

# Seeking A Home



"Down Whitechapel Road"



"In Need of a Home"

**WHITECHAPEL MISSION**  
(THE METHODIST CHURCH)  
**Annual Report 1981**

# SEEKING A HOME

“Be it ever so humble, there’s no place like home.”

FOR MANY of us, home means not merely a shelter from the stormy blasts of life, but a place of security, a place to bring our friends or to offer hospitality. Even in the Church’s history, the homes of Christians were the earliest meeting-places before there were Church buildings.

Today, many are without homes. Some are young people who are desperately trying to find a place to work and a place to live. A very large number are in middle life and have been without a regular job for a long period. These middle-aged and older people, mainly men, drift towards the big cities. London has many hundreds of them. They come to us — often without hope, with limited means and “belong” nowhere. They seek a “home”, a place where they can stay.

Hostel accommodation is very limited. The Salvation Army, the Church Army and other agencies work valiantly, despite criticisms, to ease the lot of these wanderers but a very large number remain.

Physical care is only part of the problem — to feed the stranger, to minister to the sick, to visit the prisoner and give courage to the hopeless. This we endeavour to do literally in the Mission. The men and women who come through our doors can expect a meal of some kind, to receive medical attention and to be visited in hospital or in prison.

Yet, this physical need is linked to a deep spiritual state — a need for rehabilitation, to be a real person — who is wanted and loved. Such a person wants to find his place in society and to be able to hold his head high — after all, he is a Son of God.

Thus, the goal of all our work is that all should find in God “our eternal home”. It may be that many forget that “trailing clouds of glory do we come from God, who is our home” — for our men come from homes where they would find it hard to believe that “heaven lies about us in our infancy”. These men have passed through deep waters and need an anchor for their souls, a place to be themselves. We believe that the eternal message of

Jesus Christ can provide them with a haven for life to meet their spiritual and material needs as they open their lives to Him.

In this Report, there is an account of attempts to help those who come to us to find a home. A great amount of furniture, kitchen stoves and household articles of all kinds have been sent to the Mission. I want to thank all those who have sent these items, as well as all those who have contributed so generously to maintain the work of the Mission.

Before the next Report, I am due to leave the Mission in the able hands of the Rev. Peter Jennings, who has had valuable experience in the East End of London, as well as among Jewish and Bengali communities. I know that you will support him well. I also want to thank my wife and the staff who have supported me loyally. We have enjoyed growing co-operation with so many agencies; to them also, gratitude is due for their support.

We believe that God can bring home the lost sheep however drink-sodden or beaten. We believe that the heart of Jesus goes out in compassion to those who have no shepherd. Let us endeavour to strengthen the hands of the workers here, so that many may find their way to Christ, who

“came from the Father, His far-away children to call,  
To bring the lost sheep to their Shepherd,  
The most beautiful story of all”.

Yours sincerely, JOHN H. CHAMBERLAYNE.



Rev. John and Sister Mary

## *Sister Vivien writes . . .*



DURING THE SUMMER holidays I engaged myself in 'Holirama'. 'Holirama' was a holiday project for 7's - 11's. The local school was most co-operative in advertising the Holirama. For three weeks, which I believe were the hottest of the summer, we discovered London. We visited Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly, Houses of Parliament, Science Museum, Dungeons, numerous parks, St. Katherine's dock, Southend, Basildon and the swimming pool at the Elephant and Castle because they have a wave machine. The children enjoyed it all and so did I. It was a great opportunity to get to know some of our local youngsters and I had hoped that the Mission could have become their 'home' with a regular week-day activity, as yet that has not happened but I am not without hope.

The senior age-group numbers rose to twenty plus, averaging fifteen, which is a large number for our premises. They are all boys aged between thirteen and twenty-one. Some of them have been associated with the Mission for years but, as new boys come into the club, they bring an element of mistrust which had never existed before. Some of them are not to be trusted with equipment or facilities or responsibility. Unfortunately my helper had to leave and I have been trying for some time for some of them to take responsibility for some aspect of the club. When eventually a group came together to discuss the running of the club, the others scoffed and ridiculed them and one by one they fell away. To some the Mission is a home in that this is where they have always come and they respect us, but for others it seems that they come to see what mischief they can make and they make life very difficult. It would, I feel, be

shameful just to forget these young people and I am hoping that I can enter into conversations with interested persons and/or bodies to see what is the best way forward.

'Avenues Unlimited', a youth project in Tower Hamlets, were in need of a home for one of their youth clubs across the Whitechapel Road, on a housing estate. They came for a couple of months but the main road proved to be a major obstacle and, unfortunately, the venture had to be abandoned.

The numbers at our ladies meetings have fallen, risen and fallen. Some of the 'oldies' are now unwilling to come and some have died but some who haven't attended for some time have come back. Now one or two are unwilling to come out in the winter. This year we combined with the Tower Hamlets Evangelical Church for our trips. Separately we cannot fill a coach and as many of our ladies attend both meetings we decided to combine, and with the few extra we both have we manage to fill a coach. One trip was a day to Eastbourne and the other a half day to Hitchin.

Just recently a Mothers and Babies group has begun in partnership with the health clinic. The names of eight mums were given to me and I went to visit them. All said how much they would like to have somewhere to go and meet with other mums. Some of them live in blocks of flats on the 3rd and 4th floors and some without lifts. Some of them believe that they are the only mums with babies in their block. The numbers at the meetings are not a reflection of the initial enthusiasm but mums are bringing other mums and so there is a small increase over a period of a week or two. A health visitor, Anne, comes each week and is arranging an interesting programme for them. We are hopeful that the mums and their babies, and Anne will feel at home with us and will continue to meet with us.

The second Sunday in each month is our Family Lunch which is for those who attend morning worship to come together to meet and talk and get to know each other. We average twenty-two and we enjoy a Sunday roast and vegetables and dessert and each other's company. This is God's house and where better to meet the family than round the table.

SISTER VIVIEN.



# WINDYRIDGE

## ENDEAVOUR — ACHIEVEMENT

THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS have been outstandingly marked in terms of endeavour. A great deal of "Hard Labour" has been put in, albeit sometimes rather reluctantly, by some of the residents, to establish a facility, unique within the Probation Hostel system, namely a Driving Course. The primary objectives of this Course are twofold. Based on an American Model, it is designed to internalize an acceptance of the basic reality that the associated "thrills" of driving so far as youngsters are concerned are inevitably related to "cost". At the same time, our local colleagues, serving as Police Officers, have volunteered their services in helping to "man" the scheme; sometimes in uniform and sometimes not; thereby hopefully facilitating a better relationship between young offenders and representatives of law enforcement. We feel very honoured that Lord Belstead, Minister at the Home Office, has agreed to open this Course in November. The entire project has been effected without any recourse whatsoever to public funds and this is a fact of which the many friends of Windyridge, particularly Mrs Honor Dunnett of Chelmsford, and Mrs Joyce Caton of Leigh-on-Sea, both members of the Management Committee and the numerous anonymous donors to whom we all owe a great debt of gratitude, may well feel truly proud and justifiably so.

Last year we celebrated our 25th Anniversary and with this fact as an inspiration The Mission, their Managing Committee and the Staff have this year initiated negotiations to build on the endeavours of the past. It is hoped that the care and concern for young offenders existent at Windyridge will soon be extended to similar young people in the vicinity in co-operation with the Essex Probation and After-Care Service. A Working Party has met formulating policy in this new venture. It is to be entered into with great enthusiasm by all concerned.

1981 has been nationally agreed as The Year of the Disabled



and this has not left us unmoved. In co-operation with local agencies, we have produced a number of aids for the disabled such as ramps, etc., and I sincerely believe that the residents have experienced some degree of satisfaction in this work.

It is with regret that two members of Staff have left our community. Mr D. W. Ellis, Assistant Farm Manager, retired on attaining the age of 65. Miss Daphne Osborne has been recently forced to retire early due to ill health. Daphne has been a loyal servant to Windyridge for just over 20 years, and I am sure that all readers will join us in wishing her better health and a happy retirement. She deserves it as she has always been ready and ever willing to offer her services far beyond the call of duty. Conversely, we welcome Mr Lyndon Bowman as our new Assistant Farm Manager.

At this time I would particularly like to express my gratitude to Miss Anne Mace, Chief Probation Officer for Essex, who has had the courtesy to call periodically and who obviously supports the work carried out at Windyridge.

On a very personal basis, I would like to publicly acknowledge the massive support I have received from The Whitechapel

Mission and Staff during an extremely difficult year for me. My self-confidence is steadily growing and this is very largely due to the understanding and support I have received from my Chairman, Col. J. G. Round, D.L., J.P., the Superintendent Minister, Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne and members of my Managing Committee. I honestly believe that it is not inappropriate that I should also acknowledge support from the local Probation Officers, namely, Mr M. Armstrong and Mr D. Wolsten-Croft of the Colchester Office.

Finally I **must** admit to being one of those who has been "tried" and found "wanting" and I therefore humbly request the thoughts in prayer of all my friends, both known and unknown to sustain me in my endeavour.

Affectionately Yours,

(Mrs) DOROTHY M. STOWERS (Principal).

(Left) Preparing the Driving Course

(Below) Learning to pull together



## THE TREASURER'S WORD

The work of the Mission is not like that of any ordinary church, for we rely so much on the prayers, the active support, and the financial assistance of countless men and women — devoted Methodists and others — scattered throughout the length and breadth of Britain. Indeed, without this help the work just would not go on.

My first task therefore is to express our grateful appreciation for all that you do for us. Recession and hard times are having their effect on our income and inflation still adds to our costs, yet we ask for your continued support because we are confident that God is with us in our efforts to proclaim His love in the deprived areas of this great city.

Our dedicated Mission staff exercise a caring ministry day by day and month by month. Please help them with a Donation or a Deed of Covenant — and if you are making or changing your Will, remember the Mission with a Legacy. Thank you all once more.

LESLIE MOLE.

— and from the Superintendent —

There is grave concern in regard to the resources of the Mission. Many of our loyal supporters are very elderly. Their giving and their legacies have been a tremendous strength to the Mission.

We urgently need new subscribers who will covenant and new projects to assist in enabling the work here to flourish. Coffee mornings, sponsored activities, jumble sales and direct gifts can mean so much to us. You can also remember us in your Will. We thank you all for your devoted help and support.

J. CHAMBERLAYNE.

### NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY :

**The Welcome Service for the Rev. Peter Jennings, M.A.**, is due to take place on Monday 6th September 1982, when the address will be given by the Right. Rev. George Appleton, former Archbishop of Jerusalem.

**Mission Anniversary**, Wednesday 13th October 1982, when the speaker is due to be the Rev. Dr. Donald English, General Secretary of the Methodist Home Mission Division.

# MEN'S REPORT

THE PAST YEAR has been very demanding and at times has been a big strain upon us.

With the unemployment and recession, there has been a larger increase in the number of people requiring help in so many ways. This year our theme is "men seeking a home". So many of our clients come to us who are outcast by society's standards, but they come to the Mission for warmth, fellowship, food, bathing facilities, counselling and seeking accommodation. With the help of the local authority and the G.L.C., we have managed to re-house nine of our clients and we have supplied them with their furniture and utensils, curtains, pots and pans, etc. It has given us a great sense of satisfaction to see more of our clients having a settled way of life and a home of their own. Our thanks are due to all those friends who have provided furniture.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, our Day Centre for older and disabled men is open from 8.30 till 3.0 p.m. On Wednesday evenings, from 5.0 till 8.0 pm men come to see our Mission doctor and take advantage of the other facilities. On Sunday evenings we are open from 5.0 pm when we have an evening service, after which there is a meal and the doctor is in attendance. We are the only Mission Hall open this side of the water on a Sunday evening, providing facilities for the homeless and helpless.

## PRISON WORK

I have been privileged to work with the Methodist Chaplains and the Social Work Department of the Prison Service as from time to time older and younger men are detained for numerous offences. One Sunday evening, Mr X left the Mission Hall after the service, got involved with some mates, went out drinking, a fight broke out and Mr X stabbed a man to death. Mr X has got life imprisonment at the age of 23 and is now serving his time in Wakefield Prison, Yorkshire. I correspond with him regularly. I was privileged to contact his parents in Scotland. Mr X left home as a young boy at the age of 17, and now his

parents are taking an active interest in visiting him in prison.

Mr L came to the Mission two years ago, and through his drinking habits, got a four-year prison sentence. He is now serving his time in Wandsworth Prison, to which I make a monthly visit. So far this year, 23 of our men have been in prison ranging from 14 days to life, and I am glad that this Mission is taking a real interest in those N.F.A. (no fixed abode) men in prison.

We still have a number of men who have got their names down on the housing waiting list of the local Council and the G.L.C., and we will negotiate on their behalf to see if we can obtain more rooms and flats for them.

I could not let this opportunity pass without thanking Mr George Hammond for his help in collecting the furniture and providing transport; our Stowmarket Church for providing mince pies (2723 of them) all made by their own ladies, and our Haywards Heath Methodist Church for providing tinned food, mince pies, a freezer and the cost of our annual outing, our friends in all the agencies, who have supported us, all our volunteers on Wednesday and Sunday evenings, and all the Churches and Sisterhoods who have supported us. I would like to place on record my personal thanks to Dr. John and his wife for their support and encouragement given to me in the work of the Mission, and I wish them well in their retirement.

I remain, yours sincerely, BOB BLOUNT.



**The Men's Outing to Brighton  
— via Haywards Heath church**



## NOTE FROM OUR MEDICAL UNIT

The Wednesday evening surgery is very much in demand under the supervision of Dr Michael St. John. Sometimes little can be done to help with physical suffering, but much more it often gives men and women a few minutes to talk and to gain some measure of self-esteem.

On Sunday evening, Mona Pengelley (a Health Visitor) has been taking the evening surgeries and she writes that "sore feet, a septic finger, a heavy cold, all call for a warm soak, a clean dressing and a cheerful word; helping to alleviate some of the petty discomforts of men who feel unable to use the more regular channels of medicine. Sometimes men come who are more obviously very ill and can be persuaded to go for other help. A friendly word with a dose of physic go a long way."

## THE CLOTHING STORE

We are constantly in need of men's outer and under clothing, shoes and general apparel. Also spectacles, towels, blankets, sheets and pillow cases are in demand.

We do not need ladies' clothing but we can accept children's and especially babies' wear, since our Health Visitor has needy cases in her care.

Articles of furniture — if small and able to be delivered to the Mission — will be acceptable, as we have tried to help men to furnish a flat when they acquire one. We are grateful to Mrs Norris and Mona Pengelley who have helped to sort the clothing.

Enquiries regarding the suitability of furniture can be made to Mr Bob Blount at the Mission.

## "OBJETS D'ART"

CAN YOU SELL 'THIS'? 'This' can be old lace, crochet or embroidery (on or off cloths, pillow cases, etc), beads, brooches, pieces of old silver or gold, etc, etc. My reply is always "Yes, I can sell anything!" Fortunately I have contacts in the antique world, dealers in old lace etc, workers in Hatton Garden on gold and silver ware, and can assure donors of such articles that the best prices are obtained, and the money made available for the work of the Mission. This year £300 has been obtained in this way. Please send me what you can, so that articles of no further use to you can be turned into cash, to bring assistance to the folk who come to our donors in need of friendship, understanding, advice, and love.

VIVIENNE PRITCHARD

## AN APPRECIATION

We all very much regret that the Chamberlaynes are retiring next August. They came to us in 1975 and we soon learned to admire, respect and love them for all their good qualities and talents which they poured out in working for the people of Whitechapel. Working for the Mission is very different from the usual Methodist circuit. Times have not been very easy with many problems to overcome.

Dr John has been tireless, speaking to groups, large and small all over the place, expounding on our activities, raising money for them and adding to the friends of the Mission. The work has grown enormously among the under-privileged, the destitute and the down-and-out. Dr John and his team, under his inspired leadership and guidance, are showing that Methodism cares, and we praise our Lord who sent Dr John and Mary to us. They will go with our praises and thanks ringing in their ears — may their retirement years be long and happy — but can you think such a couple will ever really retire?

BRUCE YELLAND, Circuit Steward

## 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, Crisis at Christmas, 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)**

**A specific project on behalf of the Mission**

**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**

**Having a Mission meeting by a visit to the Mission**

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## THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION FOUNDED 1896

**General Office, 212 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ**

*(Entrance Maples Place)*

### ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

*Superintendent:* Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

*Deaconess:* Sister Vivien Ward  
Sister Mary Chamberlayne (retired).

*Associate:* Mr. Bob Blount

*Hon. Treasurers:* Mr. L. Mole & Mr. H. Shapcott.

*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. (Superintendent: Mr S. Ward)

### Executive Committee for Whitechapel Mission

Revs. Deryck Collingwood, Jeffrey W. Harris  
C. Leonard Tudor. Messrs. M. A. Booth,  
L. Mole, J. A. Reddall, G. Rowland,

H. Shapcott, B. Yelland. Mesdames H. M. Dunnett, Sister Vivien Ward, Miss J. Moors, Miss S. Nicholls, Miss C. Storey.

*Secretary:* Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

### Windyridge Management Committee

Messrs. K. L. Hollingsworth, C. A. Lawson, Dr. F. Rilstone, Maj.-Gen. J. K. Sheppard, Mr. P. Strover. Mesdames J. Caton, M. B. Chamberlayne, H. Dunnett, J. Eames, Miss M. Beattie.

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

*Secretary:* Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

*Principal:* Mrs. D. Stowers.

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

*Chaplain:* Rev. Glenville J. Martin.

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