

PART 1: THE MERIDIAN WALK

DATE

THURS MARCH 1
 FRI MARCH 2
 SAT MARCH 3
 SUN MARCH 4
 MON MARCH 5
 TUES MARCH 6
 WED MARCH 7
 THURS MARCH 8
 FRI MARCH 9
 SAT MARCH 10
 SUN MARCH 11
 MON MARCH 12
 TUES MARCH 13
 WED MARCH 14
 THURS MARCH 15
 FRI MARCH 16
 SAT MARCH 17
 SUN MARCH 18
 MON MARCH 19
 TUES MARCH 20
 WED MARCH 21
 THURS MARCH 22
 FRI MARCH 23
 SAT MARCH 24
 SUN MARCH 25

JOURNEY

HULL - BARTON-UPON-HUMBER
 BARTON-UPON-HUMBER - SCUNTHORPE
 SCUNTHORPE - EPWORTH
 REST DAY IN EPWORTH
 EPWORTH - GAINSBOROUGH
 GAINSBOROUGH - SAXILBY
 SAXILBY - BRANSTON
 BRANSTON - BILLINGHAY
 BILLINGHAY - BOSTON
 BOSTON - HOLBEACH
 REST DAY IN HOLBEACH
 HOLBEACH - WISBECH
 WISBECH - WIMBLINGTON
 WIMBLINGTON - SUTTON
 SUTTON - SOHAM
 SOHAM - CAMBRIDGE
 CAMBRIDGE - ROYSTON
 REST DAY IN ROYSTON
 ROYSTON - BUNTINGFORD
 BUNTINGFORD - WARE
 WARE - WALTHAM
 WALTHAM - CHINGFORD
 CHINGFORD - GREENWICH
 GREENWICH - WESTMINSTER
 ANNIVERSARY DAY EVENTS

PART 2: THE SANKOFA WALK

SUN JUNE 3
 MON JUNE 4
 TUES JUNE 5
 WED JUNE 6
 THURS JUNE 7
 FRI JUNE 8
 SAT JUNE 9
 SUN JUNE 10
 MON JUNE 11
 TUES JUNE 12
 WED JUNE 13

COMMISSIONING SERVICE
 DEPTFORD - HAYES
 HAYES - READING
 READING - NEWBURY
 NEWBURY - MARLBOROUGH
 MARLBOROUGH - CHIPPENHAM
 CHIPPENHAM - BATH
 REST DAY IN BATH
 BATH - BRISTOL
 JOURNEY TO PLYMOUTH
 RETURN FROM PLYMOUTH TO BRISTOL
 VIA EXETER
 BRISTOL - STROUD
 STROUD - CHELTENHAM
 CHELTENHAM - WORCESTER
 REST DAY IN WORCESTER
 WORCESTER - BIRMINGHAM
 BIRMINGHAM - CANNOCK
 CANNOCK - STOKE-ON-TRENT
 STOKE-ON-TRENT - NANTWICH
 NANTWICH - RUNCORN
 RUNCORN - LIVERPOOL
 REST DAY IN LIVERPOOL
 JOURNEY TO LANCASTER
 JOURNEY TO WHITEHAVEN
 JOURNEY TO GLASGOW
 RETURN FROM GLASGOW TO LIVERPOOL
 LIVERPOOL - WARRINGTON
 WARRINGTON - MANCHESTER
 REST DAY IN MANCHESTER
 MANCHESTER - BUXTON
 BUXTON - ASHBOURNE
 ASHBOURNE - DERBY
 DERBY - LEICESTER
 LEICESTER - KETTERING
 KETTERING - OLNEY
 REST DAY IN OLNEY
 OLNEY - LUTON
 LUTON - MILL HILL
 MILL HILL - DEPTFORD

THURS JUNE 14
 FRI JUNE 15
 SAT JUNE 16
 SUN JUNE 17
 MON JUNE 18
 TUES JUNE 19
 WED JUNE 20
 THURS JUNE 21
 FRI JUNE 22
 SAT JUNE 23
 SUN JUNE 24
 MON JUNE 25
 TUES JUNE 26
 WED JUNE 27
 THURS JUNE 28
 FRI JUNE 29
 SAT JUNE 30
 SUN JULY 1
 MON JULY 2
 TUES JULY 3
 WED JULY 4
 THURS JULY 5
 FRI JULY 6
 SAT JULY 7
 SUN JULY 8
 MON JULY 9
 TUES JULY 10
 WED JULY 11

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

You can turn up and join the walk wherever you wish, but you will need to take care of your own food and accommodation. We would request a minimum donation of £5 towards the projects we are supporting to combat slavery. If you would like sponsorship forms please contact us (details below.) We are also looking for people who can help us with accommodation for a core team of 20 people as we pass through towns and villages on the way.

We want to make contact with schools and community groups along the way and we are ready to talk with you about ideas you may have for appropriate events to coincide with the passage of the March.

CONTACT DETAILS

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PARTNERSHIPS...

The March of the Abolitionists is an initiative of The Lifeline Expedition in partnership with Anti-Slavery International, CARE, Church Mission Society, the Equiano Society, Hull City Council, Lewisham Borough Council, Music for Change, the Northumbria Community, Peaceworks, Source, Stand Up for Africa (SUFA), USPG and Youth With A Mission. The March is also associated with Set All Free and Stop the Traffik coalitions.



Design by Andy Pressdee. www.andypressdee.co.uk

**LEARNING from the PAST
 BUILDING for the FUTURE**



**the
 MARCH
 of the
 ABOLITIONISTS**

PART 1: THE MERIDIAN WALK

Hull to Westminster
 March 1st - 25th

PART 2: THE SANKOFA WALK

Linking London, Bristol & Liverpool
 June 4th - July 11th

**A National
 Project for the
 Bicentenary of
 the Abolition
 of the Slave
 Trade**



1807 - 2007

An initiative of The Lifeline Expedition in partnership with Anti-Slavery International, CARE, Church Mission Society, the Equiano Society, Hull City Council, Lewisham Borough Council, Music for Change, the Northumbria Community, Peaceworks, Source, Stand Up for Africa (SUFA), USPG and Youth With A Mission. The March is also associated with Set All Free and Stop the Traffik coalitions.

WALKING...

Over 200 years ago captive Africans walked hundreds of miles to coastal slave forts and from there journeyed in ships across the Atlantic to a life of slave labour in the Americas.

Over 200 years ago a young man called Thomas Clarkson travelled 470 miles from London to Bristol to Liverpool and back to London to collect facts about the slave trade and to promote the cause of abolition.



200 years later you can walk in the footsteps of the abolitionists and reflect on the cruel journeys of enslaved Africans as you join the March of the Abolitionists.

But this is not just about the past.

According to Anti-Slavery International there are at least 12 million people trapped in different forms of slavery today. You can march as a modern day abolitionist and be sponsored to raise funds to combat slavery.

LEARNING...

Join the mobile school for this unique opportunity to reflect

and learn from the past and to work together towards a better future. You will learn not just about the famous abolitionists like Olaudah Equiano, Clarkson and Wilberforce, but also about the many unknown abolitionists, like the Africans who fought for freedom or the women who ensured that thousands signed petitions. We will pass stately homes and walk alongside canals built by the profits from slavery. Whether in the city or the countryside, the evidence of Britain's benefit from slavery is not hard to find.

RECONCILING...

Britain was the leading perpetrator at

the height of the slave trade in the eighteenth century. There can be no doubt that the consequences of slavery have left much devastation in Africa itself and among African

Now we feel that white people are taking our story seriously. Thank you, but so much more needs to be done.

descendants in the Americas and Europe. The legacy is still with us. Some have spoken of Post Traumatic Slavery Disorder and there are misunderstandings both in black/white relationships and between Africans and descendants of enslaved Africans. We will not deal with the past by forgetting it. As we walk together we will return to the source of the trauma and face it and find the ways to reconcile.

YOKES & CHAINS...

A dramatic feature of the walk

will be white people walking in yokes and chains. This symbolic form of apology has been taking place under the name of the Lifeline Expedition in recent years. The expedition is a series of reconciliation journeys, which constitute a Christian response to the legacy of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The first Lifeline Expedition journey was the Jubilee 2000 Lifeline Walk along the Greenwich meridian in England. Other expeditions have taken place in France (2002), Spain and Portugal (2003), USA (2004), the Caribbean (2005) and West Africa (2006).

A frequent reaction of Africans of the Diaspora was "At last! Now we feel that white people are taking our story seriously. Thank-you - but so much more needs to be done."



Olaudah Equiano

OTHER SPECIAL FEATURES...

- Representatives who have journeyed with the Lifeline Expedition from West Africa, the Caribbean and Europe will be in the core teams representing the nations involved in the slave trade.
- A continuous schools relay along the whole route.
- Participating schools will be provided with an educational DVD and booklet majoring on the slavery legacy issues of racism and the need for reconciliation.
- Commemorating the achievements of those who helped to bring about the abolition of the slave trade with a special individual focus when we reach a place connected with that person (e.g. remembering Olaudah Equiano in Greenwich and Josiah Wedgwood at Barlaston near Stoke-on-Trent and inviting descendants to join us at the same time.)
- In collaboration with Anti-Slavery International, raising funds for various projects combating contemporary slavery and dealing with legacies of the Atlantic slave trade in West Africa, the Caribbean and inner-city UK.



the MARCH of the ABOLITIONISTS PART 1...

This walk from Hull to Westminster will be 200 miles long – a



mile for each year since the act was passed. With regard to the abolition of the slave trade in England, it is a curious fact that several key events occurred within a few miles of the Greenwich meridian line. William Wilberforce came from Hull and Thomas Clarkson from Wisbech, both places close to the meridian line. Thomas Clarkson wrote the essay on the slave trade, which changed his life in Cambridge and also committed his life to abolition at Wadesmill in Hertfordshire. Wilberforce made a similar commitment by the oak in Keston Kent and of course the bill was passed in Westminster. The Anti Slavery Society, which Clarkson started, is located in Stockwell. All of these places are close to the line.

In 2000 a footpath was devised called the Meridian Way, which was used for the Jubilee 2000 Lifeline Walk. The initial intention was that this footpath should be used to raise funds for Africa. The walk in 2007 will provide an ideal opportunity to launch what can become an annual long distance walking fund raising event for African projects.

Parliament voted to abolish the slave trade on February 24th and the Act became law at noon on March 25th. The end of the walk will coincide with an acknowledgment of the past by the Archbishops of Canterbury and the West Indies, and a fresh commitment to walk together into the future. The March of the Abolitionists will provide a special opportunity for Anglicans to acknowledge the legacy of the Trade.

the MARCH of the ABOLITIONISTS PART 2...

The Sankofa Reconciliation Walk will be a challenging

470 mile journey over 40 days. It will link together the three major slave ports of London, Bristol and Liverpool and will follow the route taken by Thomas Clarkson on his momentous journey in 1787. The journey will also include other cities such as Birmingham and Manchester and in this way the main cities with African descendants will be visited. 'Sankofa' is an increasingly popular word in the West African Akan language which means "we must learn from the past to build for the future." There will also be two spur journeys by transport to Plymouth and Exeter from Bristol and to Lancaster, Whitehaven and Glasgow from Liverpool.