



South Croydon Churches Christian Aid Walk

21st June
10:00 – 16:00



St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

See
website
for more
details

- A** East Croydon URC, 86 Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP
- B** St Matthew's C of E, Chichester Road, Croydon, CR0 5NQ
- C** St Paul's URC, Croham Park Avenue, CR2 7HF there will be a speaker/display about Christian Aid
- D** St Peter's C of E, St Peter's Road, Croydon, CR0 1EZ
- E** St George's Centre C of E, Barrow Road, Waddon CR0 4EZ
- F** St Andrew's Church C of E, Lower Coombe Street, Croydon CR0 1AG
- G** South Croydon United Church. (Methodist/URC), 7 Aberdeen Road, Croydon, CR0 1EQ

Please see accompanying photo and information Sheets 2 and 3 and Map Sheet 4

If coming from East Croydon Station, exit via the ramps rather than the bridge. Cross George Street at a crossing by Café Nero and turn left. Head towards the No 1 Croydon building (known as the Threepenny Bit) cross Altyre Road and turn right into Addiscombe Grove. On the opposite side of the road, you will see East Croydon URC (**Church A**) Turn left out of East Croydon URC and walk to the T junction. Cross Barclay Road at the traffic lights and turn right. After approx. 200 yards turn left into Fairfield Path (with Vanguard Way finger sign), and walk to the end of the alleyway, cross Stanhope Road/ The Avenue. Continue at 11 o'clock into Cotelands. You will be following the perimeter of Park Hill Junior School. At the end of Cotelands turn left on to Chichester Road. At the first junction, you will see St Matthew's Church (**Church B**) diagonally across the main road. Please cross at the zebra crossing.



Figure 1

On leaving St Matthew's, retrace your steps, crossing the road at the zebra crossing and walk to the far end of Chichester Road. Immediately opposite is an alleyway leading past the Water Tower, sadly fenced off. Enter the park and you will see a walled garden opposite you. Cross the grass or follow the paths to this, noting the old stone milepost and Croydon Parish boundary marker, near the gate (approx. 100 yards). In the centre of this sensory garden, which is maintained by volunteers you will see information about the artist Cicely Mary Barker. Exit the walled garden from the same entrance and turn right, past the lavatories (now closed) at the top of the park. Soon you will see Combe Cliff House, now the Aspire Learning centre (note the blue plaque to John & Frederick Horniman on the building). Go down the driveway and turn left on to Coombe Road, and cross at the zebra crossing. Continue along this route and follow instructions in black unless you take the alternative route in green. *Here you can take a short diversion if you wish. It is worth it! But you can do this later, to walk along rail passages from Church C to Church D. Turn right into Birdhurst Avenue past Birdwell Court and head up hill past the GP on your left. Almost at the top of the hill on your right is a sign to Birdhurst Community Garden (see sign on info page) Have a look and admire this community project and get some ideas! Retrace your steps into Birdhurst Avenue, go down the hill and first right along Birdhurst Gardens. No. 17 used to be the home of Malcolm Muggeridge and blue plaque is pending* *Getting tired? Then cross South Park Hill Road at the end of Birdhurst Gdns and take Bus 64 or 433 at Bus Stop G to St Paul's URC bus stop.* Turn left at the end of Birdhurst Gdns and right into Coombe Road where you will get to the edge of Lloyd Park and see the tramline. Opposite the park turn right down Croham Park Avenue. Follow this road to the far end and St Paul's United Reformed Church is on the left. (**Church C**)



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Leaving St. Paul's, by the South door, through the Community Garden, turn right onto Croham Road. (See **alternative route in green below**) Continue down this road and under the 2 railway bridges. Go past a few shops and turn first right at the roundabout. Cross over the road at the zebra crossing and continue up. St. Peter's Church is on the left. Sometimes there is a gate open around 100 yards from the roundabout on your left or you may have to walk to the top of the hill and find the opening further up St Peter's Road. You are at **Church D** (Or a *pleasanter way would be through the alleys and across two bridges, coming out near South Croydon station. In this case turn up Campden Road first right after leaving St Paul's and find an alley way around 20 yards on your left. This alleyway crosses Spencer Road, Birdhurst Rise, Birdhurst Road and South Park Hill Road. You will be crossing an old disused railway line as you walk from Spencer Road to Birdhurst Rise but will still see the tracks. Before you come to the bridge which crosses the line served by South Croydon Station, take the first foot path to your right – this is Birdhurst Community Garden. Explore*

by walking the rectangle of paths. See info. Then cross the bridge and you will be in Hurst Road. Go down Hurst Road and cross the road by the crossing. Take the left of 2 paths, through the gate, to explore St Peter's church - **Church D**

Leave St Peter's through the bottom entrance, going straight down Heathfield Road to join a one-way road. Turn right (against the traffic) and go on until you meet the main Brighton Road. Cross this at the lights by a Tesco Express, formerly the Swan and Sugar Loaf Pub and go west up Warham Road. *Getting tired? Then take the 119 from the Warham Rd/Brighton Road Bus Stop to Crowley Crescent. You could get the 166 or the 405 but these will only take you to Bramley Hill but it does help with the incline.* Continue up and at the roundabout go straight over.

(Warham Road becomes Denning Avenue) After the roundabout take the second left (at the traffic lights) which is Crowley Crescent, ignore the right-hand branch of this which goes off at 2 o'clock and go straight on when the road becomes Goodwin Road and you pass the large Aerodrome Primary Academy on your left. Turn first right on Thornloe Gardens and second right is Barrow Road where you will find St George's **Church E**

On leaving St George's, turn right, walk round the circle of Crowley Crescent to the junction with Denning Avenue. Cross over Denning Avenue at the lights and go up Hillside Road until you reach Duppas Hill Recreation ground. Just beyond the turn off to Grindall Close, turn right along the footpath leading to Violet Lane. At Violet Lane turn left and walk for about 200 yards. At the block of flats at No 45, turn right and down the driveway and round the right side of the building. At the car park at the bottom, go up the flight of steps and take the right path via Masser Court to join The Waldrons. Opposite, on the right hand semi note the green plaque at No 23 for Cicely Mary Barker, author of the Flower Fairy books. Turn left and note the art deco railings at No.15 These were taken from The Grand Theatre and Opera House in Croydon's High Street on its closure in 1959.

Continue down the Waldrons and take the first right on to Southbridge Place. Go through the gate to exit the Waldrons noting 'the Lodge'. At the bottom, St Andrew's Church is diagonally to your right on the far side of the roundabout. This is **Church F**

On leaving St Andrew's, turn right onto Lower Coombe Street. Ensure that you explore the Church Garden first. At the traffic lights turn right onto South End. South End is part of the main Brighton Road. The London to Brighton Veteran Car Run (Old Crocks Race) passes this way annually on the first Sunday in November. Walk past the 17th Century, grade II listed Boswell House (No. 17) on your left and along the main 'foodie' area of South Croydon, noting the wide variety of gastronomic options available. Note No. 46 South End with its original 16th Century timber framing, owned by Just Flutes since 1985, which is Europe's largest supplier of flutes and flute music. When you reach the traffic lights by the Tree House, cross the main road at the traffic lights and observe The Store opposite (see info) and turn left into Aberdeen Road. South Croydon United Church will be on your left after 150 yards. **Church G**

Leaving South Croydon United Church continue along Aberdeen Road and turn left onto St Peter's Road. *Getting tired, you could retrace steps to Swan and Sugar Loaf Bus Stop M and get a bus to E Croydon station Stop E1.* Cross the traffic lights onto Park Lane. Note Ruskin House on your left, the Friends Meeting House, the old Victorian Town Hall and Queen's Gardens (info). Continue straight at the roundabout passing the recently refurbished Fairfield Halls. When these first opened in 1962, on the site of an 18th Century fair, it was south London's premier concert and theatre venue, hosting many major performers of the time. Continue past Croydon College which started in 1868 as a School of Art. Offering further education courses to thousands of students each year, Croydon College incorporates Croydon University Centre which offers degree courses validated by Roehampton University. Turn right at the next junction, into George Street. East Croydon Station is a few hundred yards up on the left. {alternatively, from SCUC turn right at Coombe Road and then left into the park and directly through the length of the park. Exit on to Barclay Road and cross the road, and go straight on into Altyre Road, finding East Croydon station diagonally left}.

Figure 7

Figure 6

Figure 8

Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11

Figure 12

Information and Photographs for Christian Aid 7 church walk on Saturday June 21st Sheet 2 and 3



Figure 1 The Park Hill Estate has a rich history, evolving from a medieval deer park for the Archbishops of Canterbury, later used for farming and racing, before being developed as a residential area, with large houses for wealthy businessmen. Croydon Corporation purchased part of the site in 1887, establishing the Park Hill Recreation Ground. The area continued to change with many varied houses built by the Wates Company in the 1960s and is now known as Park Hill Village.

Church A E Croydon
United Reformed
Addiscombe Grove
CR0 5LP



Figure 2 The Water Tower is a grade 2 listed building built in 1867 to provide clean water to the expanding population.



Church B St Matthew's Chichester
Road Croydon CR0 5NQ

Coombe Cliff with its mansion (now Aspire) and walled garden for vegetables and fruit was built in 1853 for 'honest John Horniman' who made his money selling Horniman Tea. He instituted pre-weighed packets of pure tea. He was a M.P and knew Joseph Paxton who probably built the magnificent conservatory to the south of the house. His son built the Horniman museum in Forest Hill to house the items

both he and his father collected on their travels.



Figure 3



*Figure 4 Birdhurst Gardens See how the community can come together to use a small space to inspire and bring people together. **Fascinating facts about***



Figure 5 Croydon Tramlink officially opened in May 2000 and is the first tram system in London since 1952. It provides an accessible light rail link connecting Croydon to Wimbledon, Beckenham, Elmers End and New Addington. The 17-mile route has 39 stops and runs alongside roads, parkland, wooded areas and disused railway lines.



**Malcolm Muggeridge
at 17 Birdhurst Gdns
(see sign at front)**

Church C St Paul's
URC Croham Park
Avenue CR2 7HF

Church D St
Peter's St
Peter's Rd, CR0
1EZ



Lloyd Park was gifted to Croydon and named after Frank Lloyd, a newspaper magnate who died in 1927. It formed part of the Coombe Estate, documented as far back as 1221. Today the 114 acres of parkland, woods and mature trees provide a welcome green space for the people of Croydon.

The Swan & Sugar Loaf stood in a late Victorian building for over a century. Built by Overton's Brewery on Surrey Street, it replaced an earlier pub/coaching inn of the same name and was admired for its snug area, featuring a Jacobean-style fireplace and six seats. The stained-glass window, which had two swans and a sugar loaf, was



another feature. *Figure 6 Swan and Sugarloaf.*

Swan & Sugar Loaf now houses Tesco Express. The original pub sign depicted a sugar loaf representing the Archbishop's mitre and the swan's neck represents the crook of the staff.





Figure 7. Waddon is at the western edge of Croydon, and its geographical boundary is larger than the political Waddon ward. Waddon has an older area with 19th-century properties, some even older, close to central Croydon. Further south is a large estate of Council-owned and former Council-owned homes and a small number of tower blocks. In the inter-war years, Waddon had the most Croydon Corporation owned homes in Croydon, with 1,125 council houses and 80 council flats.



Church E St George's
Church Centre Barrow
Road CR0 4EZ

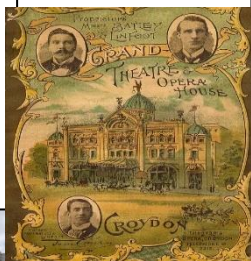


Don't miss this painting!



Figure 8. Cicely Mary Barker was born in Croydon and lived in the Waldrons at no. 17 and then 23 (see green plaque). A sickly child, she later studied at Croydon School of Art and is famous for creating the 8 Flower Fairly books, with delightful illustrations of smiling children with butterfly wings, using local infants as models. You will see her Art Nouveau work in St George's and St Andrew's churches. The Waldrons is a crescent of architect designed, large Victorian villas, with servants' quarters, built in the 1850's. There were 2 lodges with gates which kept out undesirables! This area was designated one of Croydon's first conservation areas in 1973.

Art deco railings from
Grand Theatre at no. 15
The Waldrons.



**More Cicely
Barker here !**

**Church F St
Andrew's**
Southbridge Rd
CR0 1AG



Figure 9

Check out
the tiling of
the walls in
The Store
bar. A very
early
Sainsbury
with counter
service



Church G South Croydon
United Church 7 Aberdeen
Rd. CR0 1EQ



Opposite the Fairfield Halls is the former Nestle building, a site of protest at times against formula milk promotion. The former Greyhound pub at the base of this building hosted some famous artistes before they rose to fame e.g. David Bowie, Supertramp, Elton John, Status Quo and E.L.O



Figures 10,11 and 12. Ruskin House is a Georgian town house and HQ of the Communist Party in UK and Croydon Labour, Trades Union and Cooperative Movement. Fairfield Halls was opened in 1962 as a theatre, concert and arts complex. Concert Hall acoustics are well acclaimed. The refurbishment started in 2016 received a mixed response. What do you think?

Croydon College is a further and higher education college now linked to Roehampton Uni. Its origins go back to 1868 but the present building to 1955 with more recent add-ons

Christian Aid 7 church walk, Saturday 21st June 2025

East Croydon

Sheet 4

A East Croydon URC, B St Matthew's C of E, C St Paul's URC

D St Peter's C of E, E St George's Centre, F St Andrew's C of E

G South Croydon United Church

