

CATALYST

Church Army's Magazine

ISSUE #15

November | 2021

CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

Find out what we're up to this Christmas and how you can be involved.

TRAINING EVANGELISTS

Elli Wort tells us all about Evangelism training at Church Army.

NEWS FROM WALES

Find out what is new and exciting from our work in Wales.

DARE

EVANGELISM

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WELCOME TO CATALYST

How early do you start preparing for Christmas? I've asked many people this question and the answer ranges from as early as November to as late as Christmas Eve. I have to admit, even when the weather starts to turn just a little bit colder, I find it hard not to start thinking a little bit about the Christmas season.

For some time now, we on the Church Army Communications Team have been preparing for this year's Christmas campaign and I hope that you will join us as we look at the different ways that we can share the hope of our Saviour with the world around us. Read on to find out how!

But whenever you start thinking about Christmas, there is plenty going on in the life of Church Army before then. In this November-December edition of Catalyst and Prayer Diary we have news, updates, and prayers to take you through autumn and right up to New Year. Find out more about what happens during our three-year evangelism training course from one of our Training Team, also, meet Michelle Lloyd, one of our Evangelists-in-Training who is right at the start of the programme and pioneering evangelism at our centre of mission in Llanelli, in Wales. And for when the nights start to draw in near December, read an Advent reflection from Jayne Elliott, our Leadership Development Officer (page 11) as she unpacks John 1:14 and what it means when we read - "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us".

And thank you for your continued support for our work. The last two years through the pandemic have been a testing season. Your decision to stand alongside us in prayer and giving have made a real difference to many lives in many ways and will continue to do so as we head into Christmas 2021.

God Bless,



Chris Hardy
Publications Officer

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FLIP UPSIDE DOWN FOR THE PRAYER DIARY



WHAT'S NEW?

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO...

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Alongside our passion to share the Good News of God's love with everyone everywhere, we share a concern for the environment with people of all faiths and those with none. The earth is our common home. But more than that, "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). God calls on His people to tend the earth and care for creation. The Board of Church Army has agreed the following policy statement:

As Church Army we are challenged to care for our environment and do all we can to use its resources wisely to ensure sustainability for today and future generations. We are committed to understanding the effects of our operations on the environment and to measuring and reporting our environmental impact.

We are working on auditing our current environmental impact and introducing goals and a range of action plans over the next 12 months to reduce our environmental footprint.

DEATHS

The [Revd Capt. Frank Fletcher](#), aged 81, died on 10 September.

THE SANCTUARY AT MARYLEBONE

In the last issue we wrote about the work of The Sanctuary - the refurbished Day Centre at the Marylebone Project. We are delighted to report that thanks to financial support from The Evening Standard and Barclays, the centre will have an official opening on Thursday 11 November. As a result of the generosity of the funders we can now open 24/7 and support even more women when they need it most.

To keep The Sanctuary operating please support our work at:
[CHURCHARMY.ORG/GIVING](https://churcharmy.org/giving)

IMPACT REPORT

Our Impact Report for year to March 2021 has now been produced and sent out to supporters. If you don't have a paper copy, you can read the full report at churcharmy.org/impact



5,300

Centres of Mission used 5,300 evangelistic objects, outdoor messages and pieces of artwork to be seen by passers by.



38,072

38,072 nights of accommodation were provided.



CONNECT WITH US

You can find out what we are up to in real time by following any of our social media channels.



@CHURCHARMY



@CHURCHARMYUKI



@CHURCHARMY

FOCUS ON WALES

Leoni Oxenham, our Regional Development Officer for Wales, writes about new work opening up in Wales.

God is doing amazing work in Wales, where our diocesan partnerships continue to flourish and we are seeing amazing opportunities to extend God's Kingdom through a range of partnerships working across our centres of mission.

We have new worshipping communities in Cross Hands and Haverfordwest, as well as Beer and Bible sessions in Cross Hands and Youth Alpha in Haverfordwest. Llanelli is launching a new all age worshipping community following a successful community event last month.

Meg Borges, our new Pioneer Evangelist has started in Llandaff, where our evangelists recently inputted into strategic planning as integrated members of the team progressing the diocesan strategy. In the Gwent Valleys we are also looking forward to welcoming a new pioneer evangelist and to running Holiday Happenings over the halfterm.

In Wrexham our new Pioneer Evangelist, Jack, was recently licensed (pictured below) and our partnership now includes Wrexham Parochial Education Foundation. The Tin Can Youth Club has reopened, with young people enjoying a beach trip recently and looking forward to Youth Church relaunching soon. We are also really excited to be launching a new centre of mission on the North Coast of Wales soon and will be recruiting for a Lead Evangelist later in the month.

God is Good!



Leoni Oxenham
Regional Development
Officer for Wales



Chris Hardy caught up with Pioneer Evangelist Meg Borges who is newly appointed to Llandaff.

What you are excited about in joining the Llandaff Centre of Mission as Pioneer Evangelist?

I am really excited about seeing transformation in the communities and churches we are working in over the next four years! I know God has some beautiful things planned for the Diocese of Llandaff and I can't wait for the hope-filled stories that will surely come. I feel so blessed and humbled that I get to be a part of that Kingdom work here!

What brought you to Church Army/how did you first hear about us?

When I saw the job vacancy, what initially brought me to Church Army was the heart behind the organisation being everything I stand behind. It was evident that the mission, vision, and values of Church Army were not just aims, but were boldly put into practice and I knew that I wanted to be a part of that Kingdom work!

What excites you about telling people about Jesus?

There are so many things but what excites me most about telling people about Jesus is the faith it requires. I may not always get a kind response, but I couldn't be more confident in who God is, how He changes lives, and how He's changed mine. I will never ever regret sharing that with others in the hope that they could experience that life-changing love of Jesus too.

What areas of mission are you most passionate about / drawn to?

An area of mission that I am most passionate about is youth ministry as it is such a pivotal time in a person's life. I find it such a privilege to walk alongside young people, provide them with a supportive community and remind them that God loves them, values them, and created them with purpose. I am really excited to use my heart for young people to support the Diocese in their Young Faith Matters project!



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TRAINING WITH CHURCH ARMY

As Church Army, evangelism is at the heart of what we do: it is the practical meeting of needs, it's being hope on the streets and it is sharing Jesus with people who desperately need hope. But who are our evangelists? We caught up with **Elli Wort** from Church Army's Training Team to talk all about how and why we train evangelists...

My name is Elli, I am the Associate Training Team Lead and Director of Studies – I am responsible for the taught elements of our training, and I am also one of our tutors.

WHAT IS AN EVANGELIST-IN-TRAINING?

Church Army training is a three-year programme with an emphasis on mission within a pioneer context. Although our teaching is accredited by Durham University, you don't have to be 'academic' to study with us! Lots of Evangelists-in-Training have had difficult experiences of learning at school, and we are skilled at helping those people fulfil their true potential with us. Our teaching includes different methods and styles, and we always try to make it fun and engaging. We have a unique link with Church Army's Research Unit so all our teaching on mission and evangelism is informed by cutting-edge research.

When people start their training with us, we recognise that God is already calling them to be an evangelist, but that we can all learn more about our faith, calling and ministry. That's why we call our students Evangelists-in-Training - they are evangelists, and they are also in training. Our part is to train people to be the evangelists that God is calling them to be.

Our training is part-time, with four training weekends at Wilson Carlile Centre in Sheffield

each year, and online learning from home. So each Evangelist-in-Training is already rooted in a missional context, where they can put their learning directly into practice. There's no average rhythm for Evangelists-in-Training: everyone has a different situation. Firstly, everyone who trains to be a Church Army Evangelist is actively engaged in mission, the amount of time they give to this varies from a few hours a week to a full-time role.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When Evangelists-in-Training complete their training, they are Admitted into the Office of Evangelist in the Church of England, and Commissioned as an Evangelist in Church Army. Some people apply for jobs in Church Army's Centres of Mission, some work for Dioceses or churches, and some people continue doing 'secular' jobs and do their work as an Evangelist in a voluntary way.

WHO CAN TRAIN?

If you feel you have a call to be a Church Army Evangelist, and your Church, your Diocese and Church Army recognise that calling as well, you will join our training community.



Ellie Wort

Associate Training Team
Leader and Director of Studies

To find out more visit: churcharmy.org/training

OUR EVANGELISTS IN TRAINING

Meet **Michelle Lloyd**

This season marks the start of a new regular feature in Catalyst, where in each issue we introduce you to one of our Evangelists-in-Training. To begin this new feature, we have been talking to **Michelle Lloyd**, one of our recent Evangelists-in-Training and Pioneer Evangelist at Llanelli Centre of Mission in Wales...

I grew up in a village called Trimsaran, seven miles outside Llanelli. I now live in Llanelli, with my husband, Andrew, who I've been married to for 15 years and I am the Pioneer Evangelist for Llanelli Centre of Mission.

There is lots going on in Llanelli at the moment. The work I am doing includes doorstep food drop-off which is also a good opportunity to chat and get to know people in the area, prayer walks, school stories, assemblies, and also Messy Church in school.

There is also Well café coffee morning drop in and Family Centre visits. There are plenty of new things starting up too, such as the Connect @ 4 service which started fortnightly in October.

Before I joined Llanelli Centre of Mission, I lifted up my prayers to God asking Him if I should apply for the evangelist for children and young families post. When I was offered the position it was confirmation of where God wanted me to be. During that same interview I was asked how I felt about training to become a Church Army Evangelist and again I felt God saying that now is the perfect timing for training, and so I applied. My Lead Evangelist, Rob Lowe, had spoken much about Church Army during the time I had worked with him in my previous role, within the local ministry area. He also trained with Church Army many years ago and had lots of praise for the organisation.

My passion is for sharing Jesus with young people in schools, working with families and meeting people in the community. What excites me about telling people about Jesus is what a difference He has made in my life. Hearing the transformation stories from others too, makes me more excited to help other people see what a difference trusting in Jesus can make in their lives.

I am enjoying being a part of the Church Army community, meeting new people who are also training and doing ministry in different contexts, and the support to learn, grow and try new projects. I feel a sense of belonging and feel blessed to be a part of God's great plan.



Michelle Lloyd
Evangelist-in-Training and
Pioneer Evangelist; Llanelli
Centre of Mission



NEIGHBOURLY AT CHRISTMAS

JOHN 1:14

*The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighbourhood.*

*We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,*

*Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.*

As we approach Advent and the preparation for Christmas, Church Army will be running a series of emails to help us think about how God is at work in our neighbourhoods, and how we can be a good neighbour to those around us and those in need.

You can join in the series of four weekly emails by signing up online at:

[CHURCHARMY.ORG/ADVENT2021](https://www.churcharmy.org/advent2021)

REFLECTING ON ADVENT

"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood"

(JOHN 1:14 THE MESSAGE TRANSLATION)

As I write this there's talk of the government ending the additional £20 a week top up to families on universal credit during the pandemic, rising fuel prices threatening to send more families into fuel poverty this winter and the arrival of Afghan refugees to many of our towns and cities all dominate the headlines.

Walking around our local council estate in South Sheffield I can't help wondering what Christmas will look like for some of the people on the estate; those for whom that £20 a week loss will mean struggling to feed their families or heat their home, with the impact that will inevitably have on their health. Or the lonely and housebound, who may have been even more isolated this past year due to pandemic restrictions.

The Message version translates John 1:14 as, "The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood."

And I find myself wondering, what it might look like if the incarnate Christ literally moved into our neighbourhood this Christmas season?

I can't help feeling he would feel quite at home here. He chose a stable for his birthplace and his first visitors were the shepherds, who were viewed as outcasts by many in Palestinian society. Like many here his earthly father was a skilled tradesman. He reached out to those who were kept on the margins of society. He came to live as one of us; choosing to feel the fragility and vulnerability of flesh and blood in order to reveal God's love for us.

I believe he would listen to those in our communities for whom the pandemic has made them recognise their own fragility and vulnerability; draw alongside the refugees or vulnerably housed and share his own story of how as an infant, he and his family also had to flee in order to escape persecution and death threats. And he would weep with those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, taken from them prematurely.

So as we begin to turn our thoughts to our plans for Christmas I leave you with this question to ponder:

Who in my neighbourhood might I make Christ present to this Advent season?

Thank God for all the work our Church Army evangelists and Amber and Marylebone staff will be doing to make Christ present in the communities and individuals that they serve this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Pray for them as they minister the generosity of Christ's unconditional love over the Advent season.



God bless,
Jayne Elliott

YOUR GIFT MATTERS

In this issue you will have read about some of our work in Wales and the staff who are bringing hope to the streets in Llanelli and Llandaff. And our work is expanding in many other places too: our work with homeless women in London has grown to bring vital aid 24-hours a day, and we are now currently advertising jobs for a new centre of mission in Suffolk, and will soon be advertising other vacancies.

We have an aim to have 50 operating centres of mission by 2027, as well as our other projects with the homeless, street workers, vulnerable young people, and more.

100% of your donations are spent on our frontline work and we want to thank all our supporters who faithfully give. As our work increases, we desperately need to increase our donation income to match our expansion and find new supporters who are passionate about: the social

injustices we challenge, the people we help, and seeing people come to love God through the work of our evangelists and staff.

If you know someone who might partner with us through prayer and giving, please share this Catalyst with them and tell them why you support Church Army.

Thank you for your support.



Neil Thomson CA
Marketing Manager



WAYS TO GIVE

PLEASE ALWAYS QUOTE: SUPPORTER ID REF (ON ADDRESS SHEET) AND CATALYST

Regular Giving helps us to budget more effectively. You can set up a Standing Order with your bank using the details below or download a Direct Debit mandate from our website churcharmy.org/directdebit

Donate Online: (including donations In Memory or In Celebration of a loved one)
churcharmy.org/donate

BY PHONE:

Call us on 0300 123 2113 (+44 300 123 2113 from Republic of Ireland)

INTERNET BANKING: (UK)

Barclays Bank
Sort Code: 20-49-81
Account: 80255459
Account Name: Church Army

INTERNET BANKING: (REP. OF IRELAND)

Bank of Ireland
Sort Code: 90-00-33
Account: 59292933
Account Name: Church Army

BY POST:

Cheques made payable to 'Church Army' should be sent to Church Army, Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield, S3 7RZ

ETERNAL LEGACIES:

One in four of our frontline projects are funded by gifts left to us in a Will.

GIFT AID:

If you pay tax we can claim 25% extra on your donation from HMRC at no cost to you. Complete your Gift Aid Declaration online churcharmy.org/giftaid

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To order more copies of Prayer Diary for your friends, church or group, please telephone **0300 123 2113** or email comms@churcharmy.org

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