

CATALYST

January | 2021

ISSUE #10

Church Army's Magazine

CENTRAL FIFE

Launching a centre of mission in lockdown

DISCOVERY DAY

Explore training with Church Army

EVANGELISM: WHERE TO START

Sharing Jesus when evangelism is tough

EVANGELISM

DARE

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WELCOME TO CATALYST

Welcome to the first Catalyst of 2021. It is fair to say that 2020 was not the year that any of us expected. Coronavirus brought us face-to-face with many challenges; new challenges that affected all of us, like wearing face-masks and adapting to lockdown restrictions, but also personal challenges, like new struggles with finances or mental health, and as always, it is those who are living in the toughest situations of poverty, isolation, hunger and many others that get hit the hardest. But through it all, we have seen a year of God's extensive faithfulness. Our work has continued to grow and our workers across the UK and Ireland have continued to bring a message of hope in Jesus through word and action in new and creative ways; by bridging the gaps and continuing to reach out to people in the most unreachable places and situations.

As we head into a new year expecting that restrictions and social distancing will continue, we are also expectant that God will continue to meet with people and change the lives of individuals and communities, even when those communities are online. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the inspiring ways that we are seeing change happen and where hope is shining bright through this dark season.

Thank you to everyone who has responded with feedback about Catalyst and Prayer Diary. We have listened to what you have said and will continue printing the two together as one publication for the next few issues with the hope that we can send them out separately later in the year when restrictions are less and coronavirus numbers have decreased. In the meantime we have made one exciting change to the Prayer Diary. You will now see that Sundays and Saturdays of each week are given to praying for a particular aspect of our work, and that Monday to Friday is dedicated to lifting up in prayer the individual names of those in Church Army's Mission Community. This will allow us to cover so many more people in prayer each week who are working to make our vision a reality. And if you are named in one of the weeks, know that you have the prayerful support of thousands of faithful people across the UK and Ireland as you work to make God known.

And to you, our supporters, thank you for standing with us and praying for us. We are constantly praying for you also.

From the Communications Team at Church Army, Happy New Year.



Chris Hardy
Publications Officer
Communications Team

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FLIP UPSIDE DOWN FOR THE PRAYER DIARY



WHAT'S NEW?

THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO...

NEWS IN WALES NEWS IN WALES NEWS IN WALES

Neville Willerton, Director of Operations writes...

"As Church Army we have been increasing our work through centres of mission in Wales. We have made a number of appointments in Cross Hands ([Esther Lockley](#) as Lead Evangelist and [Amy Lewis](#) as Pioneer Evangelist) and in Llanelli ([Michelle Lloyd](#) as Pioneer Evangelist) who will work alongside [Rob Lowe](#) in our new Centres of Mission. I am also delighted to announce that [Leoni Oxenham](#) has been appointed as the Regional Development Officer for Church Army for Wales. Leoni who lives in South Wales will oversee the partnerships that Church Army have in the Church in Wales and will work closely with our diocesan partners. This is part of the investment Church Army are making in the exciting and pioneering work that is happening through the Church in Wales. Leoni comes from a background of development work and strategic partnership management. She is a committed member of the Church in Wales and a Welsh language learner. Please do pray for our new staff as they take up these roles."



NATIONAL STAFF

We have more good news as we welcome some new members to the team:

[Tom Salmons](#) has joined our Fundraising Team as Donor Relations Officer for Yorkshire & North-East.

[Lu Skerratt](#) has joined the Research Team as Qualitative Researcher, as well as [John Tomlinson](#) who is joining the Research Team as the new Senior Researcher.



CENTRE OF MISSION NEWS

With 30 centres of mission across the UK and Ireland we are now over half way towards our goal of having 50 centres of mission by 2027.

We are planning to launch four new centres of mission within the first six months of 2021. Look out for updates on centres of mission launching in Rochdale, Gwent Valley, North Sutton and Ipswich.

PODCAST

Season 2 of *Everyone Everywhere*, Church Army's evangelism podcast, has come to a close but you can listen to all episodes from both seasons at churcharmy.org/podcast or search for us wherever you listen to your podcasts. In the latest episode; *How to Share Jesus without Being Weird*, you can hear Hannah and Chris talk with [Emma Taylor](#) from Church Army's Xplore and [Dan Randall](#) from Amplify (a six-month evangelism training program for 11-17 year olds) about what evangelism can look like in a younger context.

CONNECT WITH US

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



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NEW CENTRE OF MISSION:

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For newly launched centres of mission, one of the first challenges is getting to know the new area and its communities, to identify places of need and take root to bring help and hope where it is needed most. This has never been as difficult as during the season of lockdown when getting out onto the streets to meet people became impossible.

This has been the case for new Scottish Centre of Mission, Central Fife, led by Priest Evangelist Gerry Dillon, who took up the post during the initial lockdown. He has since been working within the restrictions to turn the church into a beacon of light to the people in Central Fife. Talking about himself, his role, Central Fife and the life of a young centre of mission in lockdown, Gerry said...



full time. That is when I deep dived into finding out about Church Army. So, I am a Covenanted member of Church Army, I'm currently doing Reunion and I'm the Lead Evangelist for Central Fife Centre of Mission. Since taking the post, it has been an absolute, total and utter joy, because my life is all about God and people. It is not a role where I am a priest for half the week and evangelist the other half. I get to be a priest and an evangelist all of the time.

Central Fife itself is located on the East Coast of Scotland between Edinburgh and Dundee. Fife was built around coal mining. It does have many touristy places such as St Andrew's and Falkland, but Glenrothes and Lochgelly are more residential. There are parts which are very affluent because we have some stunning train stations in Fife where the train only takes 30 minutes to Edinburgh or 30 minutes to Dundee, so a lot of people are buying property here and commuting into the cities. But on the other hand there are places here that need significant amounts of funding because the amount of unemployment, social impoverishment and deprivation means people are really struggling. Children are affected too. There are entire families whose whole focus is on survival rather than living. They aren't interested in education

I am brand new to Church Army. I have been a priest for five years in the Scottish Episcopal Church serving Central Fife as a non-stipendiary priest. While I was a priest I was a full-time teacher, head of department, Holocaust Educator, Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert, parent and husband! So I was doing a lot of things, but a year ago God took me on a journey of learning about what my vocation is and I decided it was time to become a priest

because they don't see the point. You can even tell which kids in the high-school come from this area; they're so malnourished that they actually look smaller than other children of their age.

So what I want to do is connect with the community, charities, groups, schools and the children to make sure they see the church as a place of light and a place of safety, a place of warmth, a place of connection and a place of care. I want them to know that when someone in the church asks you "how are you?", they really mean it. Then, I want the people here to know that the church is somewhere that you are not only cared for, but you are respected, you are wanted and you are needed.

I have tonnes of ideas and am ready to get going but one of the first hurdles has been coronavirus; it has stopped everything. So, my wife and I started a Youtube channel, the first video got 260 views. When churches reopened, Lochgelly was physically distanced and full and has been each week. As Glenrothes is under refurbishment the first service was some time later and we had six people physically distanced and worshipping. Next I started calling people on the telephone, one by one, and making notes of prayer requests and soon I was filling entire notebooks with ways that people needed help and support. Some people even wanted to meet but it just wasn't possible during lockdown.

Right now I'm working on making St Luke's Church, in Glenrothes, a place that can be home for everyone as soon as they're allowed back in. But more than just being a welcoming place, it will be about looking after the whole person. We've spent a lot of time and funding getting it ready so that, when someone walks in there will be tea and coffee, healthy soups and scones available, we've put new toilets and showers in the back so people can get clean. The idea is

that the church can be open from 8am-8pm on weekdays and later on the weekends. We've painted the building bright yellow and it has new windows, it's a beacon of light. Everyone is talking about "the yellow church". I want people to know that the church is for everyone.

What I would love is for the people in Central Fife to have an identity with God and have relationship with God. For me that is fundamental. It an unusual area because the affluent people live so close to those who are poor or struggle with addiction. But I want to shake that up. I want to work to help people with their emotions and mental health so that they can start taking care of themselves and engaging with others around them.

Your donations are setting up centres of mission like Central Fife all over the UK and Ireland. To support the vital work of this centre of mission, please visit

churcharmy.org/giving



CHURCH ARMY

ONLINE DISCOVERY DAY

Do you have a passion to bring people to a living faith in Jesus Christ?

Are you committed to building community and sharing the Christian faith through words and action in a variety of contexts?

Do you feel called to be part of a community of commissioned evangelists who are transforming lives and neighbourhoods?

WHERE ···
↓

Zoom

churcharmy.org/discoverydays
for details

DATE ···
↓

Saturday 23 January 2021

TIME ···
↓

9am - 12.30pm

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HEAR GOD IN YOUR DISCERNING

Throughout the day there will be time for you to reflect on what you have heard after each session.

THE DISTINCTIVENESS OF CHURCH ARMY

Hear about Church Army's Mission Community and from evangelists from two centres of mission describing what it is like to work for Church Army (CA) and be part of the CA Community.

Hear from:

Kinder and Gina Kalsi from Attercliffe & Darnall Centre of Mission
Andy Wilson and Debbie Orriss from Gloucester & Forest Centre of Mission

EXPLORE THE DISCERNMENT JOURNEY

Learn about our discernment process and hear from a candidate who has just been through it – Andrena Palmer, Pioneer Evangelist at Hackney Centre of Mission.

EXPLORE THE TRAINING JOURNEY

Find out more about our new training programme and if it could be right for you.

WHERE TO START WHEN EVANGELISM IS DIFFICULT

by Judith Bawtree

As Church Army, we couldn't do what we do if we didn't tell people about Jesus. He is the reason that we can bring hope to the streets and the driving force behind every effort to come alongside the vulnerable and the hurting. But telling people about Jesus isn't always straight forward. From the Church Army blog, [Judith Bawtree](#) tells us about the opposition and the hope when you are finding evangelism difficult...

"I hate evangelists!" was almost shouted in my face when a friend heard I was training in evangelism. That's the sort of reaction that puts people off doing evangelism!

But there are - of course - other reasons why we find evangelism so difficult.

Sometimes we just get a polite rejection. Playing tennis one day, one of my friends said: "Why can't you just leave people where they are?". That type of experiences leaves us all thinking: "Ouch! I don't want to go there again!".

Or sometimes we feel inadequate, we don't think we have any right to talk about Jesus because our lives don't match up.

So, evangelism is tough... how do we overcome these hurdles, and help others to overcome them too?

Firstly, we need to remember the glorious gospel of grace in 1 John 4:10:

'THIS IS LOVE: NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD BUT THAT HE LOVED US.'

The point is, God loves us even when we don't love him. People reject God, and so they will reject His message.

The wonder of the gospel is that on the cross we see the way God has treated us. God's gospel

is the love He has for us and that's what we see in Jesus!

So, none of us are going to share God's love, or talk about Jesus unless first of all we know that love for ourselves. So, a starting point for evangelism is knowing God personally!

But then, how do I pass on the good news confidently, in the face of rejection and embarrassment?

[Here are three thoughts from my experience that can encourage your evangelism...](#)

- Pray for your friends, pray with your friends, pray against the opposition. You'll find that you're engaging in spiritual warfare when you evangelise so don't be afraid to ask the church to pray, pray, pray! There is no evangelism without prayer!
- Don't try and be the lone evangelist! Share your lives with others, connect with what makes them tick, rejoice and weep with them. I've found it really helpful to have other Christians in our friendship group. One of these friends doesn't play tennis but has joined the group to chat with those who come for coffee. Her faith has really blossomed as she shares her life and faith with the others, I'm so thankful to God for her!

- Find a connection with people and start conversations. I've found our book group really helpful in looking at an issue that's not personal so a bit easier to talk about. For example, we've just read 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz' which poses the question of suffering and of 'man's inhumanity to man' and all this over tea and cake! Whatever your interest, use it for the Lord. It could be a TV programme or film that's affected you. Ask good questions and LISTEN! We need the Spirit's gift of discernment so we can understand where someone is coming from.



Judith is a Church Army Evangelist based in Hove where she is attached to Bishop Hannington Church in Hove and engages in a number of evangelistic initiatives such as book and tennis groups, school visits, and Alpha.

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Our world changed in 2020. This disruption of living through a pandemic has taken its toll on everyone – physically and mentally. As we head into 2021 coronavirus is still impacting lives and, in many cases, making issues of poverty, deprivation, isolation and mental ill-health even worse.

ALMOST ONE IN FIVE UK ADULTS (19.2%)
WERE LIKELY TO BE EXPERIENCING
SOME FORM OF DEPRESSION DURING THE
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC IN
Imagine a world... JUNE 2020*

Cara** has suffered for several years with her mental health after her husband left her and her adult children stopped visiting. Last Christmas, Cara's mum died.

Church Army Evangelists Karen and Stephen were seeing Cara infrequently and two months ago she shared with them that she'd tried to end her life.

IN THAT LONELY MOMENT, LIFE HADN'T SEEMED WORTH LIVING.

Today Cara has found purpose – she volunteers at least 3 times a week to help sort donations for Baby Basics. She told Karen: "It keeps me busy and means I don't stay in bed getting low."

There's so much more. Andrena is helping young women in Hackney regain their sense of self-worth; to know their value. Our Amber Project helps scores of young people at risk of self-harm, to boost their resilience and give them strategies to cope and then to thrive. And this is just a snapshot of what's going on around the UK and Ireland.

Your gift make a massive difference – don't ever underestimate the part you play in rebuilding shattered lives. We'd love to start 2021 with 21 new regular donors. Could you be one of them? If you don't give regularly at the moment we'd love you to consider a small monthly donation – visit churcharmy.org/directdebit

THANK YOU!

*Office for National Statistics

**name changed



WAYS TO GIVE

PLEASE ALWAYS QUOTE REF: YOUR NAME AND SUPPORTER ID (AS QUOTED ON OUR LETTERS)

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

TRANSFORMATION GIFTS:

Buy a gift for a loved one in honour of a birthday, anniversary or other special day and change lives churcharmy.org/TG

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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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

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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Prayer Diary: ISSN 2515-4850
Catalyst: ISSN 1751-3979