

WHITECHAPEL MISSION REPORT 1971



**DOWN
TO
EARTH**





DOWN TO EARTH

DUE TO the kindness of my predecessor, the Reverend William Parkes (to him and his we send our warmest greetings), my wife and I were privileged to be present on that Royal occasion when H.R.H. Princess Alexandra opened the New Premises in which we now live and work. It was a memorable day for us, and since then Whitechapel ceased to be "them - yonder", we have come down to earth and since moving in later in the year we find this to be more than true. This is not a place for flights of fancy, for hovering among niceties: all its work and witness, week-day and Sunday, is DOWN TO EARTH.

We are still passing through the stage of teething troubles that go with new premises and new modes and living together, but in the main these are being solved or endured in Christian tolerance. Our problems are what you would expect in this unique situation and we must live with them and laugh or go some place else. I'm proud to reproduce a photograph of all the staff here and want to thank them for

all the help and co-operation they have given and are giving to me as together we get DOWN TO EARTH and do our job.

Whitechapel Mission is a happening place – never a dull moment – never two days alike. Your Sunday Service, your sleep, your times of quiet, can all be suddenly upset with a colourful interjection, a brick through a window or just a plain row and punch up. Yet through it all there runs a strand of gold as it were. The lost and the lonely, the hungry and well-nigh naked come and receive something practical and DOWN TO EARTH in the way of food and clothing, warmth and affection. Yes, they do smell, are alive, are drunk – often on meths – all that and worse, but they are also ‘the sheep for whom the Shepherd died’ and want to find a bit of shelter in the fold.

“ ‘Tis worth living for this to administer bliss
And salvation in Jesus’s name”.

Our weekly meetings, men, women, youngsters and youths may not follow “the book” and qualify for association, but they come in increasing numbers and we are glad

You cannot measure the work and witness of the Hostel here and the Home at Windyridge, but the more I learn of what we do in them the more I know we are about our Father’s business : yes at grass roots and in involvement or, as I keep saying, ‘DOWN TO EARTH’.

Look at the picture of our lovely Church, think of us and pray for us there as we worship week by week. There is perhaps no other congregation like it – a cross section of

humanity : some sleep, some read the Sunday papers, some make frank comments to and about the preacher; some catch fleas, but it is strangely worshipful. In nearly 40 years as a Methodist preacher I have never been more conscious of His presence in the midst as we gather together week by week.

My work as Chaplain to the great London Hospital I regard as part of the Mission policy of being DOWN TO EARTH. Our links with the hospital staff grow stronger – new young nurses share our home and help us in our work : these are great potentialities we shall foster.

None of this about which I have written so briefly nor indeed any of the vast work we undertake would be possible but for the amazing help we receive from so many folk in so many places, not only in this country but from across the world. Please, please go on sending us your gifts of cash and clothes; the need grows greater week by week.

With Christmas upon us we remember with joy that He – our Lord and Saviour – came down to earth. He laid His glory by and that is why we go on doing His bidding in Whitechapel. We know we are led by His unerring Spirit and shall not miss our providential way. That same Spirit is at work among us and through us and therefore we are undaunted and unafraid. The Spirit of the Living God is sufficient for us.

God bless you all,

JOHN JACKSON.

MRS. JACKSON writes :—

It is early days for me to write anything yet, but already I find it a thrill and a challenge to be both living and serving in Whitechapel.

My special interest is the "Clothing Store". Two things amaze me: the great need for this piece of work and the nation wide response from so many to enable us to carry on the "Good Work". On behalf of all of us here at Whitechapel Mission I want to thank you. I do also assure you that the need increases, and in these days of rising postal charges I hope you will continue to send us supplies for our clothing store. We need especially men's and larger women's clothing. Those we help know what "DOWN TO EARTH" means, for the earth is often their bed. We help them but we want to be sure that at least a few less will have "Winter but no Christmas" again this year. We can only do this because of YOUR kindness.

Thank you again.

FLORENCE L. JACKSON.

FRONT COVER :

Our front cover picture shows H.H.R. Princess Alexandra and the people of Whitechapel at the Opening of our New Premises on 27th January 1971.

The exterior of New Mission Building



The THOMAS JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSTEL

INITIALLY Whitechapel Mission and Hostel began under one roof in 1896 when they were known as the Working Lads Institute. Then for quite a number of years the Hostel occupied separate premises. Indeed for the past twenty-five years the Hostel was at Tulse Hill in South West London. With the opening of our new premises at 212 Whitechapel Road, once again we are all under one roof as it were. This means that we are not just one in name and purpose but also we are seen to be one. It is indeed fitting that we should be carrying on the work in Whitechapel started by our founder, Thomas Jackson, some seventy-four years ago.

During the course of the year some one hundred and twenty lads have found their way to our front door. Their backgrounds are varied but the one thing they all have in common is that they are homeless. In our new premises we can accommodate thirty-three lads at any one time. Regrettably in these days of the Welfare State we have at least three applicants for each bed that is vacated. The length of

stay varies from lad to lad: some stay for a few days while others stay with us for a number of months. As I write there are lads in the house who have been with us over six months. During the time that the lads are with us we attempt to deal with their problems, which range from tracing missing relatives, obtaining employment and other personal matters, to giving each lad a purpose in life. It is within a Christian environment that we attempt to tackle these matters in a DOWN TO EARTH manner.

We are indebted to our friends of the Supplementary Benefits Commission of the Department of Health and Social Security for their help both financially and materially. We are indebted too to the many friends of the Mission who have supported us during the past year. I have refrained from giving specific examples of the work with individual lads. Our door is always open and we welcome visitors. It is easier from our point of view if you 'phone and let us know that you are coming, but this is not essential and if you find yourself in our district with time to spare do come and see us, and we in turn will be delighted to explain our work to you at first hand.

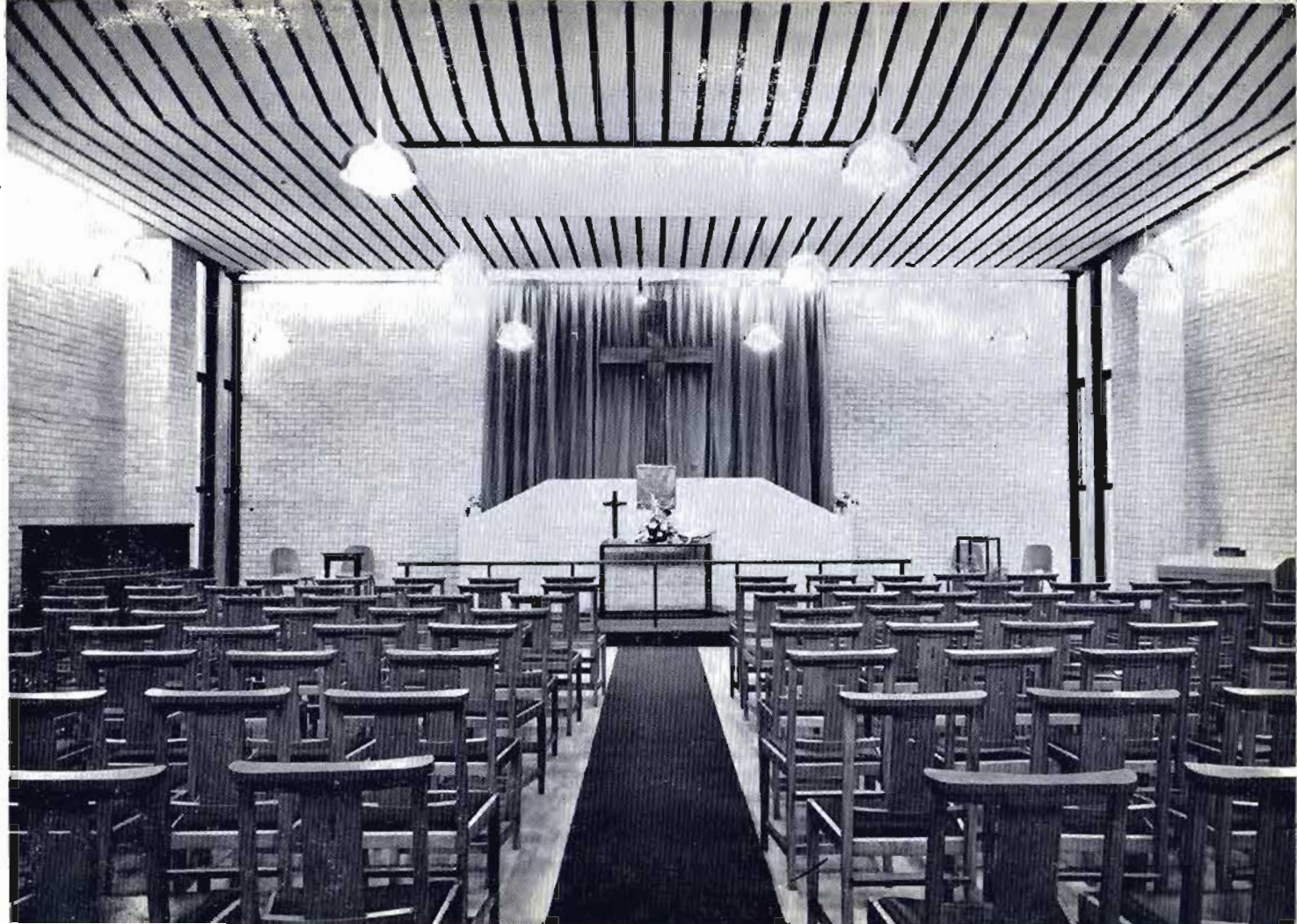
We can always use youths' second hand clothing; and books and magazines are always acceptable for the Library/Quiet room. Even though you are, perhaps, not able to offer us a financial or physical gift, I would commend the lads of the Hostel for a spiritual gift. Please remember us in your prayers.

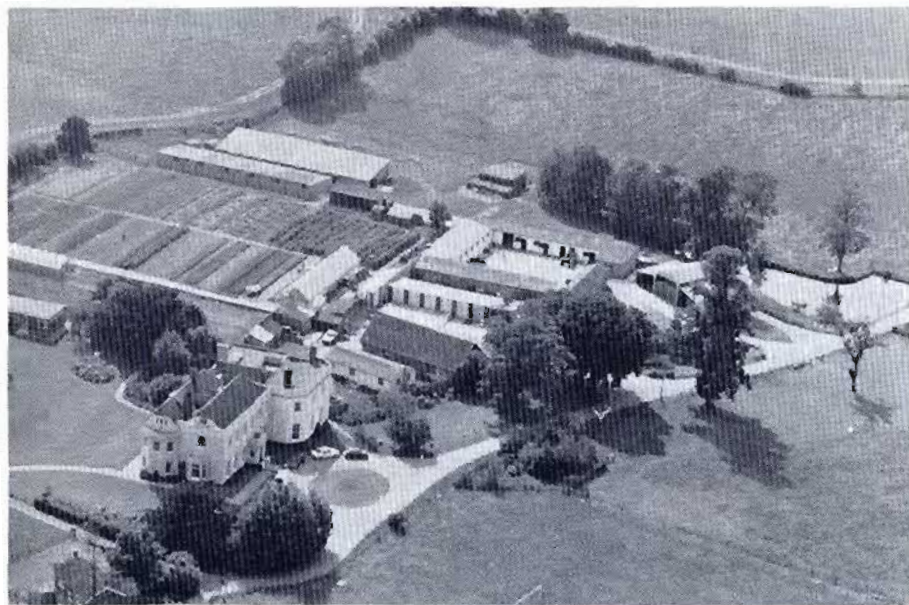
ALAN SOUTHEN, Warden.



The White Chapel
Staff

Whitechapel
Mission
The Sanctuary





From the air,
but **DOWN TO EARTH,**
at

Windyridge

WINDYRIDGE is a Probation Home, approved by the Secretary of State, for the reception of young men between the ages of 18 and 21, on admission, who have been placed by the Courts on Probation with the requirement to reside at a Probation Home for a period of twelve months. It is owned by the Whitechapel Methodist Mission and managed

by a voluntary committee appointed by them. No piece of Christian social work could possibly be more **DOWN TO EARTH.**

The Home is situated approximately 7 miles from Colchester in Essex in the heart of the Constable country and bounded by the River Stour which divides Essex from

Suffolk. It consists of a large Georgian house, suitably adapted, providing dormitory accommodation for thirty places; a farm dealing in cattle, pigs, breeding sows, horses, fowls and sheep; a large garden comprising ground for the cultivation of soft fruits and vegetables, glass houses and propagating shed and large areas of lawns and flower beds. There is also a large Workshop from which all building, repairs, painting and decorating and minor plumbing works are directed and in which instruction is given in lathe work, woodwork and carpentry, and finally the latest addition of a new building serving the dual purpose of Conference Hall and Lounge; all this set amongst a very beautiful 27 acres of enchanting countryside.

Under the direction of the Management Committee, the Home is run by the Warden assisted by three qualified instructors who are responsible for the work habit training programme during the normal working hours of the day; and the Matron, three Assistant Wardens and an Assistant Matron, all playing their different parts in fulfilling the programme of re-education or stimulation of social training.

Time is of the essence in the work undertaken at Windyridge, and following initial assessment as to the priority of needs of the individual, the necessary training is programmed accordingly, influenced as it is by both professional and Christian principles

The principal aims of the Home are to afford young adults who have found themselves in trouble with the law and at variance with their parents and employers alike, an opportunity to think objectively of their position; to benefit from

a group living experience away from the environment in which they were floundering; the building up of self-confidence; the establishment of worthwhile relationships with their peers, authority and adults in general, and to invoke a realisation that privileges demand commensurate responsibility but that life CAN be full and rewarding within the lawful requirements of society.

JOHN E. STOWERS, Warden.



Thanks to:—

- ✧ My colleagues and all the members of staff at Whitechapel and Windyridge; our several Committees and Trustees; our Circuit Stewards and Treasurer; our Organist and Pianist.
- ✧ Many stall-holders and local tradesfolk.
- ✧ The London Mission Department and Chapel Affairs Department; all Churches who support our work; all Box holders.
- ✧ All covenanted Subscribers; scores of folk who send us donations of money, clothing, etc., so regularly.
- ✧ All who pray for us.

THE TREASURER

writes again . . .

EVERY DAY our workers at the Mission continue to supply the never ending stream of callers for help of one kind or another. Some of the details you will be able to realize from the various articles in this 1971 Report. Over all looms the urgent need for money and we are compelled to keep on urging those who have money to pass on some of this to those who are in desperate need. Prayers from those who cannot give even decimal money, clothing from those who need to be fashionable or whose children have outgrown last year's barely used garments, or hard cash from those fortunate enough to have Post Office, Giro, Bank, Building Society Accounts or Dividends and Interest. I appeal again for your ready response and if you are so well off that you have to pay Income Tax at the Standard Rate please ask for details and a Form of Covenant. Every new pence will be put to good use.

For those who are interested in the Rebuilding Scheme I would like to advise you that we are not yet in a position to give final figures because all the expected defects have not been completed and the Maintenance period expired, which means that the final certificates are still to come.

Our Trustees were rather shocked a few months ago to learn that owing to the damage by thieves to cars and contents, parked on our spaces at the rear, use also of these by

the public as a Right of Way and other very undesirable purposes, we were compelled to expend another £1,550 on Steel Fencing and Lockable Gates. We should therefore appreciate any donations towards this unexpected expense.

I must again thank very sincerely all those who by their continued support of gifts, small and large, have made the Rebuilding Scheme so successful and who now, I hope, will provide the necessary funds to help the new Superintendent and all his staff to carry on.

Gratefully, I am,

FRED C. YELLAND, Hon. Treasurer.

BBC "PRAYER FOR THE DAY" Radio 4

We are most grateful to the many folk who listen to our Superintendent on Monday mornings at 6.45 a.m. and have sent us help and promised their prayers for our DOWN TO EARTH work at Whitechapel.

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, E.1., 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, 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, and 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.

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)

Making a Legacy in your Will

Arranging a Gift Service or Carol Party in your church

Sending clothing parcels

Asking for a Mission speaker for one of your meetings



THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION FOUNDED 1896

General Office, 212 Whitechapel Road, E.1., 1BJ

(Entrance Maples Place)

ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED

Superintendent: Rev. John Jackson.

Associate: Pastor James Terry.

Deaconess: Sister Nora Fowler.

Superintendent's Secretary: Miss Margaret King

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Fred C. Yelland FCCA.

Circuit Stewards: Mr. Henry J. Bolton FCCA, Mr. S. Fuller.

Solicitors: Messrs. Butt & Bowyer, 37-41 Bedford Row,
WC1R 4JJ.

Auditors: Messrs. Hibbert Sier, Wood & Co.

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

Centres of Christian Activity

Whitechapel Mission: 212 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ
Tel. 01 - 247 - 8280.

Windyridge: Nayland, Colchester. Tel 020 - 626 - 332.

Thomas Jackson Memorial Hostel: 3 Maples Place, E1 2EE.
Tel 01 - 247 - 4059.

Executive Committee for Whitechapel Mission

Revs. Frank C. Eden, C. Leonard Tudor, Dr. Irvonwy Morgan MA, DD, Messrs. Ambrose Applebe MA, LL.B., J. C. Baker, H. J. Bolton, F. A. Butt, R. W. Caton, J. P. Everitt, J. A. Reddall, G. Rowland, F. C. Yelland, Mesdames N. D. Clipson, H. M. Dunnett.

Secretary: Rev. John Jackson.

Windyridge Managing Committee

Revs. J. Arthur Hoyles, G. D. Needham MA, J. Wade, Messrs. E. G. Bailey, W. E. Evans, E. H. Markham, Col. J. G. Round, F. C. Yelland, Mesdames J. A. Caton, L. Dansie, E. S. England, M. L. Keith, E. H. Markham, Miss Mary Beattie JP.

Chairman: Mr. R. W. Caton.

Secretary: Rev. John Jackson.

Medical Officer: Dr. R. H. Berry.

Chaplain: Rev. J. F. Warren DD.

Thomas Jackson Memorial Hostel Management Committee

Messrs. C. Bacon, J. C. Baker, J. C. Erskine-Hill, H. Finch, D. J. Hobbs, D. K. Smith, G. A. Turner, Mrs. J. C. Baker, Sister Nora Fowler, Miss S. E. Nicholls.

Chairman: Mr. H. J. Bolton FCCA.

Secretary: Rev. John Jackson.