



The Methodist Church
WHITECHAPEL MISSION

(Founded by Revd Thomas Jackson, 1896)
Registered Charity No: 227905

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31st August, 2000

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WHITECHAPEL MISSION MANAGING TRUSTEES

Revd. Ermal Kirby (Chairman of the District)

Revd David Hill (Chair)	Mr B. Woodward
Revd Richard H. Chapple	Mr E. Warner
Dr K. Aldred	Miss J. Soulsby
Mr R. Cox	Miss S. Nicholls
Miss M. Pengelly,	Mr T. Simco
Miss W. Yates	Mr B. Yelland

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC
Mile End and Bow Branch
240, Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BS

Solicitors: Hadfields Butt and Bowyer
104, West Street
Farnham, Surrey GU9 7ET

Auditors: Pollock Taylor
Chartered Certified Accountants
1-3 York Hill,
Loughton,
Essex IG10 1RL

Investment Advisers: Central Finance Board Investment Unit
4th Floor, Friendly House
52-58 Tabernacle Street,
London EC2A 4PL

The Governing Documents

The Whitechapel Mission is governed by the Model Trust Deed dated 15th December 1932 as amended on 30th August 1967 and 2nd November 1994.

Briefly, these documents set our purposes as the advancement of:
The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church; and
Any charitable purposes for the time being of the Methodist Church.

The first of these purposes we address by holding regular services of Christian worship in accordance with normal Methodist practice on Sunday afternoons at 3pm.

In regard to the second, we focus our efforts on providing for the basic human needs of the poor and homeless people who come to us.

Objects

“Our object is to save lives at risk because of homelessness or poverty, by offering practical evidence of the Good News that the hungry shall be fed, the naked clothed and the outcast welcomed and made clean.”

These words have appeared at the beginning of our report for as many years as I can remember, but what do they actually mean?

Over the last twenty years the Mission has changed more than in any other period. Its appearance, the client group and the services we offer. We continue to look after the poor and homeless, but on a scale very difficult to imagine.

We hope, in this years report to bring everybody up-to-date with the latest goings on at Whitechapel and will try to explain the changes and reasons behind them.

We have to begin by examining the diverse groups of people that we work with on a daily basis.

The first group are homeless and sleeping on the streets. Just over a third of our daily users will be sleeping on the streets, and most within a 5 mile radius of the Mission. Over the last few years we have seen the average age drop

from about 40 to about 25. Most will have a problem with alcohol or drugs and their needs are very basic. Food, clothing, showers and medical attention. Others may have a mental health problem.

The second group has a history of homelessness, but are currently in temporary accommodation. This could be in the form of staying with a friend or Bed & Breakfast, but in most cases will be in a short term hostel. In many ways they have moved away from the streets, but the path is steep and they require a high level of support and friendship. In some cases they are turning their back on many years of street life. It will take time to build new friendships and to feel a part of this new community.

The third group also has a history of homelessness, but now have their own flat. But without support they can very easily turn back to a way of life, that was very uncomplicated and without the pressures that they now face daily.

Imagine a situation where after many years of working for the same company one becomes unemployed. The financial assistance from the state is minimal and many people have difficulty managing. Now imagine that after 10 years on the street, you are offered a flat. Completely empty. No carpets, no furniture, no pots and pans and exactly the same amount of money to live on. No cooker means that you have to eat out all of the time. No kettle means that you cannot even make a cup of tea. No bed or bedding means that you sleep on the floor and no curtains means that everybody can see everything you do.

Getting somebody off the streets is only the first step in the process. Keeping them from returning to the streets is far harder and takes far more time, effort and resources. We are here to reduce homelessness and best way of doing this is keeping them off the streets in the first place.

This third group needs as much support as somebody on the streets. If we do not get involved and offer support they will be back on the streets before we know it.

Within all of this we try to offer “practical evidence of the Good News that the hungry shall be fed, the naked clothed and the outcast welcomed and made clean.” Our goal is to give back 'choice', 'self-dignity' and 'purpose'. Only then can we work 'with' our street sleepers towards a lasting change in their life. In most cases they feel trapped, without choice and worthless. Nobody loves them, nobody wants them, and nobody cares.

The Day Centre

The work of the day centre is split between two major areas. We target the street sleepers, looking for their basic bodily needs being met. And secondly as a tenancy support service to those that now have flats but require a high level of support.

Our doors open at 6am. Christmas, Easter and Bank Holidays do not stop people from being homeless; so therefore does not stop us from opening our doors. Our hours are chosen very carefully and allow us to be there when no other centres are open, when our “fellas” are most in need and when they are without drink and therefore able to work with our staff towards solving their problems.



Ladies from Southend on Sea & Leigh on Sea Methodist Church helping with breakfast at Christmas

Our goal is to reduce homelessness, but to get there we have to take a very long route. Firstly, we have to make sure we can keep these people alive long enough to be able to get them off the streets. This means that a lot of emphasis is put on feeding, clothing and medical help. Toilets, showers, washing facilities are important elements of our work. Only once we have filled bellies and emptied bladders can we hope to move onto the next level of help.

Between 6am and 8am, we prepare a cooked breakfast for between 80 and 150 a day, depending on the time of year, the weather and chance. It is served from 8am onwards and is available for two hours. While this is happening we open the showers, or clothing store to try and offer clean second-hand clothing.

There are also people having a shave or a wash before, during and after breakfast. We also offer tea and coffee from the moment we open and can expect to serve an average of 400 cups of tea a day and over 100 cups of coffee.

We could not do any of this without your support. Of course this means money, but that is only one element of what is needed to be able to help the homeless of London. In one day we need:

40 new razors	150 eggs	2 bottles of shampoo
40 bars of soap	10 loaves of bread	1 jar of coffee
40 towels	2lb of butter	8 toilet rolls
6lb of sugar	20lb of bacon	4 packets of biscuits
4lb of tea	150 sausages	
40 pints of milk	30 tins of tomatoes	
3 boxes of cereals	30 tins of Baked Beans	

And as much clean second-hand clothing as we can lay our hands on. Tomorrow we need the same again!

Government Strategy

I must begin this section of our report with a small pat on the back for the current Labour Government. We have seen for the first time a carefully considered and implemented strategy aimed at reducing homeless numbers by 2/3 in a two year period. This strategy is targeting long term street sleepers and offering a fast track through the hostel system and into permanent accommodation. This strategy promised to reduce the hardship and suffering of street sleepers, and reduce the need for centers like this one.

I wish that the homeless problem in this country could be sorted that easily. The reality is the homeless problem is far more complex than simply offering housing to people on the streets. As this strategy reaches the half way mark, it would be nice if we could report a visible reduction in the numbers of homeless

people entering the Mission each day. We can only report that there has been a significant increase in the number of street sleepers using our services and there appears to be no sign of this changing.

Of course this new approach to tackling the homeless issue has resulted in the government re-structuring funding and services available through the funded organisations. High profile areas and areas of high numbers of homeless people are being targeted first. There are far fewer funded organisations and a greater requirement for accountability. Instead of funding five different organisations to work in one area, money has been made available to one organisation for that same area. This should lead to a higher levels of resources available to that one organisation, but not necessarily to the local area.

Organisations that have been able to obtain Government funding in the past used it to supplement the work usually funded by charitable gifts. Without the government funding the amount of money available in the way of charitable gifts is insufficient to keep the work running and has resulted in organisations, churches and charities removing and reducing services, as other funded organisations increase services. So the overall level of services available has changed very little. The difference being that these services are now concentrated within one organisation in each area. It has also changed the nature of funding work with homelessness. In the past charitable gifts paid a very important part in paying for the work, but was supplemented by Government funding. Now we see some organisations totally dependent on charitable gifts and other organisations become totally dependent on Government funding. Organisations that have taken this increased Government funding and responded by increased staffing levels, services and provisions, are now totally dependent on this funding to be able to continue running at the current level of service.

A Government source has promised that *“In two years time, we should be exclusively funding prevention and rebuilding people’s lives. We should not be in the business anymore of wholesale funding of Contact and Assessment Teams.”* We can only hope that during the remaining 14 months of this period this initiative bears results. We have seen so many organisations having to reduce services available to homeless people due to the loss of funding and the above promise would suggest that those organisations that have accepted the increased funding will have major money troubles as this initiative reaches its conclusion next year. There were 5 large day centers in this area of London, just a few short years ago. Now there are only two remaining. We remain the

only independently funded center working with homeless people. The other is funded to a large extent by this Government initiative. Its future level of support for homeless people has us concerned once this funding is removed.

Our "fellas"

These are our brothers and sisters. It would not take too much for any one of us to be in a similar position if we did not have people around us that cared enough to help during difficult times. There are many words used to describe homeless people, but few that are kind. We chose "fellas".



Revd David Hill and Tony Miller with the men at Breakfast

The typical image of a homeless person is of a man, between 40 and 50 years old, wearing dirty clothing, unshaven and with a can of beer in his hand. This is no longer the case. More than half of the people coming to our door are under 30, a third of them being women.

Due to a new approach by the government in tackling homelessness in this country, we have seen the total restructuring of funding and services available via government funded projects. In real terms this has manifested itself in the

total removal of all professional services available to this centre and the street homeless in the East End of London. Over the past 12 months we have seen the numbers of street sleepers more than double and become a far larger percentage of the total number of users of the services we offer.

Staff

There are four full time staff working in the day centre. Tony, Ruth, Will and Chris. In addition to the full time staff, there are two part time staff that make up the team. We then rely upon regular volunteers to boost that number to about six or seven a day.

We begin by directing the service towards the street homeless that will be first through the door each morning. Most of the requests for help will be based around practical help to stay alive. Emphasis moves towards the tenancy support aspect of work as the morning progresses. We currently have an excellent staff team and we owe them a great debt of gratitude for the work they do each morning. The work would not be possible without their flexibility and devotion.

Farewells and Introductions

We said goodbye to Richard Chapple, our minister, at the end of this year and we welcome Revd David Hill from September 1st. Richard has moved to Colchester where he will take on the challenges of four churches. Everybody here will miss Richard and we wish him only the very best wishes for his new appointment.

Revd David Hill is the superintendent of our circuit and will be taking on the additional duties of caring for our street homeless as well as looking after Trinity Methodist Church in Poplar and his other Circuit duties.

Treasurers Report

The last financial year has been marginally better than the previous one. We have managed to pay all the outstanding bills we accumulated last year and the ones out-standing this year are much lighter. Our main problem has been in keeping our cash flow stable and we have had to hold up the payment of some of the bills to prevent our account at the Bank from going in the red. At one stage we had to cash in one of our Unrestricted Funds for £20,000 but this still hasn't helped us have a sizable Bank Balance.

We are seeing more clients coming in daily for breakfast. This has increased our income but, also, of course, costing us more for provisions. Until a year or so ago, we had a regular supply of food from Marks and Spencer. This we had to collect from their depot in central London, as this supply dwindled; it was costing us more in petrol than the value of the provisions we acquired. Consequently we now have to buy most of our food apart from the gifts of produce that come from some churches and local schools.

We are hoping the next financial year will help us to balance our books and with your generous aid we can achieve that. Any extra you can give will be very gratefully received. We realise that some cannot afford to give much but we ask if you will remember us in your prayers and please accept our thanks for your past and future generosity.

Eric Warner
Hon. Treasurer

Wardens Report

We see so much suffering and hardship at Whitechapel. The people that came to the Mission this morning will be back tomorrow and again the day after. For many people this has become a way of life that they will never escape from. They feel that they have become totally excluded from society, they have no choices left open to them and this is a way of life they have to accept. It would be very easy to become depressed or discouraged with the work and doubtful of ones own faith. There are times when it happens to me and I wonder if it is really worth while continuing. And then there are days when it is a joy to be alive. My faith is renewed and the sun appears to be shining. This year I would like to share a story with you that has given me renewed hope and purpose.

Mike has been using the centre for about 7 years. He is 29 years old, has no family and spent his young years in care. He has been on the streets for all of his adult life and uses heroin to hide the pain of what he calls “a difficult time” growing up. I have tried to get to the bottom of the pain and hurt on many occasions, but have either been met by a brick wall or found him in a state of drug use, where he did not even know the day of the week.

His habit costs him about £200 a day. He gets £43 a week to live on and feeds this habit by shoplifting in the West End. From what I can gather he is very good at this and very rarely gets caught. One of the few occasions when he has been caught, sentenced and spent time in prison he returns to the streets within days of leaving prison. I am not sure how long the level of drug abuse has been this high or even if it is reduced for any length of time after these visits to prison, but the hurt he feels seems real enough and his way of coping with it is to steal and then use the money to feed his habit.

It is important to be there for Mike when he wants us and to give him distance when it is needed. We are there to feed, clothe, clean and doctor Mike, and when he wants it, to chat. But, at the end of the day Mike is going to die on the streets of London. It will be the drugs, maybe the cold, or even the crime associated with the drugs, but it is only a matter of time.

Then one morning Mike asks if he can chat and through a veil of tears begs for help to “come off” the heroin. Within two days we have managed to get him into a “rehab” clinic and after a 10 day regime of reduction, pain and suffering, he comes back to us a different man.

After a referral to an assessment team, Mike was in a hostel that evening. Hopefully within the next few months he will be in his own place and away from the people and influences that could put pressure on him to return to the way things were.

Mike still uses the centre, but not as regularly as he used to. It is important that we are still here for him when he needs us. It is important that we continue to offer support through his time at the hostel and again once he has his own flat. Mike has never lived on his own and has no experience or skills when it comes to budgeting, buying food and looking after himself.

When he comes into the centre early in the morning and we see his healthy looking face, bright eyes and a bounce in his step, it brings a smile to my face and a feeling that the sun is shining.

We can only hope that Mike continues down this particular path and does not stumble. To kick a £200 a day habit in just 10 days, and after so many years of dependency is no small achievement. We will be there to support him either way, and this is only possible because of the support you are able to offer us.

We thank you for your support and for allowing us to be here.

Tony Miller

Methods of Giving

The Whitechapel Mission is a registered charity and the Trustees wish to express their grateful thanks to all, whether you be great or small, who support the Mission financially.

Those of you who pay Income tax may like to consider the possibility of using one of the tax-efficient ways of giving which enable the Mission to increase the value of your gift by reclaiming basic rate Income Tax.

Various methods are available:

- (i) Gift Aid which enables basic rate Income Tax to be reclaimed immediately on all donations from tax payers.
- (ii) Charities Aid Fund or
- (iii) G.A.Y.E. (Give as you Earn)

If you would like to know more please write to:

The Hon. Treasurer
Whitechapel Mission
212, Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

or visit our website at www.whitechapel.org.uk

FORM OF BEQUEST BY WILL

For the guidance of friends who may desire to make bequests for the general work of the Whitechapel Mission, the following form of bequest is suggested:

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the Treasurer 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 of my decease from the proceeds of my real and personal estate, but primarily out of my personal estate, and the receipt of the Treasurer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

NOTE: The Mortmain and Charitable Users Act, 1981, 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 their presence and the presence of each other.

YOU CAN HELP OUR WORK BY

Praying for our work and our workers
Sending a donation now
Undertaking a special project on behalf of the Mission
Making a legacy in your will
Arranging a Gift Service or Carol Party from your church
Sending or delivering clothing
Asking for a Mission Speaker for one of your meetings