

## THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION (Founded 1896)

**General Office:** 212, Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ  
Entrance in Maples Place.

**Superintendent:** Revd Peter Jennings, M.A.  
**Assistant Minister:** Revd Susan V. H. Featherstone.  
**Warden:** Mr Daniel V. J. Woodland.  
**Hon. Treasurers:** Mr L. Mole and Mr E. Warner.  
**Solicitors:** Messrs Butt & Bowyer.  
**Auditors:** Messrs Lake & Company.  
**Bankers:** Barclays Bank P.L.C, Mile End Branch  
234, Whitechapel Road, London E1.

### ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

#### WHITECHAPEL MISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Revsd Brian J. N. Galliers, Jeffrey W. Harris, Susan V. H. Featherstone, Messrs S. Adams, R. Bircham, M. Booth, D. Clisby, R. Cox, H. S. Grainger, L. Mole, E. Warner, Col. J. G. Round, Mrs H. Dunnett, the Misses J. Moors, S. Nicholls, C. E. Storey.

**Circuit Stewards:** Mr B. Yelland, Miss M. I. Pengelly.  
**Secretary:** Revd Peter Jennings.

#### WINDYRIDGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Miss M. Beattie, Mr R. Bircham, Mesdames J. Caton, H. Dunnett, Revd Susan V. H. Featherstone, Dr C. R. Gilbert, Messrs D. L. Greenacre, K. L. Hollingsworth, C. Lawson, Dr F. W. B. Rilstone, Mr P. Sirover

**Chairman:** Col. J. G. Round.  
**Secretary:** Revd Peter Jennings.  
**Principal:** Mr D. Wolsten-Croft.  
**Medical Officer:** Dr C. R. Gilbert.



# ANNUAL REPORT 1984

## WHEREVER THEY ARE



THE METHODIST CHURCH  
WHITECHAPEL MISSION

(Founded by Rev Thomas Jackson, 1896)

## WHEREVER THEY ARE.....

There are always different ways of looking at it! There is a newspaper which claims "all human life is there". John Wesley remarked that he looked upon the world as his parish and I suspect that there are a great many people who look upon their 'parish' as the whole world.

So where can we begin when we talk about a year in Whitechapel? Whitechapel is a mini world where languages, cultures, peoples and nationalities meet.

## ADDING TO THE CHURCH



Our church and mission is a place where the many communities in Whitechapel find a home. During the year we have received a number of children in Baptism — two of them from different Ghanaian families — staunchly Methodist. We wanted to help them feel at home especially on such a day of happy celebration. I made the very tentative suggestion that they might like to sing a hymn from their own Methodist style and in their own language. When the moment came I made the invitation. Photocopies of a handwritten hymn were passed round and the church was soon ringing with the unaccompanied harmonies of

lesu wo nkyen na metra:  
daa na mesom wo nkutou

The pilgrimage of little Vivien Dankyi was beautifully begun.

A week later the font was in use again for a service of believer's baptism as we shared in the celebration of George's commitment of himself to his Lord. Friends from Tower Hamlets Mission who had helped George on his pilgrimage joined us for the occasion. How blessed we are to have both infant and believer's baptism in our tradition.

## IN OUR OWN LANGUAGE

On different days, different languages rise above the street noise that seems to penetrate our building at all times of day and night. On Saturday mornings up to fifty children gather in our Hall to learn Bengali. It is always a benefit to be able to think and speak in more than one language. Our children live in different cultures and it is vitally important for them to be comfortable with and fully literate in their mother tongue.

Bengali is a beautiful and most expressive language, it is spoken by over ninety million people and even boasts a Nobel Prize for Literature in the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore. One of the festivals we shared during the course of the Youth Club's year was 'Shohid Debosh' — a commemoration of those who gave their lives for the Bengali language. When we say our prayers God always understands the words we say, but the miracle is that when He speaks to us, He speaks in our own language — to some of us in fluent Bengali, to some in Twi (Ghana) and to some in English with an accent that only we can detect.

There are other languages too. Our Youth Club has a musical group which communicates in the language of music. The melodies and harmonies — and instruments — soon make friends with unfamiliar ears. Visitors have included a TV singing star from Bangladesh and His Excellency, the High Commissioner for Bangladesh. Whitechapel is certainly proving to be the centre of the Universe.



## LESS SPECTACULAR

Less spectacular but equally profitable was a day seminar and workshop on the theme "The immigration experience — Jewish and Muslim". For many years the Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham have trained Church workers of many denominations for work overseas. The Colleges have a distinguished Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations. Under their auspices and programme the Whitechapel Mission was able to host this seminar with its important and far-reaching implications for community life in East London. Members of the Jewish community who knew of the struggle for survival three generations ago were sharing and comparing experiences with Muslims who were facing the same hostilities, prejudices and racism in this generation. That Whitechapel was able to host such a meeting was in itself a tribute to the growing trust which we have been able to build up in the communities of this area and beyond.



## OUR DAILY BREAD

The Traditional work of this Mission continues apace. The Men's Unit works at full stretch — although we're well organised and capably staffed, we always need more volunteers. When the food supply temporarily dried up, our friends in the Methodist Church at Bishop's Stortford kept us well supplied with loaf upon loaf of sandwiches. Despite difficulties at one point in the year, our showers and the medical bath have been in constant use. The offer of cleanliness and clean clothes calls our friends towards the establishing of their human dignity. It is young people from Stowmarket and Guides and Brownies from Romford who keep us supplied in soap and shampoo and make this ministry possible. There is somebody else too who launders over 250 towels a month who also keeps us going.

When one lives in derelict buildings or in hostels with fairly limited toilet facilities it is difficult to keep clean so wash basins and cleaning facilities are used all through the week — not just when the Unit is open — to take the pressure off the busy times. The washing machine and tumble drier so kindly provided by The Woolnoth Society rarely finds time to cool off!

The clothing store, admirably and tidily organised by Dave — assisted by Kitty who drops in two mornings a week — has a turnover that would make any gents' outfitters jealous. We sell clothing at low prices and where necessary give it away to the needy. Our men always go into hospital clean — if they're by appointment rather than emergency — and they always come out clean, dressed from top to toe like new pins, positively gleaming. But our stocks are provided by you — good, clean men's clothing is always needed.

And we even provide, when people are setting up home, salt and pepper pots, pans, cups, saucers, knives and forks and the plates off which to eat the daily bread.

## DURING THE DAY

Our day centres for the elderly and physically handicapped are still busy. On Thursday mornings we usually have more than a hundred visitors dropping in for a cuppa and a bite to eat. The clothing store is open then and it allows time while people are waiting for a more leisurely chat. Life is quieter by the time the Meals on Wheels arrive and there is time and space for fellowship round the table.

## ROUND THE TABLE

Fellowship round the table downstairs links however with the fellowship round the Table in our Upper Room — for the chapel, as you know, is on the first floor. Worship becomes more meaningful weekly as the men grow in confidence. When we begin to feel that God can receive us and accept us, in the beginning, just as we are and where we are, dignity and confidence begin to grow again. Some are finding the confidence to read the lesson, one, who had been terribly burnt in a violent attack and had been close to death for days and going through the slow process of healing for weeks, found the strength to speak to all the congregation and say thank you for their prayers which had carried him through the long weeks. While he was fighting for his life, the men whom we know as 'the family' were praying for forgiveness for those who had perpetrated the attack.

In the week before Harvest one of the men slipped into the office and left £2 as his gift ("While I've still got it, he said").

In a break from normal Methodist tradition "Reverend Sue", as she's usually known, has introduced a lovely little piece of symbolism. When all have been served the bread and wine, the ministers kneel and are served by two of the men. Those with whom we share our daily bread serve us and share the bread eternal.

## LADIES DAY

What a change in Ladies' Day! Our two small groups have combined with amazing results. Numbers have tripled and we've just outgrown the Church lounge. A meal together is followed by social dancing — a sort of physical jerks to music — or handicrafts for those who need something quieter. A cuppa, a mini-market and a fellowship hour round off the day together. It has also proved possible to take the ladies out for the day when hospitality was provided by friends in Chingford and Chelmsford on different occasions. Some enjoyed a bright day out at Windyridge so we have managed to keep our ladies active and on the move.

## HEALING AND WHOLENESS

It is good to report that our links with the London Hospital are growing ever closer. Chaplaincy involves not just visiting the patients, it often means supporting families of patients who are finding it difficult to cope with information given and decisions to be reached. It means support of the nursing and medical staff as well as of all the other workers within the hospital. The chaplains meet each new intake of nurses and offer various styles of religious life to those whose needs vary so much. We are very fortunate that nurses and medical students are prepared to share with us in Whitechapel the work of the Men's Unit. Heads, hands and feet need cleaning up and dressing. Without our volunteer nurses from Bishop's Stortford and Gidea Park, our helpers from 'The London' and those who support the medical work financially, we and our men should be in dire straits. Our clients very often fall through the NHS net whose holes get even larger. There is a real need for primary medical care.

Our Anniversary this year added an extra link with the Hospital. We welcomed back our former superintendent, Dr. John Chamberlayne, who was, of course, formerly Free Church Chaplain at The London. It was St. Luke's Day, October 18th, and in a service which remembered with gratitude 'the beloved physician' it was gratifying to see friends from the hospital supporting the special occasion.

Support from former patients on their discharge from hospital is also a growing part of our work here. We maintain friendships and contacts with those whom we visit first as patients, then as friends.

## MAKING MINISTRY POSSIBLE

Administration is a vital part of ministry. Jean, our secretary, and Eric, our new joint Treasurer, keep the office work well under control and carry much of the burden which releases the team to care and minister. Administration is caring work too — caring about balancing books, producing reports, minutes of meetings and all the follow up entailed.

Finance is always a tightrope walk. This year we finished with a tiny surplus — still nowhere near making up the ground lost in previous years. But it is a gesture that we try to match our work to the finance available to keep it going. There are times of the year when we are over-extended and worried about the cash flow. Nevertheless our friends help us at every point of need. We have had to repair roofs this year. The constant supply of hot water has led to substantial repairs being needed for one of the boilers. Neither of these major repairs could have been foreseen though, as you will see from our financial report and accounts, we are trying to husband resources to prepare a contingency fund for such emergencies.

The caring work that we share with you can only grow as resources are able to support. We work miracles on our shoestring budget. The gifts of gold, however, only work as the myrrh of sacrifice and self giving and the frankincense of prayer and worship give depth of meaning to our offering for His sake.  
PLEASE CONTINUE TO HELP US.

## The Treasurer's Word...

I welcome another opportunity to record our grateful thanks to all those who have so loyally supported us in our work and remembered us in their prayers. Although it is generally invidious to mention names, I must say special 'Thank You's' to the members and friends of Methodist Churches in Bishop's Stortford, Haywards Heath and the Walthamstow and Chingford Circuit together with the members of the Woolnoth Society in the City of London who, over the years, have given us substantial financial and other assistance.

May I again draw attention to a Deed of Covenant from income tax payers as a means of giving additional help to the Mission. Many of our covenanters are now elderly and we have lost several by death in recent years. The minimum period of a Deed of Covenant is now four years — there must be many in Methodism and beyond who already make an annual donation and they could add considerably to our income if they would make a regular promise over four years in this manner. Please write to me or the Superintendent Minister if you are interested — your annual donation of, say, £10 increases to £14 when we have reclaimed the tax.

God is calling us to continue and intensify this work. We have a devoted Mission staff — please help them to witness to His love and saving grace amongst those whose needs challenge our commitment to His Gospel.

Yours sincerely,  
LESLIE MOLE

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 MARCH 1984

ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1984

	This Year	Last Year
	£	£
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<u>Loans</u>		
Methodist Chapel Aid Association Ltd.	2,200	2,200
<u>Short Term Deposits</u>		
Methodist Church Central Finance Board	11,467	4,658
<u>Other Current Assets</u>		
Debtors and Prepayments	2,216	2,124
Cash at Bank and in hand	2,590	1,150
	<u>4,806</u>	<u>3,274</u>
	18,473	10,132
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accrued Expenses	2,316	2,940
Due to Thrift Clubs	648	1,649
	<u>2,964</u>	<u>4,589</u>
Short Term Loan	2,000	2,000
	<u>4,964</u>	<u>6,589</u>
	<u>£13,509</u>	<u>£ 3,543</u>
<u>Represented By</u>		
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>		
Legacies Reserve	14,470	10,334
Repairs Equalisation Account	2,274	-
Reserve for Replacement of Vehicles	1,500	-
	<u>18,244</u>	<u>10,334</u>
Less Deficit on General Fund	(4,735)	(6,791)
	<u>£13,509</u>	<u>£ 3,543</u>

L.G. MOLE }  
 H. SHARCOTT } Joint Treasurers  
 B.G. YELLAND }  
 M. FENGELLY }  
 } District Stewards

	This Year	Last Year
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations and collections	26,963	23,771
Income Tax recoverable re covenants	582	-
Rents	9,377	8,650
Interest	1,114	1,277
Legacies - proportion credited this year	2,412	1,722
	<u>40,448</u>	<u>35,420</u>
<b>LESS EXPENDITURE</b>		
Salaries and National Insurance	18,844	15,427
Telephone and Office Expenses	3,471	3,522
Light and Heat	4,090	3,436
Insurance and Rates	2,030	1,896
Repairs	726	1,541
Repairs Equalisation Account	2,274	-
Motor Expenses and Travel	2,745	2,289
Provisions and Household Expenses	1,261	1,759
Social Work	855	1,240
Audit fee	495	625
Interest	138	-
Transfer to Reserve for Replacement of Vehicles	1,500	-
Sundries	1,823	2,115
	<u>40,252</u>	<u>33,850</u>
Surplus on ordinary activities for the year	196	1,570
<b>ADD/(LESS) EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS</b>		
Donation for special purposes	937	-
Prior Year adjustments	923	-
Proceeds of sale of car	-	1,500
Net cost of new car	-	(1,250)
	<u>1,860</u>	<u>210</u>
Surplus carried forward	<u>£ 2,056</u>	<u>£ 1,820</u>

## WINDYRIDGE

You can imagine my dismay when I picked up the office telephone to be asked to provide 750 words for the annual report. Dismay at the thought that I would have to pack into such a small number of words such a lot. Over the last twelve months we seem to have been involved in a tremendous amount of different activities.

Perhaps one of the most significant developments has been the joint activity between Whitechapel and the Windyridge Hostel. Every Thursday, Mr. J. Thomas, the Deputy Warden, takes three and sometimes four young men or women to assist Whitechapel team in their work in the Mission. It appears that in this exercise there are no losers, everybody gains. The men at Whitechapel see new faces, the Mission team get some help, but most important of all, the lads and lasses from the hostel see that they have something valuable to offer people much worse off than themselves. The Revd. Peter Jennings and I are planning to keep this activity going, but I have to admit I am not happy. John, my Deputy, is missed here and I am looking for a volunteer to take on the job of transporting and looking after the Windyridge gang.

Talking about volunteers, I must thank the different groups who have visited from the local circuit. Last year I was asking for stronger links between the hostel and the churches in Colechester. I am so pleased to report that the links are re-established and are becoming stronger. The bedrooms look much more homely because of the cheerful and colourful bedspreads supplied by the local circuit. We saw a lot of old friends at our Open Day in July. We saw even more new friends when we ran a Car Boot Sale. I have a bone to pick with my secretary, who organised most of this activity, because my son filled his bedroom with second-hand toys. As he said, "It's fun having a Car Boot Sale in your own back garden".

In the Summer, the hostel nearly closed down. We sent some home on holiday, whilst a group of staff and residents went on a hiking exercise. Using the van to 'hedge hop', they walked coast to coast from Yorkshire to Lancashire. This was during that very hot spell in August, and the event was a real achievement. Later in the year, and much colder, a different group went cruising on a deep sea barge. They had a whale of a time, got very wet and learned new skills. Although they enjoyed themselves, I think they were pleased to be back on dry land travelling back to the hostel in the van.

Oh yes! We now have a new van. The chairman of British Telecom donated an ex-Post



Office van in very good condition. As some of you will know, we have a car track here where we can train people to drive safely off the road. With the new van we will be able to develop the driving scheme on to the highway. The intention will be to encourage young people, who come to us with a history of stealing cars, on to the road legally, safely and with their own driving licence.

There is one last thing I would like to share with you. A few weeks ago my wife and I went to the Harvest Supper at our local church. One of the parishioners there said she was so sad that the Windyridge lads and lasses did not come to church. "Oh yes they do", I said, "but they no longer sit as a big group". You see, she had not been able to identify the hostel group, thinking they were young people from the village. If I and the very good crowd of staff here can emulate this in all we do, I will be very happy. To place clients back into society where they will not be noticed, but accepted as members of the general public.

It has been hard work this last year, not only for me but for all the staff here — but it has been fun.

D. WOLSTEN-CROFT

