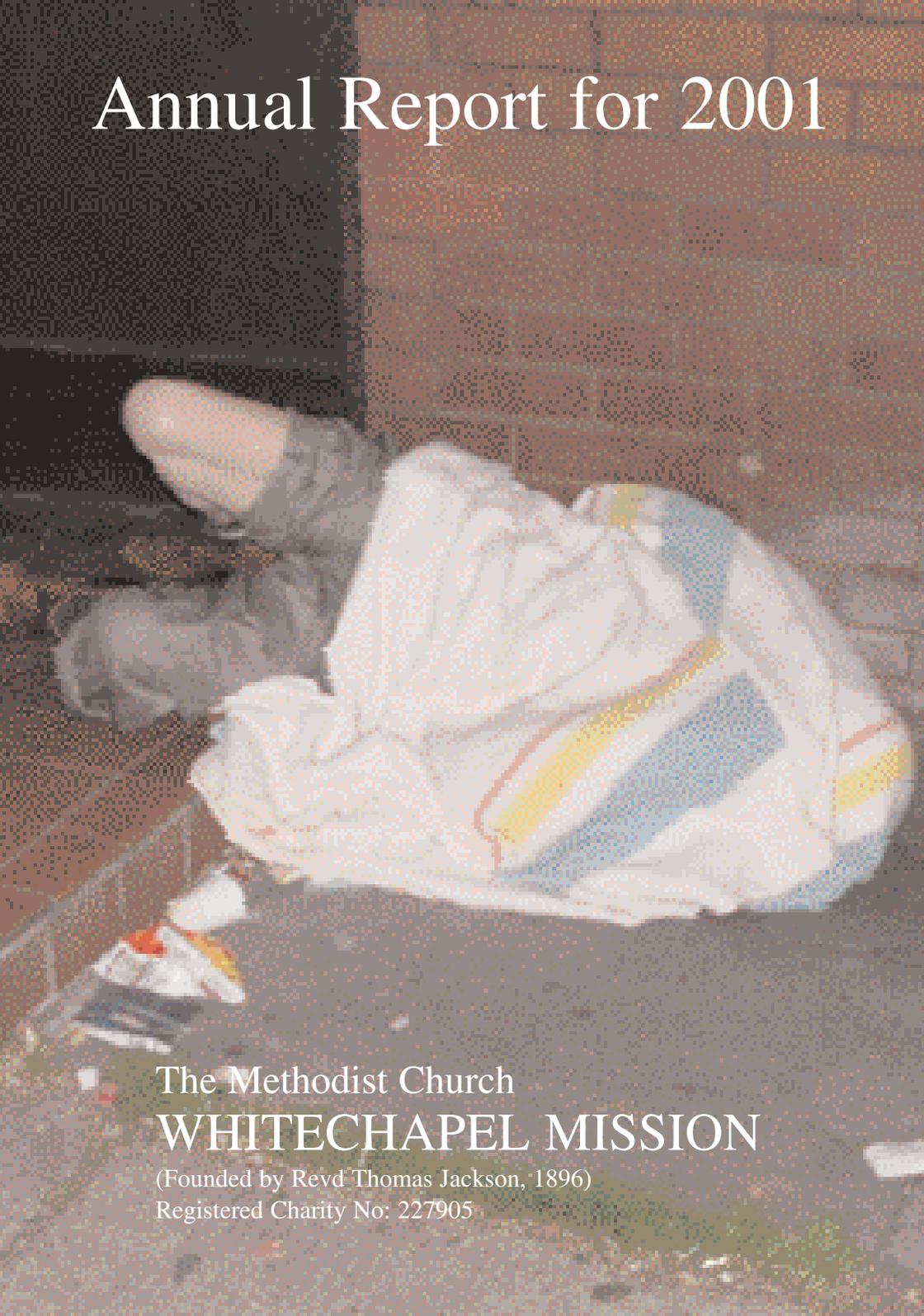


Annual Report for 2001



The Methodist Church
WHITECHAPEL MISSION

(Founded by Revd Thomas Jackson, 1896)

Registered Charity No: 227905

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
for the year ended 31st August, 2001

General Office: The Whitechapel Mission
212, Whitechapel Road,
London E1 1BJ
Registered Charity No: 227905
Telephone: (020) 7247 8280
Fax: (020) 7377 5762
email: mission@whitechapel.org.uk
website: www.whitechapel.org.uk
Director: Mr Tony Miller

WHITECHAPEL MISSION MANAGING TRUSTEES

<u>Rev. Ermal Kirby (Chairman of the District)</u>	Mr F. Simpson
Revd David Hill (Chair)	Mr B. Woodward
Mr R. Cox	Mr E. Warner
Dr K Aldred	Miss J. Soulsby
Miss M. Pengelly,	Mr T. Simco
Miss W. Yates	Mr B. Yelland

Bankers: Barclays Bank PLC
Mile End and Bow Branch
240, Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BS

Solicitors: Hadfields Butt and Bowyer
104, West Street
Farnham, Surrey GU9 7ET

Auditors: Pollock Taylor
Chartered Certified Accountants
1-3 York Hill,
Loughton,
Essex IG10 1RL

Investment Advisers: Central Finance Board Investment Unit
4th Floor, Friendly House
52-58 Tabernacle Street,
London EC2A 4PL

The Governing Documents

The Whitechapel Mission is governed by the Model Trust Deed dated 15th December 1932 as amended on 30th August 1967 and 2nd November 1994.

Briefly, these documents set our purposes as the advancement of:
The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church; and
Any charitable purposes for the time being of the Methodist Church.

Objects

“Our object is to save lives at risk because of homelessness or poverty, by offering practical evidence of the Good News that the hungry shall be fed, the naked clothed and the outcast welcomed and made clean.”

We feed, clothe, doctor, shower, toilet and minister to the people on the streets. These are visible services that are offered each day. Christmas, New Year and Bank Holidays do not stop us, but is that what it is all about?

Homelessness can happen to anybody! A distinction is needed between short-term and long-term homelessness. Losing ones employment, can't afford to pay the mortgage or rent and family breakdown are just a few reasons that can lead to homelessness, these lead to short-term homelessness. Over many years chatting with our long-term rough sleepers, the common factors that always seem to be present are very low self-esteem, no self-respect, no confidence and very low sense of worth. There is always a feeling of isolation, loneliness and a general feeling that nobody cares. These cause long-term homelessness.

Our role is to change this perception and show anybody who arrives at our door that they are valued. We need to show them that there are people that care and feel that they are worth the effort. From the moment they arrive at our door it is important that they can see that we are not like other day centres. We endeavour to create an atmosphere of understanding, security and family. Our policies of no exclusion and no calling the police are based on the premise that they do not promote trust.

We then start the slow process of building trust and friendship. Encouraging relationships with staff members and other users of the centre, with a goal of

FORM OF BEQUEST BY WILL

For the guidance of friends who may desire to make bequests for the general work of the Whitechapel Mission, the following form of bequest is suggested:

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the Treasurer for the time being of the Whitechapel Methodist Mission, 212, Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ, for the use of the said Mission the legacy or sum of £..... (free of duty) and direct the said last mentioned legacy or sum to be paid within twelve months of my decease from the proceeds of my real and personal estate, but primarily out of my personal estate, and the receipt of the Treasurer shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

NOTE: The Mortmain and Charitable Users Act, 1981, enables testators to give by Will for the benefit of any charitable use not only pecuniary Legacies, but also tenements and hereditaments of any tenure. The Will must be signed by the testator at the foot or end thereof in the presence of two independent witnesses, who must sign their names, and addresses and occupations, at the same time, in their presence and the presence of each other.

YOU CAN HELP OUR WORK BY

Praying for our work and our workers

Sending a donation now

Undertaking a special project on behalf of the Mission

Making a legacy in your will

Arranging a Gift Service or Carol Party from your church

Sending or delivering clothing

Asking for a Mission Speaker for one of your meetings

getting them to feel included. We want them to take ownership of the centre and understand that it is their centre and not ours. Slowly we start to re-build their self-esteem.

When they first arrive, many will not want to bother with a shower, and don't really mind what clothing is offered to replace what they are wearing. As time passes, we see a keenness to want a shower and they start becoming very picky about the clothes they wish to wear. They become chatty and share their lives and experiences with others. These are the signs we look for to know when they are ready to talk about an alcohol detox or drug rehab, and eventually rehousing. We have changed their opinion of their own value! They care enough about themselves to want better!

Support

As the demand for our services continues to rise, we have been blessed with supporters that continue to increase their level of support. The amount of tinned food donated at Harvest time, from churches and schools, was the highest it has ever been. For the first year in our history, we will almost have enough tinned food to last the whole year without having to buy much at all.



Harvest Gifts from one of the many Primary Schools that support us.

We have also seen an increased level of clothing donated this year to a point where we have had difficulty collecting all of it. A big thank you to those that were able to deliver and an even bigger thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time to sort it.

The Trustees wish to thank all those who have supported the Mission this year, be it financially or with gifts. Your continued support allows us to be there, throughout the year.

We understand that there are many deserving causes asking for your assistance and we know that some of the churches and groups that were able to support us this year will offer that support to another charity next year. Please accept our thanks for the support you were able to offer.

It has been brought to our attention that some letters of thanks have not arrived through the post. If you do not receive a letter of thanks, please let us know, as we feel it is very important to send our thanks. **ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED**

As you will be aware, we do not advertise on Television or send out thousands of letters to unknown people, in the hope they may wish to start supporting the work. We only produce this one report a year in an attempt to keep administrative costs to a minimum. We believe that you would wish us to use your financial donations directly to assist homeless people. At the same time, we do need to at least maintain the level of financial support and possibly increase it to meet the higher demands for our services. If you would like additional reports for friends or colleagues, please let us know and we would be delighted to supply them.

A gift of £3 a month is worth more to us than £36 a year. A regular gift will provide us with the ability to plan our work for the years ahead. This is essential when trying to provide much needed hope and support to those who have been let down so often before. And if you are in a position to Gift Aid your donation, it is worth £46.15

A gift of £3 will allow us to offer a full cooked breakfast to a homeless person for a whole week and you could become a part of a real and lasting solution for homeless people.

We ask you to consider a standing order as a method of supporting the Mission.

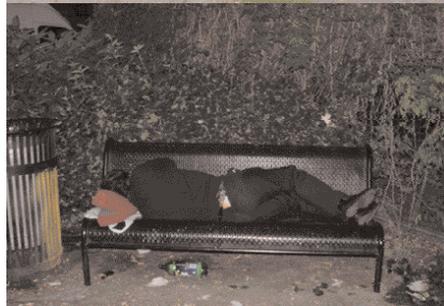
Government Strategy

Many of you will have read in the newspapers or seen on the television, the Prime Minister's announcement that his target to reduce rough sleeping by at least two thirds by 2002 has been met early. A carefully considered and implemented strategy aimed at reducing homeless numbers is being heralded as an outstanding success. This strategy was targeting long term street sleepers and offering a fast track through the hostel system and into permanent accommodation. This strategy promised to reduce the hardship and suffering of street sleepers, and reduce the need for centres like Whitechapel.

The number of people sleeping rough in England has fallen by 71 per cent over the last three years. It is estimated that 532 people now sleep rough in England and only 264 in all of London.

A breakdown of the figures show that the majority of the rough sleepers in London are in the Westminster and Victoria areas and it is claimed that the strategy in East London has been so successful that we have "less than 10" rough sleepers.

There have also been news reports where charities claim that these numbers need to be questioned and even the method used for counting needs to be reviewed.





Then why do Whitechapel's numbers remain so high? We accept that many of the people whom we serve each day are no longer rough sleeping, but have moved on to hostel accommodation or even have their own flat. These figures would suggest that none or very few of our people are actually rough sleeping any longer, but we know that this is not the case.

The night after the announcement, our staff took a short walk around Whitechapel and found nine people sleeping on the streets and a further twelve people sleeping within derelict buildings

Their walk covered only a small part of Tower Hamlets (marked on the map below). The photographs on the left are just a few of those, taken during the walk, of people that are either not "homeless", or not there. Or maybe, just don't count!



Tower Hamlets

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the year ended 31st August 2001

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	2001	2000
Sale of Property		61,626.00
Donations	97,836.00	72,902.00
Grants	12,000.00	45,000.00
Other Income	5,097.00	1,470.00
Rental Income TJH	78,872.00	75,530.00
Rental Income Other	30,896.00	25,843.00
Investment Income	12,783.00	14,231.00
Legacies	29,330.00	5,000.00
Total Incoming Resources	<u>266,814.00</u>	<u>301,602.00</u>
 RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Direct charitable expenditure	194,047.00	161,608.00
Fundraising and publicity	16,392.00	15,729.00
Management and administration	95,095.00	89,500.00
Total Resources Expended	<u>305,534.00</u>	<u>266,837.00</u>
Net Income/(Deficit) for Year	<u>-38,720.00</u>	<u>34,765.00</u>

Approved by the Managing Trustees on 16th January 2002 and signed by:

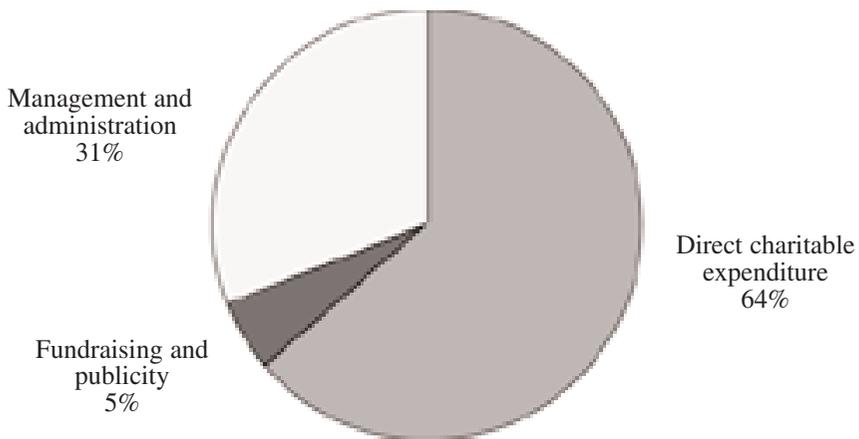
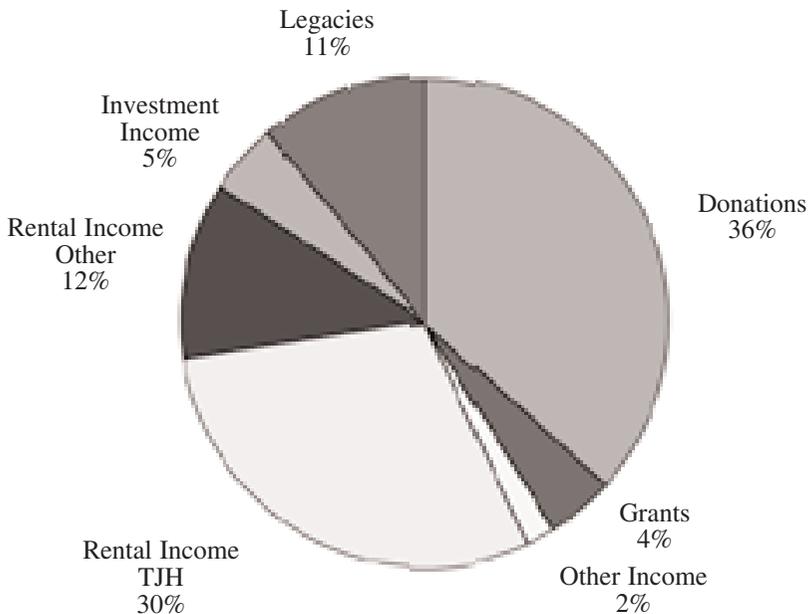
E WARNER
B YELLAND Hon. Treasurers

Note: These summarised accounts do not provide all the information required by law to
by an independent auditor) have been

A copy of the full accounts may be obtained

METHODIST MISSION

Income Accounts



be included in the accounts of the charity. The full accounts (which have been audited submitted to the Charity Commission.

and by writing to the Mission at Whitechapel.

When this target was set, a Government source promised that “In two years time, we should be exclusively funding prevention and rebuilding people’s lives. We should not be in the business anymore of wholesale funding of Contact and Assessment Teams.”

Well, the two years are now coming to an end and with the recent announcement that it has been an outstanding success, what happens next?

Treasurers Report

In last years Report it was stated that we were having problems in keeping the cash flow stable and this has continued to some extent this past year. We have largely plugged the gap by transferring money from the unrestricted funds to the bank account and at present our bank balance is sufficient to enable us to pay all our regular outgoings, if we include the regular income that is provided by the Bankers Order scheme and other donations.

However, there are always the unexpected expenses which sometimes prevent us from finishing a project until more funds arrive but, in a number of cases, there is the pleasure of opening the post and finding some considerable donations which help to offset the unexpected outgoings.

We are setting in motion estimates for the renewal of the telephone system and work on the paving around the Mission to establish the extent of the Missions property. These are expected to be completed within the next financial year.

We are already feeling some of the benefits of the amendments to the gift aid scheme. It will be seen that our donations have risen by almost £25,000, a good proportion of which has come from the Income Tax refunds which we are now able to claim. In case anyone is not aware of the system, we can now claim a refund of Income Tax on all donations providing, of course, that the donor pays Income Tax. If you have not indicated to us that you are eligible to be included in the scheme, please do so when you send your next donation so that we can process it. The advantage of the scheme is that there is no minimum or maximum donation, as the covenant scheme used to stipulate. We are hopeful of increasing our income in the future by this method.

Unfortunately this years income did not provide an overall increase in our balance as last year there was income of £106,626 from sale of property and grants whereas this figure was only £12000 this year.

Although our financial position is fairly stable at present we realise that it would not be so if we had a sudden major expenditure or a sudden loss of income from our regular donors, so we pray that you will be able to keep up your present donations and, of course, a little extra if you can manage it. We can then continue to help those less fortunate than ourselves and who rely on our services to keep body and soul together.

Please remember the Mission and its work in your prayers.

Eric Warner
Hon. Treasurer

Staff

As you will be aware, we said goodbye to Richard Chapple, our minister, in August 2000 and welcomed David Hill, the Superintendent on the Tower Hamlets Circuit. David continues to make sure that he is here for both our street folk and for the staff, and can often be seen around the Mission, early in the morning. Traditionally, Whitechapel has always had a full time minister who as well as taking pastoral care of our street folk and staff, has a major roll in the office. This has left a gap in the office that we have struggled to fill.

As we start a new year and prepare for the onslaught of Christmas and winter, we welcome John Doyle, who will work within the day centre with Ruth, Will and Chris. This brings our staff compliment to 5 full-time workers.

We are also desperately looking for somebody to assist within the office on a voluntary basis. We are lucky that as the demand for our services rise, so does the level of support. But each donation of clothing, food or money needs to be acknowledged and appointments need to be made for collections. We are sometimes struggling to keep up with the thank you letters, and would welcome assistance. If you have an understanding of the church, have office skills and would like to spare a half day to assist, please get in touch.

Wardens Report

Julie was 16 when she left foster care and although she had been sorted out with a bed-sit and a job stacking shelves at the local supermarket, she was not happy. She never bothered when she was at school and left without any real qualifications.

Within a month or so, Julie had a row with the manager over her time keeping and appearance. She could not get him to understand that she was living alone for the first time and was having difficulty with the basics, like cooking, laundry and getting up. She lost her temper and, of course, lost the job. On visiting the “social office” she discovered that she was not able to simply claim unemployment and she would have a long wait before they could assist financially.

Within a couple of weeks the lies and deception did not work with the landlord any more and she was evicted. Her self-esteem was about as low as it could get.

I met Julie for the first time when she was in her mid twenties. She was cold, wet and very much in need of a shower. After a meal, a shower, and some dry clothing, she settled down in the dinning area to play cards with some of the guys. I discovered over the next few months that prostitution was the direction she had chosen and had been “working” in the Spitalfields Market and Brick Lane area for the last few years.

She became a regular user of the centre and although we would not see her for a couple of weeks, we would then see her every day for two or three weeks, before she disappeared again. Over the years she learned to trust the staff at Whitechapel and would often sit and ask for advice or share parts of her life with us, but, when we tried to move forward she always finds an excuse not to turn up for appointments to view flats, see councillors or even visit the doctor.

Julie would often stay in a local women’s hostel, until she upsets somebody and was asked to leave. Then we would then see her at our door at 2:00am (after she has finished work) asking blankets. She would sleep on our doorstep and appear for breakfast an hour or so after we opened the next morning. We soon learned that she would regularly get arrested for soliciting and receive a £35 fine, which she would pay from the proceeds of the next nights “work”. When the courts were tired of seeing her, she received a custodial sentence and disappeared for a few weeks, only to return to the only way of life she knew.

For the fourteen days surrounding Christmas, we invite volunteer groups to get involved and work at the Mission, allowing me to let our regular staff have some much needed time off and some special time with their families. We see groups from Methodist and Anglican Churches, groups from businesses in the city and college students, all prepared to give a small part of their Christmas to be here and help.

On Christmas morning we opened our doors at 6am with a hot cup of tea and homemade mince pies, an annual Christmas gift from Stowmarket Methodist Church. After a hearty English breakfast, prepared, cooked and served by our volunteer group we reach the part of the morning that I enjoy most. We can show that there are people that care and are thinking about them, by handing out presents. Many small parcels carefully wrapped in Christmas paper. Chocolate, new socks and underwear, hand knitted gloves and hats. Some containing toiletries, others containing scarves or jumpers and nearly all with a card attached. Many of these gifts are sent from the young people of the uniformed organisations. Guides, Scouts, Boys Brigade and Church youth clubs and as many again from older people. We always need money and we need more than ever before, but today money has no meaning. Today it is the message we send when we offer your gifts.

For those who have nothing and nobody, we show them that they have Whitechapel. We thank you for your continued support and for allowing us to be here.

Tony Miller

Julie was found dead, on the streets a few weeks ago. She was cold, wet and very much in need of a shower.

A new face has already appeared at our door late at night asking for blankets. She has taken to sleeping on our door step and will come into the centre each morning for breakfast, a shower and some clean clothing. We have not been able to get her to tell us much more than her name, but she can not be more than 18 or 19 years old, and is “working” in the same area.

As Christmas approaches and my children begin to write their wish lists, which will undoubtedly need four or five sheets of paper, we begin our preparations for a time of celebration, holiday, presents, involving lots of food and as many family members and friends as we can manage. It may only be a card or small present, but we try to remember those that we have not seen for many years and those that we saw just yesterday.

But, for the homeless, Christmas can be just another day. They can be as alone as they are for the rest of the year. The only differences will be that the city is a little quieter and it is colder than the summer. They are still alone, will not receive any cards and probably eat less, due to many centres closing for Christmas.



Volunteers from Chislehurst to work over Christmas

Methods of Giving

The Whitechapel Mission is a registered charity and the Trustees wish to express their grateful thanks to all, whether you be great or small, who support the Mission financially.

Those of you who pay Income tax may like to consider the possibility of using one of the tax-efficient ways of giving which enable the Mission to increase the value of your gift by reclaiming basic rate Income Tax.

Various methods are available:

- (i) Gift Aid which enables basic rate Income Tax to be reclaimed immediately on all donations from tax payers.
- (ii) Charities Aid Fund or
- (iii) G.A.Y.E. (Give as you Earn)

If you would like to know more please write to:

The Hon. Treasurer
Whitechapel Mission
212, Whitechapel Road
London E1 1BJ

or visit our website at www.whitechapel.org.uk