

CATALYST

Church Army's Magazine

ISSUE #17

March 1, 2022

140 YEARS OF CHURCH ARMY

Exploring the roots of Church Army's legacy as we celebrate our 140th Anniversary

EVANGELISTS-IN-TRAINING

Meet Claire Lingard, one of this year's Evangelists-in-Training who is sharing Jesus in Middlesbrough

LIVE FROM MARYLEBONE

BBC Radio 5 Live broadcast live from the Sanctuary at the Marylebone Project, hosted by Naga Munchetty

DARE

EVANGELISM

CHURCH ARMY
.ORG

WELCOME TO CATALYST

Welcome to the March edition of Catalyst. It is hard to believe that the season of Lent is upon us already.

Although the last two years have been such a strange, painful, and prolonged season for many of us, the stories of hope are still shining through the darkness in some of the most unlikely places.

Week after week we are hearing about people whose lives have been changed through the work of our evangelists, centres of mission and our wider mission community. Alongside those stories, we've seen more people called by God to train with us and pursue a vocation of evangelism. It is our greatest desire to see Jesus transform people's lives because we all have a story of how He has transformed ours. This was particularly true for Claire Lingard, one of our current Evangelists-in-Training whose story you can read in this edition of Catalyst. Claire was called by God to the North Yorkshire town of Middlesbrough to share Jesus, following transformation and healing in her own life, and is now using her hairdressing business as a place of ministry.

We'll also begin preparing for Church Army's 140th Anniversary. In each edition of Catalyst we'll be exploring Church Army's legacy and looking at how God is still using an organisation that started in 1882, in fresh ways in the twenty-first century.

As we begin the 40-day lead up to Easter 2022, join with us in praying for the work we are pioneering around the UK and Ireland, and for the individuals who will encounter God for the first time. If you are a supporter, then you are part of helping lives to be transformed, desperate situations to be changed and hearts to be turned towards Jesus.

Thank you, God Bless and Happy Easter – He is risen indeed!



Chris Hardy

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...



CHURCH ARMY'S BRAND NEW LENT RESOURCE

Our new Lent Resource has been created to give you, your small group or your church the space and time each day throughout Lent to listen to God, reflect on the Bible, and see how and where you can listen to His leading in your actions and attitudes. Each pack contains 40 beautiful cards divided into Action Cards, Character Cards, Reflection Cards and Marks of Mission Cards.

Lent may have started already but it's not too late to join in! You can still buy the set of cards or subscribe free to receive email reflections throughout Lent.

Just visit:

CHURCHARMY.ORG/LENT

DEATHS

We are saddened to share the news of the deaths of: [Jennie East](#), [Gabby De Vreese](#) and [Frank Clarke](#).

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

NEW PIONEER EVANGELISTS AT NORTH SUTTON CENTRE OF MISSION IN SOUTH LONDON

Congratulations to [Rachel Marlow](#) and [Hayley Humphries](#) who were welcomed into their new roles as Pioneer Evangelists at the North Sutton Centre of Mission in South London. Emma Sivyer, Church Army Regional Development Officer (South and East) was in attendance to join the celebration and said how wonderful it was to have so many representatives from the church and community present.



NEW PIONEER EVANGELIST AT HAVERFORDWEST CENTRE OF MISSION

We have more exciting growth in Wales to share with you all. We are delighted to welcome [Celine Cuddihy](#) to our Haverfordwest Centre of Mission from 1 May 2022. Celine will be working as Pioneer Evangelist, alongside Lead Evangelist Mike Dare and current Pioneer Evangelist Simon Morbey.

'Impact 242' (as the centre of mission is known locally) is the identity and branding given to the Diocese of St. David's work through our multiple centres of mission, as part of the diocesan strategy to create new disciples and new worshipping churches. Impact 242 is based on Acts 2:42 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer'.



140 YEARS OF BRINGING HOPE ON THE STREETS

This year we are celebrating 140 years of Church Army. In the next few editions of Catalyst will be looking back at the journey God has brought us on as we span three centuries of bringing hope to the streets. We will look at the challenges and needs that were prevalent when Wilson Carlile founded Church Army and what that looks like 140 years on. Many things have changed, but not everything.



When we talk about hope, we are talking about Jesus. It is all for Him and through His transforming power to change hearts and lives that we can look back from 2022 all the way to our founding year of 1882 and see where God has been at work, both in the many outreaches that have taken place in that time, as well as the many individuals whose lives have been impacted and changed forever.

1882 - EVANGELISM IN WORDS

"The Church Army is an agency for work outside the Church. Instead of inviting people to come to Church the Army is really the Church going to people."

- excerpt from an early Church Army pamphlet

Since its very beginning, Church Army has existed to go outside of the church-walls and be the church on the street. In 1882 Church Army was a movement that started as a way of addressing the desperate need for evangelism and social-work in nineteenth century England and to be a voice of hope through the many difficulties that arose from the industrial revolution. New urban development, the employment of children, poor conditions in mines, and sanitation in slum areas were just some of the problems people of that day faced. Alongside these, there was also a desperate need for support for people suffering from severe and misunderstood mental health issues.

Into this picture, Church Army set about to educate and inspire those who were indifferent

to the needs of those around them, by equipping them with a vision to see people accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and this enabled them to draw alongside some of the lowest classes of the day.



1889 - EVANGELISM IN ACTION

Showing the love of Jesus practically, alongside sharing the gospel has been part of Church Army's DNA from the start, but it was during a harsh winter in 1889 that really marked the first major development in Church Army's social work as it began to set up homes for men in

London who were struggling with homelessness and addiction. These were set up as workhouses where the men would learn the skills to work as well as having a place to stay and keep warm. Wilson Carlile viewed social action as part of the vocation of an evangelist, particularly to the most vulnerable and hurting people in society. He believed that social work should provide the opportunity for rehabilitation and long-term support, not just momentary relief.

To celebrate the Centenary of the foundation of Church Army, then Chief Secretary Donald Lynch wrote the book *Chariots of the Gospel*, tracing the history of the movement back to its roots. Therein he writes: "To talk about the love of God to people...who were homeless and destitute carried little conviction. The Gospel had to be demonstrated in action as well as proclaimed in preaching". These convictions - sharing the gospel in words and action are still foundational to Church Army in 2022 and embedded in our vision: for everyone everywhere to encounter God's love, and be empowered to transform their communities through faith shared in **words** and **action**.

2022 - EVANGELISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY

140 years later the legacy of those early days is still alive and unchanged. Today that work has continued to grow, and we now have evangelists in Wales, Ireland, Scotland and in many towns and cities throughout England, both urban and rural. But as we expand our reach geographically, we also continue to draw on those original values that showing love and hope are to be done practically and hand-in-hand with sharing gospel-truth.

Although the world looks very different today than it did in 1882, many of the same areas of

need still remain. Across the UK and Ireland, we are still working to alleviate homelessness every day. Many of our evangelists live on estates where poverty and deprivation are rife, some live and work in areas where knife-crime, gang culture and drug addiction are part of many people's daily reality.

Just as Church Army was a movement that embraced a changing world and adapted to needs as they arose in nineteenth century London; today, across many parts of the UK and Ireland, we continue to adapt to the needs around us. By being on the frontline, whatever that looks like, we have the opportunity to break new ground in supporting people who suffer with poor mental health, young people who experience self-harm in our Amber Project in Cardiff, the social isolation of the elderly in a digital age, as well as finding new ways to engage with people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we start to look back at the legacy that has carried us faithfully for 140 years, we also look forward to the opportunities that God will provide as we move forward, to serve those who Wilson Carlile often referred to as the "most lost".

If you would like to find out more about where Church Army came from and the foundations that have kept us on the frontline for 140 years you can visit:

[CHURCHARMY.ORG/HISTORY](https://churcharmy.org/history)

**CHURCH
ARMY**
ESTD 1882

OUR EVANGELISTS IN TRAINING

Meet **Claire Lingard**

Each year more gifted evangelists begin their three-year training journey with Church Army to become Commissioned Evangelists. During this time, they continue to minister and share Jesus in their own contexts. We caught up with **Claire Lingard**, one of this year's Evangelists-in-Training, to hear her story of how God led her to start training and doing evangelism in the North Yorkshire town of Middlesbrough.



When an evangelist completes their training, they become Admitted into the Office of Evangelist. This is a recognised licenced office within the Church of England. They are also Commissioned as Church Army Evangelists. This is an official title which means they are appointed by Church Army to share the love of Jesus with people through both words and actions in the context to which God calls them.

I was born in Surrey in the South of England, and had no experience of the North, but God brought me to Middlesbrough and has placed it deeply in my heart. God always surprises me with His plans. They are always very different from what I expect, but always so much better!

I knew God was calling me into His service and I was exploring which vocation to pursue, but nothing seemed to fit. Then I discovered Church Army and everything started to fall into place. Everything about Church Army fitted with my beliefs and I knew this was where God wanted me to serve Him and His people.

“I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT TELL PEOPLE ABOUT HIM”

I would not call myself a natural evangelist, but I have had such a wonderful life-changing experience of Jesus and His love through my own time of brokenness when my marriage ended, that I just can't help but tell people about

Him. Since God put me back together better, stronger and wiser, I am so full of love and compassion for everyone. I am compelled to share the Good News and I want to tell everyone they are loved and accepted just as they are.

My passion is to spread the love of Jesus. I want everyone to know that Jesus wants a relationship with them and it will be life changing. I want to encourage everyone to open their hearts and let Jesus fill them with his peace and his joy.

The world loves the outside and isn't much bothered by the inside, but Jesus loves us from the inside which in turn changes the outside. When we have Jesus on the inside, He shines through on the outside too.

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'

- 1 Samuel 16:7

I am currently working in my hairdressing salon which God uses as a place of ministry and it has been such a blessing to me and my clients over the last decade. I am also evangelising in South Bank at the Parish of St John the Evangelist. South Bank is an area with many challenges, but full of wonderful people. There is a lot of outreach that happens already here and I have slotted in with the Mother and Toddler team.

I have been developing trust and building relationships by joining in with what is already happening and also writing in the parish magazine. After Christmas I started a Gospel Aerobics group as so many people are keen to start exercising in the New Year! I am also pioneering a fresh expression of Church that will happen once a month to reach the marginalised. This is a big risk for me, as I am usually quite risk-averse but I am praying and believing that God will send the people He wants there.

“WHEN WE LISTEN TO GOD AND FOLLOW HIS WILL, HE WILL WORK THROUGH US”

Before Christmas I pioneered a new service to add to our Christmas service list. Blue Christmas, which was aimed specifically at people who find Christmas difficult. We acknowledge their pain and emphasise the Hope they have in Jesus. It was a risk, but I had very good feedback from

SOUTH BANK

Bottom 10% deprivation in the country

Needs and challenges:

- Low income
- Low employment
- High crime
- Education

the people who attended about how moved they had been and how it was what they had needed. I found this gratitude very humbling, and I was reminded that when we listen to God and follow His will, He will work through us.

I love learning and there is so much of God’s love displayed in so many different ways in how Church Army has structured the learning community. I feel loved, supported and encouraged and I cannot wait to continue my journey with the other Evangelists-in-Training as we walk together with our Lord, learning and growing.

CALLED TO BE AN EVANGELIST?

If you would like to know more about what it means to become a Church Army Evangelist, visit:

CHURCHARMY.ORG/VOCATIONS

THE MINISTRY FRONTLINE

Suzette Maguire



The life of a Church Army Evangelist is one of being led by God into new areas of pioneering ministry, actively searching for opportunities to tell people about Jesus, and adapting to needs as they arise. Suzette Maguire has been part of Church Army for over 20 years and during her time as an evangelist, Suzette has made it her goal to seek God's Kingdom before all else.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

MATTHEW 6:33

BEFORE CHURCH ARMY

I was confirmed in my home parish of Sheffield Manor in 1991. In 1993 I moved to Maidenhead, Berkshire, to work as a newly trained NNEB nursery nurse, in a nursery class in an infant school. While living and working in Maidenhead I completed three summer mission trips abroad with an organisation called International Teams. During the first of these mission trips to Croatia I felt the call to 'accept God's challenge' and look at what else He was calling me to. This led me to Church Army in 1997. After the selection process, I began training in 1998.

LIFE AS A COMMISSIONED EVANGELIST

I was admitted and commissioned as a Church Army Evangelist in July 2001. My first post was in the Parish of Sheffield Manor, then a parish of four churches, including St. Aidan's. The new role of 'Team Evangelist' grew into a lot of family and children's work, including links with two primary schools, training up a team to work on all

age services, and very close work with baptism families. Eventually I set up 'Manna Munchers', weekly church for under 5's and their carers.

In 2010, my husband David, who is also a Church Army Evangelist, and I were both appointed to the post of Lead Evangelist for the Newcastle Centre of Mission. We worked as community ministers in a coffee shop setup by the local church. We set up a coffee shop called Coffee Plus, and we also ran groups like: Knit & Natter; book groups; 'Chill-out zone'; and a Christian discussion evening called 'Table'.

In 2015 David and I were job-sharing again, this time as Pioneer Ministers in St. Alban's Diocese, working specifically on new estates to the west of Bedford. This was very hard going, as the population of the new estates proved to be fluid, making it difficult to build long-term relationships.

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

In November 2019, we moved to Solihull, where I am Pioneer Minister to Solihull Parish. My focus is on those with no, or very little church

connection; to discern points of need within the community and to explore creative and innovative ways in which to ensure a “church” presence within the community and at existing community events. I am also looking ahead to establish new forms and expressions of church and form new Christian communities, which will enable people who feel unable to connect with existing styles of worship to be able to meet with God.

I am also working to encourage a passion for mission, establish teams to work with me and grow new pioneer leaders; to work with the current parish leadership team and identify further ministerial opportunities and to work with Christians to deepen their discipleship.

MINISTRY AND THE PANDEMIC

Less than four months into post we were hit by COVID and so much shut down. I did a lot of prayer-walking during this time, chatting with people as I met them in the streets. This allowed me to notice the mood of the area around me.



I sensed there was a need for somewhere to ‘be’, to connect, and to look to their own welfares, so we started Wellbeing Wednesdays which began in May 2021, and has met every Wednesday since then. The group is both male and female,

and everyone is very supportive to one another. We set up Wellbeing Wednesday in conjunction with the Kitchen coffee shop, which opened in July 2020 as the first lockdown was coming to an end.

As relationships began to grow at Wellbeing Wednesday, I began to run an occasional ‘Pause’: a quiet morning or afternoon for both non-Christians and Christians. Two of the Wednesday group who are non-Christians have come along and experienced ‘Pause’ so far.

THE JOYS OF MINISTRY

My biggest joy in ministry is seeing an individual grow in their faith journey, whether that be a Christian finding a new revelation that they hadn’t seen before, or a non-Christian beginning to realise for the first time that they are loved. Being alongside people as they take these steps - though sometimes baby steps - is a privilege.

In Pioneering ministry there can be a demand for results almost straight away. Time and time again I come back to the verse from Matthew 6:33 **“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”** It’s a clear reminder to me that only God is God, and I should seek His Kingdom before all else.

PRAY

Pray for Suzette as she continues to reach out to those in Solihull who do not yet know Jesus. Pray also for her husband, David, as he seeks what the Lord has next for him.

LIVE FROM MARYLEBONE

On 30 November 2021 BBC Radio 5 Live broadcasted live from the Marylebone Project for one of the station's first on-location shows since lockdown. Presenter and journalist **Naga Munchetty** talked to both the staff and the women at the project about the incredible work that goes on day in and day out at the only centre in the UK that is open 24/7 for homeless women.



During the 1 hour and 43 minute broadcast Naga explored the whole of Marylebone's building, leaving no stone unturned, discovering the whole journey homeless women go on, from the moment they walk through the doors through to being set up for life in independent living, with education, training and steady jobs and careers. The show pulled back the curtain on the reality of life for homeless women in Central London and dispelled common misunderstandings about what homelessness is like for those who go through it. The staff talked passionately about their work and for many of the women it was their first opportunity to tell their story live on air. This in itself was a valuable step in their journey of reclaiming self-esteem and making their voices heard.

"I'm inspired by every woman I meet when I visit the Marylebone Project"

- Ellie Goulding - Patron

You can listen to the entire broadcast by visiting:

WWW.MARYLEBONEPROJECT.ORG.UK

YOU CAN HELP!

Each year hundreds of women come through doors of the Marylebone Project seeking help. The Sanctuary is the Project's newly relaunched drop-in centre which is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, providing refuge to homeless women in Central London whenever they need it. In order to keep The Sanctuary open all day, every day we need to raise an additional £1.5 million each year. The Sanctuary is a key part of wider plan in partnership with the Evening Standard to tackle homelessness in London. By setting up a regular gift today you can be part of ending homeless in London, for good.



To setup a gift, visit:

WWW.MARYLEBONEPROJECT.ORG.UK

"We are an unconditional, welcoming service for women...who come to us at that point of utter darkness, where they can't see the next hour, or where that next meal is coming from. They have fled some horrendous situations that we can only imagine, and they find in us a sense of welcome and a sense of hope...we are trying to be that light-in-the-darkness for them."

- Philippa Middleton - General Manager



YOUR GIFT MATTERS



In December we launched our Always Room Advent Appeal to help fund The Sanctuary, the Marylebone Project's newly launched 24/7 day centre for homeless women in London, as well as Laurence Bellew's 'Lifeguards' work at Newry Centre of Mission in Ireland. So far you have raised £36,124 of the £40,000 target!

Sue Way is Church Army's Senior Homeless Manager and sees first-hand how your generous response to the Always Room Advent Appeal is already making a real and lasting difference to the women who visit The Sanctuary.

Sue writes...

Advent should be a time of preparation where we, as individuals, can stop, take a breath, and prepare for the wonderful event of Christmas.

Unfortunately, for many people Advent and Christmas are reminders of what they don't have in their lives and can create anxiety, pain, and distress.

For our work with vulnerable women at the Marylebone Project, Advent is also a time of preparation where we need to devote ourselves to making Christmas as meaningful as possible for those who are staying with us or visiting the Sanctuary. We wanted them to know that Marylebone is their home. We made Christmas special with decorations, a traditional Christmas dinner, buffet meals and provided presents for each of the women.

It was lovely to see the women excited on Christmas Day morning, almost like small children, and they were not afraid to show their excitement, perhaps reminding them of what they should have experienced in previous years and what they have missed from their childhood. As such, Christmas Day was a lovely day with a warm and friendly atmosphere with everyone sharing a wonderful time with their newfound

'family'. This experience will be something that they will take into their future homes and help them on their road to successful long-term independent living.

It was because of your response to the Always Room Advent Appeal that we were able to make Christmas special and to show God's love to those who feel unloved, uncared for and unwanted, in practical ways. So, thank you for being there for us, being there with us and for all that you do to help and support us in our work.

You save many vulnerable women from feeling lonely and distressed, you also ensure that young children know that they are valued and have worth, you make it possible for more evangelists to take love and hope to the unreachable parts of society. We give thanks to God for your support, especially as we look ahead and continue to bring hope through 2022 and beyond.



Sue Way

Senior Homeless
Manager & S.W. Regional
Development Officer

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

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

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Account Name: Church Army

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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

giftaid it



EASTER HOPE

*“See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.”*

ISAIAH 43:19 (NIVUK)

I love spring – nature bursting back into life, the lighter mornings and warmer temperatures making it easier to drag myself off the sofa and go for a run before work. Spring is full of life, new shoots, new opportunities and growth. It’s so much easier to feel hopeful. Winter in contrast, can feel like a wilderness, a dry barren season. When I look out at our garden, as a non-gardener, it can look like nothing is happening. However, my husband, who is a keen gardener, always reminds me that without the winter there would be no spring. If I could see below the soil, I’d see seeds germinating and putting down their roots deep into the soil, drawing on its nourishment.

As February approaches I watch eagerly for the first signs of snowdrops peeping out from the earth and look forward to March when the daffodils burst into life, creating carpets of sunshine, announcing that spring has finally arrived, as it does each year. Even a global virus hasn’t stopped it.

There is much that has been challenging, even painful over the past year. Many of us are grieving the loss of loved ones, or family celebrations that have had to be postponed, rearranged or cancelled; or felt more isolated or lonely.

However, spring also means Easter (and Easter chocolate for us chocoholics) so again as I journey

through our Lent reflections and walk through the Holy Week, I am similarly reminded there could be no resurrection without the trials, pain and betrayal that led up to Jesus’ crucifixion. There could be no hope of new birth without His sacrifice. Sometimes to find the new thing God wants to do, we have to let go of the old thing that we feel more comfortable and familiar with and step out in faith, even when we can’t yet fully see what God is doing.

What new thing are you longing for? Who in your family or neighbourhood might need God to do a new thing in their lives? What could you do to encourage them to hold onto hope in the waiting?

Thank God for all our evangelists who will be being messengers of hope this Easter in their communities across the UK & Ireland.

May the message of Easter fill you with hope; may the signs of spring bring you joy.



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CHURCH ARMY
ESTD 1882

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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