

## THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION (Founded 1896)

General Office: 212, Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ  
Entrance in Maples Place

Superintendent: Revd Peter Jennings, M.A.  
Assistant Minister: Revd Susan V. H. Featherstone  
Warden: Mrs Mary Culver  
Hon. Treasurers: Mr L. Mole and Mr H. Shapcott  
Solicitors: Messrs Butt & Bowyer  
Auditors: Messrs Barker, Hibbert & Co.  
Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, Mile End Branch  
234, Whitechapel Road, London E1.

ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

### WHITECHAPEL MISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Revs Brian J. N. Galliers, Jeffrey W. Harris, C. Leonard Tudor, Susan V. H. Featherstone, Messrs L. Mole, H. Shapcott, M. Booth, S. Adams, D. Clisby, R. Bircham, Col J. G. Round, Mrs H. Dunnett, the Misses J. Moors, S. Nicholls, C. E. Storey.

Circuit Stewards: Mr B. Yelland, Miss M. I. Pengelly.

Secretary: Revd Peter Jennings.

### WINDYRIDGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Messrs K. L. Hollingsworth, C. Lawson, P. Strover, R. Bircham, Dr. F. W. B. Rilstone, Mesdames A. W. Eames, J. Caton, H. Dunnett, Miss M. Beattie, Revd Susan V. H. Featherstone.

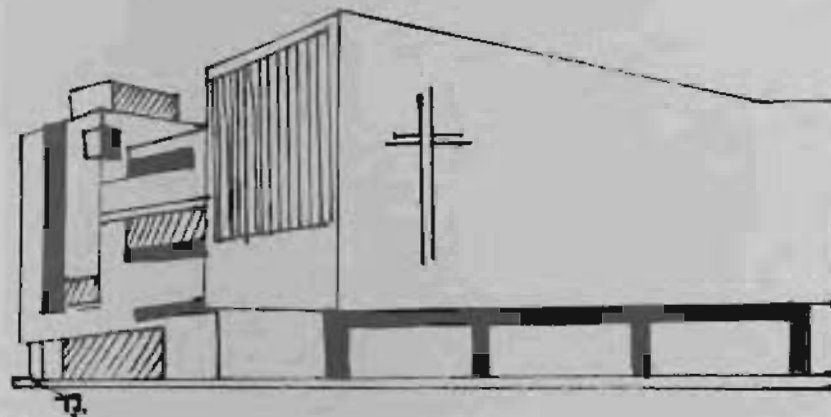
Chairman: Col. J. G. Round  
Secretary: Revd Peter Jennings  
Principal: Mr D. Wolsten-Croft  
Medical Officer: Dr. C. R. Gilbert  
Chaplain: Revd Glanville J. Martin

THE METHODIST CHURCH

## WHITECHAPEL MISSION

(Founded by Rev Thomas Jackson, 1896)

# REACHING OUT



# ANNUAL REPORT

1983

## REACHING OUT

Trying to find a few moments of quiet in which to think through the implications of all that we do here in Whitechapel is not the easiest task when life seems to be lived permanently at a gallop! In the older translations of our Bible we were counselled by Paul to be 'fervent in prayer' and the word he used for 'fervent' carried as part of its meaning 'at full stretch' or 'at a gallop' - with every muscle and sinew taut. We live life at a gallop here, and even our spiritual lives seem to build up to the speed of a gallop. Paul always seemed to be striving, winning, running the race or galloping but if we are going to be of any help to those whom we serve here - to the faint hearts and the feeble knees - we have to slow down. Reaching out when you're galloping is not much use to someone who's finding it difficult to move at a stately two miles an hour. So we find ourselves heeding the prophet, "doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly" in the presence of God and our neighbours. We find ourselves in another way too because in walking in the company of our Lord and our neighbour there is time for us to receive - which in turn helps us to give more.

As I have visited different Methodist churches during the past years, I have described our work as reaching out and touching those whom many regard as the 'untouchables' (How lovely that in India those untouchables were re-named the 'children of God') I used the picture of Jesus reaching out and touching the leper in impetuous, spontaneous compassion. It was a touch which gave that man his dignity as a human being when others said he was less than human. It was a touch which restored him to Society and back to the human family. But that touch also challenged those who looked on and listened for while that leper was less than whole, they had excluded him and kept him at a great deal more than arm's length. That touch of Jesus also challenged a theology of his day which saw the hand of God outstretched to smite - "what a dreadful sin this man must have committed to have been so punished", they said - but the touch of Jesus was the hand that brought forgiveness and wholeness.

So here in Whitechapel we try to articulate that touch of Jesus by reaching out to those who are less than whole - offering the dignity that comes from being wanted, restoring the lonely to a caring family, and challenging both community and church to love both the deserving and the undeserving poor. In the giving we are never impoverished and in withholding we are not enriched.

So what a year it's been! We said farewells to some members of staff. Bob Blount left us; Sister Vivien moved on to a new appointment in Morecambe. We have welcomed to the staff Mary Culver as our Warden and the Revd Susan Featherstone, a probationer minister. Both have settled in very quickly and very happily. I have to mention two special services over the past year. Susan's welcome service saw the Mission almost bursting at the seams. The charge was given by Canon Martin Baddeley, Principal of the Southwark Ordination Course, and visitors and friends arrived in droves - especially from the Walthamstow and Chingford Circuit with whom we have always had a special relationship but the more special now that Susan is with us and her husband continues to serve in Walthamstow.

Our Mission Anniversary was also special. We welcomed back to Whitechapel Mrs. 'Dee' Stowers who had retired from Windyridge earlier in the year after



working there for fifteen years. The occasion gave an opportunity for the Mission to say its thank you for so many years devoted service and wonderful collegiality. Our preacher on the occasion was the Revd Kenneth Cracknell of the British Council of Churches, secretary of its Committee for Relations with People of Other Faiths. We were challenged anew to make our pilgrimage in the company of other people of faith.

The face of the Mission has changed a little! While the St. George's Men's Care Unit of the East End Mission is homeless during the rebuilding of its centre, the Unit is operating from Whitechapel on a part time basis. That surely is a breakthrough and heralds an era, we hope, of new and deeper co-operation between the Mission Circuits.

We are now home to the Tower Hamlets Youth Unemployment Project - a project of the Inner London Education Authority - we are delighted to adopt them as part of our family. We are home as well to Crisis at Christmas. 'Crisis' is a charity which has long been a generous supporter of the Mission and when they faced the crisis of homelessness - themselves! - they and we were happy to share our roof!

We have started a Youth Club once again and are very much home to "Sunrise". We have the only Methodist Youth club that is almost wholly Muslim and the high point of the year came when people of many languages and cultures joined in a party to celebrate Eid - the end of the Ramadan Fast. We shall be returning hospitality at Christmas when we shall also be cooking through the season for 'Open Christmas', one of the major events to which 'Crisis at Christmas' works throughout the year. Our Youth Club is the fulfilment of a desire expressed in last year's report. "We want to build bridges with members of other faith-communities so that we can meet in mutual trust and confidence. We need to listen to each other, to share dreams and hopes, to feel each others' suffering and joy, to work together to make a contribution in service to the community and to be strengthened by each others' spiritual understanding". That dream is slowly coming true. We are learning what hurts us - but in Eid and Christmas we are sharing what thrills us.

It remains for me to thank you most warmly for your prayers and support which are still sorely needed. In recent weeks we have had two hundred men in on Sundays. The numbers are considerably up on previous years. As the recession bites more and more deeply, those who are least able to help themselves find their way to us.

We reach out to them with hearts and hands to channel the love and forgiveness of God and we reach out to you to invite you to share in that work which we do with you and on your behalf.

May God Bless you.  
PETER JENNINGS

## DÉJÀ VU

Have you ever had that feeling that you have been here before? That sneaking suspicion that God has a hidden purpose for you and all you have to do is to rely on His guidance. I remember vividly the 31st December 1969 – New Year's Eve – and I sitting on the edge of my bed thinking "What have I let myself in for?" I was then a very new Assistant Warden (new by a matter of hours rather than days) at Windyridge under the leadership of a very active Warden, John Stowers. This was to be my start in a new career as a social worker and with the firm foundations of eighteen months working at Windyridge, I went on to be a Deputy Warden and later to take training to be a Probation Officer. In May of this year I was again sitting on the side of my bed, but this time I was the Warden of Windyridge and Oh boy, did I need God's guidance now!



Mrs. Stowers handed over the Hostel as a going concern and with the invaluable contribution of all the staff, I am pleased to report that it is still a going concern. There is a lot to be done over the next few years, both with the actual building and with the type of care we offer our residents. The building will frankly have to have a lot of money spent on it. Being a large Georgian house, its external charm belies its rather daunting dark interior. The sort of clients coming to the Probation Home are also much different to those of 1969. Their needs are the same; to provide an example on which they can base a full and worthwhile life within the lawful bounds of our society. However, they are much further into delinquency than they once were and consequently need much more specialised help to extract themselves from the criminal system. As Warden I derive a lot of

assistance from the Management Committee, and the Probation Service are also very supportive. I have encouraged the local Methodist circuit to take a little more interest in Windyridge, as they once did. Hopefully the links between the Hostel and the local churches will be strengthened to the benefit of both residents and congregation.

But enough about me and the building, what about the people in Windyridge? There are 49 bodies here (I include the staff) and they all have their different personalities. There is Alex, who looks incredibly dense until you get him on a cricket pitch, then watch for the boundaries! There is Sharon, a frail looking twenty year old, who can (if she is in the mood) work twice as hard as any of the men. There is Steve, who sits watching television, knitting – something. No-one has discovered just exactly what it is but it's very very long. An then there is Paul. Paul is due to leave us soon to return to his mother's home. Ten months ago when he arrived, he was an objectionable, foul-mouthed, dirty and lazy boy. When he leaves he will be missed as a hard-working, friendly and clean young man.

I only hope that when my time comes to leave Windyridge, I also will leave with the feeling that I will be missed.

DEREK WOLSTEN-CROFT  
Warden

## AN INTRODUCTION TO MARY

Although I have been here over six months, it only seems like two, time goes by so quickly. Life is never dull and we never stand still, let alone sit! Our work here is varied, full of laughter and sorrow, caring and being cared for, the latter with confectionery from some of our visitors, which is not good for our waistlines! Our Day Centre for the elderly and handicapped is growing. We are open from 8.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and a handicraft class is at present making Christmas tags and a Peace banner.

Our work on Sunday nights is overflowing, with many more coming in for food, fellowship and care. We are very short of cups so if you do have any odd ones and are passing, do drop them in (not literally, because that's the way we lost some).

We are very blessed with excellent voluntary helpers, some from the London Hospital training to be doctors, local people, and some who come in from the suburbs.

Due to demand our clothing store is now open Wednesday evenings between 6 and 7 p.m. as well as Thursday mornings for the men, and Friday mornings to cater for our Mother and Toddler Club which has also grown and moved into the large hall.

We are in desperate need of drivers for our mini-bus to help move furniture as we are so often asked to collect and distribute this but often have to refuse because of our lack of time and a driver. We have been able to help two men furnish their flats during the last week for which they are so grateful.

May I ask for your continued prayers and support so that we can carry on our work here and heal in body, mind and spirit those we are privileged to serve in this place.

MARY CULVER



THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31ST MARCH, 1981

21,763			
£			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
4,809	Creditors and Receivables	1,649	
6,023	Due to Thrift Clubs	4,549	
	Accrued Expenses		
10,832			6,588
11,827	<b>LEGACIES RESERVE</b>		10,334
(8,611)	<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b> (See Note 2)		(6,791)
14,043			£10,132
<b>ASSETS (See Note 1)</b>			
<b>Loans and Deposits</b>			
2,200	Methodist Chapel Aid Association Ltd.		
	T. & A. Jackson Memorial Fund	2,200	
8,614	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church	4,658	
10,814			6,858
<b>Barclays Bank Limited</b>			
911	Current Account	459	
185	Sidney House Account	572	
1,096			1,031
10	<b>Cash in Hand</b>		119
2,127	<b>Sundry Debtors and Prepayments</b>		2,124
14,043			£10,132

These Accounts are to be read in conjunction with Notes 1 - 3 annexed.

Signed on behalf of the Circuit Meeting

L.G. POOLE )  
 H. SHARPOTT ) **JOINT TREASURERS**  
 H.G. YELLAND )  
 R. PENDELLY ) **CIRCUIT STEWARDS**

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1981

1981			
£			
<b>INCOME</b>			
7,828	Rents	8,450	
1,250	Interest	1,277	
17,063	Subscriptions, Donations and Collections	23,771	
1,971	Legacies - Proportion brought in	1,722	
	Proceeds of Sale of Mission Car		
	from retiring Superintendent	1,500	
28,112			36,920
<b>Deduct:</b>			
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
14,160	Salaries and National Insurance	15,427	
2,426	Office Expenses	3,522	
1,271	General and Water Rates	1,340	
491	Insurance	528	
690	Repairs	1,541	
1,378	Provisions	1,023	
3,009	Light and Heat	3,435	
1,159	Furniture and Household	736	
1,939	Travelling Expenses	2,289	
1,000	Reserve for new Car	-	
	Net Cost of new Car	1,250	
695	Social Agencies	1,240	
(509)	Less: Income from Sundry Sales, etc.	-	
575	Audit Fee	475	
1,531	Sundries	2,115	
30,159			35,100
(2,047)	Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		£ 1,820

THE TREASURER'S WORD

My sincere thanks to all those individuals, churches and other organisations who have so generously supported us in this past year. As the financial climate grows more bleak, so too does the necessity for our work become more urgent, yet we are confident that God still demands that Methodists proclaim His message of Love, Hope and Compassion in the inner city.

In these difficult days, Whitechapel continues to ask for your assistance in this work. We pray that more of our churches from the more prosperous areas take an interest, more of our fellow Methodists consider giving us a regular donation. For those who pay Income Tax - and there can't be many who escape - a Deed of Covenant gives the Mission £14.29 for every £10 donated. Our dedicated staff will appreciate all offers of help including clothing for the store - and don't forget the bequest when making a Will!

We need your prayers too - thank you once again.  
 Yours Sincerely,

LESLIE MOLE



## PORTRAIT

OF

SUSIE

A friend, visiting Whitechapel Mission for the first time, recently asked me whether sharing and working among our people in Whitechapel "got me down" because of the poverty and hardship. The answer is "no". That does not mean that I do not grieve that people should suffer so – not only here but in many other places as well – or, that when I'm tired or something dreadful happens, I don't feel it. But working in Whitechapel is inspiring. It is a privilege to be here.

There are many reasons why a person becomes a "down and out". Alcoholism is a clinging, fierce disease every bit as lethal as any killer. A number of our people are meths drinkers or advanced alcoholics. Others are broken mentally, some physically – some just can no longer cope financially. There are those who live on the streets for other reasons – like the man who could no longer go home after his wife died. Few of them are people who do not know the name of God, or His Son. Evening worship at the Mission is not enforced. Most of them climb the stairs, or sit on them, and come to pray and to see if they agree with the sermon! They are a lively and discerning congregation, who know what they think and like to compare notes with the preacher after, if not during, the service!

We wish mightily that our many friends who donate money or clothing, or other resources, could see the need and the gratitude. Everything sent to us is used in an effort to restore dignity and hope. However small the gift might seem to the sender, it is not "small" to us or to those who benefit from it. The children who save pennies to buy disposable razors enable a man to go into supper (and face another day) with more self-respect and renewed cleanliness. The lady who sent us £1 for noodles helps us make the soup more filling. The church who sent a donation last week has bought a toaster that will provide toast and crumpets etc. for the meal table. And so it goes. It is our ministry, alongside ours.

The two Ladies' Fellowships on Mondays and Wednesdays continue their part in our community's life. The Monday meeting is a Women's Own prayer fellowship. On Wednesday, Bruno leads us onto the floor for the Vellela or the Waltz or a Square Dance as we begin with the Dancing Class. It is a time of joy and fun, not to mention

lack of puff! Afterwards we have a much needed cup of tea, and take our enjoyment and our needs to God in a time of prayer and song. On Friday morning the Mums and Toddlers Club is gradually evolving into a Playgroup. This is a vital link between us and the wider community of Whitechapel, whom we serve. Mothers have a need of somewhere where they can chat to one another while their children play together in safety. As part of the household of God, our concern is to provide His hospitality for all who seek it . . . . if it is found they are welcome to chat and to play, then maybe one day they will discover they are one of us, after all. . . . .

Another important part of the work is inside the London Hospital next door. Hospital is a place where patients and staff daily live with some of the most difficult problems life presents us with, where people either find renewed health and hope for the future, or begin eternity. A chaplain brings the gift of time. . . . time to listen, to be there and share questions and experiences that are immediate and vital in the face of disease and death. We work alongside Anglican and Roman Catholic colleagues, as well as Rabbis and people of other faiths, to do what we can.

"To do what we can". It reminds me of Jesus defending Mary of Bethany in Mark's Gospel, when she had poured out her little fragrant bottle of oil of nard, and anointed Him before His passion. I doubt that anyone who came to see Whitechapel Mission's work would say "Why this waste?". The help we try to give is basic, practical and to the point as well as grounded in the preaching of the Gospel and the provision of the Lord's Table. Much of the suffering we attempt to share we may never solve or stop. The words of Jesus reach out to us then . . . . "You have done what lay in your power".

Neither is it all solemn and glum. It is a joyful place. There is a fellowship, a sense of community, among those who have least which is inspiring and of the Kingdom. Last Sunday night one of the men came to talk after evening service, in deep grief at the death of Ned, one of his friends. They all live in a "skipper" – somewhere – and he and his friends drink meths. We sat and talked about God, about death, and we prayed. I asked him if God was in the skipper with them. "Yeah, He's there alright. And we've got each other. We look after each other the best way we can. . . ."

That Christ is alive in Whitechapel there is no shadow of a doubt.

## OUR THANKS TO:

All those who help us in so many ways and so many places

- All who give so much
- Our various committees and officials
- All helpers from the local hospitals
- Our Sunday workers and all who assist us during the week
- Mrs. Reynolds, Mary Culver and others who provide a ministry of music
- Our solicitors, auditors, bankers and printers
- Our friends at the Home Office, in the Woolnoth Society, Crisis at Christmas, No Fixed Abode, and many of our churches



## BURNT OUT — BUT BATTLING ON WHITECHAPEL '83



### YOU CAN HELP OUR WORK BY . . . . .

- Praying for our work and workers
- Sending a donation now
- Having a collecting box in your home
- Covenanting your gift (details on request)
- Undertaking a special project on behalf of the Mission
- Making a legacy in your Will
- Arranging a Gift Service or Carol Party from your church
- Sending clothing parcels
- Asking for a Mission speaker for one of your meetings
- Visiting the Mission

### FORM OF BEQUEST BY WILL

For the guidance of friends who may desire to make bequests for the general work of the Whitechapel Mission, we append the following form of bequest.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the Superintendent for the time being of the Whitechapel Methodist Mission, 212, Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ, for the use of the said Mission the legacy or sum of £ . . . . . (free of duty), and direct the said last mentioned legacy or sum to be paid within twelve months after my decease from the proceeds of my real and personal estate, but primarily out of my personal estate, and the receipt of the Superintendent shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

**NOTE:** The Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1961, enables testators to give by Will for the benefit of any charitable use not only pecuniary legacies, but also tenements and hereditaments of any tenure. The Will must be signed by the testator at the foot or end thereof in the presence of two independent witnesses, who must sign their names, and addresses, and occupations, at the same time, in his presence and the presence of each other.

If you have already made your Will, you might add a codicil directing a legacy to the Whitechapel Mission.

### METHODS OF GIVING . . . . .

**Deeds of Covenant:**  
Since the Methodist Church is a registered charity, the Whitechapel Mission especially welcomes gifts by Deed of Covenant. As payments may be spread over a convenient period, as little now as four years, many donors can give more than would be possible by a single gift and, with income tax at the basic rate of 30%, the value of each covenanted gift is increased by almost half.

**Gifts from Overseas:**  
People resident abroad can execute Deeds of Covenant provided that they pay enough United Kingdom Income Tax to cover the amount reclaimable on the covenant by the Charity. Where this does not apply, the Mission would particularly welcome recurrent gifts by Banker's Order.

**Other Ways of Giving:**  
If you are not in a position to enter into a covenant we hope that you might be able to contribute in one of the following ways: by completing a Banker's Order for payments on a regular basis, or by pledging a regular contribution over a specified number of years.