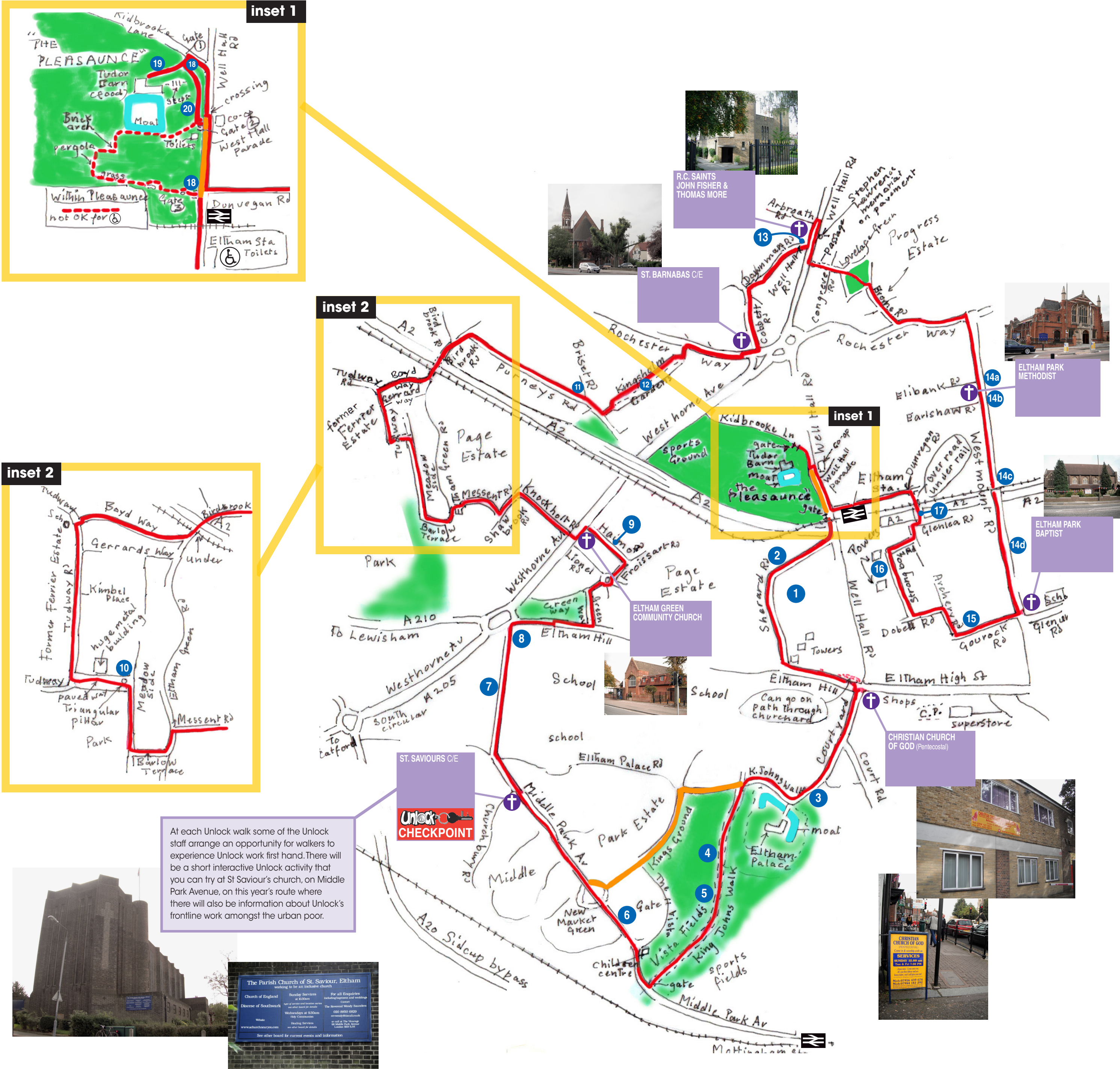
The 30th. Unlock Walk is geographically in the opposite side of London from our last walk in Willesden, south east instead of north west. It is opposite in other ways as well. A lot of it is discreetly suburban, not our usual walk territory. The churches are well spaced out, not like Willesden High St.- the most church – crowded street we had ever seen. The estates are early examples of what we now call “outer estates”, as against “inner city” where we more often have walked. And Eltham has a royal palace, with its elite history totally lacking anywhere in Willesden.

The posh estate is, of course, round Eltham Palace. Over centuries it served the Royals and their rich hangers-on who could walk or ride down King John’s Walk. It still serves the well off, as it is reserved for those who can afford to book a wedding in it on Saturdays. Horses graze in its fields on many days, and won’t be available for those who can only afford the bus. King John’s Walk is a very pleasant bit of our route, but symptomatically only part of it is open to our wheelchair users, who have to divert to avoid barriers.

The poor estates were created as an attempt in the 1920s to provide housing for those working in the Woolwich Arsenal and dockyards. Like many of the modern outer estates round our cities, they were built on green fields. But unlike the concrete giants that plagued more recent council building schemes (such as the recently demolished Ferrier which our route passes) they were cottage sized and on a human scale. For anyone walking through on a sunny day, they can look deceptively quiet and pleasant, with rural names like Middle Park and Newmarket Green shops. But social conditions are less visible. Walkers will certainly experience how far you have to walk if you live in such places without a car. But in other less obvious ways, things are not much different from living in the modern tower block estates. A Church Army worker, who has a brief for working in three of the estates we are going through, has written a short account of the human problems facing people in his district. His article will be given out at the three churches which relate to the estates he describes. It resonates with similar conditions in outer estates throughout our country. Unlock exists to try to come alongside Christian groups, invariably small, who bear witness to Christ in such places and in whose witness we believe we are called to share.

Peter Hall

Date of next year’s walk is  
**May 3rd 2014**



## HOW TO GET THERE

### BY RAIL

From Charing Cross, Waterloo East, and London Bridge to Eltham or Mottingham (Dartford lines). Alternatively by Docklands Light Railway to Lewisham, changing to the Dartford lines as above.

### BY BUS

From Greenwich North (Jubilee Line) via bus **132** or **161** to Eltham Station.

From Greenwich Cutty Sark (Docklands Light Railway) via bus **286** to Eltham Station.

## WHEELCHAIR USERS

We advise going in a clockwise direction round the route.

The only big diversion is near Eltham Palace, (where the main route down King John’s Walk is blocked by gates), going via Kings Ground. Other small variations are in and around the Pleasaunce.

## LENGTH OF ROUTE

Approx 7 1/2 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.

- CHURCH CHECKPOINT**
- WALK ROUTE**
- ROUTE FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS**
- DISABLED ACCESS / TOILET**
- RAILWAY / STATION**
- QUESTION**

**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:

Peter & Jill Hall - route & map  
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