**The Illuminated Thames Bridges, Thursday 9th December 2021**

16 walkers, 11.1 miles – leader Ron Williamson

10 members met at Fenchurch St station for an afternoon jaunt across the City to Victoria, avoiding major roads as much as possible. The intricate nature of the alleys and backstreets ensured that concentration was needed to make progress in the right direction and even a crossing of St James’s Park in the dark was made without alarm.

At Victoria station we were joined by six additional stalwarts for the return journey along the Thames. A far easier route! but it proved otherwise as walkers were now in familiar terrain and much time was lost searching for those who had stopped to take photos or had decided to walk on the other side of the road. In the end just nine reached the final destination of the Liberty Bounds although only one was unaccounted for, and I am pleased to say that he confirmed later that he had arrived safely home.

We were joined at the end by three additional members, so this short notice stroll attracted 19 in total. This time of year, I need a kick to get out in the cold and wet thanks for joining me. I think that it was well worth the effort, a note to myself that it is much harder than expected to lead in the dark through the London crowds.

Photographs by Gavin Fuller, Charlotte Minchell and Godfrey O’Callaghan