IMPACT REPORT
2018/19

A look back through the year
WHAT DOES CHURCH ARMY DO?

Our vision is for everyone everywhere to encounter God’s love, and be empowered to transform their communities through faith shared in words in action.

We tell people about Jesus. By going beyond church buildings to address needs through social action, we are able to make a difference among some of the most vulnerable, marginalised and hurting people throughout the UK and Ireland.

WELCOME FROM DES

It’s my pleasure to introduce this year’s Impact Report which will give you some insight into the scope of the life-changing work that our teams are doing across the UK and Ireland.

Church Army has a rich history of taking risks, rolling up its sleeves and getting stuck in; standing alongside those in need and living out the gospel to ensure that everyone we meet encounters God’s love and is empowered to transform their communities through faith shared in word and action.

Whether it is working with people who are homeless, struggling with self-harm, helping communities in poverty or inspiring young people to find their passion, our teams are making a difference to the lives of thousands.

It has been an exciting year; we have grown as an organisation, meaning we have been able to reach more people and we have some ambitious plans for further development coming up. The outstanding scope of our work is only possible because you choose to stand with us and support our work financially and in prayer. I am thankful to you for our partnership in the gospel and hope that this report is an encouragement and an inspiration to you.

Yours in Christ

Des Scott
Interim Chief Executive Officer
NEW CENTRES OF MISSION

This year we launched four new centres of mission in Blackpool, Hackney, Aberdeen and Edinburgh (A7). This brings the total to 24 (see back page) and we have an exciting vision to plant 50 centres of mission by 2027.

What is a Centre of Mission?
A Church Army centre of mission acts as a hub for mission and evangelism, especially in areas where there is little church presence. There are usually two evangelists in each centre, who team up with local churches and volunteers to reach out in their communities.

A centre of mission is not a physical building; this means that the team can move around freely, responding to the needs of people living in different areas of a diocese.

What is a Church Army Evangelist?
Church Army provides training to become admitted into the Office of Evangelist within the Church of England and commissioned as a Church Army Evangelist. This is the only nationally licensed pathway for lay evangelists.

Our evangelists are people who are passionate about seeing people come to know Jesus, building and transforming communities and seeing transformation in people’s lives. They are people who evangelise within their own context and some lead or work in our centres of mission.

If you would like to know more about becoming commissioned, visit www.churcharmy.org/training

DARE

Our DARE strategy is the framework we use to shape our objectives for the year ahead. It focuses our vision into four strands:

Doing Evangelism
Bringing people to a living faith in Jesus Christ throughout these islands is at the heart of Church Army.

Advocating Evangelism
We are passionate about encouraging the wider Church to become more actively involved in evangelism.

Resourcing Evangelism
We train people and put the right tools in their hands so that they are resourced to do what God has called them to do.

Enabling Evangelism
We enable people to do evangelism in their own context by creating opportunities for them to join in with what God is already doing.
DOING EVANGELISM

24 centres of mission across the UK and Ireland.

Over 80,000 hours of engagement with people at seasonal and special events.

Our centres of mission engaged with over 103,000 people across the year.

Our centres of mission evangelists engaged with over 5,900 children per month.

100+ 100s of people coming to faith and being supported in their faith journey.

470 470 hours per year of school assemblies delivered.

ADVOCATING EVANGELISM

Over 180 Speaking engagements to inspire the wider church in mission and evangelism.

Over 3,500 print copies of *Playfully Serious* distributed.

This year our Research Unit completed a major two-year research project on Messy Church, funded by the Archbishop’s Council. They created a report called *Playfully Serious* which documents at high level what we have learned about the effects of Messy Church; how it reaches families who don’t go to church, grows disciples and models new patterns of leadership.

The report can be read online at [www.churcharmy.org/playfullyserious](http://www.churcharmy.org/playfullyserious)

“*Playfully Serious* has had a huge impact on the Messy Church movement, giving Messy Church leaders confidence that what we’re doing is having an impact, is being recognised by the wider Church and has a deep integrity. The report has given us pointers for the next step of developing discipleship and a rock-solid foundation for projects like ‘Deepening Discipleship’ with the Church of England and research projects further afield in Australia and the Netherlands.”

Lucy Moore
Messy Church founder and Team Leader, Bible Reading Fellowship
RESOURCING EVANGELISM

Nearly 2,000 people have registered as Group Leaders for Faith Pictures so far. The course also gained new international appeal in Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Visit www.faithpictures.org

ENABLING EVANGELISM

The Why on earth...? has received 284 signups since it was launched last year. Visit www.whyonearth.me

Volunteers across the UK and Ireland collectively gave 127,000 hours of their time during the year. Visit www.equipwebinars.org

70 people aged 30 and upwards took part in Reunion, our new evangelism training community. Visit www.myreunion.org.uk

25 evangelists are currently training to become admitted and commissioned as Church Army Evangelists.
Marylebone Story

Jane* moved to the UK in 2018 in search of work. Though her spoken English was good, her literacy level and lack of experience made it difficult to find employment. Unable to support herself, Jane soon found herself sleeping rough in London.

After visiting the rough-sleeper’s drop-in at the Marylebone Project, Jane started accessing the Women into Work programme. She was referred to the in-house ESOL beginners’ course to improve her reading and writing skills. Jane used the service almost every day and started regularly volunteering for the social enterprise, Munch. The team quickly saw that Jane had invaluable skills working and caring for others. They saw her flourish in the kitchen, developing new skills and connecting with other women in similar situations to her. She decided that she wanted to work as a private live-in carer.

As she had no accommodation, a live-in position would help to meet her living needs and start a career doing something she enjoyed.

With the support of the Marylebone Project’s Education, Employment and Training (EET) worker, Jane was able to attend a social work training program and apply for a role as a private carer.

She was successful and started her new job in November 2018. She enrolled at Westminster Kingsway College to continue to improve her reading and writing skills alongside her work.

Now Jane is in permanent accommodation and working full-time she no longer accesses the services at the centre. However, she still drops by to see the staff to let them know how she is doing. When asked what the Marylebone Project means to her, Jane replied:

“I am very grateful to Marylebone Project for supporting me when I needed help. They changed my life from being homeless to finding work and a home for myself. I have been working for over one year as a private carer and I love the job. I have accommodation now and I am arranging for my daughter and grandson to visit me. God has been good to me as he brought me in contact with the Marylebone Project. I thank God for that. Thank you for all your support Marylebone Project.”

The Marylebone Project provides long and short term beds to homeless women in London and offers essential facilities and support to women who visit the rough sleeper’s drop-in. The project also delivers education, employment and training opportunities and meaningful activities in order to support women into independent living.

39,393
39,393 nights of accommodation were provided.

6,036
6,036 women visited the day centre to receive housing, welfare and immigration advice, and use the showers and laundry facilities.

233
233 women took part in our job training programme.

37
37 women settled into independent living.

To find out more about the Marylebone Project please visit
www.maryleboneproject.org.uk

*not her real name
Why Do I Harm?

Why do I harm?
What does it do?
It helps me to see
Another night through.
It helps stop the thoughts
Spinning round in my head
Hurting so much
That I’d rather be dead.
It releases the pain
That’s built up inside
Allows me to shed
Tears that need to be cried.

Or when I’m so numb
No emotion, nothings real
The pain of those cuts
Allows me to feel.
I wish that I didn’t
Turn to self-harm
But sometimes it’s all
That means I stay calm.
These scars on my arms
Are the price that I pay
To stay on this earth
To live another day.

This is one of the poems from the book Our Story Isn’t Over, written by the young people who have been helped by the Amber Project.

165 young people who self-harm received support through the project.

The Amber Project in Cardiff aims to be a vital safety net for young people aged 14 to 25 who have experienced self-harm by creating an environment that is safe, welcoming and non-judgemental.

It aims to boost the young people’s self-esteem and emotional resilience and provide them with lifelong skills and strategies to cope with problems.

The Amber Project offers counselling, support with housing and benefits, and a range of workshops including music, arts & crafts and theatre workshops. This multi-layered approach helps the young people to grow, develop and move forward in their lives.

To find out more about The Amber Project, please visit www.amberproject.org.uk
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Church Army Residential Services offers homeless young people aged 16 to 21 living in Cardiff a safe place to stay – many of whom have experienced abuse, violence and neglect.

Ty Bronna, as well as providing hostel accommodation, focuses on developing a wide range of independent living skills including self-care, tenancy management and life skills.

Ty Danescourt was the secondary stage of accommodation for young people who are ready to live more independently. Most of Ty Danescourt’s young residents are actively pursuing education, training or employment opportunities. They are also encouraged to take part in outside activities preparing them for integration to the wider community.

In late 2018, the Cardiff Residential services went through a tendering process with Cardiff Council. As a result Ty Bronna was retained and developed but the young people and the staff at Ty Danescourt were transferred over to a new provider. Ty Danescourt has been a significant ministry for Church Army being the first of our hostels in Cardiff and we celebrate the work that has been done over many years for vulnerable young people affected by homelessness.

6,780 nights of accommodation provided to homeless young people aged 16-21 living in Cardiff.

66 young adults received support and accommodation during the year.

49 new referrals in 2018/19.
How Does Church Army Spend Your Money?

Every penny of every £1 you donate goes into our frontline work

This includes The Amber Project, the Marylebone Project, Church Army Residential Services, our centres of mission, evangelism training and resourcing mission and evangelism across the UK and Ireland.

This year our expenditure was higher than our income. This is a planned deficit to meet the growth in our work.
The Caia Parke estate lies within the North Wales border town of Wrexham, in an area known for being among the most violent in the country; vulnerable to crime and drugs with staggering rates of child poverty. Believing it to be beyond hope, many services eventually vacate the town. But in 2015 Church Army partnered with the Diocese of St Asaph and moved in to create the St Asaph Centre of Mission, which has taken root and is seeing real, lasting transformation, particularly among some of the young people in its community.

The Caia Park estate has a bad reputation and many of its young people grow up with the belief that they have no hope in life because of where they were born. But Chris and Josh, who make up the St Asaph Centre of Mission team, are helping them to see that in Christ they have every chance. One of these young people is Megan (aged 14). After spending time with the team at the weekly youth club, held in a corrugated metal building in the middle of the estate, she decided to join them on a summer camp in Wales where she gave her life to Jesus. Megan now lives with hope.

Your support means we can keep reaching people like Megan and seeing the hope that comes with knowing Jesus, transform lives and communities.