

# CA inFocus.

Issue 1

January - March 2023

CHURCH  
ARMY  
ORG

# Editorial Musings

Happy New Year! You are holding in your hands the first printed magazine from Church Army in 2023. You may have been expecting a Catalyst but let me introduce you to the first edition of **CA inFocus**, our new supporter publication which is replacing the old Prayer Diary and Catalyst. If you have been receiving Catalyst for a while you will have seen it change many times in the last few years to suit the times we were living in, particularly during the hardest seasons of COVID, we were sending two-monthly shorter magazines combined with the Prayer Diary. As we head into a new year,

excited and hopeful for what God is going to do through our work we've decided to start afresh with a new series of magazines (and also a new look!). Over the past year we have listened to the feedback that many of you have sent in telling us how you use Catalyst and Prayer Diary and have often heard that you want to know more about the individual people and the work you are praying for, and we hope that **CA inFocus** will do just that in helping to draw you closer to the very work you are funding.

Thank you,



**Chris Hardy & Sarah Waller**  
Editor & Sub-editor

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEW CHURCH ARMY MAGAZINE

We want you to get the most out of the **CA inFocus** magazine, so we have come up with a new layout that we think you'll like.

As you flick through the pages you will see we have divided the magazine into 13 weeks from January-March. Each week will be a new focus bringing you news, stories and updates about an area of our work or a particular person or ministry, along with weekly points on how you can be praying for them. You can use these points to help shape the way you pray. You may wish to pray about each point daily throughout the week or to pick a different prayer point each day. We encourage you to use the Prayer inFocus section however is most natural to you.

The new layout is designed so that you can use your **CA inFocus** however you wish; whether that is to read it cover-to-cover in your own time, or as a prayer guide that you move through weekly over the next three months.

We know that many of you pray faithfully and daily for the names of people in Church Army. On page 36 you will find **People & Places** where you can pray daily for the individuals who make up Church Army's Mission Community.

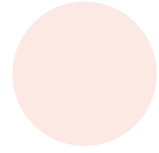
Through **CA inFocus** our hope and prayer is that you will be able to find out more about what we are doing and the people we are helping; what your support looks like when money is turned into action; how you can be praying for the work you are making possible; and give you the opportunity to get to know the people who make up Church Army; those who are out on the frontline of evangelistic ministry as well as those working in our office.

However you use **CA inFocus** we want to know. Drop us an email any time at

**[INFOCUS@CHURCHARMY.ORG](mailto:INFOCUS@CHURCHARMY.ORG)**

### SO WHY CA INFOCUS?

As we continue to make sure that prayer is never separated from what we do, each week's theme will bring into focus a person or area of our work giving you a fuller picture about what we're up to, where lives are being changed, and how this can shape the focus of your own prayers for CA.



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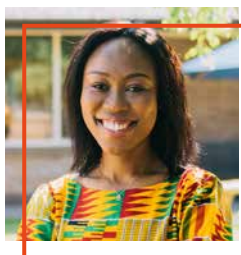
MAY THE GOD OF HOPE  
 FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY  
 AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST  
 IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY  
 OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY  
 THE POWER OF THE HOLY  
 SPIRIT.

*Romans 15:13*

God does and continues to fill us with so much peace and joy that we will have no reason to doubt His love for us.

Personally, this verse reassures me that God is my source of joy. He will give me peace, and my faith in Him will continue to grow. I have no room to entertain fear.

**Baaba Hewton**  
 Mission Operations  
 Team Administrator



Baaba joined CA in June 2022 and lives in Sheffield. She grew up in Kuamsi which is in the Ashanti Region of Ghana and she has recently completed an MA in International Relations at the University of Sheffield. Baaba's loves exercising, sleeping, and eating.

RESOURCE  
 RESOURCE  
 RESOURCE  
 RESOURCE

*Lent*

[CHURCHARMY.ORG/LENT](https://CHURCHARMY.ORG/LENT)

# BRINGING HOPE TO THE STREETS IN 2023

2022 has certainly been a year like no other. We have seen turmoil throughout the government with three different Prime Ministers and numerous cabinet ministers. The death of the faithful monarch and our patron Queen Elizabeth II signified a tremendous change as she reigned for over 70 years. We have been witness to war and unrest in the Ukraine and we are facing a cost of living crisis with prices of fuel and food at an all time high.



**8.5 MILLION  
PEOPLE ARE  
SKIPPING  
MEALS**



**7.9 MILLION  
PEOPLE ARE  
WITHOUT  
HEATING OR  
ELECTRICITY**

Evidence suggests that 8.5 million people across the UK are skipping meals due to price hikes and an enormous 7.9 million people are going without heating or electricity. As a result, almost 20 million people have completely stopped all leisure and social activities in an attempt to make ends meet.

While these are worrying statistics, it makes it clear that the work of Church Army will be needed by many more people heading into the new year. Our work fighting poverty and social injustice will be vital to those struggling to survive. But amidst all the bad news, it is important to remember that there is hope! With the love and prayers of you,

## 20 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE COMPLETELY STOPPED ALL LEISURE OR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



our supporters and the heart of everyone in Church Army, we can work as one to spread the Good news of the Gospel and see faith in action. Reaching all who need us most, those on the margins of society in desperate need and those who feel unseen or forgotten. Together, with God, we can make a positive and real impact on many lives.

We work for a gracious, merciful and good God and he will provide us with everything we need. He will be our light in the darkness and His steadfast love and compassion will endure forever and whatever we troubles we may face, we are not alone for He is with us.

- Pray God to call more people to explore evangelism.
- Pray for the work within Centres of Mission to have a positive and fruitful impact on local communities.
- Pray that the work of CA will help reduce the number of people facing hunger and poverty.
- Pray that more people will know the love of God through the good work of CA.
- Pray for CA to have a positive impact on people suffering from social isolation and deprivation.

**PRAYER  
INFOCUS**

# OUR EVANGELISTS

Meet Jenny

I have always been an evangelist because I just can't stop talking about Jesus!

Imagine being called by God to share the love and light of His Son, Jesus Christ with the world, as your vocation! That is the calling gifted evangelists feel when they decide to train to become a Church Army Evangelist. They are passionate people with a gift for sharing Good News and showing, through actions, that hope can shine even in the most desperate situations. But the life of a Church Army Evangelist looks different for everyone. Each person has their own unique calling to a different context, whether that is working with one of our Centres of Mission, talking with prisoners as a prison chaplain, or even fostering young children.

Jenny Falcón-Otero is an Evangelist at our Gwent Valleys Centre of Mission which is a partnership with the Diocese of Monmouth, situated in an ex-mining area of the Welsh valleys where she felt called to relocate to shortly after she was Commissioned and now lives and fosters with her husband. This is just part of her story...

I have always been an evangelist because I just can't stop talking about Jesus! It is always encouraging to see people take the next step in their faith journey. Being a CA Evangelist enables me to go out with the blessing and backing of Church Army which helps me feel more empowered to reach even more people.

I live with my husband and our foster daughter. Until we moved to join Gwent Valleys Centre of Mission, we chose to live in community with my parents. Throughout lockdown we had others living with us at various points, including my sister and her partner, two friends from Spain, a young person with learning difficulties who joined us through the Shared Lives Scheme, and two foster children on different occasions. Our family has always been a bit like that, we usually have someone either living with us or about to move in.





I knew for a long time that fostering was a calling God placed on my life. We began with respite fostering but when COVID struck, an urgent need for new carers quickly developed and we found ourselves on the fast-track to being foster parents. We received a referral for a little boy for six weeks. We decided this would be manageable, but it wasn't until eight months later that he moved on from us.

During this time we've seen God working and transforming the lives of the three children we have now fostered, each in a different way but each equally as impactful. God has been with us through the ups and downs we've faced with each child and our hope and prayer is that any seeds of His love we have sown into these precious children will go with them into whatever they face next in their journey.



## CALLED?

Is God calling you to be a CA Evangelist?

Visit our website\* to find out more.

Jenny asks:

- Pray for our fostering journey, for the child living with us now.
- Pray for those we have fostered in the past and those we will foster in the future.
- Pray for the people of the Valleys as we try to meet them where they are and provide spaces and opportunities for them to meet with God and others.
- Pray for all those in this area who are isolated and lonely.

**PRAYER  
INFOCUS**

\*[CHURCHARMY.ORG/VOCATIONS](http://CHURCHARMY.ORG/VOCATIONS)

8 JAN - 14 JAN

# CA IN ATTERCLIFFE & DARNALL

Attercliffe and Darnall are two areas in Sheffield, England. The former is an industrial area while the latter is a more residential area. Both areas have a history of being deprived and isolated. In recent years, there has been an increase in poverty and social needs in both areas. With a diverse population of around 10,000, unemployment is unusually high, and there are few opportunities for young people. Crime rates are also relatively high and 1 in 3 children in both areas are living in households with an income below the poverty line.

In 2020, during the first waves of COVID-19 and the lockdowns in England, husband and wife team [Gina](#) and [Kinder Kalsi](#) took on the tremendous challenge of leading the newly planted Attercliffe & Darnall Centre of Mission and during those years planted deep roots for hope and change among the local communities.

## TOGETHER ON MISSION

Meet Kinder

**W**orking together felt like a clear calling from God for us but where that would be and in what capacity wasn't quite so clear. After praying and listening to God and several signs, it became clear that we were meant to take up the challenge of beginning to grow a Centre of Mission in Attercliffe and Darnall, creating an impact on the local community. The area is an industrial suburb in the northeast area of Sheffield and has a diverse range of people from all kinds of faith backgrounds and nationalities. We felt like we had come home.

But the transition into our new roles would be more challenging than we ever expected as just two weeks after starting COVID hit. Furlough felt inevitable and that our work in the community would be put on hold indefinitely since it seemed almost impossible to make new connections with people under the restrictions. However, with the daring and trusting support of Church Army, it seemed God had other ideas and used the pandemic as an opportunity to open doors, quite literally! Instead of shutting everything down, we decided to have faith that, guided by God, no matter what the situation, we could make a positive impact.





I received an unexpected phone call from Roses Bakers who had a surplus of food at the end of each day, to ask if I'd be interested in taking it? Having no links in the community we decided to take a brave step and knock on doors to offer the food. It was a step lead by faith, not knowing how it would be received in the local community. Some people said no but soon people began to trust us, and 18 months later we have a thriving network of people who can contact us about food.

Meet Gina

One of the important things to recognise in this initiative is that it wasn't so much about the food itself but more about the contact it created with people. The sharing of the bread lead to conversations on doorsteps, relationships beginning between Kinder, me and the community. In the face of such adversity we had created a doorstep ministry.

Since the lockdown restrictions were lifted and people began meeting together in person, the ministry has grown into a firm foundation throughout the community, where trusting relationships have formed. A network of connections has developed through the sharing of food with one lady sharing the food with her entire street. Another lady delivers to lots of neighbours close by and it has opened up a real sense of togetherness. It is not a donation initiative but a sharing one where everyone is equal, it is a blessing to be shared and encourages others to adopt a sharing attitude. We are now known locally as the 'bread people' and it allows us to engage more easily within the local community, people are open to talk about our ministry and mission to create a new Christian community. People understand that we are sharing to show that each person is loved by God and we wish for everyone to feel the love of Christ. Kinder often tells people that the bread he gives them will only last a day, but the bread Jesus provides is for a lifetime.



**PRAYER INFOCUS**

- Pray for plans to develop a regular after school club.
- Pray for people to join us in the monastic rhythm of rest, prayer, play, hospitality and worship.
- Pray for more people to discover the love of Jesus for themselves and for Him to make a difference in their lives.
- Pray for a deepening sense of a community in Attercliffe and Darnall.
- Pray for local churches to be empowered and encouraged to share the love of Jesus locally.

# CA'S PRISON CHAPLAINS

“Just like He didn't forget about me, He won't forget about them.”

Prisoners can often be seen in one light; people who have made mistakes, now paying for their crimes. We often forget that they are people like us, with hopes, dreams, and fears. Many have families who love and miss them, and they will one day return to society. One of the ways that helps prisoners through their time in prison and to prepare them for a positive and fulfilling life outside is prison chaplaincy. It is a vital service that provides much-needed support to both prisoners and prison staff. It has been shown to reduce reoffending rates and improve prisoner health and wellbeing. For many prisoners, the relationship they develop with their chaplain is one of the most positive relationships they will have while in prison.

Prison work has long been part of Church Army's work and we have CA Evangelists who serve as chaplains in some of the UK's prisons. [Gill Martin](#) is one of those Evangelists and is a chaplain at HMP Eastwood Park, a closed category prison in South Gloucestershire.

## Meet Gill

I have been at this prison for almost three years now but before this I really thought God had forgotten about me and prison chaplaincy. When I was training, I did a placement at Holloway Prison and I loved it. When I began trying to pursue this calling I couldn't find the right thing. I wondered if I had got it wrong about being a prison chaplain, maybe God had a different calling for me. But later, when the role of being a prison chaplain came out of the blue, I knew I was being led by God and He hadn't forgotten me after-all.

'Do you have someone in the community who loves you?' is one of the first questions I will ask a new prisoner at the start of their sentence. It's a way of asking "do you have any friends or family who will visit you?", but without using the words friends, or family. These words can hold vastly different meanings for different prisoners, sometimes bringing up painful thoughts





or memories, so I try to avoid them. Their answer though, is vitally important. It lets me assess their need for support, but it also tells me a lot about the person behind the prison sentence. Sadly, some prisoners can't name anyone who loves them or would visit them.

Whilst prisons are full of people, they are often lonely places and those feelings of loneliness become magnified when a prisoner doesn't have anyone to visit them. As prison chaplains that is one of the things we can help with as there is a volunteer visitor scheme.

We answer requests for spiritual support; this can be anything from lighting candles for anniversaries and birthdays, to providing prayer for difficult situations or pastoral support for prisoners with ill relatives or suffering a bereavement. COVID was a difficult time, visitations, group meetings and fellowship stopped. To keep contact with the prisoners we wrote weekly reflections for each person and delivered them to their cells. During this time we reached people who wouldn't normally visit the chapel but looked forward to receiving their reflection and seeing a friendly face at their door.

It's a very privileged position to be in. Some of the prisoners have suffered abuse and are really broken and for some, the offence that sent them to prison was the last straw. Our constant message is that we can't change what happened, but we can walk with them, and support them through the next steps. Every day I am reminded that it could be any one of us in that prison and I feel blessed to be able to share with these prisoners that God loves us and loves each of us equally. There is nothing we can do to spoil his plan because he is more powerful than us. I have seen and felt God work in my life and I am not the only person whose life He can work in. I want to share that message with others who feel they are beyond God's love because no one is. Just like he didn't forget about me, He won't forget about them.

- Pray for all those in prison and their families; that the Holy Spirit will bring them the hope and peace of a new life in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that all prisoners who have contact with chaplains feel warmth, support and encouragement and will be inspired to explore a life of faith.
- Please pray that the positive impact prison chaplains have on prisoners has a lasting effect during their time in prison and after.

**PRAYER  
INFOCUS**

22 JAN - 28 JAN



# LENT RESOURCE 2023

## Everything you need for Lent 2023

With just under four weeks until Lent begins we want to tell you about the CA Lent Resource for 2023.

The Church Army Lent Resource has been designed to give you, your small group or your church, 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 beautifully designed cards divided into Action Cards, Character Cards, Reflection Cards and Marks of Mission Cards.

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## ACTION CARDS

These cards include a relevant passage from Scripture, and a question for you to reflect on over the next few days to challenge yourself in your faith life. They focus on stories of faith in action from Church Army's Centres of Mission near where you are

## CHARACTER CARDS

These cards focus on the faith story of people from the Bible, themes in their story, and signpost to where you can read more about each character.

## REFLECTION CARDS

These cards prompt you to read a Psalm, and to use that Psalm as a doorway to prayer for the day. The focus of these cards is, as the name suggests, more reflective than the other cards.

## MARKS OF MISSION CARDS

These cards take one of the Marks of Mission and encourage you to ask questions about your church's way of expressing that Mark. The first is an introduction to the Marks, so don't worry if you haven't come across them before.



## HOW IT WORKS

Each day take the next card out of your pack and take some time to reflect on the content. You can do this on your own or in a group.

## CAN I TAKE PART WITHOUT BUYING A LENT RESOURCE PACK?

Absolutely! We want as many people as possible to engage with God and reflect on sharing their faith this Lent, that's why we're running the Lent Resource as an email campaign completely free of charge! Sign up [here](#) and please do share this link across your church, deanery and diocese!



RESOURCE  
 RESOURCE  
*Lent*  
 RESOURCE  
 RESOURCE



- Pray for help for those who use it to draw closer to God in their walk with Him.
- Pray for encouragement for those who feel anxious about sharing their faith to see new ways to do so.
- Pray for increased awareness of the work that Church Army is doing through our Centres of Mission.
- Pray to widen people's ideas of how their church can share God's love through the Marks of Mission.
- Pray that the artwork would inspire people to see Biblical characters in a fresh light.

PRAYER  
 INFOCUS

29 JAN - 4 FEB

# CA IN LANGLEY

Langley is one of several urban areas which make up the area of Oldbury, an industrial area bordering the Black Country in the west of Birmingham. The area has social issues such as gang culture and people dealing with drug addiction and mental health issues. The Langley Centre of Mission was launched right in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic and is made up of [Val Legg](#) and [Simeon Jarvis](#) who are developing solid relationships with the local community by creating youth groups and collaborating with the Living Well Fresh Expression Mission Network and working hard to help local people who are experiencing social issues.

## Meet Simeon

I live in Langley with my wife and children and although I come from a faith family, I didn't find Jesus for myself until much later in life. I was brought up in the nearby area of Brandhall, but I made the decision to leave the area after a series of poor choices led me to some drug use and mental health problems. At a real low point, I contemplated suicide but found myself asking where that would leave me. Yes, the pain I was going through at that moment would end, but then what? Perhaps influenced by the Gospel seeds sewn in my childhood or the constant prayers of my faithful mother, I turned to God. I asked Him to do something with my life. For the next two weeks I had a very personal encounter with God. It was a life changing experience which was not guided or prompted by anyone else, but by God himself. By the end of it, I realised I hadn't touched drink or drugs and when I left the house I felt as if my eyes had been opened to all life had to offer. I felt guided by God to return to the area I grew up in and the life I led before finding Christ means I can relate more easily to people

because I have experienced first-hand a lot of the struggles they are facing. Being a local lad with my own fair share of issues, people can open up to me. With the love of Jesus, I have been able to change my life and I am keen to share this and help others do the same.

Langley has two culturally different communities, and the church is in a Muslim community. I have spent time praying to God for a vicar who would be a good fit for the local community, to enable the church to grow and work with us to bridge the divide between the two communities. My prayers have been answered as a wonderful new vicar is now in post. He is from



Pakistan, speaks Urdu and is trained in evangelistic ministry. We pray together for the local area and hope to collaborate to bring the Gospel to the people of Langley.

Developing relationships with teenagers and young adults in the area is something I am deeply passionate about. On a recent prayer walk, I came across two truanting youths and started a conversation with them. They told me about a local police liaison officer who is making visits to their school to educate them on county lines gangs and offer support. It seemed the police officer had made a positive impact on the youths and so I reached out to him. It turned out that the police liaison officer is also a Christian and has the same passion to help the local youth as I do. This has formed a foundation for both of us to join together to reach young people.



## GIVE

You can support our  
Centre of Mission in  
Langley and others at  
[churcharmy.org/give](http://churcharmy.org/give)

- Pray for the youth community; that they would be receptive to Simeon.
- Pray for Simeon and his family who celebrated the arrival of their new baby in November 2022.
- Pray for the pupils of the local secondary schools; that they will engage with the Centre of Mission.
- Pray for more opportunities to share hope within the wider diocese.
- Pray for insight and discernment to deeply understand the needs of those who Val and Simeon are reaching out to.

PRAYER  
INFOCUS

5 FEB - 11 FEB

# RETIRED EVANGELISTS

Meet  
Jenny

Some people may look forward to a retirement filled with leisure time and a slower pace of life but for many of our retired Church Army Evangelists, retirement means they are as busy as ever. **Jenny Colby** is one such retired evangelist having been commissioned in December 1974, she has been active within the Church Army family for almost 50 years. We spoke to Jenny about her life as a CA Evangelist both before and after retirement and some of the ways she has seen God work throughout her life.

**D**espite being officially retired I am still very much involved in Church Army and it is still deeply rooted in my heart. I had attended a Church Army rally in Northampton in 1969 and felt a real call from God to tell me there was a place for me within Church Army, and was later commissioned in North Kensington, not far from where Wilson Carlile first started the organisation. I have had a varied role within Church Army, starting as deputy warden for the Southampton Hostel where I was responsible for the women's section. Later moving to Cambridge and then Wiltshire where I ran a Christian nurse's school in my capacity of Church Army Officer. Then on to north Wales where I qualified as a primary school teacher and then on to Berkshire. I have now moved back to Wiltshire to be near my family and Grandchildren.

Throughout my work as an Evangelist I have felt God's presence, particularly when I was in Cambridge where I worked within the hostel. Many people had mental health issues and on one occasion someone was using a knife in a threatening manner, but I felt God was protecting me and my young family. I have always had a feeling of God's presence when I have worked in holiday clubs with children, the joy they experience gives me confirmation that God is at work and for me the work was all about sewing the seeds of God's love. Many of the children I worked with have come to faith and God has proven time and time again that perseverance is key. God has always sent the right role, or the right person when I have needed them the most and I have seen this in other people's lives too.





The most important lesson I have learnt on my evangelism journey is to be patient, not to rush into things. In the Bible, you don't read about Jesus running or rushing people to do things, he is patient and demonstrates to us that we should be patient too. For anyone starting their journey into evangelism my advice to them is to take time to listen to God and be patient. There are times in my life when I have heard God directly and others when he has been more subtle, but for each it is important to listen and to share what you have heard with others. Take any opportunities He presents to you. It is a journey and God led me to Church Army who I will always consider to be my family.



## GIVE

You can support us to train lifelong Evangelists like Jenny.

Visit  
[churcharmy.org/give](http://churcharmy.org/give)

## PRAYER INFOCUS

- Pray for continued joy in the ministries and groups our retired evangelists are involved with.
- Pray that our retired evangelists continue to grow and flourish in their faith.
- Pray for those less mobile or experiencing health issues; that they experience peace in heart and mind and that they feel the eternal love of Christ.
- Pray that the good work of our evangelists over the years bears fruit now and in the years to come.

12 FEB - 18 FEB

# YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

## SHINING IN THE DARK

Help us:

- BE RESOURCEFUL
- BE RESPONSIVE
- STAY RELEVANT

## BEING THE LIGHT - YOUR REGULAR GIVING MATTERS:

Donating a small amount every month by direct debit helps provide stability to those in the most deprived communities who need spiritual and practical support in their darkest moments. Our regular supporters maintain our long-term work, bringing hope in challenging times.

££ EVERY PENNY YOU DONATE GOES TO OUR FRONTLINE WORK ££

[CHURCHARMY.ORG/DIRECTDEBIT](https://churcharmy.org/directdebit)



I wanted Church Army to receive a gift in my will because the world needs Church Army

## LET YOUR LEGACY SHINE

*"even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."*

Psalm 139.12

For the last 140 years the people of Church Army have been shining God's light in the darkest places. From the 'gutters' of Wilson Carlile's time to the streets of our modern age, we reach out, stand beside and lift up those who have lost hope and need light.

Stand with us in sharing the light of God's love.

Let your legacy shine:

[CHURCHARMY.ORG/LEGACIES](https://www.churcharmy.org/legacies)



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CHURCH ARMY!**

# WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE 2023

Each year on 20 February the United Nations celebrates World Day of Social Justice. The day calls attention to the need to eradicate poverty, hunger and disease as well as promote fairness in education and employment opportunities for everyone. It also looks to tackle issues like human trafficking, child labour and racism.

In a world where over 736 million people still live below the poverty line and close to 1 billion people are unemployed, the day serves as an important reminder of the work that still needs to be done.

As Church Army we want to see those global numbers fall through the work we do in across the UK and Ireland, with people struggling with poverty, hunger, homelessness and unemployment. This week we are focusing our prayers on our efforts to alleviate poverty and how we are helping to fight some of the many injustices that homeless men and women face.

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Our Marylebone Project is one of the largest women's only hostels. Through the Sanctuary, Marylebone's 24/7 drop-in centre, we are helping women seeking refuge and support. Last year:



We helped 95 women settle into independent living



495 women visited the Sanctuary drop-in centre





We provided 38,072 nights of accommodation



710 women attended Meaningful Activity sessions

Social justice is about ensuring that everyone in society enjoys the same basic rights and opportunities, regardless of their background or circumstances. It's about building a fairer society where everyone can reach their full potential. That is why services such as the Marylebone Project are helping homeless women in London to find safety, security and support towards a stable future.

## PRAYER INFOCUS

- Pray for our projects, Centres of Mission and Evangelists who are working to fight poverty and homelessness; that they will have the resources they need to make a real difference in the lives of those affected.
- Pray for strength and resilience for those facing hardship due to poverty or homelessness this year and that we will be equipped to reach those people who find themselves struggling without help.
- Pray that we continue to find creative ways of helping people struggling with poverty so that they can experience true hope and lasting change.

19 FEB - 25 FEB



# CA TY BRONNA

Being a young person and homeless in Wales can have a major impact on future prospects and employment opportunities. Statistics show that young people who are homeless are more likely to have poorer health, be unemployed, and have lower levels of education. They are also at greater risk of being involved in crime. Being homeless can therefore have a significant negative impact on a young person's future, making it harder for them to find employment and access opportunities.

Many homeless young people sadly find themselves without a place to call home due to family breakdowns, unsuitable living conditions or leaving the care system. Experiencing a housing crisis is incredibly difficult for anyone but for a young person trying to navigate their way through changing life stages it can be particularly hard. But there is hope. For 20 years now Church Army Ty Bronna has been providing accommodation in Cardiff for 16-21 year-olds who find themselves without a home and to support them every step of the way towards independent living and a hopeful future.

**36** young people received support and accommodation



## JAYDEN'S\* STORY

Jayden's parents were caught up in criminal activity, resulting in Jayden becoming the primary carer for his siblings. The family, as Jayden knew it, was torn apart when the Serious Organised Crime Agency raided the family home and the decision was made by South Wales Police, Children's Services and the Family Courts that he and his siblings were not safe at home and needed to be placed into care. For Jayden, this meant a placement at Ty Bronna whilst his siblings were put into foster care. To protect Jayden and his siblings from further harm, he was only allowed minimal contact with his family. Subsequently, Jayden struggled to maintain his placement at Ty Bronna, presenting challenging behaviour and often returning to the family home. He felt 'the system' and all who worked for it were preventing him from being with his family.

Over time however, Jayden came to realise that by engaging with staff, who were always happy to oblige with anything he needed, he could do things like use the office phone and as a result, staff began to build trusting relationships with him.

Jayden began engaging in support sessions and actively seek out staff for a cuppa and a chat whenever he was at the project, eventually expressing that it was a relief for him to live in a clean and safe home, where he was no longer living in fear for the safety of himself and his siblings. As a probable result of the trauma he had experienced, Jayden began to experience panic attacks and nightmares, and so night staff at Ty Bronna would offer to sit with him throughout the night and provide him with a caring and safe environment for him to chat through his feelings. Jayden had never been able to build relationships with his peers before due to caring for his siblings, but in this safe environment he was encouraged and able to do so by participating in activities set up in-house such as DVD nights and games nights.



Encouraged by staff, Jayden engaged with other support services and he entered a construction academy, gaining the skills needed towards a carpentry apprenticeship. He succeeded in his Level 2 and then sought work to become a fully paid carpenter. These huge changes in Jayden's life meant he was seen as a positive influence on his sibling and was granted contact with them once a month with Ty Bronna staff taking him to the contact centre for the visits. Staff referred Jayden to the local council and helped secure accommodation for him in his chosen area of the city, away from his parents. He was the first person in his family to gain employment and become fully independent. Progress was made with his siblings and the visits increased to weekly overnight stays with Jayden taking full responsibility for them in his new home. The Church Army Visiting Support Service helped Jayden to furnish his property with everything he needed for his siblings.

# CA TY BRONNA

Although family mediation was offered, Jayden was very vocal about not wanting to have contact with his parents, who had sadly not made any attempt to change their lifestyle which had caused the breakdown and separation of his family. Jayden left Church Army Visiting Support Services over three months ago but remains in contact and continues to flourish and has been full of gratitude for the staff who have cared for him. He has been invited to engage in Ty Bronna's 'Moving-On Moving-Forward' programme and to return as a mentor so that he is able to share his experience and help other young people overcome barriers they may face to living a happy and independent life.

*\*Not real name*

## HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY CA TY BRONNA!

Near the end of last year CA Ty Bronna celebrated their 20th Anniversary! Over the years, the staff at CA Ty Bronna have successfully helped hundreds of young people make positive changes to their lives: providing them with a home, safety and security, plus access to education and jobs. This support has enabled many young people to move on from their previous situations and establish a better future for themselves. To mark the occasion Ty Bronna held an event at the house. The staff invited back past residents to visit for the day to see how much had changed since their time living there and share stories about how their life was changed by this unique place.

Rachel Codd, CA Ty Bronna's Support Service Manager (pictured) said: "20th anniversary was a real moment for us to recognise and celebrate all the amazing work we have achieved. It was a celebration of the collaboration between all the agencies and volunteers who have worked so hard with us all the way along, we couldn't do it without everyone's help. We had a speaker who was a resident in the project 20 years ago. He now works in safeguarding for a homeless charity in



Rachel Codd and Peter Rouch dig up the time capsule

Cardiff and this is a great example of the important work the project does.

It was especially wonderful at the celebration when we opened the time capsules buried at Ty Bronna 20 years ago. There were two capsules, one from Ty Bronna and one from a local primary school, so it was a real community effort when they were put together. We were surprised when we opened them that everything was so well preserved. It included a CD which had been recorded by residents at the time, they had written poems which they had put to music and recorded them on to CD which were sold in the local community to raise money for the project. Incredibly, the speaker we had invited was one of the young people featured on the CD. He hadn't seen it for 20 years so this was really emotional for him.

We have replanted the original time capsules now and added a new one. We asked our current residents to add things and they showed wonderful creativity. They have really thought about what is relevant now and will be interesting to people in the future. They have included things like vapes and COVID tests but probably the most inspirational items are letters that each person has written to their future selves. They have included what their hopes and dreams are for their future lives, it is fantastic to know they are positive about their futures.

Rachel Codd, Support Service Manager at Ty Bronna asks:

- Pray for our members of staff who are exposed to extremely risky and traumatic behaviour from the young people they work with. This can range from suicide ideation to severe self-harm.
- Pray that each member of staff feels safe and supported at work as they maintain professional-ism, compassion and empathy for the young people.
- Pray that God will give staff members the strength, love and resilience they need to continue their vital work.

PRAYER  
INFOCUS

5 MARCH - 17 MARCH

# A PROJECT IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

“We get to share God’s pursuing and persistent love

International Women’s Day is on 8 March 2023 and is the perfect opportunity to recognise the women who are working hard for women’s rights and making a difference in the lives of women everywhere. Church Army have a project in the north of England who are working hard to support women in need and help them to create a brighter future with hope at the heart of the project.

This Project in the north of England is dedicated to helping vulnerable women who have many different problems such as homelessness, drug addiction or are going through other traumatic challenges. The project provides a drop-in facility and an outreach programme where they aim to reach women who find themselves in the most dangerous of situations. Staff and volunteers at the project give physical and emotional support with love and care for the women they serve with faith and God’s love being at the heart of all they do.

Meet Grace\*

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e have an amazing team of staff and volunteers who have a real heart for the women they serve and do so with love and attention. We work hard to create a safe space for the women in a trauma informed way, being very mindful of the backgrounds and experiences of an individual which can create barriers

for them when trying to access help. We have a broad range of services and these vary depending on the person, it can be anything from making a warm drink and having a chat to attending hospital appointments or accessing housing services. We want to build up trust with the women, many of whom have complex needs and the trust element helps when we try to engage with them. All too often their previous experiences when trying to access

help have been met with judgement and caused trauma which has enforced the distrust of some agencies, we





try to bridge that gap so they feel able to seek the help they need. We believe this is a really powerful way to demonstrate God’s love for the women in a practical way and it helps them to see hope for the future. The women we serve face a lot of barriers and life complexities. Homelessness, addiction, poverty and high-risk dangerous situations are commonplace, but they are resilient and we want each of them to know they are loved by God. Faith is at the core of all we do we but the project is accessible to everyone regardless of what they believe. Each day we are grateful for the opportunity to show each woman we encounter God’s compassion and love. We get to share God’s pursuing and persistent love with them as we join them where they are.

*\*Not real name*

In situations where most people would be surrounded by loved ones, one lady had no-one. She needed a lifesaving operation. Previous bad experiences had left her fearful of the healthcare system. We were able to support her through getting the medical attention she needed by accompanying her to appointments, helping her to prepare for the operation, and hold her hand through a frightening time in her life.

One woman who has been accessing help through the project has been sleeping rough for over nine years. With our help she has just been given the keys to her own flat and for the first time in years she is no longer facing winter on the streets. She has told us that the most wonderful thing about having her own place is being able to choose who is allowed into her home. She has invited all the staff to a floor picnic to celebrate.

**PRAYER INFOCUS**

- Pray for the protect staff to feel protected by God when they face adversity and resistance.
- Pray for each person who uses the project to know they are important and loved by God.
- Pray for resources to be available for the project when need increases during the winter months.
- Pray for all vulnerable women to feel able to seek support and care.



# CA IN IRELAND

The mission of Church Army is to share the gospel message of hope and transformation throughout the UK and Ireland. Countless lives have changed through God's powerful love and many more continue to be touched by His grace as we impact people in some of the hardest to reach areas. According to the Central Statistics Office of Ireland, over 600,000 people are experiencing deprivation and financial hardship across Ireland, 22.5% of those being children.

In both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland we are working with dioceses and local churches, using their knowledge and passion to identify areas of need and facilitate change through our Centres of Mission and a growing number of evangelists in churches and projects called to bring God's love to people across Ireland.

This is some of our work in Ireland:

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## BALLINA

Ballina is situated in County Mayo and the Centre of Mission there was launched in 2016 in partnership with Ballina Churches Together. [Marian Edwards](#) is the Evangelist there working to help with social isolation, bringing people together and joining them up with local agencies.

## CORK

The Cork Centre of Mission is based in the town of Ballincolig. Launched in 2021 the Centre is relatively new and one of the aims of evangelist [Matt Gould](#) is to reach out to the young people in the area through youth cafes and teenage leadership courses. The area is rapidly expanding and so resources are stretched.

## KILDARE

Lead Evangelist [Philip McKinley](#) is leading the Kildare Centre of Mission. Launched in September 2022 it has a focus to develop the evangelist and pioneering potential of the area and create new worshipping communities around the dioceses of Meath and Kildare.



## SLIGO

A staggering 67 different languages are spoken in the town of Sligo which is on the west coast of Ireland. Sligo has seen a large increase in social deprivation in recent years and 28% of the population there live alone. [Alan Williamson](#) is the Lead Evangelist at the Sligo Centre of Mission which works in partnership with the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh.



## NEWRY

Newry is positioned on the main road between Dublin and Belfast and is a short drive from the border of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Newry has a long and painful history of conflict and further turmoil has been experienced post Brexit. [Scott McDonald](#) and [Laurence Bellew](#) are the evangelists working hard in the Newry Centre of Mission proclaiming the good news of the Gospel, peace and reconciliation.

## NORTH BELFAST

The North Belfast Centre of Mission was launched in 2015, there our evangelists [Karen Webb](#) and [Stephen Whitten](#) reach out to local communities including schools and local churches with help and support. They work collaboratively with numerous charity partners including the Diocese of Connor, Christians Against Poverty, Baby Basics and Transforming Lives For Good (TLG).

## PRAYER INFOCUS

- Pray the Ballina Centre of Mission will reach people suffering from social isolation.
- Pray the young people of Cork will be open to engaging with the Centre of Mission.
- Pray the Kildare Centre of Mission will forge new connections in the local community, reaching those most in need.
- Pray the Sligo Centre of Mission will reach those suffering with social deprivation and loneliness.
- Pray the people of Newry will feel the love and peace of God and feel connected through the Centre of Mission.
- Pray the North Belfast Centre of Mission will make strong relationships with local communities through school ministries and street outreach.

12 MAR - 18 MAR

# CA COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

With each issue of CA inFocus we want to introduce you to one of the many teams who work behind-the-scenes helping our frontline workers to do what they do best; spread hope and see lives transformed. This week we are starting this miniseries by getting to know the team who are bringing you CA inFocus, The CA Communications Team (or Comms as we call ourselves for short).

Hi we're the CA Comms Team, our job is to make sure everyone knows what Church Army is up to. Communication plays a vital role in spreading awareness and fostering engagement both inside and outside CA. We do this by using storytelling and design to keep everyone up-to-date on the latest news, and it's not just through our emails and magazines. In an ever-growing digital landscape, we also gather stories from the field to share with the world through social media and our website so our amazing supporters can see how their money and their prayers are changing lives for the better.

## WILL LEE

Digital Communications Officer

Will helps our people and our projects connect using digital platforms, such as social media.

## BECKY WARBURTON

Creative Assistant

Becky is our graphic designer who also brings the hand-drawn artistic elements to CA's creative designs.

## SARAH WALLER

Editorial Assistant

Among many editorial duties, Sarah takes a lot of time to talk with frontline Church Army people to give them an opportunity to share their stories with the world.



## NEIL THOMSON

Marketing Manager & Head of Communications

Neil is the Captain of the Comms Team, he makes sure we're steering in the right direction. He has also been a Commissioned CA Evangelist since 1985.

## TOMMY YEN

Communications Officer

Tommy does our internal and external communications, particularly via email or the intranet.

## JOSH BOOT

Creative Lead

Josh is our inhouse designer, photographer, videographer and lead for all things creative that carry a CA brand.

## CHRIS HARDY

Publications Officer

Chris is the Editor of this magazine and other publications that we send out in print.



## PRAYER INFOCUS

- Pray for wisdom and guidance for the team in 2023.
- Pray for opportunities to tell stories of CA to new audiences.
- Pray for increased engagement with people through social media.

19 MAR - 25 MAR

# WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY

Welcome  
aboard!

Waterways Chaplaincy has joined Church Army!

You may be living next to a canal or river, but do you know how close it is? 75% of UK's population lives only five miles from one. Across England and Wales alone there are 2,000 miles of waterways forming connections between towns. Many people aren't aware there is an entire community that uses these waters for their hobbies, jobs, businesses and for many more people the waterways are their home! WWC is an organisation of trained chaplains from a range of denominations who walk the waterways, offering pastoral care and spiritual support to people whose life and work is centred around these waters. Church Army are delighted to welcome the Waterways Chaplaincy chaplains aboard with their enthusiasm, wisdom and shared vision to see people who live on the margins get the opportunity to know Jesus.

**Mark Chester** is a Church of England Priest and Senior Waterways Chaplain and has been involved with Waterways for eight years. We caught up with Mark to find out more about this exciting organisation and the brilliant work they carry out on the waterways of Britain.

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he canals are used by people from all different walks of life, mainly boaters but also people fishing, cycling and dog walking. Waterways Chaplaincy is about coming alongside those people providing a practical expression of Christ's love. The aim is to be pastorally proactive rather than reactive and this means helping in a practical way and waiting for them to ask why we are there and why we want to help, which normally doesn't take long. This allows us to then talk about Jesus and God's love. We think of our services as being a three-pronged approach, firstly by offering practical help, if we see someone on a canal bridge and they haven't eaten, we will organise a meal. We would then want to empower that person in whatever ways are appropriate to their situation and this could be a whole range of different things such as offering







support with getting benefit advice. Thirdly, and this is what underpins the ministry, is to offer spiritual support and guidance. When people hit dark times, they often find themselves asking what the meaning of life is and as Christians we have answers which can provide hope. We are in partnership with local churches where we can refer people to when they are searching for spiritual nourishment, but we always try and administer spiritual first-aid with bible passages and prayers.

WWC mainly see people who need our help after falling on hard times and some of these people have taken to the waters to escape society, others are there as they feel they have no choice but whatever the reason there is a whole spectrum of life on the waterways. There is a range of communities, some are grouped by function such a businesses who provide canal boat trips, café boats and there is a network of people who sell fuel and other essentials to the boaters. Often the residential boaters are divorced, middle aged men and they can often find themselves on the outskirts of society and feel isolated and lonely.

A day in the life of waterways chaplain is always different but most would start with a walk of a few miles on the tow path and pray to ask God to provide an encounter with someone in need and that they would have the wisdom to recognise the opportunity to help someone. We do receive a lot of referrals through the website and often through people who have been helped by a chaplain before. This help can be for anything from supporting someone through bereavement, to keeping their boat afloat which is often their home too.

It is wonderful to be part of the Church Army family, a lot of the work we do is in step with the great work Church Army do and we have a similar ethos and mission strategy. I am sure it will be beneficial to all, none more so than the people we continue to serve.



**PRAYER  
INFOCUS**


Pray for the this week:

- That the Lord would call more volunteer chaplains to serve Him on the waterways
- For those in need that we encounter, that we would minister in love and with humility.
- For strengthened missional partnerships with canal side churches and Christian communities.
- That the transition of WWC to become part of the CA family would be smooth and a blessing to both.



# PEOPLE & PLACES

Praying daily for the Church Army network



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

*Ephesians 6:18*

Welcome to **People & Places**. In this section of CA inFocus you will see the names and locations of the Church Army network listed daily for your prayerful support. Over the course of this quarter you will pray for the names listed next to each day of the month. At the start of a new month the list begins again at day one. Over the course of this issue each name will be prayed for three times before moving on to a new list of names in the next issue.

Church Army is made up of people across the whole of the UK and Ireland. We have Commissioned Evangelists, Pioneers in Centres of Mission, Community members, National Staff working in the background and many more between; all engaged in different ways to see hope and light enter the lives of everyone who is yet to encounter God.

As a charity that trains and releases evangelists to follow their calling we do not always know the details of the work they are all currently involved with, so please pray for these incredible people however they are engaged in their calling of building the Kingdom.

The following are five categories for people mentioned in People & Places. You may find the following guide helpful as you pray for each individual.

- ◆ - Commissioned Evangelist
- ◇ - Commissioned Evangelist (retired)
- ▲ - Evangelist-in-Training
- - CA Mission Community Member
- - Staff

- 1** Michael Cooper, FR London/SE ●  
Christine Goodger, Northampton ◇  
Maureen Greaves, Sheffield ◇  
Andrew Payne, Sheffield ◇
- 2** Michael Ackroyd, Sheffield ●  
Barbara Harwood, Sowerby Bridge ◇  
Janice Quarton, Alfreton ◇  
Trevor Shaw, Telford ◇
- 3** Neville Barnes, Sheffield ◇  
Elizabeth Cairns, Armagh ◇  
Paul Critchlow, Newquay ■ ●  
Isabel Willerton, Shrewsbury ■
- 4** Frances Grieve, Blackburn ■  
Damien Hine, Huntingdon ◇  
Tim Hyde, Southampton ◇  
John Le Page, Malaga ◇
- 5** Meg Borges, Llandaff CoM ▲  
Geoff Box, Essex ■  
Steven Colby, Calne ■  
Kevin Metcalfe, Wimborne ◇  
Grace Wylde, Bridgend ■
- 6** Christine Baul, Plymouth ■  
Sheila Brown, Kent ■  
Richard Cooke, Selby CoM ◇ ●  
Hannah Peart, Sheffield ●
- 7** Andrew Dyer, Manchester ◇  
Nicholas Lebey, Durham ◇  
Susan Way, Plymouth ●  
Cherith Withington, Liverpool ◇
- 8** Eric Lomax, Kempston ◇  
Rita Metcalfe, Wimborne ◇  
Helen Reynolds, Sheffield ▲  
David Waters, Peterborough ◇
- 9** Eric Atkinson, Woking ◇  
David Collier, Burton-On-Trent ◇  
Helen Kiralfy, Medway CoM ▲  
Karen Webb, North Belfast CoM ◇
- 10** Mary A'Herne-Smith, Thruslington ◇  
Pete Allen, Saffron Walden ◇  
Robert Lowe, Llanelli ◇  
Miranda Okon, London ▲  
Theresa Pountney, London ◇
- 11** Gerry Bowyer, Aberdeen ◇  
Susan Burrowes, Belfast ◇  
Jennifer Gowen, Folkestone ◇  
John O'Neill, Lisburn ◇
- 12** Gill Bew, Cardiff ●  
Paul Niemiec, Kettering ◇  
Emma Rodrigues, Donoughmore ◇  
Denise Skelly, Sheffield ●
- 13** Stuart Budden, Norwich ◇  
Frank Mcgregor, Stoke-On-Trent ◇  
Jenny Taylor, Dereham ◇  
Elli Wort, Sheffield ●
- 14** Lorraine Dixon, Birmingham ◇  
John Pratt, St Columb ◇  
Paul Rose, Penrith ◇  
Malcolm Thompson, Telford ◇
- 15** Christopher Chesters, Rotherham ◇  
Charles McNutt, Harrogate ◇  
Lyn Mitchell, Bolton ◇  
Sandra Nichols, Sheffield ◇  
Andy Walker, Kinross ◇
- 16** Phil Baul, Plymouth ◇  
James Njue, Croydon ◇  
Jeni Nottingham, Blackpool CoM ▲  
Nic Sheppard, Wetherby ◇

**17** Peter Cowley, Prescot ◆  
 Linda Duckers, Warwick ◆  
 Anne Williams, Sheffield ◆  
 Jack Wright, St Asaph CoM ▲

**19** Stephen Colver, Sheffield ◆  
 Nick Green, Chesterfield ◆  
 Marjorie Griffin, Liverpool ◆  
 Yvonne Hayes, Sheffield ◆

**21** Jon Clarke, Ashford ■  
 Phoebe Leaver, Sheffield ●  
 Andy Milne, Bradford ◆  
 Derek White, London ◆

**23** Richard Beadle, Donemana ◆  
 Barrie Glover, Cheltenham ◆  
 Sylvia Maidment, Stourbridge ■  
 Christopher McCarthy, Doncaster ◆

**25** Steve Hunt, Emsworth ◆  
 Tim Ling, Sheffield ■●  
 Rachel Marlow, North Sutton CoM ●  
 Roger Murphy, Seaford ◆

**27** Lynne Bone, Rugby ◆  
 Jerry Garton, Caterham ◆  
 Philip Slater, Plymouth ◆  
 Valerie Thom, Dungannon ◆

**29** Sandra Davies, Cannock ◆  
 David Evans, Weston-Super-Mare ◆  
 Aidan Greenwood, Halifax ◆  
 Myrtle Morrison, Newcastle NI ◆

**31** Terry Drummond, Otley ◆  
 Andrew Housley, Ormskirk ◆  
 Simon Morbey, Medway CoM ●  
 Dorothy Needham, Bolton ◆

**18** Brian Daines, Sheffield ■  
 Steve Hollinghurst, Sutton Coldfield ■  
 Patrick Samuels, Godalming ◆  
 Peter Watson, Andover ◆

**20** Joyce Bray, Hull ◆  
 Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Canterbury ◆  
 Sian John, Deeside ▲  
 Sylvia Pringle, Newton Abbot ◆  
 Emma Sivyer ■●

**22** Neil Biles, Weymouth ■  
 Phil Brown, Sheffield ◆●  
 Andy Crooks, Harpenden ◆  
 Maria Seaman, Wellingborough ◆

**24** Dawn Hudson, Newcastle ◆  
 Pam Reeves, Grimsby ◆  
 Elizabeth Shearcroft, Somerset ◆  
 John Smith, Holmfirth ◆

**26** Bernard Allen, Broadstairs ◆  
 Alan Cooper, Nottingham ◆  
 Val Fernandez, Caerphilly ◆  
 Paul Ward, Nottingham ◆

**28** Kelvin Bolton, Wigan ◆  
 Pauline Connelly, Bridlington ◆  
 Rachel Smallwood, Sheffield ●  
 Tim Stanford, Worksop ◆

**30** Pete Bone, Rugby ◆  
 Bob Carrington, Seaford ◆  
 Dave Rose, Gainsborough ◆  
 Dan Williams, Cardiff ●

## DEATHS

Since the beginning of September the following have gone to be with the Lord. We pray for their families and thank God for their faithful service Him throughout their life:

Hilary Lygoe - Mission Community member

Dave O'Brien - Commissioned Evangelist

Jean Atkinson - wife of Commissioned Evangelist

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Church Army is a registered charity in England & Wales 226226, Scotland SC040457 and the Republic of Ireland 20152604. A Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales No. 37169; Company Branch registered in the Republic of Ireland No. 909766, Church Army (Ireland), Recentre Community Church, Sligo Centre of Mission, 3 Mail Coach Road, Sligo, F91 FK23.



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