

9. Turn right into Thurleigh Road.

St Luke's Church, Grade II* listed, an impressive red brick Lombard Romanesque exterior, 1883-9 by FW Hunt. The NW campanile was added in 1892 and the Baptistery apse in 1899. If it is open the Basilican interior is well worth a visit. There is no chancel arch but the arcades are pointed and rest on Early Gothic capitals. Many interesting fittings include a low marble screen (1894) pulpit & lectern (1901) all by William White. Martin Travers, who also designed the spectacular Font Cover, refitted the Lady Chapel in 1924-7. Reputed to be the first church in London lit by electricity; the light fittings and installation of 1903 are still extant.

Continuing right along Thurleigh Road (odd nos. to your left).

91 Elizabeth Cooper Lodge, a flat roofed brown brick and concrete Care Home by Dawber Fox & Robinson. 1964-5.

95-103 built in 1886-7 by CE Smith, are charming houses with lancet arched hood-moulded porches and some recent additions. Stable building at No. 103.

Next to the Church, Doctors' practice by Stephen Buck, 2003.

105-115 Classic International style semi-detached houses by Bell and Clayton 1934-6, with curved Crittall windows.

117 An excellent detached house c1887 by CE Smith, with good walling, gates and garden.

119 c1890 and later, a single storey backlands house, probably a stable.

Victorian wall letter box adjacent.

123 Similar to No.86, fine arched door with cut glass and date stone (1897) to façade.

125 by D Kettle, daisy keystones and dated 1889 on gable.

10. Here is Thurleigh Avenue (originally part of Thurleigh Road; renamed in 1906 when Thurleigh Road was extended up to the Common).

1 1890 corner house with large, modern glass extension.

3 1870, has Blue Plaque to Gus Elen (1862-1940), music hall comedian and entertainer.

Continue along Thurleigh Road towards the Common.

127-149 & 130-140 built in 1906-7 by John Smith, have terracotta relief panels and porch tiling.

11. Thurleigh Road now meets Clapham Common West Side.

21 West Side (to the left) is one of the grand houses remaining on this side of the Common. Built in 1805 almost certainly by Thomas Poynder in stock brick with stucco cornice and stringcourse. Restored as a single home in the 1990s it was used in 1998 for exterior shots in 'The Winslow Boy'.

Turn right along West Side.

Hightrees House 1937, which was seen earlier from the front.

12. Turn left, cross the road and walk along Nightingale Lane with the Common on your left.

Clapham Mansions 1892-3, large red brick mansion block in four sections. To their right No. 23, 4 storey flats with penthouse by Moxley & Frankl, 1995.

11 Broadoak, a mansion of c1877, built for the widow of Sir Titus Salt, mill owner and builder of Saltaire in Yorkshire. Adjacent and to the right is the Chapel of St Oliver Plunkett, c1885, in Italian Renaissance style, red brick with mosaic memorial over central window, stating that the Archbishop of Armagh was executed at Tyburn on 1 July 1681. To the left a former stable is now Nightingale Nursery with a large stone dog on wall behind. Until 2021 part of Oliver House Preparatory School.

7 formerly Hollywood, 1782, a 5 bay mansion with single storey wings and fine Coade stone details. Fire insurance plaque over central window. Until 2021 part of Oliver House Preparatory School.

3 Nightingale Lane, Nightingale Place a Retirement Home run by the Audley Group. The outdoor cafe is a most welcome addition to the area and much enjoyed by local residents. The project was financed by Apache Capital, designed by Quad Architects with interior design by Bernard Interiors. Opened in May 2020.

The walk concludes at Clapham South Underground Station.

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Clapham Walks 3: Around Nightingale Lane

This walk, commencing at Clapham South Underground Station, is centred on Nightingale Lane and fringes into the edges of Balham.

Nightingale Lane, a long established thoroughfare, has along its winding length a great variety of types and styles of 19th and 20th century domestic architecture as well as two distinctly different but no less interesting late C19 churches, the Ascension in Malwood Road and St Luke's on the corner of Ramsden Road and Thurleigh Road.

Perhaps the most spectacular houses on the route are Nos. 69-79 Nightingale Lane designed by Thomas Collcutt for the Victorian Sanitary engineer, George Jennings, which are amongst the best buildings in the Borough of Wandsworth.

The walk illustrates well the way that areas of London such as this evolved, with pockets of land being developed in a piecemeal fashion over a period of time, resulting in differing styles standing next to each other.

The full walk will take about 1½ hours.

The Clapham Society is a local civic amenity society, which aims to improve the quality of life for residents, promote quality in new developments and to conserve the best features of the past. For further information please visit our website www.claphamsociety.com

1. Start at Clapham South Underground Station.

The station, planned as Nightingale Lane, opened as Clapham South in 1926 when the Northern Line was extended from Clapham Common to Morden. Designed by S A Heaps with external detailing by Charles Holden, to match other stations on the line. Westbury Court above, by E Cavanagh, was added in 1937.

Opposite the Station is the restored imposing neo-Georgian façade of the former South London Hospital for Women by Sir Edwin Cooper 1930-35, which closed in 1984. The building is now a Tesco supermarket with flats behind the façade.

2. Turn right along Balham Hill to Majestic Wines.

Next to Westbury Court, stylish modern flats built in 2002 over Marks and Spencer store on ground floor.

After the store, the drum-like structure is the ventilation shaft and entrance to one of the deep shelters, constructed below the Northern Line, by Mott Hay & Anderson, in 1940-2. Listed Grade II, it was used temporarily in 1948 to house arrivals from the West Indies on the SS Empire Windrush. Partially restored by TfL to its original condition the shelter is now available for booked tours.

Majestic Wines is in the front section of the former Odeon cinema of 1938, one of George Cole's symmetrically streamlined exteriors in cream faience. It bears a Clapham Society green plaque.

3. Turn right into Malwood Road.

Halfway along on the left is the Church of the Ascension, 1883-90 by Arthur Cawston. Opposite is the former Vicarage (No. 22) with a sundial and charming details. Porches to adjacent houses have attractive cast iron bracket supports.

Turn right into Alderbrook Road.

The cast iron posts at the Nightingale Lane end are parish boundary markers.

4. At the end turn left into Nightingale Lane.

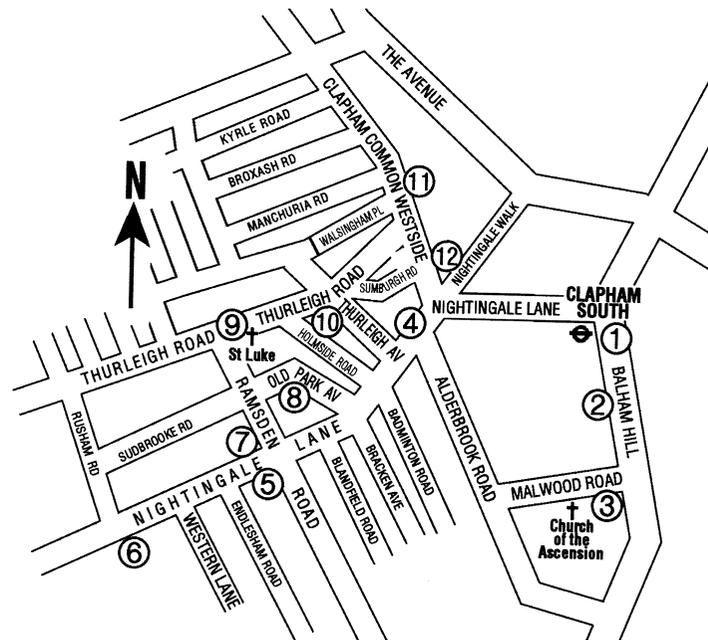
Facing is Hightrees House, 1937, a five-storey block of flats in the International style with penthouse floor added in 1970s. It stands on the site of a former villa of the same name.

29 Nightingale Lane. In front, in red and yellow brick, a gatepier (under restoration in 2022) from Clavering House, demolished c1934.

Next, Thurleigh Court 1935. Flats in the International style by E Schaufelberg.

45 Audiology House, built as Fair Oaks 1860-2, possibly by George Jennings, large detached classical house with heavy corbels and deep eaves to hipped roof. Developed into 19 flats by Joseph Edmund, architect Frederick Gibberd Partnership. Opened 2021.

47-49a On either side of Bracken Avenue, pairs of semi-detached Art Nouveau houses, 1912-3 by Edwin Evans.



5. Continue down Nightingale Lane.

On right side: 40 Blue Plaque to Punch cartoonist HM Bateman (1887-1970).

42-50 Impressive row of houses with incised stone lintels, deep bracketed eaves and superb tetrastyle Corinthian columns, by William Higgs, 1871-2.

On left side: 69 -79 Three pairs of grand houses, 1879, in French Renaissance style by TE Collcutt, terracotta detailing by George Jennings, Sanitary Engineer and Stoneware manufacturer, who lived at 79. The front entrances have been changed on all but 73.

81-95 Formerly Clifton Terrace, a parade of shops with residential above, 1870. George Jennings. Some original shop fronts with superb fluted columns. 81 (Douglas and Gordon) retains its chemist shop interior.

The Nightingale PH. 1853. Thomas Wallis. Charming asymmetrical country pub of cottagey design.

99 Queen Elizabeth House, 1864 with side extension, 1887. Built for the noted Baptist preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-92). New development at rear. Formerly known as Helensburgh House, built by William Higgs 1864. Subsequently became the maternity unit for South London Hospital for Women. Now owned by Wandle Housing Association.

105 Nightingale House (Home for Aged Jews). The complex incorporates Ferndale (1865-6), home of George Jennings from 1866-79 and Wilby Lodge, 1871 with extension 1976 by George Watt Partnership. A plaque records the gift of the house by Lord Wandsworth. Blue plaque to Ted 'Kid' Lewis 1893-1970 World Champion Boxer who lived and died here.

6. Cross to the other side of Nightingale Lane and proceed back up the hill (north side of road).

88 on corner of Rusham Road. Charming Tudorbethan style house with integral garage by Fawcett & Co. 1936-7. Style continues along Rusham Road.

78-84 Large gault brick houses behind balustraded stone boundary wall, by Rowe, 1879.

72-74 Broomwood Hall School. 1874 by Rowland Plumbe. Formerly Fairseat, a Venetian Gothic tower house, Cambridge brick with polished granite columns, sadly spoilt by the attic and side enlargement in 1971. Massive folly structure, made of overburnt brick, to west side.

56 Dudley House, by W Higgs, 1869-70 with delightful Coach House and stables of 1870 by Eaton & Chapman, fine terracotta panels to games room over Coach House.

7. Turn left into Ramsden Road – halfway along cross the road to look at Old Park Avenue.

Old Park Avenue developed between 1890 and 1900 by RF Laker and D Kettle, magnificent Queen Anne revival style houses with good brick detailing, particularly No. 7 - Fairholme.

8. Return to Ramsden Road and turn right.

185 Ramsden Road. Sudbrooke Lodge, large detached Queen Anne style house of 1915 by Edwin Evans.

192 Formerly St Luke's Vicarage, 1901 by Lathey Bros. St Luke's Community Hall, 2002 by Stephen Buck.

86 Thurleigh Road (corner of Ramsden Road). By H Bignold, Allen & Norris. Detached house with bracketed projecting gable over stone mullioned casement bay, stone porch dated 1898.