

# CATALYST

January | 2022

ISSUE #16

Church Army's Magazine

## THE SANCTUARY LAUNCH

The Marylebone Project launches The Sanctuary, a 24/7 drop-in supporting homeless women.

## CORK CENTRE OF MISSION

Matt Gould talks about ministry and evangelism in the Republic of Ireland at Cork Centre of Mission

## MARCHING FOR MENTAL WELL-BEING

Read about evangelist Valerie Thom's ministry to the marching band community in Northern Ireland

EVANGELISM

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.ORG

# WELCOME TO CATALYST

Let me start by wishing you the happiest New Year and a joyful welcome to the first Catalyst of 2022. Although we enter the New Year with the world still in a state of uncertainty with coronavirus, it is still our vision to see that everyone everywhere has the opportunity to know and respond to the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Church Army have always reached out to people in some of the most desperate situations around the UK and Ireland as we follow our Saviour's footsteps into some of the most marginalised places to share God's love with individuals and communities.

This edition of Catalyst explores some of the ways in which God is at work through our evangelists and centres of mission in Ireland as well as news of what has been going on in the final months of 2021.

We'll also be looking at the coming season of Lent, preparing ourselves "*to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly*" with God (Micah 6:8) and how the power of your prayerful support is furthering our mission to see lives transformed through our workers scattered across these islands.

Thank you once again for every way that you support us. We are also praying every blessing for you in the coming year.



**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...



## COMMISSIONING OF NEW EVANGELISTS

On 22 November the Archbishop of York Admitted two new evangelists into the Office of Evangelist and the CEO of Church Army, Peter Rouch, Commissioned them as Church Army Evangelists.

The service at the Wilson Carlile Centre in Sheffield saw Marian Edwards and Matt Gould (see page 10), both from the Republic of Ireland, commissioned having completed their training earlier in the year. COVID travel restrictions had prevented them from being commissioned in July with the rest of their year group.

## FIFE CENTRE WINS THE GOOD NEWS PRIZE

St Luke the Evangelist, part of the Fife Centre of Mission, led by Gerry Dillon, has been named the regional winner in The Good News national church (Scottish Episcopal Church) competition, scooping the £1500 prize! The church has been recognised for its incredible work during lockdown by helping children in the local area to access online learning by providing iPads.



## THANK YOU PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Amber Project in Cardiff

A grant of £81,586 from People and Places (NLCF) over 3 years has been generously given for the Amber Project for singing and guitar workshops, 1-2-1 support and counselling for 18-25 year olds who have experience of self-harm.



## REMEMBRANCE

Church Army evangelists all over the country are normally linked to a local church or are even the minister of the church. Remembrance Sunday provides an opportunity for many who minister as parish priests, community evangelists, or chaplains of groups who remember the fallen, to help the community to remember. Clive Deverell led one such service in November at Lydiard Park, pictured.



## BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED AS BISHOP

Church Army Board Member, the Revd Canon Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, currently Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Mission and Ministry Enabler at the Diocese of Leicester, has been announced as the Diocese of London's next Bishop of Willesden, covering the boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow and Hillingdon. We are delighted at Lusa's appointment and wish him every blessing in his new role. You can read more at:

[www.london.anglican.org/articles/new-bishop-of-willesden-announced](http://www.london.anglican.org/articles/new-bishop-of-willesden-announced)

## 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

# MARCHING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

## The Zacchaeus Outreach Project Launch

The first part of Church Army's vision is for "everyone everywhere to encounter God's love". One of the ways we can be bold within such a big vision is through the freedom our evangelists have to follow God's call on their life to be the gospel in their own contexts.

One of those evangelists is Valerie Thom, who heads up the Zacchaeus Outreach Project (ZOP) in the Diocese of Armagh in Northern Ireland. The project was set up in 2011 with a vision to show God's love to marching bands. The marching band sub-culture is one that is misunderstood and as a community, finds itself marginalised and on the fringes, even by churches. Valerie was a band member herself for many years and now serves bands in practical ways, supported by a group of faithful volunteers in efforts to bring together church groups and band members, building a real sense of community in the rural parts of Northern Ireland.

The Zacchaeus Outreach Project is able to be present at parades through the use of their bus serving tea, coffee and providing opportunities to talk, pray and make links with well-being services.

## NEW LAUNCH

October 22 was an exciting day for the project as it hosted an event which launched three new programmes focusing on the mental well-being of those in the band community as well as the launch of their new bus. The event was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Tyrone - Robert Scott, First Minister - Paul Givan and the Archbishop



of Armagh, John McDowell. Church Army's CEO - Peter Rouch also attended and opened the event.

*"What I saw at the event of the relaunch and the blessing of the bus was just an incredible vision and energy going on" explains Peter, "Val has seen something that is really important in this community of people. In a group that is often marginalised by the mainstream, she sees their struggles and does absolutely everything she can to bless people and she is full of energy. She is gifted at drawing people together in collaboration. Val has drawn together the local support, political support and church support. It was phenomenally impressive, and it was a joy to be part of."*

## MENTAL WELL-BEING FOR MARCHING BANDS

One of these newly launched programmes is Take 5T4T, a health and well-being programme run by the Southern Health Trust who are working with the group to provide training for marching band trainers. As this enables the bands to train other bands, the community will continue to strengthen and become less dispersed.

It has always been at the heart of Church Army's mission and those who serve it, to meet the needs of those who continually find themselves on the margins of society. Valerie's work through the Zacchaeus Outreach Project originates from the core of our vision to see that no-one is excluded from experiencing God's love.



Find out more at:

[WWW.ZACCHAEUSOUTREACHPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.ZACCHAEUSOUTREACHPROJECT.ORG)



# OUR EVANGELISTS IN TRAINING

Meet **Andrea McLoughlin**

Across the UK and Ireland our Evangelists-in-Training are already gifted evangelists who are living out their passion to share Jesus with the world around them alongside their training. This month we have been talking to **Andrea McLoughlin** to find out more about her life and ministry...

I have lived in Nelson, Lancashire for 37 years. I moved here when I was eight years old, and I still live here with my husband and daughters.

I had previously worked with M:Power, which co-ordinates urban evangelism training through the Diocese of Blackburn. When that finished, I felt something was missing. I attended a Church Army Discovery Day in Blackpool and it just felt right. I agreed with the vision and values and all that Church Army stands for.

I am passionate about being with those in my community that are hurting, marginalised, and lost, and I want to share Jesus with them. What excites me is to walk with these people and to share what Jesus has done in my life, to plant that seed and help that seed to grow and to love them unconditionally.

At the moment I'm involved with the work at St Philip's Centre in Nelson where the vision is *hospitality, help and hope*. I work alongside my vicar, Lorelli and I oversee the centre on a Tuesday. Myself and a small team run the Food Bank where we are meeting needs and building relationships. I am in the process of setting up a clothes bank which will run alongside our Food Bank at the same time as our community café.

On Monday evenings I am at Lighthouse, which is an outreach to those who are on the margins, mainly struggling with addiction, mental health and poverty. We want Lighthouse to be a

church plant because the people who come call *Lighthouse church*.

I'm enjoying training and being part of the Church Army community and I'm looking forward to coming back in January and spending time with everybody; learning and growing together and supporting each other.

I am thankful for what God has done for me because when I look back at my journey I can see where He was in it all. I'm also thankful to all those who have journeyed with me and for those who are still journeying with me. I am excited for what God is going to do next.



**Andrea McLoughlin**  
Evangelist-in-Training

To find out more visit:  
**CHURCHARMY.ORG/TRAINING**





On 11 November, after nearly two years of extensive refurbishment we were delighted to relaunch the Marylebone Project's day centre as The Sanctuary, a centre which serves the needs of homeless women in London, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The official opening was an opportunity to see the transformation of the service and to thank our partners: The Evening Standard and Barclays for their generosity. The Plaque was unveiled by Marylebone's Patron, Ellie Goulding and Hannah Bernard (Head of Business Banking UK, Barclays).



Each month The Sanctuary receives around 600 visits with 20% of these being women who are accessing the services for the first time.



Find out more:

[MARYLEBONEPROJECT.ORG.UK](http://MARYLEBONEPROJECT.ORG.UK)

*"Defeat is not an option with the support we receive here."*  
- Service user, The Sanctuary

*"Protecting and empowering women simply means a better world. I am so proud to be Patron and I am inspired by each and every woman I meet when I am there."*  
- Ellie Goulding, Patron

*"It's been a humbling experience speaking to the women at The Sanctuary, hearing stories of the hardship they have faced and of the support they are receiving thanks to the Marylebone Project."*  
- Hannah Bernard, Head of Business Banking UK, Barclays

Your gift will help the Marylebone Project keep homeless women safe this year.

To give, visit:

[CHURCHARMY.ORG/GIVING](http://CHURCHARMY.ORG/GIVING)

# BUILDING HOPE IN CORK

Meet **Matt Gould**

On 22 November 2021, Matt Gould, along with evangelist Marian Edwards, was Commissioned as a Church Army Evangelist and Admitted into the Office of Evangelist. This has been a long-awaited event, as Matt lives in the Republic of Ireland so the COVID restrictions prevented him from being able to be at the Admitting and Commissioning service earlier in the year.

We caught up with Matt to find out about his training, ministry and the next step as Lead Evangelist at the newly launched Centre of Mission in Cork...

## MINISTRY IN BALLINCOLLIG

I live in Ballincollig, a town of 18,500, and officially part of the city of Cork, in the south of the Republic of Ireland. I am based at the Carraig Centre - a parish and community centre in the heart of the town which happily is only a 15 minute walk from my house.

I have been a part-time youth worker here in Carrigrohane Union of Parishes since 2007, and responsible for the team of volunteers who help to run various youth events such as Friday evening youth cafes, a Sunday evening faith/life Bible study and discussion group as well as heading up an older teenage leadership development course and general meetups with young people.

In recent years I have been involved with a new fresh expressions church service which aims to connect with young adults and upwards. The aim is to hold a service that does not assume pre-existing faith in those attending.

On the more practical side, I have been part of the vision, planning and design work for the Carraig Centre, which was a five-year project and completed in March 2020.

## JESUS AS A FRIEND AND KING

Jesus said He has *"come to bring life to the full"* (John 10:10) and that *"the way to the Father is through me"* (John 14:6). I believe Him on both counts and love to see people, younger and older, come to know Jesus as a friend and king, as well as saviour. When wider cultural 'head knowledge' starts impacting the heart and life in ordinary and extra-ordinary ways, it is wonderful to see God at work in those times.

## TRAINING

During my time training with Church Army to be Admitted and Commissioned as an Evangelist, God refined my sense of calling as an evangelist and in many ways worked to slow me down to 'His unforced rhythms of grace'. Being commissioned means I am going forward with the prayerful support of the wider organisation. I also get a nice Church Army tie!

Now that I am commissioned, I am looking forward to these next few months to listen - to God, to community group leaders, to those 'chance' encounters, and to build up a picture of how we can best roll up our sleeves and serve the town in ways that will bring light, joy and life to others.

## THE CORK CENTRE OF MISSION

Ballincollig is a rapidly expanding 'suburban town' within the Cork city boundaries. Whilst Ireland is not as diverse as UK urban areas, the wider town of Ballincollig has seen growing numbers of Europeans and those from further afield in the last decade or so.

In the wider Cork area, housing is a big issue. In Ballincollig the wider infrastructure has not kept up pace with developers building houses, so schools and other services are stretched. One example is the lack of autism support within schools in the town, despite growing needs in this area.

Ballincollig also has a limited 'sense of place', with few physical meeting spaces outside the usual cafes and pubs.

## BUILDING HOPE TOGETHER

Our tagline here at the Carraig Centre is 'building hope together', and really that's our heart for this place - that it will be a vibrant centre offering belonging, hope and God's grace in the town.

We are currently running an Alpha course with a good number of participants which is really encouraging. Our Sunday service has grown since we have moved here, and we want to keep building on that, especially in terms of relationships and people getting to know and support one another - something that is still hard to do with COVID restrictions.

If you would like to support Matt's ministry at our Cork Centre of Mission please visit:

**CHURCHARMY.ORG/GIVE**



the  
**carraig  
centre**  
building hope together

**CHURCH  
ARMY**  
-ORG-



# THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYERFUL SUPPORT

When we hear the words *charity* and *support* in the same sentence, we usually think of money. After all, charities everywhere rely on the financial generosity of supporters in order to keep reaching their goal of helping people.

But as Church Army, a charity with Jesus at its centre and His message of hope and salvation at the core of our vision, support for our work also includes the vital element of prayer. We have supporters who give financially, others who pray faithfully, and many who pray as well as give. If any of these describes you, then thank you so much. Through praying and giving, your support is making a difference to real people in countless situations of need around the UK and Ireland.

## WHY WE NEED PEOPLE TO PRAY

As a Christian charity we believe that prayer is essential to what we do. We believe that Jesus transforms lives and that through prayer we are equipped to be His hands and feet in reaching out to people in desperate situations of need. If you use our daily Prayer Diary, we delight in being able to join with you each day to pray for those in our communities or involved in an aspect of our work.

## USING OUR PRAYER DIARY

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

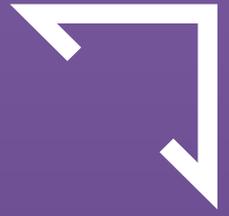
- Ephesians 6:18 (NIVUK)

As an evangelistic charity, our work is not limited to just one type of need. We train evangelists who follow God's call on their life to work with people and communities with any number of practical, mental, or spiritual needs. Through our centres of mission, we work closely with dioceses to identify the needs of an area and then begin the gospel-work of meeting those needs, whether it is homelessness, deprivation, debt, crime, employment or anything else. Many evangelists are not employed by us but work alongside local churches and other projects. This means we have thousands of people engaging with our vision all over the UK & Ireland (and some even further afield). It is our earnest desire to cover all these people in prayer, as Paul instructs us to pray for "*all the Lord's people*" (Ephesians 6:18). Being such a widespread charity that is constantly adapting to changing needs, we don't know every single way in which many of our community are engaging with gospel-work, but we believe that as we raise up their names to God in prayer, the Holy Spirit intercedes and equips them powerfully as they serve the vision we share.

Thank you for joining with us in prayer and let me encourage you, as you faithfully pray for the names of the Lord's people, many of whom will never know that you are lifting them up; pray in confidence that this is making real and lasting changes for the glory of our God in their lives and ministries.



**Chris Hardy**  
Publications Officer



# CHURCH ARMY'S

RESOURCE  
RESOURCE  
Lent  
RESOURCE  
RESOURCE

This resource has been designed to give you space and time each day to listen to God, reflect on the Bible, and see how and where you can listen to His leading in your actions and attitudes.

Keep an eye out on our social media and website for more details!

# YOUR GIFT MATTERS

*Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.*

- 2 Kings 2:13 (NIVUK)

As we wave goodbye to one year, we look ahead to another. Change is difficult for some, yet inevitable for all and so I choose to look with hope at the fresh opportunities a new year can bring. I believe that our God is indeed a God of hope, of opportunity and who makes "all things new".

I was reading today of Elijah being caught up to heaven and his cloak falling to Elisha, his successor in ministry. This passing on of the mantle and Elisha inheriting a double portion of Elijah's spirit is something we can lean towards when considering our giving to Church Army.

Every gift you've ever given to Church Army has made a difference in the lives of others. Training evangelists, beginning new work, continuing to resource others in mission, it's all making a huge difference. It's a joy to invest into God's work isn't it!

Is it possible that in 2022 you could tell a friend or a family member about the joy you get from giving to others through Church Army? Could you encourage someone to begin a journey of giving to us to ensure that the next generation inherits hope and opportunity because we were there in their darkest days?

Your giving matters; it matters now and in the generation to come. Please do all you can to make a difference in 2022 and beyond. May God richly bless you today and always.



**Paul Critchlow**  
Fundraising Team Leader



**HOPE**  
**CHANGE**  
**OPPORTUNITY**

# 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](http://churcharmy.org/directdebit)

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

*giftaid it*



# REFLECTING ON LENT

*"... And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

## MICAH 6:8 NIV

This verse was on the wall of a small, fledgling missional community that I was part of in my mid 20's; we were reaching out to the people on an inner-city council estate in Sheffield. It was a constant reminder to us that we weren't living there for ourselves, but were called to serve our community, in ways that reflected God's justice and forgiveness, with humility.

The preface of Micah 6:8 starts: *"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?"* We can all choose to take time during the Lent season to prayerfully consider in what ways we might *"act justly, love mercy and walk humbly"* with others so that Christ is revealed to them.

It's so easy to feel overwhelmed when we read or watch the news, by the number of crises around the globe - the climate, refugees, political, housing, financial, fuel, food shortages, all reminding me that I am living in a world that is full of injustices; those who have too much and those who haven't enough to ensure they, their families and communities can thrive.

**This Lent let's ask ourselves these questions...**

In seeking to *act justly*, whose voice do I need to listen to? Who feels that their cries are being overlooked? Who feels excluded or on the margins and needs me to create space for them to be included?

In seeking to *love mercy*, whose suffering do I need to notice and show compassion for? And who needs me to demonstrate God's forgiveness to them?

As I seek to *walk humbly*, how might I need to recognise who God has made me to be - no more, or less deserving of His love than anyone else?

For me, as part of my Lent reflection, I am asking myself how recognising that I am part of the 10% of the world consuming 90% of the earth's resources, might challenge me to make small changes to reduce my carbon footprint for the sake of my neighbours in the Southern Hemisphere who are impacted most by climate change. How might God be nudging you to *"act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly"* with Him this Easter?



Jayne Elliott  
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As well as Prayer Diary being available on the Church Army website, you can join us in prayer by email each week. To sign up for this, please visit [www.churcharmy.org/prayerpoints](http://www.churcharmy.org/prayerpoints)

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

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