

The Springfield Estate has been landscaped, to make it look less institutional. By contrast, the Larkhall Estate, originally privately built, always had pretty gardens. Rather than taking the road, you can walk through them to get to Larkhall Rise, but please respect the privacy of the residents.

Turn left into Albion Avenue, then turn right into Larkhall Rise, and walk to the railway bridge.

10. From the bridge, views over the railway, one way to the Battersea railway tangle and distant South Kensington, the other way to the Crystal Palace transmitter. The dome of Brompton Oratory can still be seen, but otherwise the new buildings at Battersea Power Station obscure the rest of the view.

Larkhall Rise is one of the old streets of Clapham, with houses of 1830s or later. (It led to Lark Hall Farm.) Just over the bridge, to your right, note Manor Gardens, two pairs of semi-detached villas linked to form a terrace of Tudorbethan style flats early in 20th century. To your left Nos. 79 and 81 (formerly Holly Lodge and Walton Lodge) are pretty villas of 1826-28, while the more solid row beyond them is of the 1840s.

Take the second turning left after the bridge, into Clapham Manor Street.

11. Manor Street was laid out by Thomas Cubitt, the great building contractor, and developed, mostly by local builders, from the 1830s, with a variety of small scale housing. Despite some alteration and later infill, this is one of the most attractive early Victorian streets of Clapham. The villas and small terraces have much pretty detail, with many retaining original ironwork to window boxes and round the front doors and basement steps.

Notice to your right No. 42 built in 1850-54 by JT Knowles Snr, as the charitable Clapham Dispensary. Further along, also on the right, the Bread and Roses PH and houses adjoining, built by Cubitt himself. The Bread and Roses was formerly the Bowyer Arms (after the Manorial family). Taking over in 1996, the Workers Beer Co gave it the title of a song written during a strike of female textile workers in the USA in 1919. The Bread and Roses Theatre has a very successful regular programme of varied entertainment. On the left, nos. 87-101, about 1845, retain good ironwork.

The newer buildings on the right are part of the Clapham Manor Estate. Developed by Lambeth Council in the mid 1970s (Chief Architect Edward Hollamby), it represents the revolt against large scale and utilitarian municipal

architecture in favour of a villagey style. Second-hand bricks from demolished housing were reused.

Walk to the junction of Clapham Manor Street and Voltaire Road.

12. The Leisure Centre, by LA Architects, opened in 2012, as part of Lambeth Council's Future Clapham scheme. With a swimming pool, fitness centre and indoor sports facilities, it replaced the previous centre built in 1932. Nearby in the former industrial yard, new housing is part of the same scheme. Previously on the site was the works of the City and Electric Carriage Company, a director of which was CS Rolls (later of Rolls Royce). Also here, probably in one of the now demolished buildings in the yard, was the works of the bicycle manufacturer Claud Butler – hence "Bicycle Mews".

To conclude the walk, there are two options.

Option 1. Go straight ahead to Clapham High Street, to end your walk.

13. On the left, two terraces of c.1830, the further one with a plaque misleadingly saying "Manor House". The houses on the right pre-date 1827, much altered. Then St Peter's Church (1878-84) by JEK and JP Cutts, High Church (in both senses) Gothic, in stripey brick with stone facings.

Across the High Street, the tall tower block houses a public Library and health centre, also part of the Future Clapham scheme.

Option 2. If you prefer to return to Clapham North, you can turn into Voltaire Road, which will take you to Clapham High Street Station.

14. Looking down Edgeley Road towards the High Street, on the left is the facade of the former Clapham School of Art, 1885, now Pearson Mews. At the bend in Voltaire Road are the original buildings of Clapham High Street Station, 1867 in the polychrome Gothic favoured by the London, Chatham and Dover Railway. They were refurbished and to their right a new largely timber clad building erected in 2003.

In front of them, former industrial buildings are now studios. Here in the late 19th century was the works of WR Sykes' Interlocking Signal Co. Sykes was the inventor of a system which prevented a train from entering a section of line before it was clear, a milestone in rail safety.

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Clapham walks 2: Clapham North

This walk starts at the north end of Clapham High Street, an area once known (obscurely) as Babylon. It goes through northern Clapham, to Larkhall Park, returning via the Springfield Estate and Clapham Manor Street to the High Street.

Two hundred years ago, the roads from Clapham to London were lined with comfortable houses and villas with gardens, backing onto fields, nurseries and market gardens. By 1849, this part of Clapham had joined up with London spreading outwards, and by the First World War the area was entirely built up. With the houses came new churches, schools and shops. In the 20th century, older housing was replaced by local authority estates, and a new open space, Larkhall Park, was created.

The walk takes you through developments of different periods. The modest houses of Manor Street contrast with grander Clapham of the 1870s. Twentieth century local authority estates range from large and severe blocks of flats to later low-rise terraces. Most recently, the area has been changing fast, with older buildings being refurbished and new infill for housing replacing former small industrial sites. At the end of Manor Street and in the High Street, major new leisure facilities have been opened by Lambeth Council in partnership with private developers of housing.

The walk will take about 1¼ to 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 claphamsociety.com

Start at Clapham North Underground Station.

1. The Underground Station opened in 1900 as Clapham Road and was modernised and renamed in 1924-26. Opposite it, Dentons, c1880, built for a furniture maker, with big showroom windows on the first floor. There is a good view down the High Street.

Cross Clapham High Street at the traffic lights and go right, along Clapham Road, towards St John's Church.

On the right, the start of a row of large early 19th century houses, set well back from the main road, and when first built pleasantly rural. Most have later 19th century alterations. The first of these houses, was the home of Dr Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward, the botanist who invented the Wardian Case, used to transplant plants from the tropics.

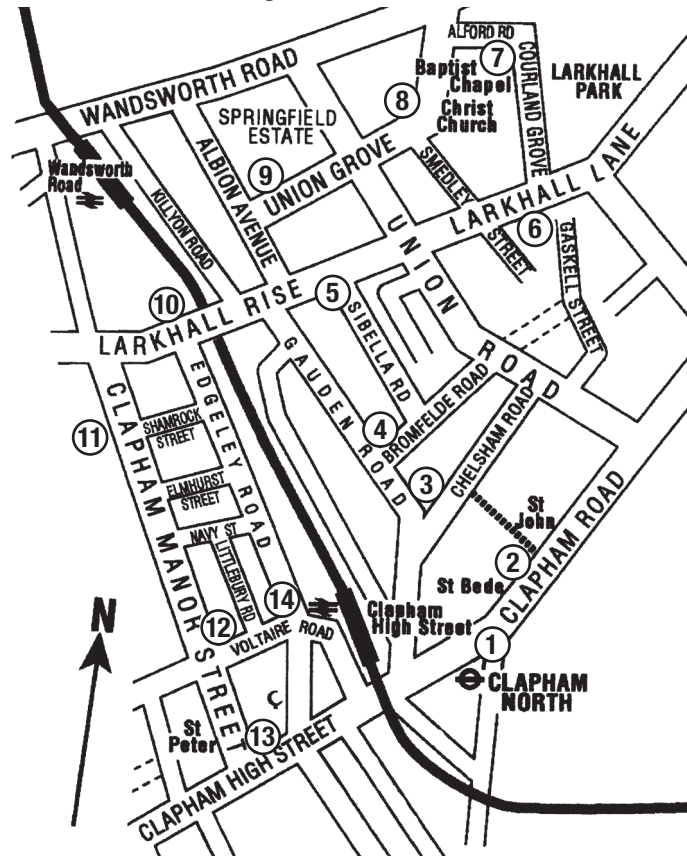
2. Left, The former St Bede's Church, now called 'Love of Christ Generation', by Edward Maufe, the architect of Guildford Cathedral, 1922-24 (Grade II listed). Beyond, the cylindrical top of a deep shelter, one of several built under the Northern Line in 1940-42. St John's Church, 1840-42, by T Marsh Nelson, has a fine classical portico, a very late example of this style for an Anglican Church, and greatly disliked by the new advocates of the Gothic Revival. The interior has been much altered. Opposite St John's, No. 369 is the finest of the early 19th century houses.

Either: take the secluded footpath to the left of the Church, past the Church garden, to Chelsham Road, where you turn left. Or: walk to Union Road, turn left and left again into Chelsham Road.

3. The start of the Clapham Rise Estate, built in 1874-79 on the grounds of a large house, Clapham Retreat. Originally the Clapham home of the Hankey family, by the mid-19th century it had become a private lunatic asylum; its most eminent patient was William Buckland, Dean of Westminster Abbey, who died here in 1856. The estate was laid out on a grand, spacious scale, with unusually broad and airy roads (all named after Clapham historical figures). Plots were sold to local developers, who built substantial houses, in styles from dignified Italianate to wildly castellated. The modern flats were mainly built after Second World War damage – the nearby railway yards were a target. In Chelsham Road, note on the left heads on keystones and gables with bargeboards.

At the junction of Chelsham Road and Gauden Road, turn right and walk to Bromfelde Road.

4. At the junction of Gauden Road and Bromfelde Road, contrast the fancy brickwork of 40 Gauden Road with the sober 36, and opposite, 41, a fine Arts and Crafts detached house with a Gothic porch.



Walk along Bromfelde Road and look straight ahead for a view of The Shard (London Bridge) before turning left into Sibella Road, towards Larkhall Rise.

5. En route are some of the most delightfully eccentric houses in the estate. Before turning into Sibella Road, look along Bromfelde Road, where, on the left, are extraordinary pairs of houses like castles. Sibella Road has some of the best: more castellation, pointed roofs to bays. 33 has pretty ironwork. At the end, no. 2 has Grecian motifs.

At the junction with Larkhall Rise, (left) a good quality Italianate block. Facing you are the Larkhall Estate (left) and Springfield Estate (right), both described later.

Turn right into Larkhall Rise. Cross Union Road at the traffic lights, and walk down Larkhall Lane, past a turning on the left, Courland Grove, also signposted 'UNCLE Stockwell'.

6. En route, after the traffic lights, the brick wall on the right, with palm trees behind, is on the site of the Larkhall Brewery. To your left in Union Road, is 110 Union Road, the Springfield Medical Centre, a striking building (2007) providing health and community facilities, a joint venture between Lambeth Primary Care Trust, Lambeth Council and Family Housing Association.

On the right, Gaskell Street was rebuilt c.1980 by Lambeth Council, low rise and largely pedestrianised.

On the left, after a pedestrian crossing and just beyond a cream painted house, turn left into Larkhall Park. Walk through the left side of the park, past the all-weather pitches, café and outdoor gym equipment, to discover Courland Grove Baptist Chapel in the street adjoining.

7. Larkhall Park was begun in 1974, by clearance of poor housing, to create an open space for the area.

The Chapel, formerly Zion's Hill Baptist Chapel, 1840, has an attractive classical front.

Walk round the side of the chapel, turning left into Union Grove, to Christ Church.

8. On the left, Christ Church and its vicarage look more rural than inner London. The Vicarage, red brick in Arts and Crafts style, by GE Street, 1865. The ragstone Church by Benjamin Ferrey, 1862, has a good interior partly altered by Street in 1864.

Continue along Union Grove, to reach Albion Avenue.

On the corner of Smedley Street, the former Police Station, built in 1907, now converted into flats.

9. These streets were first built in the early 19th century, with villas in spacious grounds, replaced by 20th century flats. The Springfield Estate, on both sides of Union Grove, is by EP Wheeler for the LCC, 1937-55. Very severe and undecorated, compared with the Larkhall Estate on the other side of Albion Avenue. The latter is 1929-30 by Louis de Soissons and G Grey Wornum, with relief sculptures, ironwork and porch coverings.