

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION (Founded 1896)

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

Superintendent: Revd Peter Jennings, M.A.

Warden: Mr. Anthony Miller

Hon. Treasurers: Mr. L. Mole and Mr. E. Warner

Solicitors: Messrs. Butt & Bowyer

Auditors: Messrs. Lake & Company

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC, Mile End Branch
234, Whitechapel Road, London E1

ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED

WHITECHAPEL MISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Revsd Brian J. N. Galliers, Jeffrey W. Harris, Mr. S. Adams, Miss M. Beattie, Miss C. Bentall, Messrs. R. Cox, A. Fowler, H. S. Granger, D. L. Greenacre, L. Mole, H. Pilcher, E. Warner, K. White, the Misses J. Moors, S. Nicholls.

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

Secretary: Revd Peter Jennings

WINDYRIDGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

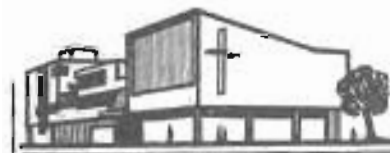
Mr. R. Bircham, Mesdames J. Caton, H. Dunnett, Dr. C. R. Gilbert, Messrs. R. Cox, D. L. Greenacre, K. L. Hollingsworth, Lt. Col. T. J. R. Illingworth, Mr. C. Lawson, Dr. F. W. B. Rilstone, Col. J. G. Round, Revd Robin Searles, Mr. P. Strover.

Chairman: Miss M. Beattie

Secretary: Revd Peter Jennings

Warden: Mr. D. Wolsten-Croft

Medical Officer: Dr. C. R. Gilbert



ANNUAL REPORT 1988

UNDER PRESSURE



THE METHODIST CHURCH
WHITECHAPEL MISSION

(Founded by Rev Thomas Jackson, 1896)

FROM THE SUPER'S DESK

That, as they say, was a year, that was! We've titled our Annual Report "Under Pressure" and a year under pressure it has most certainly been. We began the year under financial pressure because over recent years we had built up a deficit only partially offset by a couple of years in which income very narrowly exceeded expenditure. We simply had to stay within our budget otherwise our financial situation might have become irretrievable. The pressure was therefore to remain cautious or to cut back on the services we offer to some of the most vulnerable people in the Kingdom. Those people had seen so many of their services cut back or taken away that we simply could not offer less to those who already had virtually nothing. Our staff and volunteers responded magnificently — they fed multitudes with less than five loaves and two fishes — the crust of oil never failed. The food store showed a lot of bare wall and bare shelving, but harvest time saw another miracle and stocks replenished to last till Christmas.



The Revd. Peter Jennings.

PRESSURE TO EXPAND

The worst part of the pressure to cut back or be cautious was the frightening pressure we faced to respond to increased need and increase the services we offer. The changes in benefit rules hit our clients hardest, special and supplementary benefits disappeared, grants were replaced by loans. DHSS staff, themselves under pressure, suggested that claimants, OAPs some, should try the Church for help, because there was nothing the DHSS could do — and then the DHSS was broken in half. At precisely the same time, two voluntary agencies like ourselves — out of four in East London — were forced to close because they ran into financial crisis. They will remain closed into the New Year. The pressure on us increases as more clients find their way to us. Again the staff and volunteers work another miracle in responding.

STAFF PRESSURES

A new and special pressure: for the first time in decades there is only one minister serving at Whitechapel. In living memory there have always been either two ministers or a minister and a deaconess. There is such a shortage of ministerial 'person-power' in the Connexion that, although men and women would have responded to the call to come to where they were needed desperately, the Connexional computer and Stationing Policy Committee looked in a different direction. The Woolnoth Society helped to bring young people to Whitechapel to offer some of their time and commitment to serve at the sharp end. Those young people lifted, shifted, painted and decorated, peeled spuds, washed up, cleaned up the clients, listened, helped, sorted out clothes, said their prayers and then came back the following day for the same again. We have been borne aloft by people on sabbatical, retired people with a life experience to share and a host of others who have also responded.

REPEATED TRAGEDIES

Both the street people and the staff and volunteers have been under great emotional pressure because of a spate of losses. Life on the streets is fraught with risk. Shelter at night is uncomfortable. Two hours before dawn in summer are cold, the same hours in winter are unbearable. Fires in derelict buildings, falls, road accidents have taken a terrible toll. We have lost in tragic circumstances some of the real old stagers — not old in years but old in street wisdom. It has been the end of an era in the passing of the patriarchs. The Friday morning trail to a corner of the cemetery, to an unmarked grave with half a dozen others, with a peg number to identify the spot and just the undertakers' men and a minister offering the final dignity, is the loneliest journey of all. The Memory Book in Whitechapel's Upper Room treasures their memory.

PRESSURES ON AND AT THE HOSPITAL

For many years Whitechapel has had a special relationship with the London Hospital at its two sites in Whitechapel itself and at Mile End. Not only do we receive 'most favourable nation status' when we refer our friends to outpatients and accident and emergency, we also have a responsibility within the Chaplaincy services. The work of the two hospitals is becoming more and more acute; patients' stays are being reduced and as staff levels are reduced, the levels of staff frustration rise. We are 'Chaplains to the whole hospital' (a lovely pun) — not only to the patients and their families but also to the staff. During the course of the year, our two lay liaison chaplains have made over 2,000 patient visits, visiting every new admission where possible. One of those chaplains still finds time to recruit and look for more members for the team. Others on the team work in the College of Nursing, helping in the Induction courses on the themes of community homelessness and multi-cultural aspects of nursing.

RELIEVING THE PRESSURE

When the hurricane hit the oak near Windryidge, the tree simply snapped under the pressure. We have to find ways of relieving the pressure before the breaking point arrives. The first area of support to which we are looking is the United Methodist Church in the USA. The Methodist Theological School in Ohio is looking to send a number of experienced seminarians to work in the inner city of London. If we cannot find ministers in the British connexion, then we must look to the American connexion. Whitechapel is looking forward to the first arrival during the course of the coming year.

The second area of support is a sharing with our near neighbours, theologically and geographically, the United Reformed Church. We are going to share a minister with Stepney Meeting House. This time, the Dutch connexion. The Revd Taco Bos who has been working in Britain for a few years and speaks English fluently, will be joining Whitechapel on a half-time basis. He is shortly to marry another URC minister, the Revd Froukjen Smit, who works in a Methodist project in West London — dare I say "a double dutch connexion"?! Taco joins us in February and a little of the pressure will ease.

The third area of support will be the local sharing of Methodist resources. For much of the century, the Bow Mission, the Poplar Mission and the Whitechapel Mission have done different sorts of work, in different areas of the East End. Soon, joined by St. George's Methodist Church from the East End Mission Circuit, the Missions will join into a single circuit. Circuit staff will support each other and offer pastoral cover during holidays. The different centres will still be responsible for their budgets, for the styles and direction of their work but there will be more coherent planning of our Mission and Service to the people of Tower Hamlets.

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WINDYRIDGE

It seems such a long time since I last wrote a report for the annual magazine. I shall have to very careful to remember all the many good things which have occurred over the last twelve months. We seem to have had lots of visits — friends from overseas, magistrates, and some church visits. There has been massive building work in our kitchen and all this connected with the ongoing work of the staff and residents at Windyridge.

Our kitchen, which was originally built in the year dot, has at last been refurbished. A nice word that — refurbished — but what does it actually mean. In essence, the builders have completely ripped out the floor, the walls and the ceiling of the kitchen and fitted new equipment throughout the room. We had hoped to allow as many of our residents home for the three weeks of the building work, but this was impossible to arrange. Eventually we had to cope with 15 young men and women, all of whom had voracious appetites. Our cook had to cope with a domestic electric cooker and still was able to produce quite interesting meals. Actually, the experience was a fascinating time and it certainly brought the residents and staff closer to each other. To remove some of the pressure from the hostel, camping activities went under way and I am led to believe these were highly successful as well.

There has been a great deal of interest shown by different people helping Windyridge and the Mission in our work. Gerry Barr, a member of the Felixstowe church, ran in the London Marathon and his sponsorship was paid to Windyridge. Given his particular interest, that money has been spent on sporting equipment, and just maybe one of our residents will end up by running in the London Marathon as well. The Ladies Guild at the Felixstowe church is currently looking at Windyridge as their special project for the year. This came after a visit to the hostel which was, I think, highly successful. The Maggini String Quartet gave an evening's entertainment at the Castle Methodist church, the proceeds of which were shared between the Mission and ourselves, and it was fascinating to see how many of our



Mr John Thomas, Deputy Warden of Windyridge (L), Revd Peter Jennings (C) and Mr Eric Warner, Treasurer of the Mission (R) receive the cheque from our two special friends at Barclays Bank.



Mr Tim Stowers (L) makes a presentation to Mr Ray Fordham and Mrs Fordham.

residents were interested in classical music. There was even a private individual who gave £200 to be spent on the purchase of secondhand bicycles to assist our young men and women in becoming a little less isolated and more mobile. I speak now with the authority of all the staff at Windyridge in thanking everyone who has helped us over the years.

Now, I would like briefly to mention one of our group of friends from overseas. This is an organisation known as Heifer International, based in the USA. They are hoping to provide the less privileged nations of the world with animal stock to help them in very practical ways overcoming their plight. Heifer International is setting up a UK Base and we are currently in the middle of discussions with them about how Windyridge and the Mission can help. One suggestion is that we supply young animals to a children's hospice, removing the animals when they become too old or too large to be handled. Another suggestion is that we go into production, the profits of which could be ploughed into Heifer International to assist them in their work. I hesitate to report much other than this, but I can say that interest is running high.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Windyridge /Whitechapel run. Readers of this report will know that for a long time residents of Windyridge have been helping at Whitechapel. This is not only of great assistance to the staff at the Mission, it is very (and I use the word advisedly) therapeutic for our young men and women. The time and experience of working in a caring capacity with people less fortunate than themselves can and does have a major impact upon our young people. It also brings Windyridge and the Mission closer together. It is, however, very expensive in terms of cost and time and this is where another donation has been invaluable. Barclays Bank have granted £5,000 to allow the work and experience to continue, and again, I thank the bank on behalf of all the staff and residents at Windyridge.

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THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

FINANCE SHEET as at 31 MARCH 1988

	This Year	Last Year
	£	£
ASSETS (Note 1)		
<u>Loan</u>		
Methodist Chapel Aid Association	-	2,200
<u>Investment (Note 7)</u>		
Central Finance Board Mixed Fund Units	2,200	
<u>Short Term Deposits</u>		
Methodist Church Central Finance Board	30,898	12,568
<u>Other Current Assets</u>		
Debtors and Prepayments	4,890	4,411
Cash at Bank and in Hand	2,227	5,714
	<u>7,125</u>	<u>10,127</u>
	40,223	24,895
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accrued Expenses	5,743	7,738
Due to Thrift Club	720	642
	<u>6,463</u>	<u>8,380</u>
	33,760	16,515
LESS LOANS		
	-	2,200
	<u>£33,763</u>	<u>£14,295</u>
Represented By:		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
	Notes	
Legacies Reserve	4	29,328
Donation for Special Purposes	5b	-
Manse Repair Reserve	5c	2,022
Reserve for Replacement of Vehicles	5a	3,150
		<u>34,500</u>
Less Deficit on General Fund	6	(737)
		<u>£33,763</u>
		<u>£14,295</u>
L.C. POLE)	Joint Treasurers
E. WARREN)	
B.G. YELLARD)	Circuit Stewards
M. PENNELLY)	

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1988

	Note	This Year	Last Year
		£	£
INCOME			
Donations and Collections	(1c)	37,002	33,150
Rents	(1b)	19,687	18,620
Other Income	(2)	9,535	6,327
		<u>66,224</u>	<u>58,097</u>
Less EXPENDITURE			
Salaries and National Insurance		27,046	25,508
Telephone and Office Expenses		11,209	10,339
Light, Heat, Insurance and Rates		11,602	12,572
Repairs and Renewals		9,770	22,959
Motor Expenses and Travel		2,937	3,750
Provisions		839	691
Social Work		2,294	2,018
Audit Fee		736	926
Professional Charges		222	467
Time for God donations		4,531	1,885
Transfer to Manse Repair Reserve		414	739
Transfer to Reserve for Replacement of Vehicles		1,500	1,300
Sundries		1,170	1,154
		<u>74,270</u>	<u>84,508</u>
Less financed by grants and donations for special purposes	(5b)	10,823	29,470
		<u>63,447</u>	<u>55,038</u>
Surplus on ordinary activities for the year		2,777	3,059
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS			
Donations for Special Purposes		-	2,615
Less transfer to Special Reserve		-	(2,615)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cost of vehicles purchased		3,200	7,150
Less Special donations		-	(6,000)
Transfer from Vehicle Reserve		3,200	(1,150)
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Surplus for year, carried forward	(6)	<u>£ 2,777</u>	<u>£ 3,059</u>

(continued from page 5)

May I now be indulgent and mention the staff at Windyridge? They have all put in a tremendous effort over the year, but I am sure they would be the first to forgive me if I only mention one member. Ray Fordham has worked at Windyridge for over 25 years. In that time he has seen the hostel grow and indeed has been part of the actual fabric of Windyridge. I have known Ray since 1969 and I speak as a friend and colleague in saying that he is a bedrock of experience upon which a lot of our work rests. Thank you Ray.

Finally, I would like to throw out an invitation to the readers of this report. Years ago, I remember a charabanc used to visit Windyridge, bringing our friends from Whitechapel. The delights in seeing our friends from the East End visit the farm was great indeed. The links between the two centres are incredibly strong but I would like to see these visits commencing again. I think I have said it before in one of my other reports, but I will say it again, please visit us.

D. Wolsten-Croft

(continued from Page 3)

NEW YEAR — EASING THE BURDEN

In another part of the Report we express "Our thanks to . . ." I simply want to say here that the only reason we haven't snapped under pressure is that we have been supported by a magnificent team of young people. We have been loved and prayed for and been borne on eagles' wings by many local circuits who have shared in our work. Ministry does not belong exclusively to ministers of the ordained variety — it belongs to the whole people of God. Kids have bought soap, combs and disposable razors with their pocket money. Teenagers have run marathons, walked miles and then come and helped. Building Society managers, Vice presidents of Banks, Civil Engineers, Teachers have sweated for and with our clients and OAPs and others have baked cakes, made mince pies and knitted gloves and woolly hats. I could never have believed how marvellous the Jesus-people could be, if I hadn't known the miracle at first hand. Please continue to ease our pressure by your prayers and your gifts — and look out for next year's Report . . . Easing the Burden.

FAREWELL

The indestructible Benny Dolan has died. I have known Benny for nineteen years, one of the real characters amongst the street people. His history was simple. As a young man he was an athlete; he served his National Service in Cyprus; he came home, disappeared for a week and was never the same again. He was the subject of a documentary film called "Benny", made 15 or more years ago and Benny has lived on the streets for almost all of that time. There have been notable exceptions. He was nursed and looked after by the Kenward Trust and I shall treasure the memories of a bright, smiling, clean, sober Benny, putting weight on, well looked after during that time. His most recent stay in shelter was in Caplin House, where, once again, his condition began to improve. But Benny went back to his friends and to the skipper. In a very real way he was the father of the family.

Our memories of him are of a man who always persuaded us to say yes. The only thing he ever asked for himself was a pair of glasses, but times without number he came to us for a blanket for so and so, or a shirt for somebody else, or a pair of trousers for his friend and everyone knew that that was true — it wasn't for Benny. It was for his friend. Benny always coaxed a yes out of us. Back in the skipper Benny was too close to the fire, fell into it and was horribly disfigured. He survived, nursed tenderly in the Billericay Burns Unit for a couple of weeks. His family, May, Joe and Terry, who never lost touch or gave him up, were with him. He and they were supported by friends from Bishop's Stortford who daily travelled across. Benny was visited, too, by some of his friends from the agencies which had looked after him. The nurses in the burns unit soon learnt that Benny was very, very special. His ashes have gone back to Scotland, but Benny's heart and soul remain in the East End amongst us. A memorial service saw the church packed with his friends who tearfully spoke of what Benny had given to them and how he had saved a considerable amount of money to send as a wedding present to his niece.

The flowers on our memorial table speak eloquently of the love that so many had for Benny, and a battered old pair of spectacles remind us of the impression that Benny's physical presence always gave.

P.J.

AU REVOIR

The Revd Susan Featherstone, who served the Whitechapel Mission for the past five years, left us at the end of the last Connexional year to take up an appointment in the Walthamstow and Chingford Circuit, happily one of the circuits which has supported us so very graciously over many years.



The Revd. Susan Featherstone.

Susan's task, ministering "at the sharp end" of Christian mission in areas where the Kingdom of God's humbler citizens live, has been far from easy. The work really was indescribable, but whether preaching, working in the Ladies' groups or working and counselling in the Day Centres and Care Units, where she was project leader, she was patient with the trying, firm with the weak, supportive to the struggling and companion to the lonely. She has left a gaping Featherstone-shape hole in the Mission's work. Our tragedy is that there is such a shortage of ordained Methodist ministers that, though there are those who would hear the call to service here, the Connexion cannot allow them to be stationed here because the Connexion believes there are places where ministers are needed more. In yet another way Sue's departure leaves us "under pressure."

Our prayers remain with her as she continues to remember us in her thoughts and prayers.

THE TREASURER'S WORD

For the first time for many years our accumulated deficit has almost been eliminated. It has been reduced by over £9,000 during the year as the result of several very generous donations which are unlikely to be repeated, and has virtually wiped out the deficit which has accrued over the past four years. The general day to day income also generated a small surplus over the expenditure.

As was generally expected, the rate of Income Tax was reduced to 25p in the £ so that next year we shall be receiving 33p in the £ back from the Inland Revenue instead of 37p as this year. This means that in the last four years the amount we receive back from Covenanted giving has been reduced by 9p in every £1, which has reduced our income from this source by several hundred pounds. Many donors have increased their Covenant to offset this but the number of Covenantors continues to diminish every year and anyone who is able to start a new Covenant would be most welcome to do so.

During the year Leslie Mole and his wife were involved in a road accident from which neither has fully recovered and we should continue to remember them in our prayers.

We hope you will continue your generous support so that our work may continue to prosper and to help those that come on to our premises.

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 officers
- Our student nurse helpers from the London Hospital
- Our Sunday volunteers and all who assist us during the week
- Gordon, Isabel and Mrs. Reynolds who provide a ministry of music
- Our solicitors, auditors, bankers and printers
- Our friends at the Home Office
in the Woolnoth Society
from Crisis at Christmas
at No Fixed Abode
- Our patron saint St. Michael and his lieutenants at Marks & Spencers
- Our supporters from many churches and circuits not least Bishop's Stortford
- Those who carry us daily in their thoughts and prayers.
- The Maggini Quartet who make the rafters ring with music.

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, 1981, 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.