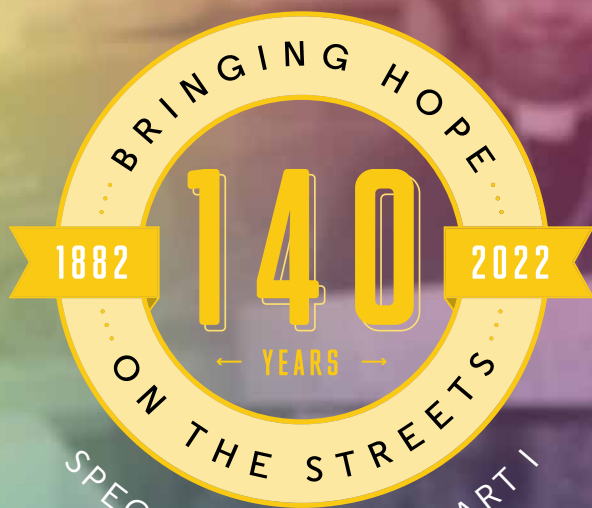


CATALYST

Church Army's Magazine

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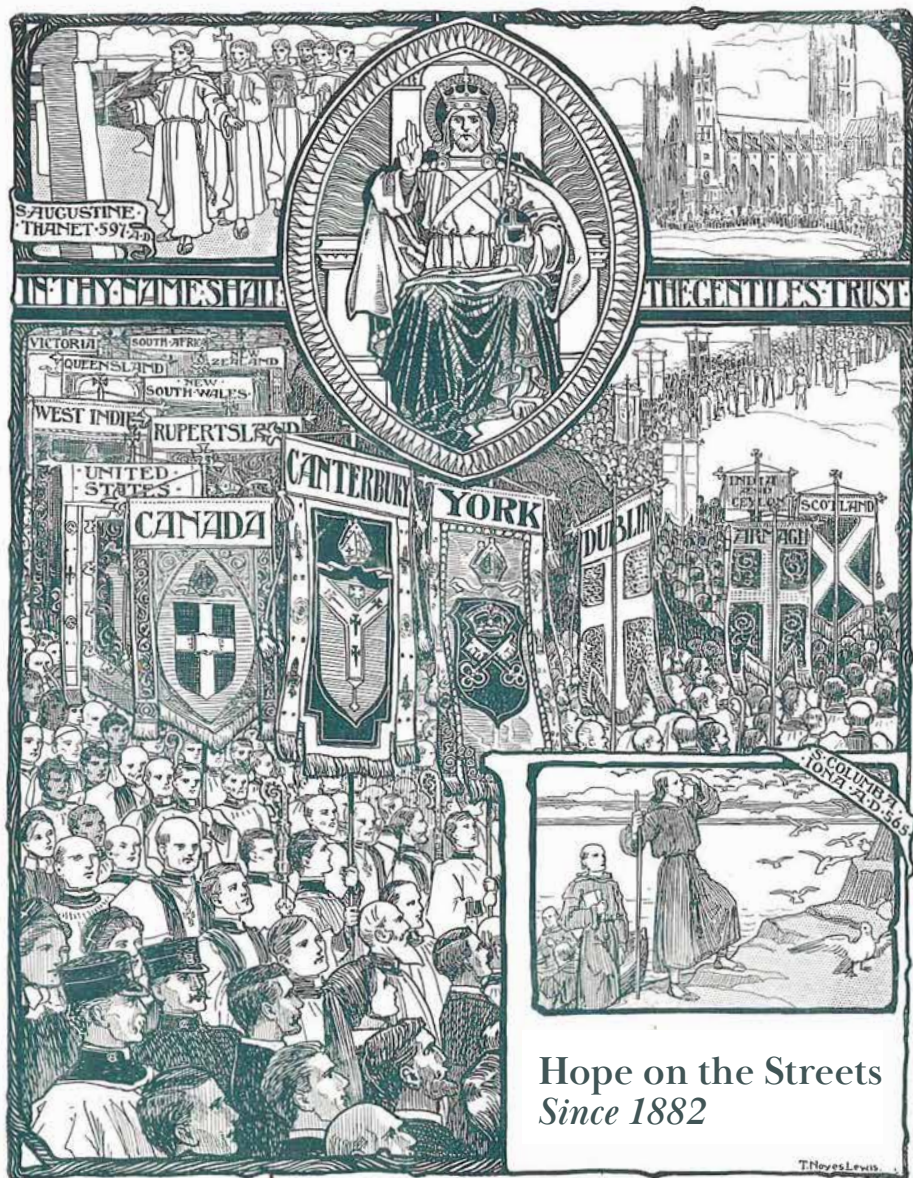
SPECIAL EDITION - PART I

EVANGELISM

DARE

CHURCH ARMY
ESTD 1882

THE
Church + Army + Review.
JULY, 1908



Hope on the Streets
Since 1882

HEADQUARTERS: 55 BRYANSTON STREET, MARBLE ARCH, LONDON, W.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

HOPE ON THE STREETS SINCE 1882



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We need your help! Whether it is the 18th Century or the 21st Century, there is still desperate need. Find out how you can be part of Church Army's legacy of transformed lives.



Welcome to the first of two special editions of Catalyst celebrating 140 years of Church Army. You are holding in your hands, not just a *special edition* but a testament to 140 years of God's goodness; 140 years of sharing the Christian faith and 140 years of countless lives changed and transformed forever. In the following pages we will endeavour to capture just some of the key moments in Church Army's history as we have grown and adapted to changing needs and crises throughout the years. We are also remembering the man who started it all - Wilson Carlike and his daring spirit which took *church* outside of the church walls to the people who would not have been welcome inside the building; making the love of God accessible to every class of people, not just the privileged.

Church Army have always resolved to fight injustice and meet society's deepest needs wherever we find them. As the world around us changes, we continue to follow in the footsteps of Wilson Carlike and move into new areas of outreach and social action as new needs arise. But while world wars, political changes, global health crises, and more may change the landscape in which we work, one thing that never changes is the need for people to hear the Gospel message of Jesus. The root

of Church Army's vision is founded in Wilson Carlike's firm conviction that evangelism means both *words* and *action*. He treated both *telling people about Jesus* and *being Jesus to people* as two sides of the same coin, which could not be separated if Christians were to be truly faithful to the teachings of Jesus. For one to share the Good News with someone on the street, one also has to recognise their needs, roll their sleeves up, and join that person on the street, whatever their situation.

As you flick through these pages and see the black and white photos of people in Church Army's past, it is our prayer that they would not appear as figures in a museum – interesting, but old and irrelevant to us now, but rather that they would leap off the page as part of a great story of how God took one man, planted a vision, and injected light and hope into some of the darkest and most unreachable parts of the UK and Ireland. Each person in these photos, like you and me, has obediently and faithfully served God and in doing so, has made up a small but significant part of the rich tapestry of Church Army's story.

As this is the anniversary edition of Catalyst, we decided to give it an anniversary feel. Our Communications Team have been down in the

Church Army archives underneath the Wilson Carlile Centre in Sheffield, searching for some of the earliest CA magazines we could find. On this inner cover we have refreshed the front page from a copy of The Church Army Review depicting Hope on the Streets in 1908.

This is not only a special edition of Catalyst, but it is also a return to Catalyst as a quarterly magazine. During the outbreak of COVID-19 we made the decision to combine Catalyst with Prayer Diary and send these out every two months. This worked well during such an unpredictable season, and we are grateful to God that we can now bring you a longer Catalyst and a separate Prayer Diary from this edition going forward.

If you support us financially, thank you. You are part of maintaining and growing the Church Army legacy which has been built over the last 140 years; you are enabling the evangelists of today to continue spreading the Gospel with passion, and you are preparing the way for future generations of Evangelists to take the Gospel to the streets in both words and action.

Yours in Christ,



Chris Hardy

Chris Hardy
Publications Officer
& Catalyst Editor



Neil Thomson

Neil Thomson
Head of Communications



WHAT MOTIVATED WILSON CARLILE

by Jonny Price

140 years of evangelism, social action, of working on the margins of society, sharing the love of God through faith shared in words and action. But where did it all begin? To answer that question, we need to travel back further than 140 years, to see what motivated our founder, and why he took the steps he did.

Wilson Carlile led an interesting and colourful life. Prior to becoming a Christian, he was a successful businessman, importing cloth from Europe, which saw him spend much time travelling on the continent. This was not the risk-free endeavour it might sound, as the Franco-Prussian war was raging during his travels, and more than once he witnessed battles and came under fire. The impression these occurrences left on him were significant, as he had 'seen men march out, in all the glory of health...to be mangled and killed.' (Chariots of the Gospel; Donald Lynch). This led him to search for some philosophy of assurance as to the meaning of life; something that made sense of the pain and destruction he had witnessed. He read philosophers, such as Kant, Descartes, Nietzsche, but at this point, Christianity was of no interest to him.

**"...HE MUST GIVE HIS LIFE TO JESUS,
AND WORK FOR THE REST OF HIS DAYS
FOR HIM."**

All was going well for him, until in 1873 his business was almost wiped out by crashes on the stock markets, reducing his personal wealth by 95%. This left him in a dark, depressive state of mind; he had worked for many years to grow his business and it had been almost the sole focus of his energy. His aunt had written to him for years trying to persuade him of the value

of Christianity, and of his need for Jesus, but until now he had rejected her assertion. Now, when he had lost all that he had worked for, he saw how his energy had been misplaced, and became convinced that he must give his life to Jesus, and work for the rest of his days for Him.

Almost immediately, Wilson began to work to bring others to faith, engaging in evangelism, youth work, service of others, and eventually came to the conclusion that he was being called to ordained ministry. This early passion for evangelism returned during his curacy in Kensington (an area which included significant deprivation at the time), and with the blessing of his vicar he started working to reach out to those with no interest in faith, religion, or spirituality.

Out of this work, in 1882, Church Army was founded, and soon began to engage in many ambitious outreaches to people in all areas of society and it wasn't long after, 1883 in fact, when Carlile began to formally recruit, train and send out evangelists to work in the Church of England. He recognised the need to capture the enthusiasm of those who had come to faith through the work of Church Army, but also the need in the wider church for those who were passionate to share their faith to be suitably equipped to do so.

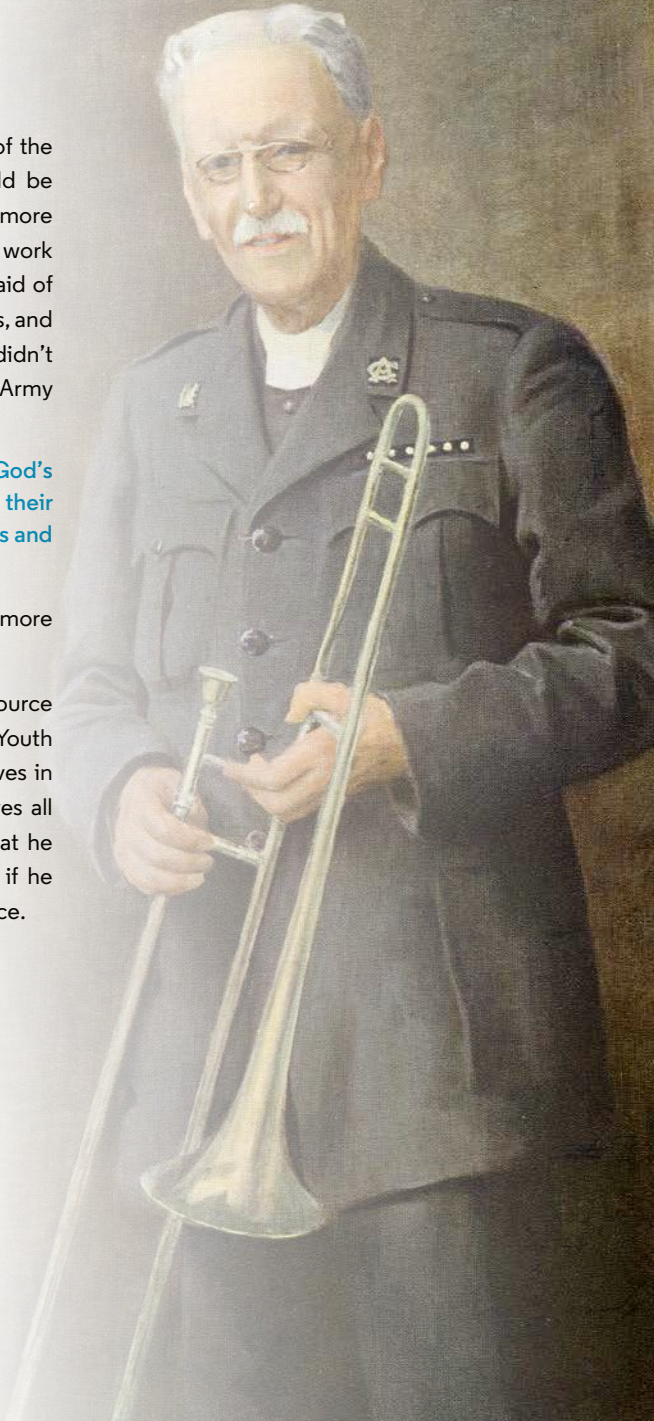
**"...SOCIAL WORK SHOULD BE MORE
EVANGELISTIC AND EVANGELISM BE MORE
SOCIAL..."**

Wilson Carlile was an incredible servant of the Gospel. His belief that social work should be more evangelistic, and evangelism be more social can be seen through our varied work across these islands. The foundations he laid of evangelism, service of those on the margins, and of bringing the love of God to those who didn't know it, are still the foundations of Church Army today, and can be seen 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.

Thanks you Wilson, and here's to many more fruitful decades ahead for Church Army.

Jonny is Church Army's Church Resource Officer. Before that, he was involved with Youth and Children's Ministry for 15 years. He lives in York with his lovely wife and sons. He loves all things cycling and is trying to pretend that he could have gone pro if he had just had the chance.



CHURCH ARMY

THROUGH THE WORLD WARS

Church Army began as a movement to step outside the church walls; to turn the idea of inviting people into church on its head and take *church* out to the people on the street. Britain, in 1882, was in desperate need for the church to roll up its sleeves and engage with the many practical and social needs of the time. More than anything, the country needed to hear the Good News of the Gospel. For Wilson Carlile, this was an all or nothing mission that would require nothing less than Church Army's best efforts to be on the frontline of every challenge it faced. It was this faithful, determined, and pioneering spirit over the first 32 years that began preparing Church Army to carry a shining light into some of the darkest moments in recent history.

THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

Wilson Carlile was 67 at the start of the First World War, and although his contemporaries were nearing retirement age, Carlile threw himself into the war effort with the energy of a younger man.

Church Army immediately set up a military sub-committee and plans were put into action to make provisions for canteens and recreation tents both at home and at the battle front. A war hospital was set up in a school building in France under the French Red Cross. The hospital had the capacity to care for 105 soldiers. Church Army Evangelists with medical training, or at the very least a first-aid certificate, worked there

supporting the nurses and medical staff and assisting the chaplains.

On the home front Church Army was setting up canteens and centres. Men's hostels were repurposed to receive soldiers who had become disabled, and others as clubs to be used by servicemen on leave. In London "Soldiers Welcomes" and "Soldiers Cabins" provided refreshments, as well as advice and information.

Services were also set up for women. In his book *Chariots of the Gospel*, Donald Lynch (Chief Secretary for Church Army from 1960-1975) records that recreation rooms and hostels were opened for women who were employed in manufacturing munitions for the war and 36 centres were devoted to caring for the wives and widows of men on active service. Thousands of parcels were also sent to the trenches and also to prisoners of war, containing some food, an item of clothing and something to read such as a New Testament or a Soldier's Pocket Companion. Church Army also escorted the wives and mothers of seriously wounded soldiers on visits to the hospitals where they were being cared for in France.

As the war developed, Church Army centres were established overseas. By the end of the war, 800 CA centres had been in



operation in Europe as well as in Malta, Egypt, Gallipoli, British East Africa, India, Italy and Palestine. Church Army clubs, institutes and coffee shops were also set up along all the main Channel Ports, quays, large railway stations and junctions where long delays were frequent.

“...winter will be upon us, and our brave men on the West Front will again be in the grip of rain, mud, slush, snow, and frost. For many of them this daily handicap of wet has hardly ceased at all during the summer, but, bad as the weather has been, it is going to be very much worse.

Our Church Army Huts are appreciated at all times, and never more so than when the weather is at its worst. It requires no very vivid imagination to realise what the mere dryness of a Hut means to men who perforce live and move and have their being in a land which is certainly not dry land, but is rather a sea of mud. Even the simple convenience of being able to dry clothing and kit is a great thing in the midst of damp dug outs and billets. And then there are the brightness and warm welcome, the games and music, the hot drinks and other refreshments, the reading and writing facilities, the opportunities of quiet time for thought, the spiritual privileges and these last are prized by thousands who would probably never admit it.

Our Huts and Tents are doing much for our men keeping watch and ward over the North Sea, and those in Malta, Egypt, Sinai, Palestine, Macedonia, Mesopotamia, East Africa, and India, and above all in France and Flanders as well as those in training at home.” – **Church Army Review**, Oct 1917

THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939-1945

Early in 1939, Church Army set up a committee to plan Church Army's response in the event of future wars. Wilson Carlile's fast response during the First World War meant that Church Army made a significant impact on those involved in the conflict, some even credited Church Army for contributing to Britain's victory. But should war ever occur again CA needed to be prepared. Little did they know that those plans would need to become operational that very year.

By the time it was announced across radio sets nationwide in September 1939, that Britain was at war with Germany, Wilson Carlile was 93 and although still active and travelling frequently, he was aware that younger leadership would be needed to direct Church Army through the times ahead. Immediately plans were turned into action in order to make evangelistic and welfare resources available both on the home front and overseas. Church Army's hostels and services were adapted to be used by men and women in the service and by August 1939, recreation centres were beginning to open in different parts of Britain. By now the CA wartime committee was meeting everyday but Church Army's war-work had become so extensive that separate committees were launched to organise huts and caravans, the hostels and mobile



canteens, welfare facilities for women in the services and other affairs.

The invention of the Mobile Canteen van was a turning point for Church Army and vastly expanded the scope of the work. By not being restricted to stationary huts, Church Army Captains and Sisters were able to visit all battle fronts. They regularly visited those posted to remote gun-sites and listening-posts to provide relief from the intense loneliness. These visits brought with them more than just company; they served day and night on the airfields and provided emergency relief to victims of air raid attacks.

After war broke out, Church Army's men's training colleges remained open for six months so the men could complete their training before being deployed overseas to work in Church Army canteens. Through Church Army's huts and recreation stations, soldiers had the opportunity to rest and socialise in comfort, write letters home in peace and receive spiritual nourishment through Bible teaching and space to pray. Providing for the spiritual needs of soldiers in the huts was paramount. Usually, a chapel or quiet room for regular prayer was set up and a chaplain or local clergy would often hold Communion there.

These services proved invaluable during the struggle of war-time where comfort and rest were not readily available, particularly during the cold months.

Within the pages of this magazine alone, it would be impossible to capture more than a snapshot of Church Army's work during the World Wars. Its history is made up of many thousands of stories and individual accounts of how God's love shone in some of the simplest acts of kindness, such

Dunkirk

The Taunton station canteen in 1940 received warning that French and Belgian troops evacuated from Dunkirk would be arriving. In two days, the team of 50 Church Army volunteers served 25,000 buns and 10,000 cups of tea and coffee as well as many other types of food.

as visiting a soldier on a lonely outpost. Church Army brought light into some of the darkest days. The impact of that struck a chord in history which has vibrated through the generations since and is still being felt today.



Escape from Normandy

In France, December 1939 a canteen was opened in Boulogne and soon after another one opened near the railway station at Arras. This was open from 8 a.m. until 2 a.m. the next day and included a games room and Chapel. More Church Army Centres continued to open in France until mid-May when a German advance wiped out 12 CA Centres along with three mobile canteens. All the Church Army staff escaped, except for two clergymen who stayed with the wounded soldiers and were captured. They were both repatriated in 1943.

Three Church Army Sisters working in Rouen escaped on the last boat out of St. Malo. Two more working at Nantes escaped via St. Nazaire on the RMS Lancastria which was deployed to evacuate British nationals and troops from France. During the return journey, the Lancastria was hit by bombs from a German combat aircraft, one landing

down the funnel and blowing the bottom out of the ship, sinking it in under 20 minutes. The vessel's capacity was 1,300 people with 16 lifeboats and 2,400 lifejackets onboard, but on this occasion the Lancastria was carrying over 7,200 people. Many of those escaping the sinking ship died in the attempt, some drowned due to the insufficient number of lifejackets, others of hypothermia and others were choked by the fuel oil that leaked from ship's ruptured oil tank. The two CA Sisters were thrown into the sea and swam under machine gun fire until they were picked up by one of the ship's lifeboats. When aboard they tore up their clothing to make bandages to treat those that were wounded or had been shot by the circling German aircrafts. As they made their escape, they again came under German machine gun fire twice but eventually were rescued by a French trawler which reached port in due course.



CA THROUGH THE AGES

Travel back in time with us to see the story of Church Army unfold from the moment Wilson Carlile gave his life to the Lord right through to the present day.

WILSON CARLILE CONVERSION

Wilson was a successful businessman, importing cloth from Europe. Until 1873 when his business failed and he lost nearly all of his personal wealth. This marked a turning point in Wilson Carlile's life, he gave his life to Jesus and put all his efforts into making Jesus known.



Seeing that the church had become a place that excluded the working class, the poor and marginalised members of society, Wilson Carlile decided to take church outside the church walls and began preaching in the open-air so that everyone would have the opportunity to hear the Gospel. It was in doing this that he saw the poverty and desperate need for evangelism to address the practical needs of people as well as preaching the truth of the Gospel. More people joined and this began a movement which would later be known as Church Army.

1882



The First Church Army opened at Oxford

First CA campaign in
Belfast, Ireland.

College founded and
training began in Oxford.

3
8
8
1

First men's home
setup in Marylebone
for homeless men in
London to live and
work and receive
Bible teaching.

0
6
8
1

SOCIAL WORK BEGINS

Regarding it as his vocation to take the Gospel to the people he regarded as the "most lost", Wilson Carlile sent CA officers to work in parishes where there was significant levels of poverty.

6
8
8
1

Training College,
Oxford 1882.



1910s-1940s - THE WORLD WARS

Church Army was active during both the First and Second World Wars working both at home and overseas providing much needed recreation huts for the armed-forces, operating ambulances, mobile canteens and kitchen cars. We also opened training centres for men who had been left disabled from fighting in WWI.

WWI

When war broke out in 1914, Church Army quickly mobilised themselves to become an integral part of the war effort. Both on the home front and overseas CA set up hospitals, recreation huts, tents and other centres.

1914-1918

WWII

When war was once again announced in September 1939, Church Army sprang into action once more to support the soldiers on whom the future of the world depended. CA set up mobile canteens and vans, and made provisions for prayer, Bible teaching and worship for Christian soldiers, and also opportunities to share the Good News of Salvation through Jesus with those who did not believe.

1939-1950

1950s-1980s

In the new age that dawned many Evangelists were employed to work with children and young people – the future generation. Youth centres were built and relationships developed with Scouting and Guiding. Church Army continued providing hostels for homeless men and women and care homes for the elderly.

Men and women admitted to Office of Evangelist within the Church of England.

1963

Wilson Carlile Training College opened in Blackheath.

1965

Headquarters at Marylebone Road opened by Her Majesty the Queen.

1964

Centenary anniversary celebration at Westminster Abbey attended by Her Majesty the Queen.

1982

1990s TO PRESENT DAY

At the turn of the century the need to support those facing unemployment became a strong focus such as through residential care in homes and marquees. This era also saw pioneer tent missions, beach missions, the Church Army Printing Press and the making of films for evangelism.

Philip Johanson CA appointed first Commissioned Evangelist to serve as Chief Secretary.

1990

Archbishop Desmond Tutu becomes the President of Church Army.

2007

New Training college opened in Sheffield by Princess Margaret and the Archbishop of York.

1992

Opening of the Wilson Carlile Centre by His Royal Highness, The Earl of Wessex.

2011

TODAY

Today, we continue to build on the foundations laid by Wilson Carlile through our vision for everyone everywhere to encounter God's love, and be empowered to transform their communities through faith shared in words and action.

CENTRES OF MISSION

We partner with dioceses across the UK and Ireland, launching missional hot-spots that work to transform areas by addressing some of the most extreme needs where communities are impacted by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, isolation and many other issues in between. These Centres of Mission not only tackle the social issues head on, but they do so by bringing the light, hope and transforming power of the Gospel with them.

MON

THE TRAINING CONTINUES

We continue to train gifted evangelists who are called by God to make Evangelism their vocation. Training has always been an integral part of Church Army and each year we see more of the new younger generation stepping into their evangelistic calling taking the Gospel to wherever God calls them to.

MON

MARIE CARLILE: PIONEER & LEADER

by Beth Burras

“WHAT GOOD CAN SUCH A SMALL FRAIL PERSON DO THERE?”

This was what the neighbours of the Carlile family thought, when Marie Carlile's father permitted her to go and help her brother Wilson by establishing Church Army's Training Home for Women in 1888. Six years after Wilson had started training male Evangelists (known as Captains), he asked his younger sister Marie to come and oversee the training of female Evangelists (Sisters). Her father agreed that it would be temporary, as she was small and often unwell, but she stayed in that role for 50 years.

Despite having grown up in a wealthy Victorian household, she swapped comfort for hard work, and was single-minded in her efforts to train and deploy women in Church Army, forming what was probably the first large-scale opening for women workers in the church.

In the early parts of the 20th century, women training under Marie Carlile undertook much of the same learning as their male counterparts, studying theology alongside them. They were also equipped with some skills in nursing and social work and were sent out to serve amongst the poverty and deprivation found in both inner cities and rural villages. One account written in 1928 observes:

“A Church Army mission-sister aims at combining the evangelistic with the social to an extent undreamed of by the male evangelist...”

She led the women's work with humility, not seeking praise or attention. But, inspired by her devotion to the Lord and her love for the lost, she made a huge impact:

“To a most striking degree the Church Army mission-sister is a reproduction of Miss Carlile. She has, indeed, stamped her personality on the women to a greater extent than her brother has on the men. In their devotion, their burning sympathy, their evenness of temper, their habits of thought, frequently in their smile and their speech, the Church Army mission-sisters are reproductions of Miss Carlile, and we can ask for nothing better.”

As well as her work heading up the women's training in mission and evangelism, Marie supported her brother Wilson Carlile in the running of Church Army's operations. It was said that at the end of each day they would meet together when the offices closed and go over the problems and obstacles the organisation was facing together. One observer claimed that “without her counsel, her modifying and softening influence, her alert instinct and womanly intuition, shipwreck might often and easily have come.” After her death in 1951 her memorial stated,

“She helped her brother to create the Church Army and opened a door for the training of women for whole-time service in the Church. Through her selfless life and devotion to her Lord countless lives were enriched and brought from darkness to Light.”

2022 marks 140 years since Church Army was established, and as we look back over our history, we can still see the legacy left by Marie and the way she championed and released female Evangelists. In my role as a tutor working with Evangelists-in-Training, I can see all of the traits used to describe Marie and the mission sisters are present in our Evangelists today – both male and female – over a hundred years on. So today we thank God for her and for the many female Evangelists who have followed her. May all of Church Army continue to be devoted to the Lord and bring countless people from darkness to Light.

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



Beth is Formation Lead and Tutor within Church Army's Training Team. She lives in Sheffield with her husband Luke and when she isn't

helping Evangelists-in-Training grow in their vocation and calling, she loves walking in the Peak District, cooking and eating food with friends, and anything related to Christmas.



WOMEN'S HOSTELS THEN AND NOW

— The Church Army Review, February 1922 —

“...from beginning to end the spirit of the religion of Christ makes itself felt in a hundred ways, seen and unseen. So that these Hostels, while filling a most useful place in ministering to the physical needs of their inmates, exercise a powerful and in many cases lasting influence in their spiritual life also. And although their immediate mission is not the relief of distress, yet it often happens that the Homes are the means of giving a lift to people who have fallen by the way on their journey through the world.”

The root of Church Army's vision has always been that help and hope are available to everyone everywhere. This does not only extend to those who live in poverty or are homeless, but also to those with other struggles and situations in life and even those who are seemingly without difficult circumstances. Throughout Church Army's history hostels, homes and lodges have been keystone ministries as a way of providing for people practically and spiritually, and this work still continues today.

Between the First and Second World Wars, Church Army's hostels and homes were providing living space for people with different needs and various life situations. Many of these homes were set up specifically for women, a legacy which continues to this day.

In 1922 there were hostels for women which cost a reasonable price in rent for a comfortable living space for women who were living and working in London. On the other end of the scale were houses in some of the most impoverished parts of London which cost women only a few-pence a night. Homes such as these offered regular and long-term living to women who were actively trying to find work.

Between these two extremes were hostels and homes which were set up to suit women in various, specific situations. One house was set up for blind girls who were also earning a living. Another, for women who had been in prison. While each of these hostels provided the obvious service of a safe and warm place to live, it also afforded Church Army Sisters (that is, Commissioned Evangelists) the opportunity to draw alongside the women and share hope and love with them. Each home had a chapel and the opportunity to pray to encounter God's love.

The following are just two stories of lives transformed over 100 years ago when they came to stay in a Church Army hostel*.

Making a Hard Fight

There came to us a young woman of a very respectable family, who had been in service as a children's nurse, but who had given way to the terrible habit of opium taking. This led her to the downward path, she began to live an immoral life, and was also a thief. But at times she struggled against her temptations, and consented to go into a Home where she underwent treatment for the drug habit. Whilst there, her conscience urged her to confess her theft; she was arrested and sent to prison for four months. After her release, she went to see a lady who took an interest in her, who sent her to the Church Army with a recommendation that we should give her a chance to start life afresh. The young

woman was without money or clothes, and was suffering from great depression, but was struggling hard to overcome her bad habits, and asked for our prayers to help her to endure. We received her into one of our Lodging Homes, whilst we endeavoured to procure a suitable situation for her. This was not easy, as her proclivities had to be made known; but eventually after some weeks a lady consented to give her a chance, and provide her with an outfit for service. She is now very happy in the country and writes very gratefully, but still feels that she needs sympathy and good influence to enable her to continue on the right path.

*accounts taken from The Church Army Review, February 1922

Saved from Suicide

Wandering near Waterloo one night a poor woman saw the lights of one of our Lodging Homes. Only a few pence in her pocket, wet, cold, and hungry, she came to the door and asked the price of a night's lodging. "If it had been a shilling, I should have thrown myself over the Bridge," she said later on, warmed and cleaned and fed - one of the many whom we trust find fresh life through human sympathy transfigured by the Love of God.

Fast forward 100 to 2022 and the need of a place to stay for many is still as vital as it was in 1922. The Marylebone Project stands as one of Church Army's key projects, providing help and shelter to homeless women in London. Each year hundreds of women walk through the doors of the centre seeking help and finding

shelter, friendship, guidance and hope. Church Army's legacy of putting people's wellbeing as a paramount ingredient of showing the love and hope of Jesus still drives our cause today and in God's grace will continue to for another 100 years to come.

STORIES FROM THE PAST

This is a story of our work dating back to 1907.

The Princess Louise Augusta Home, BEXHILL-ON-SEA



NOT far from the sea front at Bexhill-on-Sea stands a large corner house. On one side lies Devonshire Park, and there are few windows of the house which do not give a vision either of this or of the sea itself. The house is empty at present, literally empty; as not only are there no inmates, but no beds or tables or chairs. Soon we hope it will be filled full-not only with furniture, but with pattering baby footsteps, merry voices, and thankful hearts.



The Princess Louise Augusta Home.

What a glorious change it will be for some of our poor mothers and their children, many of whom have been going through a hard struggle this winter. Illness has laid many a breadwinner low; hunger and cold from

haunting spectres have become grim realities: the rooms called home have grown smaller and fewer; the furniture more and more scant. Little wonder if some of our mothers give up fighting "I can't help it," said one the other day I have no soap and no soda, and I can't get any. The children's things are dirty, and they are dirty, and we can't go away." Many visits were necessary, with gentle persuasion, a few pence spent on cleaning materials, a few old clothes from our Old Clo' Dept.; but at last mother, baby, with Lizzie and Tommy, were started off, weary but clean, into the unknown world of the country. And then came a letter full of gratitude: "I do think it is a great blessing there are such beautiful places for poor people to come to. It is a great blessing to know what it is to have plenty to eat, and not worry where the next is to come from."

How much easier it will be for this woman to face her troubles after a fortnight of rest and good food and refreshing pure air! This is the work our Homes have been doing, and the work we hope Bexhill will do in many cases, and we shall all be proud if it succeeds. Its very name should help, as it is called after Her Highness the Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig Holstein, with her kind permission; and we know she takes a great interest in our people, and gives not only sympathy, but hard personal work.

This is a story of our work dating back to 1922.

Personal Service, One Helps One.



HE Church Army has always drawn to itself the personal support of numbers of leisured people anxious to serve humanity, or rather to serve God by serving their fellow men. Free personal service there is no better service in the world than that which is unstintingly and freely poured out, not for the hope of reward, but for the simple sake of those in need.

We offer an opportunity to all who are willing to share the pain of our poor friends; and in sharing the pain to conceive ways and means of easing the burden.

Never surely was there a time when this old country suffered more than now from a soulless bureaucracy. It is just here where voluntary charity is demonstrably superior to state interference. State action creates officials: officials create officialdom. We do want and we must have "the breath of the Spirit" over these dry bones. Organisation, as such, cannot save men or women. The outpouring of the spirit of sacrifice alone can do that. The Church Army is, at this juncture, anxious to extend the operations of its League of Personal Service and to enroll increasing numbers of members who will promise to bring into, and keep in, our work that vital spark of human interest.

It would not be possible to mention all of the departments which our friends are invited to

help, so we will not mention any by name. The League covers the whole of Church Army work. Both ladies and gentlemen are invited to enroll, and we invite the assistance of our readers in helping us to deal with the case of one child, one woman, or one man.

There are no rules or fees in our League, and no definite lines are laid down upon which our friends are asked to assist. We ask our members to take a keen practical interest in their protégé. We need hardly say that the whole organisation of the Church Army is entirely at the disposal of our members. The Secretary of the League is Miss WINIFRED BLUNT, Church Army Headquarters, Marble Arch, London, W. 1, and she would be most happy to send a leaflet describing the scope of the work of the League, and to enroll members.

A Beam in Darkness

"To hundreds and hundreds of thousands, the Church Army war-time effort has represented a beam in the surrounding darkness, a resort from loneliness, a refuge from the storms of life, a quiet resting place; and for a good proportion a trusting place with God."

The war may be ending in Europe; but our work will be necessary for many months even after it has ended. We serve all branches of the Forces-the Navy, the Army, the Air Force at home of course, but also in many theatres of war overseas."

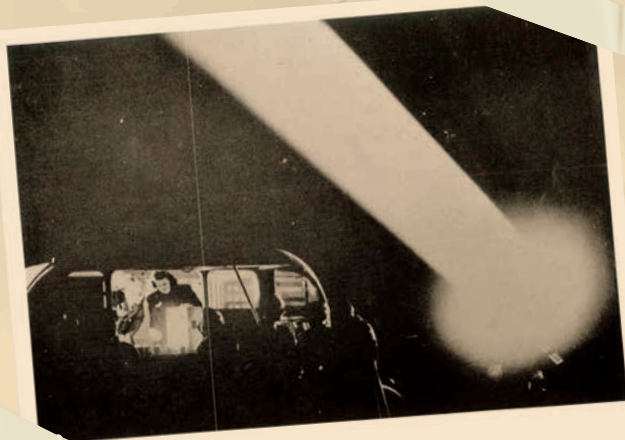
This quote titled 'A Beam in Darkness' is taken from the giving page of the Church Army Review, April 1945. It urges its supporters that even though the end of the war was in sight, the work was far from over and asks for continued financial support. The war had intensified the social needs that CA engaged in during peacetime, and they would be needed greatly as the country began to get back on its feet.

Life is different now to post-war Britain, but some things haven't changed. We are still fighting poverty, working with victims of abuse, supporting people struggling with poor mental health, and many other needs and difficulties in between. As with the period after the World Wars, the COVID-19 pandemic has left wounds that are still yet to heal. For many, life has returned to a sense of normality, others however are left traumatised and still struggling with the impact that the previous two and a half years of coronavirus has left. Because these difficulties and unmet needs are the harsh daily reality for thousands of people, Church Army is still on the frontline working to bring hope into seemingly hopeless situations.

But we need your help!

The work of transforming lives, in many cases is also saving lives, but to keep doing this vital work we need your support. If you could consider setting up a regular gift, or increasing your current gift, you can help us to train more Evangelists, partner with more dioceses, identify more needs to offer support and pioneer change as we help to make life better for many individuals and families together.

Please use the giving information on the next page to be a part of continuing our 140 year legacy of giving people hope through both words and action.



Ways to Give

Please always quote: Supporter ID ref (on address sheet) and Catalyst

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

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

By Phone:

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

Internet Banking: (UK)

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

Internet Banking: (Rep. of Ireland)

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

By Post:

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

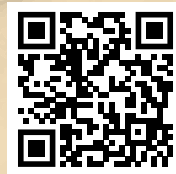
Eternal Legacies:

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

Gift Aid:

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

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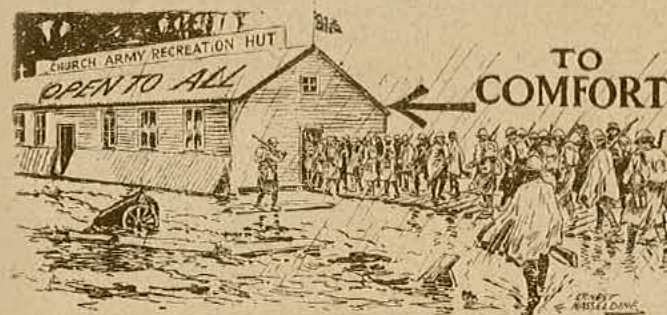




MUD!

The Western Front is at present a Sea of Mud. In mud and slush our brave lads have to eat, drink, sleep and fight. In many places the only refuge is a Church Army Hut.

Scores more HUTS are an URGENT NEED. Will you supply ONE, or help us to get it? Huts cost £300; Equipment £100; Week's Working £5



Always muddy, yet always cheery, our gallant men ask of you this bit of help.



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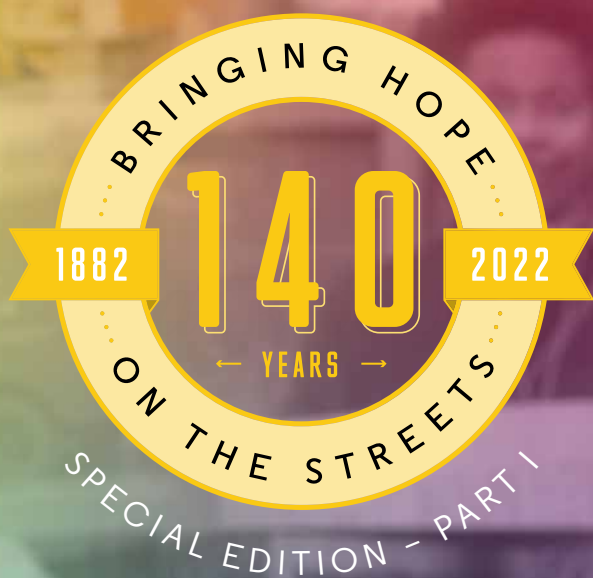
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