

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.

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.

Deaconess: Sister Vera Purnell.

Curator: Mr. H. T. Lanceley.

Social Worker: Mrs. Lanceley.

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.

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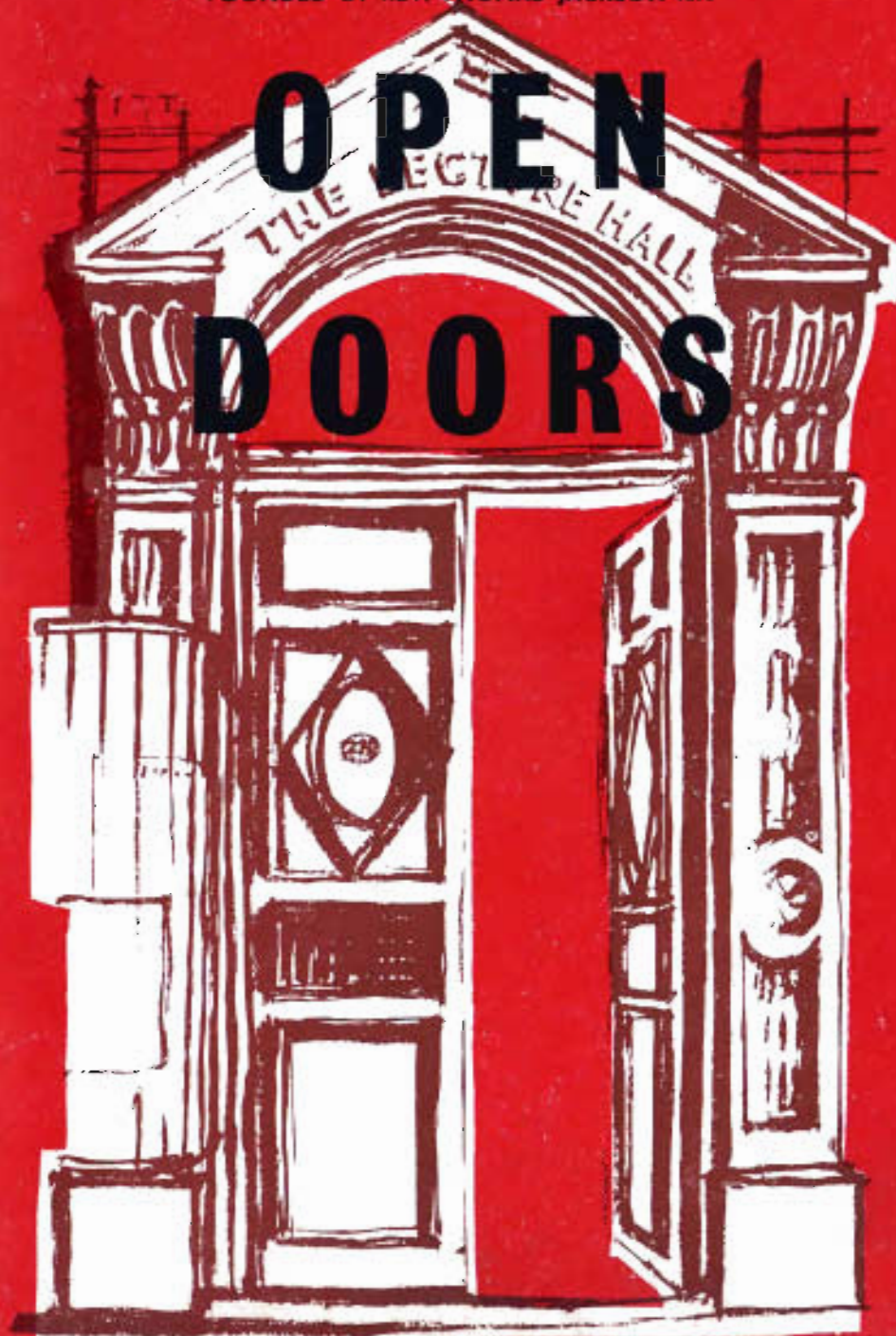
Whitechapel House Hostel Management Committee

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THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

FOUNDED BY REV. THOMAS JACKSON 1896



BEING THE 63RD ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 1959

A VILLAGE SHOPKEEPER with whom I was acquainted in my early days insisted on always having the door of his shop wide open. There were times when this was very uncomfortable and inconvenient for his assistants, but in those days little account appeared to be taken of what they might feel; the important factor was that customers were more likely to come in if the door stood open, especially if samples of the varied stock were skilfully displayed with a view to luring the unsuspecting passer-by through playing upon his curiosity!

Open doors *are* inviting, and provide many opportunities of service. How often one heard in Yorkshire, "Come in, t' door's open", and what happy memories one has of homely gatherings and warm hospitality in that large county where the doors so easily swing back, and the kettle is always boiling.

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION has for sixty-three years by God's grace, and the help of its many friends kept open doors. In that period there have been many changes, but basic needs remain the same. "The exceeding sinfulness of sin" still plays havoc with God's fair world. Still there is poverty and pain, misery and homelessness, and still efforts are made to bring men and women and young folk to the point where all their deep needs are met by the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord.

"When one door shuts another opens" - so runs the old saying. Generally speaking it is true - part of the compensatory balance of Life: but some there are upon whom it would appear Life has slammed the door in their faces with a final bang, and to them has been given "the key of the street".

It is many years since first I met Huckleberry Finn in the pages of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Huckleberry is one of literature's most loveable characters. Clad in rags, knowing no discipline, with no home, no sisters or brothers, and a drunken father whose whereabouts was not known for lengthy periods, Huckleberry is the pariah of the village. The boys are not allowed to play with him. And yet his association with Tom and Joe Harper in their thrilling adventures reveals a true heart and a deep longing for fellowship. Happily the author does not leave us with a picture of him nicely polished and living in refinement. That way was tried by the well-meaning Widow Douglas, but it would not work. Huckleberry had a place of his own among mankind and his contribution to the general weal had its own value when it was discovered. All the poor lad needed was friendship and encouragement - they are of far more value than dollars. An odd copper or so does not relieve us of our responsibility towards the less-favoured folk who are ever with us; they need more than money, and if we were more ready to give of our sympathy and understanding we would often be surprised by the returns yielded by our investments.

"I am the Door," said Jesus, "by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Can any joy equal that of bringing people to Him Who spoke those gracious words? Some there are who stand aloof, hardened and embittered by the things which have happened unto them - unapproachable, unrepentant, unassailable, unco-operative. "Behold," says Jesus, "I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me." What a privilege to be there and to see the heart's door open as such bid Him enter! Not that doors can keep Him out when frail ones long for His Presence. "Then - when the doors were shut for fear - came Jesus and stood in their midst, and saith unto them, "Peace be unto you." Ah! the inevitable Christ! The burden of the message to the church at Philadelphia was, "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." In confident reliance upon that same gracious promise this Mission moves forward into its sixty-fourth year of service, the evangelical ministry of the Word being central, and all activities engaged in the interpretation thereof to those around us.

A. E. D. Clipson

THE Whitechapel Mission was founded in 1896 by the Rev. Thomas Jackson, who faithfully carried forward the valuable work he had begun until his death in 1932 at the age of eighty-two. The Rev. J. E. Thorp, who had joined Mr. Jackson in 1920, then took over the Superintendency, directing the Mission activities up to the time of his retirement in 1947, when the present Superintendent was appointed.

Through the years four men have gone from here into the Christian ministry and this year a young worker from the Mission has entered the Deaconess Training College. Thousands of young men have gone out into the world, having for periods up to a year, lived in our care, and the great majority of them have made good. The mission continues the work among both old and young, and we consider it a privilege to have some share in it.



Rev. A. E. D. and Mrs. Clipson

AN OPEN DOOR OF WELCOME

is characteristic of the WHITECHAPEL HOUSE HOSTEL. There is an amazing number of homeless people in London, even now, and among them, many lads who wander about the streets, the potential prey of evil men and raw material for crime by reason of their circumstances. Such are directed by Welfare workers, policemen or National Assistance Board officials to our well-appointed establishment on Tulse Hill, where Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Caukill and Mr. John Gadd are doing a most useful piece of work in bringing about the rehabilitation of such and the setting of their feet on the right road.

Mr. Caukill adds his word after three years experience as Warden of Whitechapel House :

Our Tulse Hill Hostel for "young wayfarers" has been well used during the year. Indeed, in August, we admitted the 500th lad to use the hostel since it was opened for this purpose in September 1956.

Five hundred lads, and no two alike, differing in looks, differing in needs; many of them without a place they can call their home. Two hundred and thirty have been admitted since our last report. From North, South, East and West they come. Overseas from British Guiana and Malaya; hitch-hiking from Dundee, Stirling, Glasgow and Edinburgh; from Belfast and Birmingham; Canterbury and Cork; Wales and Waterford; Gateshead and Greenock; coming to the metropolis for work and, finding none, are destitute and homeless. Some have banged the door behind them and are afraid to go back home; others turned out by parents in the heat of domestic strife. If we can get them back home we do, and had success in one particular case where two welfare officers had previously failed. Where there is no home to which they are able to return our aim is to get them "on their feet", house and feed them during unemployment and give them accommodation when they become self-supporting until they feel able to move into rooms or lodgings.

On Life's Threshold



"'Oo founded this 'ostel?" asked a Lancashire lad, as he took his steaming hot dinner through the service hatch. "A Christian gentleman called Thomas Jackson started this work over sixty years ago," he was told by the Warden. "Well," said the lad, "I think he did a good thing!"



Healthy in every way

The 63rd Anniversary of the Mission was held in October when friends old and new joined in the celebrations. The Rev. W. Motson was guest preacher on the Sunday and the Rev. Iestyn Young served us well on the Monday. Mr. J. C. Baker, J.P., presided and Miss May Buck was the soloist.



A Door of Hope . .

stands open at WINDYRIDGE, our Essex Farm Home. Many a lad who might have lost his grip on Life, and have been swept into being largely a liability has had occasion to be thankful for this lovely home, and all its healthy activities. At the time of writing we are hoping that in the near future a very important person from Whitehall will find it possible to pay us a visit. If he does, I think he will find a job of work is being done, and a contribution being made towards the solution of some of the most pressing problems of our age. We are very grateful to all members of our staff at Windyridge for their hard work. Mr. Harris, Mr. Bilton and Miss Hart are the latest to join us there.

Our Warden, Mr. J. Ivan Elliott, who is recovering from an eye operation, contributes the following :

Below is an extract from one of the many letters received from a young man who has been in residence at Windyridge. Letters such as these amply make up for any disappointments we may have, and are surely evidence of the value of the work done at Windyridge.

John, the boy concerned, came to Windyridge in the autumn of 1958. He was then 19 years of age, and a lad who apart from being in trouble, had many problems, not the least an unhappy home life.

He left Windyridge on the 14th October 1959, having been accepted in Her Majesty's Armed Forces, an ambition which he had cherished for a very long time. John's letter reads as follows :—

"As you see from the above address, I have got my biggest wish. I want you to know that I am not blind to the fact that this is all due to the efforts made by Mr. Elliott. Tell all the staff I thank them for what they have done for me, and also for the kindness and understanding that they have shown me. All the staff have been good to me, but most of all I would like to thank Mr. Elliott. Mr. Elliott has guided me over the twelve months I spent at Windyridge. It is due to Mr. Elliott that I am a Christian. Before I came to Windyridge I never knew what Christianity was. When I got to know Mr. Elliott I said to myself, if a man like Mr. Elliott believes in God then there must be something in it. You see, in my mind Mr. Elliott is a great man. I may not have been an angel while I was at Windyridge, but I entered a boy and came out a man. I will always remember what you all have done for me.

I am, Yours sincerely, JOHN."

Our Warden feels that this letter says more effectively than he himself could say that the work at Windyridge is by no means in vain.

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The pictures opposite are from photographs taken at Windyridge Farm Home.



Top—Some of our Livestock

Centre—Stables : Built by the Lads

Bottom—Agricultural Activities

The Open Door of 'Bethany'

leads to rest and comfort for a few elderly women who, having served their day and generation, find themselves seeking a cosy corner in which to spend life's eventide. With as few restrictions as possible, and with as much comfort as we are able to provide, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Waite engage here in a real labour of love, and have brought about much happiness where otherwise there might have been uncertainty, insecurity and anxiety such as should never befall anyone in their declining years. We only wish we could do more: in our present premises we are limited, but we dare to hope that a more suitable building may soon become available to us.

OBITUARY

Two of the Mission's valued Committee members have died during the year. MR. F. R. BRADSHAW, of Dulwich, served on the Whitechapel House Management Committee, as a speaker at our meetings and as a preacher. He entered into all his duties with thoroughness and enthusiasm and had many interviews with individual lads in their times of difficulty, praying with them, and by loving persuasion seeking to win them. Through his efforts Bibles were presented to many youths in our care, and in other ways Mr. Bradshaw served us well. It still seems strange to meet without his visible presence.

The REV. L. S. SHUTTER, of Clacton-on-Sea, rendered useful service as a member of the Windyridge Management Committee. He will long be remembered by his colleagues, by the Staff, and by many lads for his ready humour, his clarity of thought, and his incisive speech. As in the case of Mr. Bradshaw, we miss him from our meetings, but are grateful for the memory of him.

A DOOR TO FREEDOM

"TO SET MY PEOPLE FREE"

"Sister, you're cockney like us!" declared one of our women the other day. Yes, I am - and proud of it too! It seems to me very fitting that I should be sent to serve God here in Whitechapel, for I owe such a great debt to that Mission in London where I first came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I long that these people, too - my fellow Londoners - might come to know Him and be set free from their sin. In a real sense these are *my* people, and already they have a very warm place in my heart.

My particular concern is for the young people in this area, and what a joy it is to see them coming into our Youth Club each week - excepting when they fuse the lights! There are some people, I know, who have little faith in Youth Clubs as an effective means of bringing the young people into the Church - but that is the way I was brought in. Even if only one or two are brought into the Kingdom then surely it is worthwhile. As I look at these youngsters I see within them such great potentialities, if only they can be won for Him.

Moses was sent by God to set his people free, and so I believe God has given me that same commission. How like that great leader I feel in the face of such an immense task - inadequate and unworthy - but I go forward with confidence knowing that God has said "Certainly I will be with thee".

To set my people free - free from sin, free from fear, free from poverty, free from loneliness - and it is only as we point them to Jesus Christ that we can do that, "in Whose service is perfect freedom".

VERA PURNELL.



Sister Betty Vaughan has been appointed to the Bolton Mission, and Sister Vera Purnell came to us in September.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Mackender, who had worked with us for nearly twelve years took up other employment in February, but happily have been able to remain in membership with us. They were succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Lanceley.

Miss Mavis Carlile, another valued worker, has now entered the Deaconess Training College at Ilkley.

Sister Vera has found a ready response to her efforts among our young people in Whitechapel. Whilst she meets them at all levels in their activities, her great concern is to win them, and already there is fruit being born of her labours.



Mrs. J. C. Baker
Crowns our
May Queen

A DOOR TO SERVICE

This is indeed a great privilege, to be asked to write a few words in this annual report of 1959 for the Whitechapel Mission. I first knew of the Mission when I was a lad but never dreamt that one day I should be a member of the staff. My aunt, the late Sarah Cummins, was a worker and also a personal friend of the founder, Thomas Jackson, so therefore, I often visited the Mission, and my interest increased because it was there that I met the one who was to be my wife; she was a member and a keen worker and has known the Mission all her life. Even today she is known to many by her maiden name.

Since then, to use an old phrase, 'a lot of water has flowed under the bridge' and now we find ourselves on the staff of the Mission, looking at the work from a different angle — although the needs of the folk around us seem very much the same as they did in the years that have passed. When one meets up with these needs personally it gives a deep desire to do more.

We came into the work fully realizing the needs of the people, and the needs of the Mission, so therefore we pray that with God's blessing we shall endeavour to keep these "Doors Open" and that whoever enter shall find peace and a true knowledge of God. Our desire now is to see the work of this Mission continue and grow in favour in sight of God and man.

HENRY T. LANGELEY.

The picture of this happy group was taken at the Southend Holiday and Rest Home a few years ago. Happily, many who appear on it are still with us (including Mr. E. G. Roberts now 90) but alas! the old Home has gone, demolished as unsafe, and we still hope to see another Home take its place. We were taking 600 a year to the Home.



The Lanceley Family

Doors open at Christmas

SOME of us will never cease to be grateful for the memory of those who made Christmas such a bright reality for us in our childhood. I remember looking through the crisp, frosty air at the glittering stars one Christmas Eve, when I would not have been at all surprised to see one star outshining all the rest nor to have seen the heavens open and to have heard the angels singing, and it is a precious memory. A December night in Whitechapel is very different from a December night in the quiet countryside. There is much to counteract if we would have the beauty and the poetry and the music and the reality of Christmas possess the hearts of these children. Our untiring workers seek to do this very thing.

It is now early in November, and already a start has been made on the many preparations for the Christmas Parties for young and old, the packing of parcels of clothing, food and toys for many, who in these days when a lot of folk appear to be quite convinced that there is no need, would have a bleak time without these attentions. **We shall visit many homes on Christmas Eve.** We are very grateful to all who remember our large "families" at this season, and send their aid.

Boarding the Bus for a Seaside Trip — June

