

SSM
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YOUR CHANCE TO MERRY CHRISTMAS

SHEPHERD STREET MISSION'S SERVICE TO THE POOR AND THE ORPHANS

CHRISTMAS! . . . The festival of goodwill and good cheer! . . .

It is different each year. For humanity is ever changing. It will bring to you new acquaintances. It will bring to you, too, new thoughts, new hopes, in some cases new vows. But the meaning of the festival remains the same.

For adults it is a time of recollection. Memories, now dimmed, perhaps, are always rekindled at Christmastide. For children—well, it is not original to talk of Christmas as being their festival.

"It is good to be children sometimes and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself," wrote Charles Dickens.

How would you feel if the postman passed by your house on Christmas Day without leaving you a letter or a parcel? "But he will not; I have a host of friends; he is certain to bring me something," you might answer readily.

no plum pudding, where children, if they hang up their stockings before retiring to bed on Christmas Eve, will find them empty next morning.

With Anxious Longing

There are hundreds of such homes and thousands of such children. On your Christmas shopping jaunts during the past few days you must have seen scores of little, eager faces peering intently through shop windows which have been transformed for the time being into veritable children's paradises.

Have you not watched these ill-clad urchins standing there, faces glued to the plate glass windows, obviously miles away, lost in ecstatic contemplation of the toys and dolls?

But these things are not for them—that is unless you help them to satisfy the desires of their childish souls. Their Christmas Day will be, one is tempted to say, just an ordinary day, but, being Christmas, it will be other than that. It will be a day in some cases of grief and sadness, in others, perhaps, of bitterness.

You see these youngsters whose parents find themselves in straitened circumstances and unable to brighten their children's Christmas in a very material way, have been playing with other boys and girls whose fathers and mothers are more fortunately placed.

SHEPHERD ST. MISSION, PRESTON.
HARVEST FESTIVAL, 1936
SATURDAY, October 3rd.
7 30 p.m.: Rev. E. W. GOODMAN (St. Paul's Church, Fleetwood).
SUNDAY, October 4th.
3 p.m.: Rev. H. L. DUFF (Carey Baptist Church, Preston).
6 45 p.m.: Rev. ED. PORTER (Barton).
Special Singing by the Children.

Lancashire Daily Post
22.10.36

SHEPHERD-ST. YEAR OF PROGRESS

Preston Appeal for More Support

TRIBUTES TO HOME

SHEPHERD-STREET Mission and Children's Home, Preston, is celebrating its diamond jubilee this year, and at the annual meeting in the Preston Town Hall, yesterday, the Mayor (Councillor E. Ley), presiding, another year of progress was recorded.

Presenting his annual report, the chairman (Mr. W. A. Margerison) congratulated the proprietors of "The Lancashire Daily Post" on achieving their jubilee.

Mr. Margerison gave a resume of the society's work since its inception, and he described how the street meetings in the neighbourhood of Manchester-road led to the establishment of the mission. He quoted figures giving the numbers of men, women and children who have been helped during the 60 years.

INCREASED EXPENDITURE

The work of the Mission and Children's Home, Mr. Margerison continued, was still meeting a need, and he particularly appealed on behalf of the neglected and destitute child. Their expenses, he continued, were £150 more than in 1930, and with a decreasing income from investments built up by legacies, they again appealed for subscribers and more help.

During the year 13 children had been admitted, and 15 had been handed back to relatives. Two girls had been placed in domestic service, and a boy apprenticed at Leyland Motors, leaving 36 children in the home. There was also eleven other young people in other institutions.

NEED FOR WORK STILL GREAT

Mr. Margerison said the area to-day was less thickly populated, and various reforms had greatly improved living conditions, but the need for the work of the Mission and Home was still great.

Thanking the "Lancashire Daily Post" for £221 2s. 8d. raised by the appeal last Christmas, the chairman said: "Without this help, which carries us back to the days of Messrs. George Toulmin and Sons, and other assistance with meals, and clogs, our services on behalf of the poor would have been considerably restricted."

Moving the adoption of the report, the Rev. Shirley B. Cumberland, Supt. minister of the Lune-street Methodist Circuit, said the Mission and work was an expression of the principles and ideals of Christ.

Continuing, the speaker said one of the most interesting parts of our history during the past few years was the number of enactments placed upon the Statute Book for the welfare of the child. That was wonderful evidence of the progress in social feeling of the people of the country. To-day it was a privilege to be a child.

HOME ATMOSPHERE

But there were still gaps in our social fabric even with regard to child welfare. There was something the State could not impart, in the nature of home atmosphere.

On visiting Shepherd-street Mission he had found there everything one would find in a decent artisan home. There was nothing of the institution effect.

AN INFLUENCE FOR GOOD

Seconding, the Rev. R. Littler, vicar of St. Mary's, Preston, said the Home was well worth all the support which could be given it. In these days when there was a falling off in the number of children attending Sunday schools, a Home like Shepherd-street in the centre of Preston, was bound to be an influence for good. Unless children were brought up and nurtured in the fear of the Lord, it would be God help our country in the next generation.

The resolution, which included the re-election of officers and committee, was carried.

Thanks to the Mayor for presiding were expressed by the Rev. H. Morgan, of the Garstang-road Congregational Church, and the Rev. E. Porter, of Barton.

In reply, the Mayor said he took a great joy in children's work. His father was secretary of the orphan school at the time the Mission started, and he was taught early in life to think of the more unfortunate children.