

CATALYST

ISSUE #18

May | 2022

LEAD

Find out about LEAD, our new suite of resources for developing leaders

EVANGELISTS-IN-TRAINING

Meet Heather Waller, one of Church Army's Evangelists-in-Training, who is sharing the gospel in Sheffield

FRONTLINE MINISTRY

Read about the work of Church Army Evangelist George Newell in Northern Ireland

EVANGELISM

DARE

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WELCOME TO CATALYST

Welcome to the last Catalyst of its kind!

In 2020 the world was thrown into an unprecedented crisis when COVID changed the way we live and work almost overnight. For us as Church Army, things began to move quickly as our key workers rushed to the frontline to support the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of communities and individuals across the UK and Ireland. At that time, we moved our quarterly Catalyst magazine to every other month to make sure that you were getting the most recent updates about our work as soon as possible. We also brought our Prayer Diary into the magazine to help keep everything together.

Although living with the reality of Coronavirus still remains part of our lives, by God's grace we are starting to see some normality returning to the way we reach out to people and we will be sending out Catalyst quarterly once more. It will be longer, include some exciting new features and will continue to show you where we are at work - bringing hope to the streets. We will be starting with a special edition to celebrate 2022 as Church Army's 140th anniversary.

Prayer Diary too will be changing. After this edition it will once again be a separate booklet for you to use during your own private prayer time or in your church group or community. We've listened to all your feedback on how you use our magazines and publications and we are hoping to bring you some fresh new ways to read about our work and pray for our evangelists and wider community who are daily seeking to show Jesus' love through words and actions.

Thank you for your support, particularly throughout the last two years of the pandemic and constant change. Your prayers and financial generosity have helped in so many ways: keeping people off the streets, supporting young people through mental-health crises and delivering food parcels to families in low-income households, to name just a few, and perhaps most excitingly, many people being introduced to Jesus for the very first time.

As you read through the pages of this final, shorter edition of Catalyst, I hope you'll be uplifted and inspired by the many ways in which God is working powerfully through the hands of faithful, ordinary Christians everywhere.

God Bless



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...



WOMAN VS. EVEREST

On Saturday 2nd April, Camilla Field, Church Army's Head of Digital Transformation, landed in Kathmandu, Nepal to prepare for an epic 58-hour trek to the Mount Everest Base Camp. Camilla is taking on this challenge to raise money for the inspirational women at the Marylebone Project.

Could you donate to Camilla as she treks to Everest Base Camp to raise support for the Marylebone Project in profoundly changing the lives of vulnerable, homeless women in crisis?

Visit www.churcharmy.org/womanvseverest to find out more about Camilla's challenge and how to give.

NEW CENTRE OF MISSION LAUNCHED

In April we launched the [North Coast of Wales Centre of Mission](#) in partnership with the Diocese of St. Asaph. We are delighted to welcome [Jo Leslie](#) as our new Lead Evangelist at the Centre of Mission. Jo moved to Pensarn at the beginning of April and started in post from 11th April. We will be recruiting a Pioneer Evangelist to work alongside Jo later in the year.

CONNECT WITH US

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



@CHURCHARMY



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140 YEARS OF BRINGING HOPE ON THE STREETS

Throughout 2022 we will be celebrating 140 years of Church Army bringing hope to the streets. Since 1882 we have been pioneering new ministries, seeking to draw alongside the broken and reaching out to some of the most unreachable people and places in the UK and Ireland. Church Army's story is one of a large, widespread movement to transform lives through the gospel, and at the same time it is a story of God moving in people's lives, calling them to unexpected ministries in ways they had never imagined. Each of them were inspired by Wilson Carlile's vision to put the gospel call of evangelism into the hands of ordinary Christian women and men so that everyone everywhere would have the opportunity to hear about Jesus.



I was at the service on Remembrance Sunday listening to someone from Church Army talk about sacrifice. That was the first time I had realised what the Lord Jesus had done for me. I let go of all the past and all my sin, and the most wonderful sense of peace filled me.

Cycling home I stopped halfway and I began to pray "Lord I would love to share this wonderful peace with other people"

Sister Rosalie Jacobs (d. 2013)
Commissioned 1940

Wilson Carlile was somebody who was always looking forward. He wasn't someone who let things stay in a particular place just because it had always been that way. He was looking for change and progression. He didn't want to do things that other people were doing, he wanted to push all the boundaries forward.

Sister Joan Hudspeth (1925-2017)
Commissioned 1952

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/140

LAUNCHING LEAD



Church Army is launching LEAD, a suite of resources for growing leaders whatever shape or form that leadership takes. We talked to Jayne Elliott, Church Army's Leadership Development Officer, about what LEAD is and how it came about...

“For more than 25 years I've been working with missional communities, and evangelism with marginalised and disadvantaged groups in Sheffield and the Midlands, where I'm originally from. I've worked in the statutory, public, and not-for-profit sectors, in both youth and adult homelessness and have also trained in pastoral supervision and reflective practice. During that time, I learnt a lot of things that would have been helpful to have known when I first started.

I began to ask myself “What are the most important things that I wish my 25-year-old self had known about leadership?”. I started writing a list that became the outline for the LEAD learning resources.

LEAD needed to answer the question: What could help busy evangelists and pioneers to make time to do some reflective learning? And that's when we had the idea about *action*

learning coaching communities where leaders could meet online together, creating flexible content so that they could choose the topic they wanted to explore by; doing an action, reflecting on a passage of scripture, examining a case study or digging deeper into blogs, videos or other reading material.

LEAD is all about reflecting with others and agreeing to take action. Each leader's learning experience is shaped by connecting with other leaders. Action learning goes hand-in-hand with weekly learning material which offers every person a range of content to choose from so they can apply what they are learning to real life situations.

We know the role that good leadership plays in helping others to develop the confidence to lead.”



WHAT IS LEAD?

LEAD is a suite of learning resources specifically designed for busy leaders to grow and develop on their leadership journey.

This is done online using high quality, practical content, using action learning and has been developed in collaboration with a range of leaders across Church Army's Mission Community.



HOW DOES LEAD WORK?

The LEAD programme is designed around four leadership dimensions: Attitude, Skills, Knowledge and Experience, with modules to choose from in each of these areas.

LEAD is online but also done in community with your action learning peers.

WHO IS LEAD FOR?

LEAD is for anyone in any position of leadership. This could be a full-time ministry role, a small group or anything in-between. LEAD is designed with flexible content with relevance to a wide range of leaders.

WHAT OTHERS SAY?

LEAD has already been piloted by some of our Church Army evangelists, many of whom are busy and don't find traditional methods of learning very easy. Here is what they said...

"What has been most helpful for me has been the range of possible tasks to prepare for the next time we meet, I have used the Scripture references each time to explore Jesus' model of leadership"

"I left LEAD with an increased awareness of my own skills, ability and calling and that has enabled me to be more assertive even in the last month since LEAD finished."

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in finding out more about LEAD for yourself or if your group or church would like to be involved, visit:

CHURCHARMY.ORG/LEAD

OUR EVANGELISTS IN TRAINING

Meet **Heather Waller**

Each year more people are called by God to the vocation of evangelism and begin their training to become Commissioned Church Army Evangelists while continuing to live and work in their own contexts. We caught up with **Heather Waller**, one of this year's Evangelists-in-Training, to hear about her calling to train and to tell people in Sheffield about Jesus.



I was born in Sheffield. My parents are from Belfast but moved here shortly before I was born. I moved to Liverpool for university and stayed there for 13 years before moving back to Sheffield.

A friend of mine is a Church Army Evangelist and when I moved back to Sheffield from Liverpool, where I'd been involved in a lot of outreach work, I got involved with what he was doing locally. I ended up joining his Messy Church team and talking with him about all the volunteering I was doing in my children's school. For years he was telling me I should get in touch with them. Then when lockdown hit and the school closed, I had a bit of time (not much as I was then home-schooling my three children) to think ahead about my next steps. I looked at the Church Army website and discovered that I have the same vision and values and heartbeat to see lives transformed by knowing Jesus and soon began the discernment process. And now the rest is history!

"WHEN I DO GET INTO CONVERSATION ABOUT JESUS, I LOVE HOW PEOPLE'S EYES LIGHT UP AS THEY DISCOVER WHO HE IS RATHER THAN WHO THEY THOUGHT HE WAS"

I'm not one to launch in at the deep end with talking about Jesus but I am transparent about my faith with everyone I talk to. I hope people see Him in me whether I'm explicitly talking about Him or not. When I do get into conversation about Jesus, I love how people's eyes light up as they discover who He is rather than who they thought He was; when they find out how kind He is, the miracles He performed, and how He loves them so much that He died for them even though they didn't know Him or even like Him. I love to see people realise how He accepts them just as they are, and they don't need to do anything to earn His approval.

I love connecting with people, having a lot of fun and food and having spiritual conversations. I love being authentic and unashamed of loving Jesus and I love finding out about other people's spiritual journeys too. I studied world religions at university as I've always been interested in different world views. My context is very multicultural so there are lots of opportunities for these kind of two-way conversations in my various roles at school.

For a number of years I have had a burning desire to set up a Messy Church that is a highly accessible expression of church for people who find conventional church either unappealing or

inaccessible for whatever reason. As a single parent of three extremely lively boys, I have a particular heart to remove barriers to church for people who have struggled to feel accepted or who don't fit into conventional models of church, or feel unable to conform. A few years ago, I decided to trial a Messy Church in my house. To my surprise, of all the people I invited, it was school parents who came. Some travelled across the city without their children, or even a car, even though it was a Saturday daytime! I had expected it to be neighbours who would come but none of them did. When the Bishop of Sheffield set up an initiative to have 25 Messy Church congregations in schools by 2025, I was up for it. Then, when the diocese approached the school, I was more than ready to be a willing lead! Taking on the role of running a Messy Church for school families is literally a dream come true. It is now every month after school in the hall. The head teacher loves it. We have huge amounts of meaningful fun and relationship-building. It was stalled by lockdown, along with a lot of other things, but we got creative with it all using Zoom, Facebook lives and other online platforms, and that has helped us hit the ground running as we've come back. The families who come represent the diversity of the school and

PLEASE PRAY

for continued open doors and favour at school, for salvations, and for spiritual protection for me and my children.

we always have a waiting list. People don't want to leave at the end. I'm excited to see how it will develop and I'm planning to do something like Alpha next term.

Training to be a Church Army Evangelist is exactly what I have been looking for. I feel like everything I've done in my life up until now has culminated in being part of Church Army, even though I didn't know it until recently!

I'm so excited by the topics we study. They're helping me to dig deeper into the Word so my ministry can be more strongly underpinned by knowledge and understanding as well as my heart and gut. I found the recent training on the wealth of the cross extremely useful as it gave me time and space to really wrestle with the theology of what I deliver on the ground.

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](https://churcharmy.org/vocations)

Or maybe you feel called to support our Evangelists-in-Training financially. Your gift could help us to continue training more evangelists to share the gospel. Please visit:

[CHURCHARMY.ORG/GIVE](https://churcharmy.org/give)

FRONTLINE MINISTRY

Meet George Newell



Across the UK and Ireland Church Army evangelists are seeking to tell people about Jesus in the places God has called them to. We caught up with George Newell, one of Church Army's evangelists in Northern Ireland, to tell us about his work for the gospel...

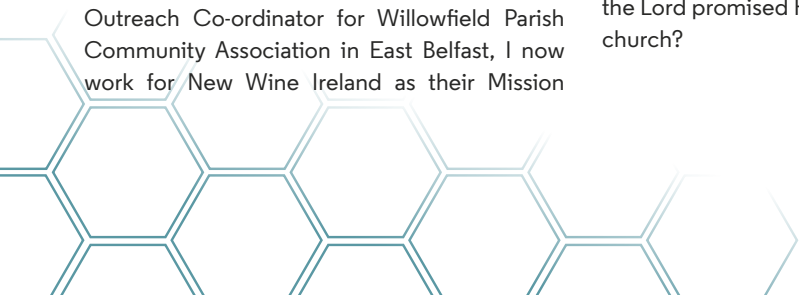
I live in Belfast and am married to Eunice and have two children, Simon and Sarah and two lovely wee granddaughters Orla and Charys. I have not always lived in Belfast where I now am based. I originally come from the fishing village of Killeel and at the age of 30, at a mission run by the local Church of Ireland, I made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ. My life was totally changed and transformed, a total lifestyle turnaround and over the next number of years I sensed the Lord calling me into full-time Christian ministry. This meant selling up my Painting and Decorating business and in August 1997 we as a family left Killeel and headed to Sheffield where I started training at the Wilson Carlile College of Evangelism (now the Wilson Carlile Centre). From coming to faith in Christ the Lord has laid on my heart those who don't yet know Him, and Church Army was the vehicle to both train and equip me for that ministry and in the early days coming out of college He provided employment enabling me to do it.

After spending nearly five years as Parish Evangelist and Church Planter in Carrigrohane Union of Parishes in Cork and 11 years as Outreach Co-ordinator for Willowfield Parish Community Association in East Belfast, I now work for New Wine Ireland as their Mission

and Leadership Co-ordinator (while fulfilling a part-time evangelist role with Willowfield Parish Church). My job involves encouraging and training churches in evangelism, leading missions and working with church leaders. I also facilitate an evangelist training course where we have trained over 40 lay evangelists. It is such a blessing to see others released into ministry and a privilege to be part of that.

"I CONTINUE TO BE AMAZED HOW THE KINGDOM OF GOD IMPACTS LIVES THROUGH THE PREACHING OF HIS WORD"

Through my job I have had the opportunity to share the Good News of the gospel across this island of Ireland and have had the privilege of seeing many people come to faith in Christ. I continue to be amazed how the Kingdom of God impacts lives through the preaching of His Word, that quiet conversation on the street, His healing touch as you pray for the sick, that prophetic word that changes a heart, the infilling of the Holy Spirit that transforms a life – totally amazing. Yet should I be amazed? Is it not what the Lord promised He would do through us - His church?



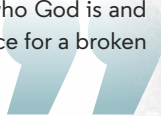
CAN YOU PRAY?

You can help sustain George in his work by praying:

- For more opportunities to train and equip the local church in evangelism
- A move of the Holy Spirit across Ireland
- That lives would be changed and transformed by the gospel in upcoming missions

“JESUS TELLS US ‘WAKE UP AND LOOK AROUND. THE FIELDS ARE ALREADY RIPE FOR HARVEST’”

Covid 19 has restricted much of my work over the last two years, but things are changing, and I have several missions planned for later in the year and I look forward with excitement and expectation of what the Lord is going to do, knowing that by His Holy Spirit He is already speaking into people’s lives. Jesus tells us ‘Wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest’ and that is so true. My expectation is to see God’s Kingdom at work around me, where people come to a personal faith in Christ and I have found that to be the case, not because of who I am, rather because of who God is and His heart of compassion and grace for a broken and lost world.



YOUR GIFT MATTERS



If you are a financial supporter of Church Army, then you are part of changing lives. Michael Cooper is Church Army's Key Relationships Manager for London & South East and he has the joy of seeing first-hand where your giving is making a real impact in the South East region.

I've had the great joy in the last few weeks of being involved in an initiative called 'Passion for Life'. Our church, along with over 750 other churches across the UK and Ireland, have been stepping up our mission and evangelism. We've been praying, learning and reaching out together to make Jesus known in our communities.

"...AS CHRISTIANS, MISSION AND EVANGELISM IS FOR THE WHOLE OF OUR LIFE."

That month of focus came to an end just recently, but as Christians, mission and evangelism is for the whole of our life. The Bible is clear, with Jesus himself calling us to go and make disciples. Early on in His earthly ministry Jesus urges His followers with these words: Then He said to His disciples,

"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW. ASK THE LORD OF THE HARVEST, THEREFORE, TO SEND OUT WORKERS INTO HIS HARVEST FIELD."

(Matthew 9:37-38)

As I've travelled around this region, I've had the great privilege of meeting some of those 'workers' - men and women in Church Army's centres of mission, those in our projects, and individuals on the ground whose daily focus is to share the love of the Lord Jesus in their communities. I'm hearing stories of lives being impacted by the gospel because those workers have been resourced and equipped for the harvest field.

Recently I had the opportunity to talk with Alan*, formerly in prison for violent crime, now a resident in a medium security hospital. Alan is allowed out up to three hours each week; tagged and escorted by a member of the unit's team.

Alan has been going to a centre of mission pop up café locally every week for four months. When I asked him why, he said,

"I LIKE THE PEOPLE I MEET; I DON'T FEEL JUDGED. I FEEL LOVED AND ENJOY CONVERSATIONS WITH NORMAL PEOPLE".



Alan gets a small weekly allowance and out of it loves to donate to the café. Just recently he has started attending church on Sundays. He wouldn't yet call himself a Christian, but he speaks of God 'looking after him' and says he prays for help in his situation.

Your gifts enable our workers to reach people like Alan and to equip and resource new workers. So, thank you for standing with us, do please pray that support would grow and that by God's grace we would be able to extend further into His harvest field with the Good News of Jesus.

Every blessing,



Michael Cooper
Key Relationships Manager
(London & South East)

*name has been changed to protect identity

Your gift could help us to reach more people like Alan. Could you support our workers in the field by giving a regular donation?

CHURCHARMY.ORG/GIVE

REMAIN IN ME

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

JOHN 15:5

It will soon be time to Admit and Commission some of our evangelists who've completed their evangelism training. Leading up to this, they will all be encouraged to think about how they are going to continue to develop their ministries over the coming years. As I reflect on the last 30 years of my own leadership development, I recognise how important these verses that Jesus speaks to the disciples in John 15 are for us as busy leaders in ministry.

We thrive in our leadership when we recognise not just who we are but 'whose' we are. Someone once told me "If you're too busy with ministry to pray on a daily basis then you're too busy." It's always stayed with me, even if I've not always been good at doing it. Fruitfulness in ministry comes out of a life that is rooted and grounded in Christ and surrendered to Him.

There are different seasons of ministry. Just as plants need to be well established before they will survive being uprooted and moved, so our fruitfulness comes as we learn to 'remain', rooted in Christ even when things don't always turn out the way we hoped.

Leadership formation and character development take time and we need to learn how to sustain our passion for ministry throughout the different seasons of ministry. Over the years I've had to learn the hard way

that I cannot afford to become isolated in ministry. I need relationships with people who know me and to whom I choose to be accountable. I need to care for my wellbeing, giving time not just to the spiritual but the emotional, physical and mental too.

Jesus spent lots of time during his public ministry, walking, talking, eating, praying and encouraging His disciples to take time away from the demanding crowds. It's easy to feel guilty taking time off when ministering to people in need but the day I believe myself indispensable is the day I begin to become disconnected from the Vine.

Which season are you in right now? Can you see signs of God doing something new? Are you enjoying the fruit of persevering through the winter?

If you feel like you're in the autumn and God's pruning your life, or maybe you're in the barrenness of winter, may I encourage you to hang on, stay close to God and trust that there will be fruit both in your character and in your ministry. Spring will come.



Jayne Elliott
Leadership 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

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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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CHURCH ARMY
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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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