

NAME

History Workshop – 16 October 2012 – Exploring St John at Hackney Church and Churchyard

1. Look at the picture below, showing the earliest location of Hackney Free Schools. Work out where the Church House stood. What building now stands on the same site?



2. Why do you think it was decided to build a new church at the end of the eighteenth century?

3. Looking at the 'new' (late eighteenth-century) church, what do you think those responsible for the design were hoping to achieve?

4. In general, what kind of people attended the church in the nineteenth century?

5. Look at some of the tombs in the churchyard. What can you learn about some of the people who lived in nineteenth-century Hackney, what their lives were like, and the beliefs that they held? [Many of the inscriptions are badly worn and difficult to read: do not waste time struggling with these, but concentrate on those you can read without difficulty.]

6. Why, as a general rule, were there no burials in the churchyard after 1859? Can you find any exceptions? Why do you think these were allowed?

7. Find the tomb of the Watson family (in the churchyard) and the memorials to Joshua and John James Watson (inside the church). Why were the Watson brothers important in the history both of Hackney and of England as a whole?

8. Find the Sedgwick tomb in the churchyard. How in particular does Harry Sedgwick link together the histories of the church and of your school?

9. Inside the church compare the inscriptions on the monument to Harry Bingley Sedgwick (killed in 1811) and on the 1914-18 War Memorial. How do you think attitudes to those killed in war changed between 1811 and 1918?