

CA inFocus.

Issue 9

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Editorial Musings

Hello and Happy New Year!

Welcome to the first edition of Church Army's supporter magazine, CA inFocus, for 2025. Whether this is your first time reading our publication or you're a long-time supporter, I am thrilled to have you with us as we start the exciting chapter that is 2025! Your invaluable support is at the heart of everything we do, and I hope the stories in this issue inspire and encourage you.

For those new to CA inFocus, our aim is to tell stories of our work across the UK and Ireland – igniting faith and restoring lives.

Our mission is to share the love of God with people in practical and spiritual ways, building relationships, and bringing the light of Jesus into some of the darkest places. From uplifting personal journeys

to the remarkable impact of our projects and centres, each page is brimming with hope, heart and gratitude for the ways your generosity enables our mission to flourish.

For our regular readers, we are excited to bring you a mix of our much-loved regular features with fresh, inspiring content to keep you connected to the life-changing work you are helping to make possible. We want every story to leave you feeling proud, uplifted and deeply appreciated for your ongoing partnership in our cause.

I'm also delighted to introduce you to my colleague, Annie, who joins our team with

boundless enthusiasm and a passion for storytelling. Annie will be venturing into the heart of our work, discovering inspiring stories of transformation to share with you. Together, Annie and I hope to bring you closer to the incredible people and communities your support impacts.

Meet Annie

'I've been settling into my role as Stories Producer in the Church Army Comms Team since the end of September, and I've been learning all about Church Army, the people, places, mission and history. A lot of it is quite new to me, as I come from a very Methodist background and hadn't actually heard of Church Army until I saw the job vacancy, so hopefully I'm getting to grips with it now!

Before Church Army, I was working with the Methodist Church in the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), which works ecumenically with the Baptists and URC to help churches and individuals engage with issues of justice and peace, through learning, campaigning and interacting with policy makers and politicians. My work with JPIT was very much about trying to end social injustice through policy and system change, whereas with Church Army, we are more focused on supporting frontline work with people affected most by those social injustices. I'm finding it helpful and interesting to reflect on both approaches.

I am also part of the Iona Community, a dispersed ecumenical community working for justice and peace. I have lived on the Isle of Iona off the west coast of Scotland for five years of my life, most recently for two years working in the residential community at the Abbey where I lived intentionally together with a rhythm of worship alongside our work, with people from all over the world.

Both the Methodist Church and the Iona Community encourage and challenge me to be constantly putting my faith into action, and I'm looking forward to seeing how Church Army does this too, albeit in a slightly (and helpfully) different way.'

- Annie

By joining our army of hope, you're helping us make a real difference to lives across the UK and Ireland, creating lasting positive change. As we head into 2025, we will keep you connected with all the latest updates from the frontline of our work – made possible by your ongoing support. May this year bring you blessings and a deep sense of God's love as He walks with you.

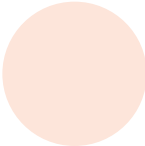
Thank you for being a vital part of this story of hope. Now, grab a cuppa, get comfortable, and enjoy the first edition of CA inFocus for 2025!



Sarah Waller
Editor

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


INFOCUS@CHURCHARMY.ORG



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**“...BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD
WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH.
THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES;
THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY,
THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.”**

Isaiah 40: 31



Neville Willerton
Director of Mission Operations

This verse from Isaiah means a lot to me, and it brings me hope when times are challenging. This verse is also a helpful reminder when I am running Parkrun on a cold and wet Saturday morning – that He is my strength!

However, this verse also reminds me that, as Church Army, we are bringers of hope to those who have not heard the Good News. We are bringers of hope for those who are overlooked, for the homeless, for those on our waterways not knowing where their next meal is coming from, for young people on an estate now attending a Missional Youth Church.

The kind of hope we bring in Church Army is practical. It has feet and runs after those in need, and it goes to the darkest of places. Church Army delivers practical hope that brings strength to those who feel weary and faint.

THE YEAR PASSED, THE YEAR TO COME

Looking back on 2024, it's been a year of change and transition. There have been elections in countries across the world, including the UK, and at Church Army we've welcomed a new CEO. In all these changes, we have remained steadfast in our mission to bring hope to hard places and to share God's light. With your support, we have been able to walk alongside thousands of individuals, showing them the unconditional love of God and accompanying them through difficult situations.

Despite the many positive changes we have seen, the harsh reality of poverty, inequality and suffering increases. 14.4 million people live in poverty in the UK and the cost-of-living crisis still affects so many lives. All too often, the voices of individuals from these vulnerable communities go unheard, and isolation and polarisation are getting worse. Our mission to share God's love in the darkest places continues to be absolutely critical:

- The number of people living in food-insecure households has increased by over 50%, to 7.2 million people (Government statistics).

We provided **33,400** meals or food parcels to individuals and families in need.

- 22.2 million people describe themselves as having no religion in the UK (ONS).

In the last year, over **32,000** people interacted with our Centres of Mission, with **500** people exploring faith, **750** people growing in faith and **190** people making faith commitments.

- Rough sleeping has increased by 27% in England (Crisis).

The Marylebone Project provided **40,100** nights of accommodation to women, and Ty Bronna provided **4,742** nights of accommodation to homeless young people.

- In England, 1 in 4 people experience a mental health problem each year (Mind).

In just three months, **66** people talked to our Waterways Chaplains about their mental health, and **5** people talked to them about suicidal thoughts.

- 4.2 million children, 3 in every 10, are living in poverty in the UK (JRF).

In the summer holidays, we facilitated over **400** hours of activity, helping **717** children and young people enjoy their school holidays.

In our Southampton Centre of Mission, Ruth Hills, Lead Evangelist, and her team provided two Summer Fun days, which reached 400 people. Children and their families took part in crafts and games, enjoyed cake and a tuck-shop, and many saw farm animals for the first time in the pop-up farm, featuring ducks, chickens, a donkey, sheep, goats and...a unicorn!



The families loved it. They love that the kids have got something to go back to school and talk about, when everybody else is talking about their holidays to Corfu or somewhere. Now, they can say they rode a unicorn or petted a donkey.

As we look towards 2025, we need to continue to keep those who are overlooked and vulnerable on our hearts and at the centre of our work, showing God's love to everyone and empowering them to positively transform their communities.

Like many others, we too have been affected by rising costs and financial struggles. We need your support to ensure the crucial services provided by our Centres and Projects around the UK can continue to help

vulnerable people in crisis. The Marylebone Project alone needs over £3 million a year to support hundreds of vulnerable women who otherwise wouldn't have a safe place to sleep.

Without your generosity, our vital work supporting individuals and communities would stop, leaving countless families, individuals and communities without practical help, hope or support.

This includes people like Kirsty, in Sheffield, who at our Attercliffe and Darnall Centre found faith, friendship and the determination to keep looking after her son. It also includes people like Joe, in Dundee, who was abused at school, homeless from the age of 17 and found solace in alcohol until he attended church one day and became part of the Pirate Monks recovery group. Joe has been able to find ways to forgive and has now been baptised! Our support also reaches people like Aisha, who comes to The Sanctuary at the Marylebone Project and has discovered she can have happiness, dreams and an exciting future in the fashion industry.

We will continue to work tirelessly, with your help, to reach more people and places with God's love, providing hope, transforming communities, igniting faith and restoring lives.

- Give thanks for the year passed and all the possibilities of the coming year.
- Pray for continued and increased support for our work so that more lives are transformed.
- Pray for all our staff and volunteers as they continue to work hard.
- Pray for an end of poverty, inequality and hardship. Pray that systems are changed to enable all people to flourish.

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**

WELCOME TO MATT BARLOW!

We're thrilled to introduce the newest member of the Church Army family – our new CEO, Matt Barlow!

Matt joined us in November and brings a wealth of leadership experience and a deep passion for sharing Jesus' love in both words and actions. Over his 21 years at Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – 14 of which he spent as CEO – Matt helped transform lives. He's also brought his expertise to Mary's Meals and made a big impact leading his local church community.

Since coming on board, Matt has been immersing himself in all things Church Army (and yes, his diary is already jam-packed!). But, very generously, he sat down with us for a quick chat to share a bit about himself and what he's most excited for in his new role as CEO.

What initially drew you to Church Army?

I have a strong belief and passion that the true Church of Jesus has a very special place for those who are battered and bruised by life, so Church Army really appealed to me because of the combination of social action and evangelism.

Too much of the church has been full of middle-class people. I think we need to actively work to be more inclusive, and the kind of Church that I think Jesus envisioned and imagined. That has been my heart for the last two to three decades.

I wouldn't dare to claim that I have the same heart as Wilson Carlike, because he is an absolute hero, but I'd like to think that we are on the same page.

How have you found Church Army in your first few weeks?

Has anything surprised you?

I have been pleasantly surprised at the great degree of connection I already feel, which is wonderful. I think everyone hopes to be made to feel welcome in any new role, but everyone I have met has been incredibly welcoming and vibrant. I have really enjoyed meeting everyone.





What are you most looking forward to in your role as CEO of Church Army?

There are a number of things I am looking forward to, but I really enjoy the combination of the tasks involved in a CEO role and bringing long spiritual leadership to that too. I really loved that element of my role during my time at CAP. We are here to make big decisions, but we also get to stop and pray about big decisions. We are not just here to achieve our charitable outcomes, but we are here to work towards God's goodness and beauty and to demonstrate that to the world. I am looking forward to being able to bring spiritual leadership to the role. Church Army is all about what happens on the frontline, and I hope that, in my time here, we can release more people to the frontline, support and encourage them, and work towards being the good news and taking the Good News to those who need it most. That's really exciting for me.

Can you tell us a little bit more about you and your background and what you were doing before joining Church Army?

I studied marketing at Lancaster University, and it was there that I met Jesus. He turned me from a money hungry capitalist into a passionate, Kingdom of God seeker. After university, I worked in the Dominican Republic for two years, where I worked in grassroots community development projects, which was fantastic. I then worked for the NHS within the information administration side of things before joining CAP, which was in its infancy at the time. I was at CAP for 21 years. For the last 14 of those, I served as CEO and international CEO.

While I was working at CAP, my wife and I, along with some friends, started a church

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plant, The Light Church, in the centre of Bradford. When my time at CAP came to an end, I moved into the full-time role of leading that church, which had a really strong heart for people bruised by life. I did that for about four years before I realised God's calling on my heart was to be a CEO. I enjoyed the challenge of church ministry, but I felt like I was a square peg in a round hole. And so, it was from there that I started my role as CEO at Mary's Meals, which was a short period of time, but then Church Army came up, and here we are!

It's wonderful that you have been involved in a church plant for a community of people who might have otherwise been overlooked. That is very much at the heart of what Church Army does – and now you are CEO of Church Army! Do you feel this is perhaps a demonstration of how God works?

Absolutely. There is so much complexity and challenge involved in being a church leader, and it has given me wonderful experience and insight coming into this role.

Can you tell us about someone who has been influential in your life and faith?

Tony Campolo has been really influential to me. He was, without doubt, the first person who truly helped me understand the fullness of the gospel and the fullness of what the Kingdom of God is all about. The way he taught and prioritised the words of Jesus had a huge impact on me. I became a Christian at 19,

and he was very influential for me when I was a young Christian. I never had the pleasure of hearing him preach live, but I've listened back to some of his work, and I would highly recommend people listen to him preaching or read some of his books. He has been a bit of a lifelong hero of mine.

Is there any particular part of Church Army that has resonated with you so far?

I've not been here long enough to have visited Projects or Centres, but I have had the pleasure of spending some time with the trainees at the last training weekend. It was wonderful knowing that through our training we are equipping Evangelists and Pioneers to go and make a difference in people's lives. Spending time with the trainees, having lunch and worshipping with them really hit the spot.



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If you had a whole day free, what would you do with it?

Okay, so I would wake up in a tent and, before anyone else was awake, I'd jump on my bike and go and cycle up a mountain. Then, I would sit around with a group of friends who are also camping with me, drink some coffee together and go for a big hike with everyone, which would end in a pub. We'd enjoy a few beers before spending the evening around a campfire, barbecuing some food and probably enjoying a few more drinks.

Is there anything you would like to say to Church Army supporters?

It's really early days in my leadership, but I can say that by supporting Church Army, you are supporting a fantastic team. The people are open and welcoming, and everyone is working to serve people and God. Church Army is a wonderful, Jesus honouring culture.

- Give thanks for Matt and the gifts and experience he brings to Church Army.
- Pray for Matt as he continues to settle into this role.
- Pray for all the staff as they get to know Matt and get used to his leadership.

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**



WALKING THE GREAT OUSE FOR A GREAT CAUSE

There are 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales alone, home to many different people and visited by many more. Our Waterways Chaplains walk the towpaths of these waterways, offering a listening ear and kindness, providing support for people who live and work across the waterways and also to walkers and visitors. There are over 100 Chaplains covering large parts of England and into Wales, responding to the people they encounter, building relationships and transforming lives. One of our Waterways Chaplains is Richard, who lives in East Anglia and has recently walked the length of the river Great Ouse – a huge 143 miles! – to raise money for, and awareness of, the Waterways Chaplaincy.

meet richard

The Priest in my local church first told me about the Waterways Chaplaincy, and, as a Waterways Chaplain himself, he suggested this as a role for me. With my long connection with boats as an offshore sailor, plus my long association with Church Army, it made a lot of sense to me. Soon I was accepted as a Probationary Chaplain, and eight months later, I was a fully licensed Chaplain.

I decided to walk and jog a distance equal to the length of the Great Ouse when Chris Upton, National Waterways Lead, encouraged us to find new sources of funds for the Chaplaincy. When I was 84, I walked the 84-mile length of Hadrian's Wall, so I checked the length of my local waterway, the Great Ouse, and reckoned its 143 miles would be doable in just two months.

As I walked in my Chaplaincy gilet and badge, I met people who were interested in what I was doing. One day, at Grafham Water, I encountered an elderly lady standing by her bike for a pause, and we started to chat. She asked me about my name badge, mentioning

she was a Christian, and I told her all about the Waterways Chaplaincy. She asked if she could walk with me for a few minutes, pushing her bike. 20 minutes later, after a delightful conversation about her life with Jesus, she set off for her campsite.

There are more people using the waterways today than at the height of the Industrial Revolution. The attractions of beautiful scenery and leisurely recreation draw many people to move onto the water as live-aboard boaters, often triggered by large





As Chaplains, we walk Britain's waterways, providing company, prayer and an essence of 'church' where there is none. Our witness is so important to waterways communities, who are too often overlooked.

changes, such as retirement or loss of a partner. It might seem idyllic at first, but for all kinds of reasons, the idyll can quickly shatter. Surviving on a boat in cold weather or floods, without power and with no income, can be a lonely and precarious situation, with none of the services we take for granted readily available.

As Chaplains, we walk Britain's waterways, providing company, prayer and an essence of 'church' where there is none. Our witness is so important to waterways communities, who are too often overlooked. Our motto is to be 'pastorally proactive and spiritually reactive.' My experiences as a Waterways Chaplain have included arranging food parcels, listening

to stories of abusive experiences, being empathetic with people having mental health and other health issues, and establishing a rapport with marinas and other waterside businesses to gain their trust.

I got to know someone who had started up a paddle-board business during the pandemic, and he told me about a live-aboard boater he was concerned about. I found the boat, and the boater had all kinds of issues and now knows I can be contacted whenever needed. He once texted me saying, "Just wanted to thank you again for all you've done for me. It means a lot."

- With the cost of living so high in London, many people look to live on boats there. Pray for the Chaplains there and that more Chaplains might join the London hub.
- As the Chaplaincy becomes more established across the network, pray that strong partnerships might be established between the Chaplaincy, marinas and boating community.
- It is hard work being a Waterways Chaplain. Pray that the churches that local Chaplains come from would value their waterside work and care for their chaplains.

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**

REIMAGINING CHURCH - THE MISSION OF MYCN

At MYCN, they take God's call to His Church seriously – to walk alongside young people wherever they are, in schools and in the places they live and spend their time. With the love of Jesus at the heart of everything they do, they share the Good News in ways that are relatable and culturally relevant, paving the way for new Missional Youth Churches (MYCs) to be pioneered and grown.

From the beginning of 2024, MYCN became part of the Church Army family. Through this partnership, they are thriving and expanding their reach.

The story of declining church attendance among young people is not the end of the narrative. At MYCN, they are helping write a new story. In reaching out to 11–18-year-olds with the Good News of Jesus, they are partnering with schools, local churches and community projects to reimagine and grow churches designed with and for young people.

The vision of MYCN is to see Missional Youth Churches flourishing across the UK and Ireland, empowering young people to discover Jesus in ways that resonate deeply with their own lives. Central to what they do is their Learning Community. Since its launch in 2020, this safe and supportive space has connected over 100 youth leaders, clergy, pioneers and school leaders from across the UK. Together, they engage in training, prayer, encouragement and shared wisdom to inspire and equip leaders as they build for the future. To date, 25 Missional Youth Churches have been established and continue to grow through this collaborative approach.

the impact of mycn – stories of transformation

The work of MYCN is changing lives and communities in powerful, tangible ways. Transform Youth Ministries (TYM) is a Missional Youth Church developed in partnership with the Greenwich Centre of Mission on the Abbey Wood estate in London. Through this initiative, stories of remarkable transformation have emerged. One young man, sent to prison at just 14 for armed burglary, discovered hope and a renewed purpose when he embraced faith with the support of TYM. His path, once marked by despair,

now leads towards a brighter, hope-filled future. Another young person, a former gang member, found a new sense of identity and community within the youth church. Where once he experienced a cycle of violence and isolation, he is now an enthusiastic and valued member of this vibrant and supportive group.

TYM has also become a sanctuary for young people with special needs. It offers them a space where they are met with unconditional love, encouragement and belonging. What was once a void of acceptance has been



We are more inspired than ever as we see young people being nurtured, empowered and transformed within their own communities.

transformed into a place where these young individuals thrive. Over the last year alone, 15 young people have regularly attended TYM's drop-in sessions and weekly faith discussion groups. Even more amazingly, eight young people are now preparing to take the next step in their faith through baptism!

Through innovative partnerships between schools, churches and community projects, new MYCs provide safe, nurturing environments where young people can grow in confidence, discover their purpose and take responsibility for their future – and for spreading the gospel in ways that resonate in their context. The team is constantly reviewing how technology can complement these relationships – whether through Zoom, social media or other evolving tools – without losing the personal touch of community.

The impact of TYM illustrates the extraordinary power of community, faith and collaboration. This is just one of the many ways MYCN continues to bring hope and healing to those most in need.

building the future, together

As the work of MYCN grows, so does the impact of Jesus in the lives of young people across the UK and Ireland. We are more inspired than ever as we see young people being nurtured, empowered and transformed within their own communities.

If your church community would like support in connecting with young people in innovative and exciting ways, you can find out more about MYCN at

mycn.org.uk

mycn

- Pray for young people as they navigate life in often complex and challenging circumstances.
- Pray for MYCN in its mission as it finds new ways to touch the lives of young people.
- Pray for TYM in its important witness and offering on the Abbey Wood estate, that more young people would find belonging and acceptance.

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**

NOW, MORE THAN EVER

Now, more than ever, people across the UK and Ireland are grappling with feelings of disconnection, isolation and being overlooked. At Church Army, we are unwavering in our mission to shine the light of Jesus into the darkest corners of society. Our work is rooted in walking alongside and loving those who are bruised by life's challenges, sharing God's unconditional love through both practical and emotional support.

This mission is the heartbeat of what we do, building on the rich legacy of our founder, Wilson Carlile – a visionary who empowered generations to take bold new steps in sharing the Good News with those overlooked in society. Like Carlile, we are unafraid to tread new ground, seeking innovative ways to bring hope, healing, and a sense of belonging to those in need. Through partnerships and collaboration, we continue to empower lives and nurture community connections, transforming lives across the UK and Ireland.

The need in our communities continues to grow, and so does our determination to reach those who have yet to encounter God's love. We are thrilled to partner with Premier Christian Radio in this mission, connecting with Christians who share our passion for spreading the gospel and inviting them to join our army of hope.

Last October, Premier Christian Radio showcased some truly incredible stories from lives impacted by Church Army's projects. Over two days, listeners across the UK heard personal accounts from individuals who have faced domestic violence, homelessness, substance misuse, and knife crime. These powerful testimonies highlighted extraordinary resilience and reminded us of the vital mission at hand.

We previously asked for your prayers as these stories ventured out across the airwaves, and you did not disappoint. Thanks to your prayers and support, over 150 people were moved by the real-life stories they heard and felt inspired to join our mission, becoming regular supporters. This response shows the impact of working together – your prayerful generosity empowers us to reach those in desperate need of God's love.



Thank you so much for your prayerful support. We were able to reach and connect with more people like you, our faithful supporters, who have a passion for sharing the Good News. You make it possible for us to continue our frontline work, serving those in need through the gospel of Jesus.

Paul Critchlow, Head of Fundraising



But the story doesn't end here. We're excited to share that Church Army will be featured once again on Premier Christian Radio, this time on 14 February, to share more inspirational stories and showcase the critical work being done across our projects, with a focus on the work we do with young people in our communities. This broadcast is another powerful opportunity to connect with individuals who are passionate about sharing God's love, encouraging them to join our mission and take their place in our army of hope.

We invite you to tune in and hear how your generosity has enabled real change for countless people, enabling us to ignite faith and restore lives. Together, we can continue to make a difference where it's needed most. Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey – your support truly changes lives.

Together, we can continue to walk alongside those who need it most and be a beacon of hope. Thank you for your support – through your help, we are making a lasting impact.

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer,
believe that you have received it, and it will be yours'*

Mark 11:24

- Give thanks for all donations and support, longstanding or new, who enable our work.
- Pray for the Fundraising Team as they work tirelessly to ensure the work of Church Army continues and grows.
- Pray for the Premier Appeal Day on 14 February, that stories of our work inspire people and prompt them to support Church Army.

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**

THE MARYLEBONE PROJECT

Church Army's Marylebone Project is transforming the lives of homeless women by providing expert support to help them restore their futures with dignity and hope. Through a wrap-around and trauma informed approach, the Marylebone Project offers safe accommodation, vital healthcare, and access to education – empowering women with the tools they need to rebuild their lives and regain independence.

An integral and innovative part of the project is The Sanctuary, London's only 24/7 drop-in centre tailored exclusively for homeless women. Here, safety and warmth are more than just words – they are a lifeline. From essential services to daily skills-building classes, The Sanctuary fosters a nurturing environment where women can rebuild their confidence, develop friendships, and rediscover a sense of identity often lost to the isolation and stigma of homelessness.

Every moment matters. Every woman matters. We aim to support women to overcome the barriers that so often leave them unseen and unheard.

the image of homelessness

It's easy to think of the stereotypical image – a man sleeping rough in a doorway, wrapped in a sleeping bag. But for homeless women, the reality is often far more hidden and far more complex.

Homeless women don't have a specific look, age, or characteristic. They are daughters, mothers, sisters, friends, colleagues. Women who, for countless reasons, have found themselves without a safe place to call home. Unlike some visible rough sleepers, many homeless women are concealed from public view – sofa surfing with precarious arrangements, seeking refuge in 24-hour bus shelters, or riding night buses in a bid to stay safe.

And safety is a real and pressing concern. Research shows that 25% of rough-sleeping women have been victims of violent sexual

attacks*. Behind the hidden nature of women's homelessness lies an urgent need for understanding, support and protection.

At The Marylebone Project, it's not just about providing vital practical and emotional support to homeless women – it's about reframing the narrative surrounding homelessness altogether. It's about challenging stereotypes and redefining how society views and treats women experiencing homelessness.

We believe that every woman, regardless of her circumstances, is deserving of dignity, respect and love. Every woman is part of our community and a testament to God's creation. Homelessness may take away someone's security, but it should never take away their humanity.

*Crisis



*Every moment matters.
Every woman matters.*



THE MARYLEBONE PROJECT

donate warmth. create hope. make a difference.

On Tuesday 3 December, Naga Munchetty revisited the Marylebone Project's inspiring journey with BBC 5 Live, meeting Honey J Walker at her poignant photography exhibition at Yield Gallery. They reflected on the transformative 2021 BBC 5 Live broadcast that first connected Honey to the project. Deeply moved by the stories shared, Honey became an active volunteer, donor and Ambassador. Her exhibition now serves as a powerful fundraiser and a celebration of the often unseen work of the staff at the Marylebone Project.

If you'd like to listen back, you can find it online on BBC Sounds.

made in marylebone

Our social enterprises, Made in Marylebone and Munch, are at the heart of our mission at The Marylebone Project. These initiatives offer event spaces and catering services – but they serve as so much more than that, they are opportunities to create meaningful change.

Through these enterprises, women facing homelessness can learn valuable cooking skills, obtain recognised qualifications, gain

CV-boosting experience, and build the confidence to live independently. It's not just about hospitality; it's about empowerment, growth, and breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Meet Isabella, one of the women supported by The Marylebone Project, who has been thriving as part of the Munch initiative.



I love working with Munch because I enjoy cooking and trying new recipes. It's also my way of saying thank you to the people who've been helping us.

-isabella



are you next to an angel?

On Tuesday 3 December, Naga Munchetty revisited the Marylebone Project's inspiring journey with BBC 5 Live, meeting Honey J Walker at her poignant photography exhibition at Yield Gallery. They reflected on the transformative 2021 BBC 5 Live broadcast that first connected Honey to the project. Deeply moved by the stories shared, Honey became an active volunteer, donor

and Ambassador. Her exhibition now serves as a powerful fundraiser and a celebration of the often unseen work of the staff at the Marylebone Project.

If you'd like to listen back, you can find it online on BBC Sounds.

- Give thanks for the incredible and inspiring work that takes place at the Marylebone Project.
- Pray that all women facing homelessness find safety and stability.
- Pray that people are generous with donations this winter, to help vulnerable women stay warm.
- Pray for the staff, volunteers and women at the Marylebone Project, that they have strength to continue to share God's love in this way.

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**

JOIN OUR ARMY OF HOPE

As we're navigating through the New Year with all the new opportunities and fresh starts, I wanted to briefly introduce myself as a new team member here at Church Army. My role focuses on supporting and growing our partnerships with local churches.

With over 22 years of experience in ordained pastoral leadership in churches, I really appreciate all the hard work and dedication church families invest in their life together and ministries. In my first few months, it's been a privilege connecting with churches who share our passion for the gospel and have so generously supported Church Army during the Christmas season or are planning to during the season of Lent.

Looking ahead to Lent and beyond, if your church would like to hear about the difference partnering with Church Army makes to some of the most marginalised and disadvantaged people and communities, get in touch with our Supporter Engagement Team and we'll arrange a speaker to come along to your small group, PCC or Sunday service.

Or as you look forward to the new year, if your small group or church is wanting to grapple with questions around faith, or talk and more confidently about Jesus and their faith, we've developed some accessible and easy to use courses – Faith Pictures, Faith Questions and Faith Shared, which are free and can be easily downloaded from our website.

I'm really looking forward to building even stronger partnerships with churches, enabling God's restoring and transforming love to be encountered in marginalised and deprived communities, while also helping churches to be encouraged and equipped to reach out and engage their neighbours and communities with that same transformational love.

If you're interested in a speaker, our courses, or want to talk about how we could partner with your church, I'd love to hear from you. Just get in touch via email at ian.heath@churcharmy.org or phone 0114 252 1636, I'd love to talk further.

If you'd like to make a donation, we need generous, like-minded people and churches to join us in restoring hope to people and communities across the UK and Ireland. Partner with us, as together we can stand against the rising tide of poverty and the decline of faith.

There are a number of suitable and easy ways to support us so please don't wait to make your donation.

Ian Fundraising & Engagement Lead

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Send your cheque made payable to “Church Army” to:

Church Army,
Wilson Carlile Centre,
50 Cavendish Street,
Sheffield,
S3 7RZ

Phone

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Could your church add us
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A gift in your will

Contact Rachael to find out how
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We have recently updated our Privacy Policy. You can find and review the latest version here churcharmy.org/privacy-notice or contact our Supporter Care team on **0300 131 9200** to request a copy.

Thank you

for your generosity and partnership in the
Gospel – igniting faith and restoring lives across
the UK and Ireland.

WORLD SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

World Social Justice Day, 20 February

The United Nations World Day of Social Justice, observed on 20 February, highlights the importance of promoting social justice. It focuses on addressing major issues, like poverty, inequality, climate change, human rights, and war and conflict.

what is social justice?

Social justice involves four essential interconnected aspects:

1. **Human rights:** The foundation of social justice, human rights are standards that all human beings should live with, including the right to life, food, safety, education, work and health.
2. **Access to essentials:** Linked to human rights, this ensures everyone can easily access necessities, like food, healthcare, education and a safe place to live. Barriers to these essentials based on characteristics like race, age, gender, ability, wealth or sexuality should be dismantled.
3. **Participation:** Crucial for social justice, participation determines whose voices are heard. Everyone should have an equal opportunity to be heard, and any barriers preventing active participation must be removed.
4. **Equity:** Focused on fairness and redistribution, equity recognises differing experiences and needs, tailoring provisions to these differences rather than enforcing equality.

why does this matter for church army?

At Church Army, most of our work is supporting people who feel overlooked by society. These people live with the reality of many of the social injustices that mar lives, such as homelessness, poverty, gender inequality, racism, violence and more. We put our faith into action and work for social justice by providing services to vulnerable people, working in struggling communities and showing people they are loved.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to live like him. Jesus' whole life was about seeking social justice. He did this by preaching about loving our neighbours, eating with outcasts, standing up to corruption and authority, favouring the poor and marginalised and stirring up social norms.

When Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth, he chose to read these words from Isaiah:

'He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Luke 4:16-19

This is sometimes called Jesus' manifesto because it describes how he lived his whole life. It is also what Church Army aspires to do: to be Good News to the poor. 'Poor', in this sense, means outcasts, sinners and all those blighted by injustice, so really it encompasses all of us. God consistently shows a bias to the poor – as evidenced here in Jesus's words, and Church Army's work aims to do this, too. We do this through our work with homeless women and young people at the Marylebone Project and Ty Bronna, through the provision of food parcels and meals to families who would otherwise go hungry, through our work with young people involved in gangs, our support for people struggling with addiction, by providing safety and community for women affected by the sex industry at the Ruby Project, and by showing people they are

loved at all of our Centres of Mission. All these demonstrate how Church Army is working for social justice and aspiring to follow the example of Jesus.

Church Army shares God's unconditional love, bringing hope to those who have yet to hear the Good News. Our mission bonds evangelism with the pursuit of social justice – both being inseparable elements vital to our work. We advocate for social justice because we believe everyone is created in God's image and should have the opportunity to flourish. This is central to the teachings of Jesus and our evangelism efforts. True flourishing and living as God intends can only be achieved when social justice prevails, and, as Christians, we are called to work towards this vision.

- Pray for social justice to be achieved everywhere so that all people can flourish as God intended.
- Pray for charities, campaigners and frontline workers who actively work to end inequality and move towards social justice.
- Pray that all people would have access to the essentials they need for a good life and that any barriers would be dismantled.
- Pray for God's strength for each of us as we aspire to live like Jesus and put social justice at the heart of our lives and faith.

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**

76 YEARS OF SUPPORT

In 1882, Wilson Carlile founded Church Army with a heartfelt mission to bring the Good News of Jesus to those unlikely to step inside a church. He empowered Christian men and women to spread God's love to those in greatest need – a mission that remains at our heart today. The impact of Church Army is visible not only through our projects and Centres but also through many of our dedicated supporters, some of whom have wonderful stories of how Church Army has been a special part of their lives. One such supporter is Iris Lloyd. Now aged 93, Iris has been supporting Church Army for 76 years.

meet iris

I have great affection for Church Army and many happy memories. I first became aware of Church Army when, at the age of 17, I gave my life to Jesus and joined the youth club at All Saints, Queensbury. The war had not long been over, and my family and I had returned from evacuation. The parish was the largest in north-west London, mostly young families on a new estate.

The leader of our youth club was Revd. Bill Carlile, grandson of Wilson Carlile, founder of Church Army. One story I heard about Wilson was that he came into church one day and found one of the Brothers-in-Training leaping over the pews. When the young man told him that he had just led his first person to Jesus, Wilson replied, "Then have another jump! Have another jump!"

The leader of the youth club during the war had been the curate Revd. Donald Lynch, a supporter of Church Army. When he left the parish, he became head of Church

Army training college, eventually leading the organisation for 16 years. Church Army Brothers and Sisters were frequently on our church staff, so we were used to having them around.



I have great affection for Church Army and many happy memories.

I joined the weekly News Team, a Church Army initiative, and went round knocking on doors, explaining that the vicar could not visit everyone and that we were there in his place. It

was scary because I was only 18 at the time, but we never had doors shut in our faces. I was especially privileged to arrange home communion for someone who died not long afterwards.

The headquarters of CA at that time were at Marble Arch, and I attended an evangelistic weekend there. On the Sunday morning, we were all marched across to Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park. We were encouraged to step on the podium and address the crowd.





I am now 93 years old, and my memories of Church Army and the training I received at All Saints, Queensbury, have been like a powerhouse to me and my faith over the years.

I've forgotten what I said, but one young lady, who had been very nervous, managed to say, "God is love and he loves you!" before stepping down. It was enough to cause a gentleman from the crowd to come and ask questions of the Sisters.

One year, the whole male training college came for a mission to our parish and were housed by various members of the congregation. That was a great week! Getting on for fifty years later, on a call to Church Army, I happened to mention this to the person answering the phone, only to be told

to the delight of both of us that he had been one of those young men!

I am now 93 years old, and my memories of Church Army and the training I received at All Saints, Queensbury, have been like a powerhouse to me and my faith over the years.



PRAYER INFOCUS

- Pray for children and youth ministries across the church and for young people to become involved in faith and develop a connection with Church Army.
- Pray for those who have a long-standing connection with Church Army, that they would continue to feel connected and valued.
- Pray that those who have lost contact with Church Army over the years would feel encouraged to reconnect and engage with us.
- Pray for the incredible and innovative work of Wilson Carlile to be remembered in all we do.
- Pray that all those who support us with their time, prayers and finances would know how grateful we are to them.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is marked annually on 8 March, simultaneously celebrating the achievements of women and raising awareness about gender inequality and discrimination. The first International Women's Day was celebrated in 1911 and was supported by over a million people. Today, it's marked all around the world in different ways by different people, groups and organisations. The day, the actions and the positive attitudes that surround it help to empower women and people of all genders to accelerate action for women's equality and empowerment.

For International Women's Day 2025, we would like to focus on the incredible work that goes on at the Ruby Project. The Ruby Project empowers and supports women who have been affected by the sex industry. The team run a welcoming drop-in, providing emotional support, meals, food parcels, clothes and washing facilities – it's the only female-only wash space in the area. They also do night outreach in red-light areas where they meet women and provide practical support, like food, toiletries and clothing, and offer prayer. As well as this, the team also provide support for women to attend appointments at other agencies, relating to accommodation, healthcare and family. Once women are placed in safe and secure accommodation and no longer require the support from the drop-in, the team offer support in the community, helping them settle and navigate these different needs and situations.

*meet lucy**

One of these women is Lucy,* who has been known to the project for years. Lucy worked on the street and in brothels, but now she no longer engages in sex work. She is also free from substance misuse and has regained contact with her family. She's been resettled into her own accommodation, and the team are continuing to support Lucy in her community. Lucy responded to Alpha and gave her heart to Jesus. Here, the team tell us a bit more about how they've been exploring discipleship with her.

"We asked Lucy if she would be interested in looking at discipleship, and she was keen. She's a very intelligent woman with

a real passion for justice, especially female justice. We decided to look at women in the Bible together. Because of her trauma and experiences, she sees some things differently.



We were able to talk to her about how Jesus is God, and how Jesus showed love and kindness to so many women.

She told me she struggles with the Old Testament because of the way women are treated, so we looked at how God treated women in the New Testament. We were able to talk to her about how Jesus is God, and how Jesus showed love and kindness to so many women, like the bleeding women who others were avoiding. Lucy found a list of women she wanted to look at in the Bible, and we started with Ruth."



At the Ruby Project, women are invited to share about faith, experience and spirituality. The team share the unconditional love of God with all the women who come across the project, either through words, actions or both.

At the Ruby Project, women are invited to share about faith, experience and spirituality. The team share the unconditional love of God with all the women who come across the project, either through words, actions or both. Many of the women actively seek prayer, and the dedicated prayer space at the drop-in is well used. There is also a fellowship group for women to deepen their understanding of

Jesus and to strengthen their relationship with God.

The work at the Ruby Project empowers women by showing them dignity, respect and love. It supports them to find safe and stable ways to live independently and free from sexual exploitation – something to celebrate on International Women’s Day.

*name and some information changed to protect identity

To find out more about The Ruby Project visit:

churcharmy.org/ruby



The
RUBY
Project

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**

- Pray for a better understanding of the reasons why some women have no choice but to enter the sex industry.
- Pray for those who struggle with the trauma of being impacted by the sex industry, that they may feel the unwavering love of God and begin to understand their intrinsic value.
- Pray for God's healing power to continue to rest on the woman the Ruby Project has supported through her hospital journey, from ICU to unexpected recovery.
- Pray for those women who will be facing 2025 alone, that they will sense God's presence with them and love of Jesus for them.
- Pray for the Ruby Project Evangelists, that the love of Christ may be known in their beautiful acts of service.

RESTORING COASTAL LIVES

Our Centre on the coast of North Wales, in collaboration with the Diocese of St Asaph, proudly serves Abergele and nearby Pensarn, home to over 11,000 residents. This charming market town is predominantly populated by retirees, with more retirement bungalows and private rented flats than the national average in Wales. While a seaside retirement might seem idyllic, for many, it brings isolation, loneliness and depression. Living far from family with limited nearby amenities can make it challenging for older residents to connect with their neighbours and for vulnerable individuals to find acceptance and a sense of belonging.

But there is hope. Church Army's Jo Leslie, commissioned as a Church Army Evangelist in 2021, works tirelessly with dedicated volunteers, the Canolfan Dewi Sant Centre (CDSC) and other local initiatives. Together, they offer Christian love and outreach to those in Pensarn and beyond, fostering connections and community spirit.

Since launching the Centre in April 2022, they have seen positive changes in the local area. God is at work through Jo and the team, who are dedicated to building community and helping local people become an integral part of it. They strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment that builds connection and supportive relationships. Jo and the team deliver a full programme of opportunities and activities, and they've created space for fellowship and faith exploration for local people, fostering a wonderful feeling of togetherness and a vibrant community.

meet penny

In recent years, Penny has struggled with feelings of loneliness and isolation, which have really taken a toll on her mental health. But through Church Army, Penny has found community and has met with Jesus. The change has been such a positive experience for her.



Things have been really bad for me, particularly mental health problems and loneliness. It's awful - feeling nobody loves you and nobody cares, and some people round here don't see anybody from one Monday to the next. But Church Army has changed that here for us. They care for the whole person spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally. I have a community now, and I know Jesus is here. Church Army has brought us life.

Penny



There's not a lot of positivity going around, but The King's Table is such a good thing. It makes my day coming here.

martin

The King's Table is a heartwarming initiative started by Jo in coastal North Wales to combat loneliness and isolation. Every week, a free community meal gives local residents an opportunity to gather around the table. This isn't just about sharing food — it's about forging friendships and giving everyone something to look forward to.

Volunteers, many of whom face their own struggles, come together to prepare these meals. For them, The King's Table offers a sense of purpose and a place of acceptance and belonging. In a time when the cost-of-living weighs heavily on many, this initiative provides sustenance and hope.

meet martin

While living in the area, Martin has struggled with isolation and loneliness. But meeting Jo and going to The King's Table has been a real lifeline for him. It has given Martin a place to develop friendships and to see the love of God shared in practical and uplifting ways.

Each week, the Centre offers a range of events for the local community, plus practical support and advice. Some of these events are crucial to those who come along, providing solace and fellowship and encouraging a restorative relationship with Jesus. There is a community café open to everyone and a group for those over 55, which provides an essential opportunity to start friendships and beat loneliness. There are also regular housing advice drop-in services, which provide essential support for those who may be experiencing problems and need expert advice. The weekly fellowship, faith and worship services provide safe spaces to ask questions and grow closer to God. It is only through the continued generosity of our wonderful supporters that we can provide these crucial facilities in communities like this and reach those who may be vulnerable or overlooked and share with them the unwavering love of God.

- Pray for those who connect with Jesus through our Centres of Mission. Pray they will know the unwavering love of God.
- Pray for those who feel disconnected, isolated or lonely. Pray they would be welcomed into communities where they feel accepted and a sense of belonging.
- Pray for our Evangelists and volunteers working hard to develop and run services and activities for those who are most in need. Pray they will feel inspired, refreshed and valued.

**PRAYER
INFOCUS**

PIONEERING PARTNERSHIPS IN THE EMERALD ISLE

Church Army has been deeply connected with Ireland for years, with five vibrant Centres of Mission across the island – three in the Republic of Ireland and two in Northern Ireland. This connection has grown stronger with the exciting announcement of our official partnership with the Church of Ireland and its Pioneer Ministry initiative as of summer 2024.

reaching the unreached

Pioneer Ministry is a forward-thinking movement within the Church of Ireland, aiming to connect with individuals who have little to no relationship with the church. Together, we will inspire and equip volunteers and paid pioneers to share the good news of Jesus Christ in fresh, creative ways. Church Army will contribute to this powerful mission by training pioneers in collaboration with the Church of Ireland Theological Institute.

a snapshot of our centres of mission

Cork – Launched in 2021, in partnership with the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne & Ross and The Carraig Centre, this centre focuses on youth work, community outreach and inspiring worship activities, led by seasoned evangelists Matt Gould and Sarah-Louise Hockey.

Kildare – Opened in 2022, the Kildare Centre of Mission, led by Evangelist Philip McKinley, is driving innovation by connecting with cathedral visitors and shaping new worshipping communities across Meath and Kildare.

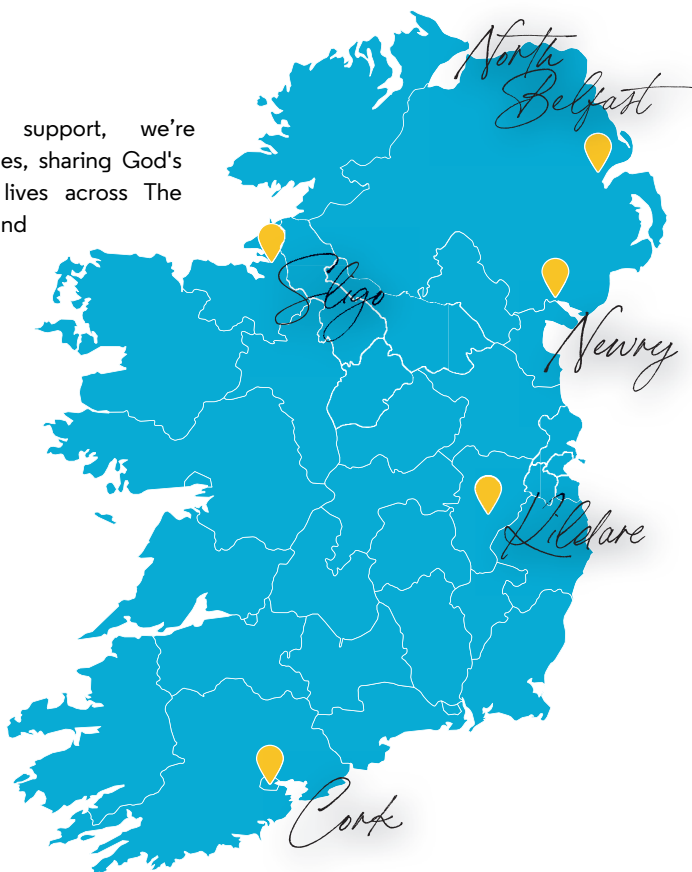
Sligo – Relunched in 2021, the Sligo Centre is home to ReCentre Community Church, a vibrant expression of faith. Alan Williamson and Hannah O’Neill lead the way, building a stronger youth and community connection.

Newry – Strategically located near the border, this Centre brings peace and reconciliation through outreach and support, catering to the young and often challenging dynamics of this area, led by Scott McDonald and Natalie Trainor.

North Belfast – Over the past decade, the Centre on Shankill Road has impacted countless lives through school ministry, community engagement, prayer walks, and street outreach, led by our evangelists Karen Webb and Ste Fitzgerald.



Together, with your support, we're strengthening communities, sharing God's love, and empowering lives across The Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.



PRAYER INFOCUS

- Pray for the relationships between Church Army and partners across the island of Ireland to continue and to flourish.
- Pray that each person who connects with Church Army throughout Ireland will feel the love of God through our work.
- Pray for the Church Army Evangelists and volunteers who are working across Ireland to feel energised, supported and inspired to continue their crucial work.
- Pray for those across Ireland who are yet to know God, that their hearts will be touched and they may enter into a loving relationship with Jesus.

BELONGING: A REMEDY FOR MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

Mental health challenges affect millions across the UK and Ireland. Statistics reveal that 1 in 4 people in England face a mental health problem annually, and 1 in 6 experience issues such as anxiety or depression each week*. Alarming trends show a sharp increase in those seeking support, with England's mental health services receiving a record-breaking 5 million referrals in 2023**. Similarly, Scotland has reported its highest figures yet, and other regions across the UK and Ireland share these concerning upward trends.

Amidst growing demand, resources and funding are stretched, creating longer waiting times that leave many people feeling unseen, unsupported and alone. At Church Army, we stand committed to offering both practical and spiritual support, creating a vital sense of belonging for those battling mental health difficulties.

why community matters

Research consistently shows the power of connection in addressing mental health challenges. Community hubs allow people to form meaningful relationships and engage in community projects creating a sense of purpose.

Creating an 'open door culture' – where mental wellbeing is openly discussed and personal experiences are shared – helps to combat stigma and reminds everyone that mental health affects us all.

Through our work at Church Army, we spread the unwavering and unconditional love of God while fostering meaningful, local connections. By offering community, hope and faith, we strive to ignite faith and restore lives.

making an impact through faith and fellowship

Time to Talk Day, held on 6 February, is the UK and Ireland's largest mental health conversation initiative, encouraging open and honest discussions to address the growing complexity of mental health issues. At Church Army, we go beyond conversations. Our Evangelists and volunteers actively engage in reaching out to those in need, building safe, accepting communities where transformation is not just hoped for but realised.

Evangelist Ruth Hills, works tirelessly at our Southampton Centre of Mission, creating spaces for fellowship and belonging that support people struggling with mental health and feelings of isolation.

stephen's story

Stephen, a local resident who has struggled with his mental health shares how the support he found at the Southampton Centre of Mission helped transform his life.



I suffer from social anxiety, general anxiety, depression—loads of things I've struggled with for many years. Since coming here, my general mood and social anxiety haven't been as bad. I think a lot of places have lost that kind of community feel, but it's so important for people's mental health. I really wish there were more places like this. Church Army is incredible and has helped me through dark days.

building a movement of hope

Like Stephen, many individuals are searching for connection and hope. By creating a community strengthened by faith and meaningful support, we can help even more people rediscover purpose and combat loneliness. We know Jesus transforms lives and communities, and through practical initiatives, safe spaces and emotional support, we encourage people to explore their faith and find healing.

be part of the solution

Whether it's through encouraging honest conversations, supporting one of our projects or centres, volunteering, or donating, you can make a real difference in building life-saving communities. Together, we can ensure no one feels alone in their struggles.

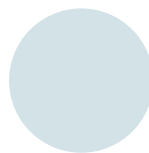
*Mind (1 in 4)

**House of Commons Library - commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06988

PRAYER INFOCUS

- Pray for all those who experience mental health struggles, that they find the support they need.
- Pray that mental health services are better funded and resourced, for waiting lists to get shorter and for more people to receive the help they need.
- Pray for our Evangelists and volunteers who offer support, a listening ear and community to people, helping transform the lives of people who are struggling.

FAMILY MATTERS



The town of Chatham, in Kent, has roots going back to the 1500s, when it developed around the local dockyard. Unfortunately, Thatcher's spending cuts in 1984 meant the dockyard closed, having an enormous impact on the local community. The town attracts large numbers of commuters because of its excellent transport links with London, but this influx has pushed local housing costs way above the UK average.

The local community faces economic pressure, and the number of single parent families and people claiming Universal Credit are both higher than the national average. 17% of children live in low-income families, and, sadly, almost 0.5% of children are in care across Kent.* Evangelist Helen Kiralfy and the team at our Medway Centre are responding to the needs of the local community facing these challenges. The vision is to be a beacon of light and love to the people of Chatham and surrounding towns by offering open church, drop-ins and opportunities to explore faith. They provide support and safe spaces for people who have experience of the care system, sharing the unconditional love of God.

meet helen

For twenty years, I worked with a firm of solicitors dealing mainly with family care. I saw people coming back time and time again, with child after child being taken into care. I saw how many people had either been through the care system themselves or had children who had, or often both, and there was no support for these people, so we knew we had to do something.



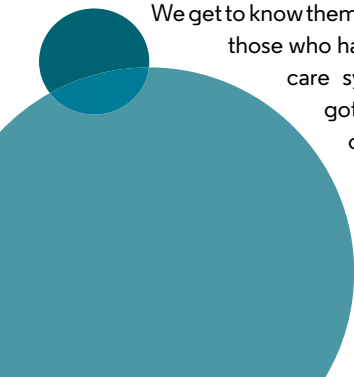
They haven't got the safety net that others have, and they're looking for unconditional love, so we try to provide that.

to provide that. One lady who comes to the Centre is pregnant with her fifth baby, and there's a chance she might be able to take him home from hospital when she has him. She just doesn't understand why she can't keep her children or what there is in her lifestyle that means the children are at risk. Her lifestyle

is completely normal to her because that's all she's ever known. She has been completely unsupported throughout her life.

We get to know them as people, especially those who have gone through the care system. They haven't got the safety net that others have, and they're looking for unconditional love, so we try

In Medway, the need is so great, and services are overwhelmed. What we've seen through supporting some of the mums is that they get support from social workers, solicitors and so on, throughout the process of social services intervention, but that ends as soon as the child is taken into care. The child, quite rightly,





We are determined to change things. We know that God's love is transformative, and we want to share that with those who need it most.

will get support, but that's it for the parents. They've just been told they're unfit and not capable of looking after their child and are left to get on with life. We're supporting parents who have gone through the trauma of child removal. We offer love, and we talk about how God responds to the feelings of shame and guilt they have and some of the scars they carry. Importantly, we talk about forgiveness and how part of that is forgiveness of self.

One couple we support have just had a baby. Both have had social services involvement in the past, but I think social services are now

happy with their progress. The mum has been coming to our group, and we've been supporting them as church and as family. They've now found a place where they can find the family and love they haven't had.

We are determined to change things. We know that God's love is transformative, and we want to share that with those who need it most.

*All figures from the District Profiles from Kent County Council




PRAYER INFOCUS

- Pray for the communities in Chatham and the surrounding areas.
- Pray for all people affected by the care system, that they may know love, acceptance and belonging.
- Pray for the work of the Medway Centre of Mission in supporting struggling parents and sharing God's love.

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

Church Army could not do all that we do without the ongoing faithful prayer of our supporters, and we give thanks for all those who support us in this way.

Each quarter we offer a different list of names of people. Some are Commissioned Evangelists (working or retired) identified by CA after their name, others are members of the Mission Community, or employed staff, as at the start of December 2024.

Please remember these people in your daily prayers for each day of the month, and start again at the beginning of each month.

Captain Neil Thomson CA - Chaplaincy Team

day 1

Michael Ackroyd, Sheffield
 Christine Goodger CA, Northampton
 Maureen Greaves CA, Sheffield
 Kia Macpherson CA, Hull
 Andrew Payne CA, Sheffield

day 3

Neville Barnes CA, Sheffield
 Elizabeth Cairns CA, Craigavon
 Frances Grieve, Chorley
 Damien Hine CA, Huntingdon

day 5

Meg Borges, Cardiff
 Sheila Brown, Kent
 Steven Colby, Calne
 Nicholas Lebey CA, Surbiton

day 7

Eric Lomax CA, Kempston
 Jonny Price, York
 Helen Reynolds CA, Sheffield
 David Waters CA, Peterborough

day 9

Jenni Keen, Sheffield
 Helen Kiralfy CA, Rochester
 Robert Lowe CA, Llanelli
 Miranda Okon CA, London

day 11

Wendy Hooper, Ipswich
 Paul Niemiec CA, Headington
 Emma Rodrigues CA, Donoughmore
 Rachael Rook-Williams, Sheffield

day 2

Michael Cooper, Maidstone
 Dianne Hanna, Kilkeel
 Janice Quarton CA, Alfreton
 Trevor Shaw CA, Telford
 Isabel Willerton, Shrewsbury

day 4

Paul Critchlow, Newquay
 Tim Hyde CA, Southampton
 Kevin Metcalfe CA, Wimborne
 Grace Wylde, Bridgend

day 6

Christine Baul, Plymouth
 Richard Cooke CA, Selby
 Susan Way, Plymouth
 Cherith Withington CA, Wigan

day 8

Eric Atkinson CA, Woking
 David Collier CA, Burton-On-Trent
 Rita Metcalfe CA, Wimborne
 Karen Webb CA, Lisburn NI

day 10

Mary A'Herne-Smith CA, Melton Mowbray
 Pete Allen CA, Saffron Walden
 Gerry Bowyer CA, Westhill
 Theresa Pountney CA, London

day 12

Gill Bew, Cardiff
 Susan Burrowes CA, Belfast
 Tracey Needham, Ipswich
 Jenny Taylor CA, Dereham

day13

Stuart Budden CA, Norwich
 Lorraine Dixon CA, Birmingham
 John Pratt CA, St Columb
 Malcolm Thompson CA, Telford
 Andy Walker CA, Kinross

day15

Sandra Nichols CA, Sheffield
 James Njue CA, Gloucester
 Anne Williams CA, Sunderland
 Jack Wright, Wrexham

day17

Brian Daines, Sheffield
 Marjorie Griffin CA, Liverpool
 Steve Hollinghurst, Sutton Coldfield
 Peter Watson CA, Andover

day19

Joyce Bray CA, Hull
 Edward Graham-Hyde, Sheffield
 Rose Hudson-Wilkin CA,
 Bishop of Dover
 Emma Sivyver, Royston

day21

Neil Biles, Weymouth
 Jon Clarke, Ashford
 Andy Crooks CA, March
 Phoebe Leaver, Sheffield

day14

Christopher Chesters CA, Rotherham
 Jeremy Dillon, Birmingham
 Lyn Mitchell CA, Bolton
 Paul Rose CA, Penrith
 Nic Sheppard CA, Wetherby

day16

Phil Baul CA, Plymouth
 Peter Cowley CA, Prescott
 Linda Duckers CA, Warwick
 Patrick Samuels CA, Godalming

day18

Stephen Colver CA, Sheffield
 Nick Green CA, Chesterfield
 Yvonne Hayes CA, Sheffield
 Charlie Kosla, Chigwell

day20

Sian John CA, Sheffield
 Andy Milne CA, Bradford
 Sylvia Pringle CA, Newton Abbot
 Derek White CA, London

day22

Phil Brown CA, Sheffield
 Barrie Glover CA, Portsmouth
 Sylvia Maidment, Stourbridge
 Maria Seaman CA, Wellingborough

day 23

Christopher McCarthy CA, Wirral
 Christine Murray, King's Lynn
 Pam Reeves CA, Stewkley
 Margaret Rittman, Woodbridge

day 24

Richard Beadle CA, Dunamanagh
 Dawn Hudson CA, Gateshead
 Christine Muzzall, Spain
 John Smith CA, Holmfirth

day 25

Steve Hunt CA, Emsworth
 Rachel Marlow, Wallington
 Roger Murphy CA, Seaford
 Elizabeth Shearcroft CA, Taunton

day 26

Alan Cooper CA, Nottingham
 Tim Ling, Sheffield
 Trevor Myatt, Witham
 Paul Ward CA, Nottingham

day 27

Bernard Allen CA, Broadstairs
 Val Fernandez CA, Caerphilly
 Aidan Greenwood CA, Halifax
 Philip Slater CA, Plymouth

day 28

Lynne Bone CA, Rugby
 Jerry Garton CA, Shoreham-by-Sea
 Rachel Smallwood, Sheffield
 Valerie Thom CA, Dungannon

day 29

Kelvin Bolton CA, Wigan
 Pauline Connelly CA, Bridlington
 Ian Heath, Sheffield
 Myrtle Morrison CA, Newcastle NI

day 30

Bob Carrington CA, Seaford
 Sandra Davies CA, Cannock
 Sarah Louise Hockey, Coachford
 Dave Rose CA, Gainsborough

day 31

Pete Bone CA, Rugby
 Terry Drummond CA, Otley
 Andrew Housley CA, Ormskirk
 Dorothy Needham CA, Bolton

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