

Activities at Whitechapel

Divine Worship
Sunday Schools
Whitechapel Fellowship
Whitechapel Youth Centre
Women's Meetings
Men's Meetings
Guides, Brownies, Teenies
Scouts, Cubs
Clothing Department
Youth Choir
Camps and Outings
Sound Cinema
Handicrafts
Savings Banks
Hospital and Prison Visitation
British Women's Total
Abstinence Union
Social and Moral Welfare Work

Please send your gifts to:-

REV. A. E. D. CLIPSON, WORKING LADS' INSTITUTE

**279 Whitechapel Road
London E.1**

The Whitechapel Mission FOUNDED BY THE REV. THOMAS JACKSON, 1896

God's Little Ones

BEING THE ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 1983

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

FOUNDED 1896

Centres of Christian Activity

Church: Brunswick Hall, 210 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

Working Lads' Institute: Youth Centre, 279 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

Holiday and Rest Home: Southend-on-Sea. Tel.: 68206.

Windyridge Farm Home: Horkesley Park, Nayland, Nr. Colchester. Tel.: Nayland 332.

Whitechapel House Hostel: 153 Tulse Hill, S.W.2. Tel.: TULSE Hill 1391.

"Bethany" Eventide Home: Thorpe Bay, Essex. Tel.: Thorpe Bay 64073.

The General Office is at 279 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED

Superintendent: Rev. A. E. D. Clipson. Tel.: BISHOPSGATE 8280.

Superintendent's Secretary: Mrs. G. Wilson.

Clerk (Hon.): Mrs. Walker.

Deaconess: Sister Molly Fishwick, nsc.

Student-Pastor: Malcolm F. Trew.

Social Worker: Miss M. E. Field.

Solicitors: Messrs. Butt & Bowyer, 14 National House, Moorgate, E.C.2.

Auditors: Newport Nelson & Co., 79 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

Bankers: Barclays Bank Ltd., Mile End Branch, 234 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

Executive Committee for Whitechapel Mission and Working Lads' Institute and Homes

Revs. Percy D. Beckwith, Reuben F. Skinner, James E. Thorp, George Kendall, William Upright, C. Leonard Tudor, John Mainwaring, oae, Dr. Irvonwy Morgan, MA, George E. Wiles, Lt.-Cmdr. Horace Denton, JP, oae, Messrs. Ernest Rutter, John Lloyd, oae, Henry H. Bowyer, John P. Everitt, Alexander McBain, Mesdames. N. Doreen Clipson, Alice Harding, Alice Pruce and Dora Buck.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Fred C. Yelland, FACCA, Leonard G. Freeman and Stanley W. Newman. *Superintendent and Secretary:* Rev. A. E. D. Clipson.

Windyridge Farm and Home Management Committee

Messrs. Alexander McBain, Thomas England, S. W. Newman, J. Brunt, Rev. J. R. S. Hutchinson, Dr. W. A. Bullough, oae, MSc, MA, oae, oph, Mrs. F. C. Yelland, Mrs. A. E. D. Clipson, Rev. L. S. Shutter. *Chairman:* Lt.-Cmdr. Horace Denton, JP, oae. *Secretary:* Rev. A. E. D. Clipson. *Medical Attendant:*

Whitechapel House Hostel Management Committee

Rt. Hon. Lord Ammon, Messrs. J. C. Erskine Hill, oae, BA, F. Bradshaw, F. C. Yelland, FACCA, H. J. Bolton, FACCA, Mesdames F. C. Yelland and A. E. D. Clipson. *Chairman:* Mr. Leonard G. Freeman, ARICS. *Secretary:* Rev. A. E. D. Clipson. *Medical Attendant:* Dr. Crosbie Walsh.

GOD'S LITTLE ONES



Rev. A. E. D. Clipson



Rev. Thomas Jackson

A road-sweeper by daily occupation, and caretaker of a little chapel during his spare time — that was Tommy! Simple-hearted, and indeed, simple-minded, he was the innocent cause of many a heated argument among the brethren. He died, and a remarkable number of people representing the civic and ecclesiastical life of the town attended the funeral. As we walked back, a prominent tradesman, himself an official at the same chapel, said, "You know, by his blundering ways, his lack of tact, his misunderstanding of what he heard, and his talk, Tommy caused a lot of trouble, but I could never say a harsh word to him, no matter what I said to others; I always felt that he was ONE OF GOD'S LITTLE ONES!" That was beautifully put and the phrase has remained with me through the years. Many a time I have been steadied by the remembrance of it.

It is our lot, at Whitechapel, to have to do with many who have lacked the privileges which you and I enjoy, and which, perhaps, we do not always fully appreciate. A number of these folk are immature in many ways, burdened with a bad heritage, and hurt by a vicious environment. Some of them have been exploited by stronger and ruthless personalities, and some have succumbed to anti-social tendencies which brought them low. Others, having toiled and suffered and sacrificed to bring up their families, have been left to a lonely old age, lacking in creature comforts and often through sheer exhaustion — physical, mental and spiritual — unable to avail themselves of such helps as may be provided. We know a surprising number of *homeless* people: many who are always mobile, drifting from point to point in aimless and hopeless fashion; and others who know nothing of home as we know it, for they have lived in one institution or another most of

AT WHITECHAPEL

Fifty seven years ago, the Whitechapel Mission was founded by the late Rev. Thomas Jackson. The memory of his saintly character and sacrificial labours is cherished, and it is a constant encouragement as we endeavour to carry on the work he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to begin. Thomas Jackson literally gave all he was and had for Whitechapel.

He sponsored what is perhaps the oldest Youth Club in the country, and its headquarters were named the Whitechapel Working Lads' Institute. In that building, which is still the centre where the work of the Mission is administered, throughout the years an amazing work has been done in training young people to be Christian citizens. We believe Thomas Jackson would rejoice if he could see the present day healthy condition of the Mission he began. The premises are thronging with life, and the presence of so many young people delights us. The growth of our week-day meetings is evidenced in our accommodation being full to capacity. You would be pleased to see our Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies, and "Teenics". The Sunday School, which is thriving, has one family of nine girls whose ages range from thirteen to a toddler.

Our Sunday services are held in the Brunswick Hall which is on the Whitechapel Road, almost opposite the Working Lads' Institute. The Hall was recently renovated and is, in more ways than one, a bright spot in drab surroundings. How thankful to be able to say that the congregations are better than they have been for years, and they continue to grow. Here, as in other branches of the Mission, we witness conversions and know the Gospel is still "the power of God unto Salvation".

Let praise be given to our hard working staff. Sister Molly, in her sixth year at Whitechapel, is in labours abundant and varied, and does all with good cheer. Mrs. Wilson's secretarial work has grown with each new venture the Mission undertakes. Mr. and Mrs. Mackender have had a life long association with the Mission, and since 1947 have done admirable work as members of the staff and the young folk love them. We owe much to the office work voluntarily rendered for four and a half years by Mr. J. J. Barnes, who unfortunately was compelled to retire in May. Another voluntary worker,

Mrs. Walker, stepped into the breach and is giving efficient service. Our Student Pastor, Mr. Malcolm F. Trew, joined us in March and he has shown aptitude and ability. Like his predecessor he has won a large circle of friends.

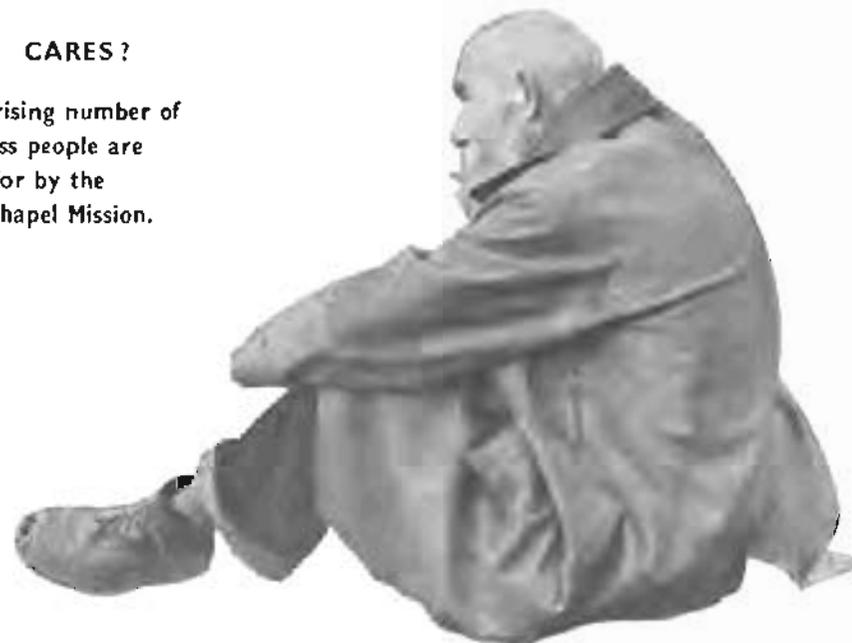
How well we are served by our Mission Committee, and the Management Committees for Whitechapel House and Windyridge. The members of these Committees are keen and helpful and gladly give their time and ability, as also do our Trustees.

We are indeed fortunate in our Circuit Steward, Mr. Yelland. He and his good wife are unstinting in their service — so efficient and gracious. Their elder son Roy and his wife Muriel have recently returned to French West Africa, where they serve our Church. Bruce, their other boy, is in Australia. From a home steeped in Methodist tradition these young people have gone and they worthily maintain their Christian heritage.

Valuable service is given week by week by Mr. Kenneth Walters, our Youth Leader, Mr. and Mrs. Puce, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Lanceley. Space forbids the naming of other workers, but to all of them we are deeply grateful.

WHO CARES?

A surprising number of homeless people are cared for by the Whitechapel Mission.





The New Windyridge

In 1938 a new venture in our Mission was made possible by the generous gift by Mr. and Mrs. Atterton of land and property known as Windyridge. The Rev. J. E. Thorp was quick to seize the opportunity the notable gift made possible. Since this colony of Redemption was opened over three hundred lads, placed on probation by the Police Courts, have been trained there. A number of them came to accept the Christian way of life and many have made good.

With the passing of the years the success of the work became an embarrassment, and repeated representations were made to us by the Home Office to extend our work. This we hoped to do at Windyridge, but this was found to be impracticable. We had to seek a place more suited for the growing work the Home Office were pressing us to do. After months of enquiry and endeavour we have found premises admirably suited for our purpose. It is Great Horkesley Park, a fine modernised Georgian and Queen Anne residence, situated in its own

grounds by the River Stour. The suite of buildings includes a Manager's Cottage, Lodge Bungalow, Outbuildings and a Workshop. Here we shall be able to have in residence thirty lads and an adequate staff. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hetherington, the newly appointed Warden and Matron, and Mr. and Mrs. Maskery, the assistant Warden and Matron, come to us with excellent credentials. We trust that they will find joy and success in the great work to which they are putting their hands. Lt. Commander H. Denton, R.N., J.P., O.B.E., is the very able Chairman of the Committee. The official opening will take place in the summer of 1954, when the new Home will be in full commission.

Reluctantly we have had to say "Good-bye" to the beloved Windyridge. In doing so, tribute must be paid to those who served so nobly there. The following is an extract from a resolution on the Committee's Minute Book :

"The Committee desire to place on record their sincere appreciation of all the work done in connection with Windyridge and to pay tribute to all who have contributed to the success of the work and particularly to the Home Office, Revs. J. E. Thorp and A. E. D. Clipson, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, and Staff, and the local Management Committee. They thank God for all that has been accomplished and rejoice that it is not the end of the story. They look forward with confidence to Windyridge, Chapter Two."

Appropriately the name of the newly acquired premises will be "Windyridge".

The Cupboard

There are times when, like old Mother Hubbard, we find our cupboard is bare—such is the demand made upon it. The cupboard is not a food or crockery store—it is the name given to our clothing depot. To all who have sent clothes to us we send our thanks. You would be gratified to see and hear the expressions of joy of these ill-clad people we are able to assist through your kindly help. We find men's clothing is scarcer than women's and children's. Some of the parcels we receive speak of love—for the contents have been brushed or washed. Have you a suit no longer of use to you? We can place it well. We are always glad to receive clothes for either sex.

WHITECHAPEL HOUSE

Throughout its history the Mission has taken a loving interest in wayward lads. For over half a century the Police Courts have looked to us for help, and we have, by God's help, endeavoured "to seek and to save the lost".

Our Approved Probation Hostel, in Tulse Hill, now called Whitechapel House, was secured to enable us to extend this work. It was bombed and battered before we could begin our labours. But by October, 1948, it was rebuilt and furnished, and the Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede, then Home Secretary, performed the opening ceremony and the Rt. Hon. Lord Ammon presided.

The Hostel is designed to carry fifteen lads, and the present staff consists of Warden and Matron (Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Tomlinson), Assistant Warden (Mr. Elwyn Rogers), and a resident cook (Miss Shinn). During the year which ended September 30th, 1953, twenty-five lads were admitted. In the same period seven have been discharged to their own homes, seven to lodgings, four into H.M. Army and one to Hospital. All these were discharged as satisfactory. Eight lads absconded and for various reasons did not return. One was arrested on a further charge, so that nine are to be regarded as unsatisfactory. The Warden's report states that "Most of the unusual number of abscondings again occurred during the early days of residence and could reasonably be ascribed to misjudgment in placing the lads". The Hostel is now full to capacity.

Although the work is not without its disappointments, we are encouraged by the number of lads who come to a new way of life under the Christian influence and guidance found in the Hostel.

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. L. G. Freeman the Committee meets monthly at the Hostel. On Sundays, the lads join us at the Mission for tea and then attend the evening service. The Hostel compares well with any of its kind in the country and is held in high regard by the Probation Branch of the Home Office.



Mrs. A. E. D. Clipson

Eventide Home

The latest venture of the Mission is "Bethany", in Brunswick Road, Thorpe Bay. It is our Eventide Home for women, and was opened some twenty months ago. Here, in a very homely atmosphere, aged women, whom nobody appeared to want, have found comfort and peace. The overhead costs, so far borne by the Mission, have been heavier than we anticipated. Most of the unexpected charges are, however, of a non-recurring nature, and we hope to be able to maintain this useful work and when possible to extend it.

Miss Ruth Platts and Mrs. Farnell have not long been with us, but between them they have made "Bethany" into a real home. Their work is exacting and calls for tact and patience, as well as for long hours of unremitting labour — qualities which elsewhere would be at a premium. Theirs is largely a labour of love, and is much appreciated by the residents and by us.

To succour the aged and to befriend the lonely is a blessed ministry, and we thank God for the opportunity of exercising it and for the blessing it has brought to those in the eventide of life.

AT "BETHANY",
Thorpe Bay.

A group of happy
residents with Miss
Maisie Field in the
garden of our
Eventide Home.



OUR HOLIDAY AND REST HOME



Holidays! What memories the very name stirs for us. We know the value and joy of holidays. But there are hundreds of folk around us here in sore need of holidays who would never have one but for our Mission. You would be deeply moved if you read the letters on our files — some clumsy in expression, others badly written, and some in the shaky writing of sick and old folk — that speak of benefits received from a stay in our Holiday and Rest Home at Southend-on-Sea. In the year ending September 30th, 1953, seven hundred and three people have been cared for there.

Some of them contribute toward the cost of the holiday, but most of them have to be assisted from our social fund.

In these days the running expenses of such an establishment are exceptionally heavy. Generous gifts from some friends have helped this service, and but for them the heavy deficit would be greater still. We feel this work must go on. Since the Home was re-opened in 1947 Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood and Mrs. Kennedy have served well, and they have won the affection and gratitude of those who have shared the hospitality of the Home.

After the children of our Primary Department had sung

"Teach me to be good and true, etc."

the Leader asked, "Do you know what those words mean?"

Frankie, a cockney lad, quickly replied

"It means yer a'int got t' muck abaht, miss".



CHRISTMAS CHEER

To the children of East London, many of whom live in very drab surroundings and in dwellings far from Christian, we try to bring something of the meaning and joy of Christmas. You, good friends, can help us to do this.

How we wish you could join in our huge Christmas Parties, held throughout the week preceding Christmas Day: see the delight on the faces of those who would not receive a visit from Santa Claus but for this Mission; and hear the expressions of gratitude of the needy, the aged poor, lonely and the sick as they receive a parcel of food and garments. It is an experience that thrills the Mission workers and more than compensates for the arduous labours and long hours of work this festive season means for them.

On a number of occasions when our supply has been exhausted and we were at our wits end as to how to provide for the next crowded party, parcels and money have arrived, and cars laden with the needed food and toys have drawn up at the Mission.

It is not possible adequately to express our gratitude in words to the friends who have so lovingly made our Christmas celebrations possible.

This year we have arranged a full programme for our very large family of children and grown ups. With confidence we appeal for your aid, and we trust you will be among those who know "The heart grows rich in giving" because you helped us to make a Happy Christmas for GOD'S LITTLE ONES.

Short Stories by AMICUS

What a Friend we have in Jesus, set to a lovely tune, was sung by the youths from Whitechapel House at the Mission Anniversary. How well they sang! There was a fine attendance and good speaking, but for me the most cherished memories will be of the conversions that took place between the two meetings, and the singing of those lads. "Have we trials and temptations? . . . Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?" they sang of what they knew. How thankful we should be that because of this Mission some of them could also sing from experience "In His arms He'll take and shield thee".

* * *

Well deserved tributes were paid to the Rev. & Mrs. Clipson. They must have been encouraged at the evening meeting by the cheer they received — an expression of affection and gratitude from the people they so devotedly serve.

* * *

The cleanliness and neat appearance of the premises impressed me. I commented on this, and one of the officials told me that the walls and floors of the Institute, also the floor and seats of the Church and the Hall beneath had been scrubbed and washed by Mrs. Clipson, Sister Molly, Miss Maisie Field, Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Mackender. Such a labour of love is typical of the sacrificial service that has made this Mission so effective.

As we climbed the sixty-nine steps that led to the rooms, at the very top of the Working Lads' Institute, where the Superintendent and his family live, I recalled that the Report of the Commission on London Methodism stated that Mission Ministers should 'reside within reasonable distance of the Mission'. I was not surprised that a well-known layman, the father-in-law of one of our leading ministers, said, "I just could not live here." But Mr. & Mrs. Clipson live there by choice because they can better do their work among the people of this densely populated area

* * *

Temperance teaching is a feature of the work here, and an up-to-date Total Abstiners' Roll is kept. There is a healthy branch of the British Women's Total Abstinence Union of which Mrs. Clipson is the President.

* * *

I would like you to read the letters on the files of this Mission. It is a deeply moving experience to read of changed lives, of hope renewed and of gratitude of young and old for the benefits received from the agencies of the Whitechapel Mission.

* * *

Please pray for the manifold witness and work of this Mission, and send a gift to the Rev. A.E.D. Clipson to help these ministries of love.

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

1. Pray for our work and workers.
2. Send a Donation now.
3. Have a Collecting Box in your home.
4. Become a Covenanted Subscriber. This method of giving nearly doubles the value of your gift. We will gladly send you particulars.
5. Make a Legacy in your Will. (See form of bequest below)
6. Arrange in your Church
(1) A Gift & Toy Service.
(2) A Carol Party.
7. Send Parcels of Clothing and Shoes.
8. Ask for a Mission Speaker for one of your meetings.

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, 279 Whitechapel Road, London, E.1., 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, 1891, 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, addresses, and occupations, at the same time, in his presence and the presence of each other.

If you have already made your Will, kindly add a Codicil directing a Legacy to the Whitechapel Mission.