

# WHITECHAPEL METHODIST MISSION

## C O M M I T M E N T

REPORT  
1979

## P A S S I O N



### Compassion . . . . Commitment

During the long march of the year, since our last Report, there has been a steady flow of homeless men and women through the doors of the Mission. Some have part-time accommodation in hostels but many sleep out or sleep in derelict properties taking with them their possessions, what they can carry on them or in bags which they take around with them. Some leave their pension books in our care as they have nowhere to put them - except on their own person and even so, the books may be stolen from them whilst they are asleep. It is a shadow world - where the Compassion of Christ and His people are deeply needed. We have sought to be accessible and available to meet these people and their needs unceasingly. We need to be where they are and they are certainly here from all parts of Britain and beyond.

It is fitting that we should pay tribute to those whose Commitment has been unstinting over long years of work in the Mission. In this Report, we have a photograph of Mr. Harry Leonard, who has been our organist for thirty-three years. Twice weekly, on Sundays and Wednesdays, he has served the Mission without payment and has always been so willing to serve. In our Women's Meetings, Mrs. Reynolds (the pianist) has similarly served for thirty years, week by week. We salute in gratitude such fine service. But this year it is most needful for us to recognize with gratitude the work of our Deaconess, Sister Nora Fowler, who has been with the Mission for the past ten years and who will be retiring at the end of this Connexional year. She has given herself without stint or thought for her own well-being to the women in the Women's Meetings and to the needy men and women who trust her and love her exceedingly. In particular, more recently, she has endeavoured to develop our medical work for those who do not receive, normal medical treatment - those 'outside the pale' as alcoholics, unkempt or unwelcome in normal surgeries. The Medical Unit here has grown through

her deep concern. Her life has been committed to Christ and to those who are often unwanted in our society. These workers are representative of those who have served the Mission so faithfully over the years. We need outside helpers, such as nurses and others, who come to us on Sundays but we are grateful for the work of Miss Sheila Nicholls and others of our own Church members who give us steady support. Such workers have never gone on strike or asked for better terms. They have served the Lord - in the needs of those who are unwanted - without stint of time or personal inconvenience. You will find their names on various pages of this Report.

I have written in this way, so that our supporters can know of the great devotion of the Staff here. Mr. Bob Blount has cared for the Men's work, including those who are 'drunk and disorderly' and land up in prison. Our Office Staff has similarly shown devotion-in caring for the work. Miss Vivienne Pritchard, in her retirement has given two days a week to serve in the Mission, in any capacity, to help forward gratuitously the work of God here. I am grateful too for the support and help given to me and to the Mission by Mary, my wife.

Compassion and -Commitment walk hand in hand. Intermittent help is one thing, but the long road of help over an extended period calls for perseverance and devotion. We have sought to give this support to many men and women. We hope that you will continue to uphold us - by your prayers, your gifts, your legacies and your general concern. We believe that God has called us to serve here and, by the loving compassion of the Christ through His Church, we are committed to be the channel of His love to care for these His needy ones. May His blessing rest upon you.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN H. CHAMBERLAYNE,



Wednesday Fellowship

## Appeal from our Treasurer

ONCE AGAIN, I want to thank all our helpers for gifts large and small - clothing for the store as well as your money. Without your giving the work of the Mission would be much curtailed - and the vital witness for the Kingdom in this difficult part of London threatened with extinction.

With costs still rising fast, may I ask for your generous giving this year also. For those who pay Income Tax - and there can't be many who don't - a Deed of Covenant gives the Mission £14.29 for every £10.00 donated. Many of our faithful Covenanters are growing old and their numbers are diminishing. I shall be delighted to respond promptly to your requests for the necessary forms. Those of you also who are contemplating making your Wills, please give prayerful consideration to adding a Legacy for the Mission; this has Capital Transfer and other Tax advantages, besides showing your support for the work being done week in and week out by our devoted staff. I am sure I am not appealing in vain. Thank you all once more.

Yours sincerely,  
LESLIE MOLE

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**A GOOD FRIEND OF THE MISSION** has this year given us a considerable sum of money in exchange for Victorian or Edwardian nightdresses and items containing old lace, embroidery, or crochet, also beads and jewellery. If you have such items laying idly in a drawer, and you feel you could part with them, please send them to us. The money we could get with them could bring help and joy to some of our folk. VIVIENNE PRITCHARD

## Clothing Note

WANTED Men's and large women's clothes, old blankets, towels, sheets; also spectacles, razor blades, dessert spoons etc. We're a bit like Steptoe & Son. Our noble 'sorter' (Mona Pengelley) is a health visitor who contacts many needy families and 'she is desperate for babies' and young children's clothes. Thank you all for what you have done in the past, with a special word to Hinckley for their long continued care.

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FRONT COVER-A group of workers outside the Mission

We are grateful to the Methodist Home Mission Division for some of the photographs included in this Report, and to other helpers with photographs.

## Committed to Serve

When Mary, Martha, Jairus and others had a family crisis, they went to Jesus. SO, too when crisis comes we are called in as His servants. While we are very busily committed in serving large groups of people there are times when we are called to help some individually. This was particularly necessary during the 10-month-long Social Workers' strike, and the Service is not yet fully operative. We cared for one lady who came out of hospital with a broken thigh. At first it meant going each day, dealing with meals ('Meals on Wheels' also being affected by the strike), shopping, seeing her to bed, and generally helping to give her confidence. Fortunately we had a Community Service Volunteer who was very helpful in popping in. Also we arranged 2 days at a Day Centre and brought her to our own meeting another day + towel etc. for a bath in our Medic Bath. Although still very dependent on us she is now able to cope in her own home.



It will take her a long time to realise she can stay in, but with winter coming she is thrilled to have something of her own. We look after her money, pay her bills and set her up with the things she needs. The Housing Officer handed us a bouquet by thanking us for our help and saying she would not have been in so quickly if it had been left to Social Services.

Climbing the stairs one day I bumped into a man who greeted me with "hello - you helped me with things for my flat last year. I'm upstairs, come and see it." S.O.S. from someone on a drunken charge. Could we stand by her in court. It took a whole morning but she needed our friendship.

These are just four of many ways in which Jesus calls us to love those around us.



Worship in the Mission Chapel

## SISTER NORA

Many who have heard the story of our Linda who has been sleeping rough for the past 20 years will be glad to hear that she has a flatlet.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL Regular visitation has taken place in the London Hospital where the Superintendent Minister is Free Church Chaplain. Whenever patients from any of the Free Churches, as well as those of other faiths enter the Hospital, the Minister is informed and they are visited. Please let us know if there are those whom you would like him to visit, since it is important that we minister in the Hospital

## I was in Prison

### 'I WAS IN PRISON AND YE VISITED ME . . . '

This saying of Jesus comes to us from St. Matthew's Gospel. Much of my time has been spent visiting men in prison - Wandsworth and Brixton for older men and Ashford Remand Centre for the younger men. David Smith, aged 32, has been in Wandsworth Prison for a year. Each month I have been to see him. When David leaves prison on 23rd November, I am hoping that accommodation will be found for him as I have been working to this end during the past few months with the Prison Welfare Department, the Probation Officers, and the local Council. This, for me, is a fulfilment of the word of Jesus.

On a **Sunday evening** we have an average of 110 needy people who file into Church for the Service and stay for supper afterwards. During this time, they can have a bath, clean up or visit the doctor on duty. On a **Wednesday evening** we have about 50 at our Bible fellowship - men and women. On **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** some 30 pensioners and disabled men join us for our dinner club. During this time I am able to complete forms for them, to assist them by our Clothing Store and give counsel to a wide range of people.



Bob Blount at work

On some evenings and week-ends I like to visit as many organizations as possible, so that I am able to share with them in depth the work which we are attempting to do in Christ's name. If you would like me (or another member of staff) to speak at one of your meetings, please drop us a line-distance no object! Alternatively, we would be pleased to welcome you if you could visit the Mission to see our work. You might suggest a visit to the Mission as the week-night Home Mission Meeting for your Church.

## BOB



Mr. Harry Leonard (our faithful organist)

## MUTUAL CARE

THERE has been a closer liaison with other agencies and with the Community Health Department. We acknowledge, in particular, the help given by St. Botolph's Parish Church, Providence Row (R.C.) Hostel and St. George's (Methodist) Mission in Cable Street. We have shared in mutual support of those of 'no fixed abode' who are of concern to our Lord. The Community Health Department has begun to realize that if they are to reach those who do not have medical care, then they have to find out where such people are. It is now being realized that such agencies (as mentioned above) have such people and that our Mission has two important ingredients : (a) We have such people constantly on our premises, and (b) The new Medical Unit is a suitably equipped place to give them attention. As a result, Brother Ian (a Franciscan) has been holding a clinic on Wednesday evenings in the Unit.

## WINDYRIDGE

by Col. J.C. Round J.P.

It is with pleasure, as Chairman of the Management Committee, that I write the annual report. Mr. & Mrs. Stowers, as always, are towers of strength and the way the place runs is a great tribute to them. Their main task, as I see it, is to try and instil a motive for life into our residents. Most of them are sadly lacking in this quality and

are "drifters" in the real sense of the word. They also lack any idea of how to live together in a community. This requires self discipline and consideration for others. Many of our 'residents have no homes and therefore no idea what a good home life means. All these things Mr. and Mrs. Stowers and the staff try to help them appreciate in a variety of different ways. Counselling both personally and in groups, education (one quarter of our residents are usually illiterate), work on the farm, in the workshop, and in the kitchen, all help to set them up as individuals and with the example set by the staff of good behaviour to teach them to live a normal and happy life.

This requires great self discipline on the part of the staff who must not lose their temper or take umbrage, however provoked they may be and indeed often are. At this time we have a full and excellent staff. I wish very much from the staff point of view that we could keep track of our residents when they leave us. It would be of interest to us and a help to the staff, to hear how our "old boys and girls" fare in the world. We do however, have both letters and visits from ex-residents which are always much appreciated.

I mentioned our "old girls". The experiment of taking girls has, I think, been a success. It is due for review soon but I am certain that it will continue. There have, of course, been the obvious difficulties but these happen in the outside world. It does I am certain, produce a more balanced and ordinary



The Mixed Unit, Windyridge

life in Windyridge. Outside activities are a great feature of Windyridge.

On the work side, residents in groups work for local farmers who are very good to us. It is a sad reflection, however on the type of people we now get that, in the past, we sent boys out to work individually. This is now not possible and groups can only go out if supervised to see that the work is properly done. Leisurewise, the residents help others in a variety of ways. We consider this is a very important part of their training. The local Cheshire Home and a Mental Hospital, as well as many activities in the village have been assisted. The village cricket club and local horse shows also have been given help. All this is much appreciated by the residents. We are hoping for a Royal visit in 1980 to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. I well remember H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh opening Windyridge and we all very much hope he will come again to see how we are getting on. In conclusion, may I again pay tribute to Mr. & Mrs. Stowers and say how much I enjoy working with them.

#### A Medical Note

During the year DR. PETER OUTEN and his wife MARGARET (a trained nursing sister) have continued to serve the Mission, on a voluntary basis, amid their regular work in practice. We are most grateful to them. Dr. Peter writes :

"At even, ere the sun was set, the sick, O Lord around Thee lay;

O in what divers pains they met!

O with what joy they went away !"

We pray that those who continue to come to us with large or small health problems may go away eased in body and mind. As well as on Sunday the surgery is open regularly on Wednesday



nights and we are grateful for the services of Dr. Michael St. John who has joined us, and, of course, our voluntary nurses. The sick room is meeting the need of those who need short term care - the high temperature, the broken or ulcerated leg, or those awaiting hospital treatment. We have had 75 cases since the beginning of the year and C.S.V. has done a valiant work here.

Nurse Shaan Perumal from Malaya and Elizabeth Buggey have come to us from the London Hospital and rendered valuable care in the new Mission Nursing Unit and in other ways. Good service has been rendered also by our Community Service Volunteer (Peter Mullins) who was with us for nine months and cared for the Medical Unit among other duties. (In the photograph below, District Nursing Sister Dorothy Slater is caring for a patient in our sick bay, which has been in constant use. Mrs Slater's 'normal work is to help part-time with Mission accounts.)

#### 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, 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.

## OUR THANKS TO:-

All our helpers 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 those who assist us during the week
- Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Reynolds our organist and pianist
- our solicitors, auditors, bankers and printers
- our friends at the Home Office, in the Woolnoth Society and in many of our Churches.

## 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, E1 1BJ**

*(Entrance Maplex Place)*

### ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

*Superintendent:* Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

*Deaconess:* Sister Nora Fowler,  
Sister Mary Chamberlayne (retired).

*Associate:* Mr. Bob Blount

*Hon. Treasurer:* Mr. L. Mole.

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

*Auditors:* Messrs. Barker, Hibbert, Smiles & Co.

*Bankers:* Barclays Bank Ltd., Mile End Branch,  
234 Whitechapel Road, E1.

### Centres of Christian Activity

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

*Windyridge:* Nayland, Colchester. Tel. 0206-  
262332.

*Thomas Jackson Memorial Hostel (N.C.H.):* 3  
Maples Place, E1 2EE. Tel. 01-247-0718.

### Executive Committee for Whitechapel Mission

Revs. Deryck Collingwood, Jeffrey W. Harris  
C. Leonard Tudor, Messrs. H. J. Bolton, M. A.  
Booth, S. Fuller, L. Mole, J. A. Reddall,

G. Rowland, B. Yelland. Mesdames H. M.  
Dunnett, Sister Nora Fowler, Miss J. Moors,  
Miss S. Nicholls, Miss C. Storey.

*Secretary:* Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

### Windyridge Management Committee

Messrs. C. Bagshaw, K. L. Hollingsworth Dr. F.  
Rilstone, Maj.-Gen. J. K. Shepherd, Mr. P.  
Strover, Mesdames J. Caton, M. B. Chamber-  
layne, H. Dunnett, J. Eames, Miss M. Beattie.

*Chairman:* Col. J. C. Round, J.P.

*Secretary:* Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

*Principal:* Mr. J. E. Stowers.

*Matron:* Mrs. J. E. Stowers.

*Medical Officer:* Dr. C. R. Gilbert.

*Chaplain:* Rev. Glenville J. Martin.

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