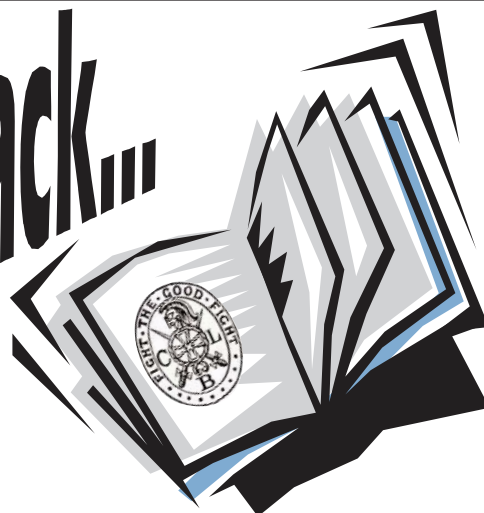




# Looking Back...



**I**n the second half of the 19th Century many people, particularly influential Christians, were worried about the poor spiritual and physical development of young people.

The majority of youngsters, at that time, left school at 13 yrs of age, and usually went straight into work. For the 'lucky' few, mostly boys, who attended Public Schools, religious education and 'manly' military training were part of the curriculum. It was inevitable then, that social reformers would try to copy this worthy programme. From about 1860 isolated 'Brigades' were formed all over the UK but the first to develop into a truly national organisation was 'The Boys' Brigade', followed by 'The Gordon Boys' Brigade' and 'The Church Lads' Brigade'. The many different Brigades, for boys and girls became known collectively as the 'Brigade Movement'.

## *The Story of the CLCGB*

**The Brigade Movement was popular** with the Churches because it prevented a massive loss of Sunday School members when they reached 13 yrs and started work. The Government, at a time of international insecurity, saw it as a source of military cadets who could be called upon when required. Most importantly, young people liked it because it gave them an interesting, purposeful and recreational, social life, many years before clubs, disco's, sports centres TV or computers!

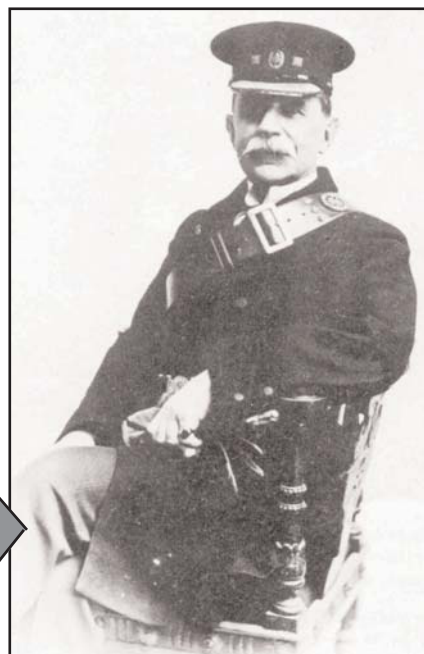
### **1883**

William A Smith, a Volunteer Officer and Sunday School teacher, forms The Boys' Brigade (The 'BB') in Glasgow. The most recognisable feature being their 'Equipment' of 'pill-box' cap, belt and white haversack worn over normal clothing instead of a full uniform.

### **1885**

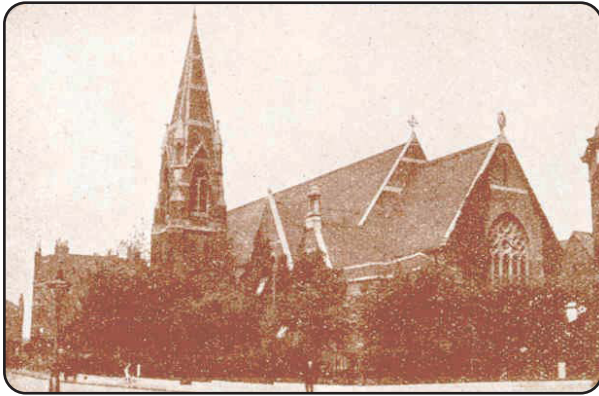
Mr Goldstraw starts The Gordon Boys' Brigade at St. John the Evangelist, Walton, Liverpool. Named after General Gordon, the hero of Khartoum, it is modelled on the BB but is strictly Anglican. Companies are formed all over Britain.

**Walter Mallock Gee  
Founder of  
The Church Lads' Brigade**



## Looking Back ...

The story of the CLCGB



**St. Andrew's Church,  
Fulham. (above)  
The birthplace of the  
Church Lads' Brigade.**

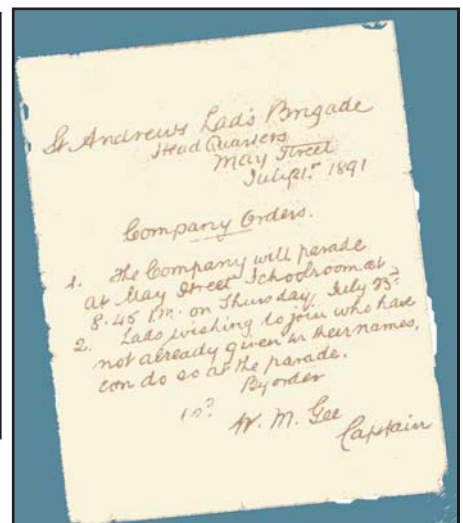
**1891**

Walter Gee, Secretary of the Junior Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society and a 'Volunteer' Army Officer, forms St Andrew's Lads' Brigade at St. Andrew's Church, Fulham on 23rd July. Negotiations to form an Anglican branch of The Boys' Brigade are soon under way. However, the BB will not accept an Anglican 'branch' and Rev. Ernest Hilliard of St Andrew's will not accept an undenominational organisation in his Parish. The new Brigade, now being copied in many parishes, will have to seek new friends.

**1891**

With the aim of forming a national Anglican brigade organisation, an initial meeting takes place in London between Walter Mallock Gee's 'Church Lads' Brigade' and the 'London Diocesan Council for the Welfare of Lads' led by Everard A Ford. The Gordon Boys' Brigade amalgamate with The Church Lads' Brigade.

**The  
order  
for the  
first  
parade  
Thursday  
23rd  
July  
1891.  
(right)**



**Above: the original  
badges of the Brigades.  
CLB (left) LDCLB (right)**



**A CLB Lad  
from about  
1911.**

**1892**

A special meeting is held to settle matters concerning the twin Brigades. The decision is made to call the London brigade: 'The London Diocesan Church Lads' Brigade' and for it to adopt a full blue uniform.

**1891**

The Inaugural meeting of The Church Lads' Brigade is held on 11th November, St Martin's Day. The former Gordon Boys' Brigade emblem is adopted as the CLB Badge and St Andrew's Fulham Company becomes known as the 'Pioneer' Company. Walter Gee becomes first Secretary. 'Equipment' of cap, belt & haversack adopted. At a later meeting on November 26th it was announced that a separate organisation, The Church Lads' Brigade for the Diocese of London had been formed with Col. Everard A Ford as its Secretary.

**1895**

The first CLB Company is formed in Ulster, No 527, St. Luke, Belfast

**1891**

The first CLB Company is formed in Wales, No 49, at Merthyr Tydfil.

**1897**

The first CLB Company is formed in Scotland, No 729, Holy Trinity, Stirling.

**1893**

The first CLB Company is formed in Ireland, No 141, at Christchurch, Leeson Park, Dublin.

*In 1893 there are now 163 CLB  
Companies in existence worldwide.*

## Looking Back ...

The story of the CLCGB

**1901**

Rev. Thomas Milner forms the **Church Nursing & Ambulance Brigade for Young Women & Girls** in Kilburn, London. Its distinctive emblem is a red cross. It soon becomes known as the 'CNAB'.



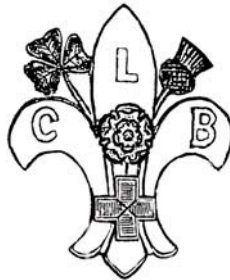
**Above & Left:  
Members of the Church  
Nursing and Ambulance  
Brigade.**



**Rev. Thomas  
Milner  
founder of the  
CNAB**

**1908**

Membership of the CLB stands at 70,000 in 1,300 Companies. LDCLB membership is about 8,000.



**An ICSP Scout, St. James' Hatcham, C.S.P. No. 7. 1910**

**1909**

Inspired by the new craze of Scouting, the **Incorporated Church Scout Patrols** are formed by the CLB to work alongside CLB Companies. The **London Diocesan Boy Scout Corps** is formed by the London Diocesan Council for Welfare of Lads to work with LDCLB Companies. Special Scout uniform & badges are worn by members of both Scouting groups. No. S.01 Co. ICSP is St. James', Tunbridge Wells.



**1911**

The CLB & LDCLB become recognised as **Cadets** by the War Office, meaning that both the Brigades are now part of the Government's **Territorial Cadet Force**. Drill with rifles and military manoeuvres are commonplace.

## Looking Back ...

The story of the CLCGB



**A JTC Lad**

### 1912

Younger members accepted into experimental CLB 'Juvenile Cadet' units.  
The **Old Comrades Association** started for ex-members, which lasted until 1938 in the UK.

### 1913

The CLB **Training Corps** is formed for Junior members, from the age of 10 yrs., in the LDCLB it is known as the **Junior Corps**.  
The name is soon changed in the CLB to **Junior Training Corps**.  
The Incorporated Church Scout Patrols are brought back into CLB control as part of the new JTC, and are now being called '**Church Scout Patrols**'.  
Khaki Service Dress Uniform is adopted by the CLB.  
LDCLB full uniform is accepted as a Cadet uniform.



### 1914

In response to the National 'call to arms' the **16th [Service] Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps** and later the **19th [Service] Battalion KRRC** sponsored by the CLB, is formed entirely from serving and ex-members of the CLB, becoming known as '**The Churchmen's Battalion**'. The Battalion, trained at Denham, Bucks, is brutally decimated in 1916 on the Somme battlefield. During the war the CNAB work on the home front treating and comforting wounded troops returning to 'Blighty'. The Lads of the CLB, often without their officers, are involved in essential 'War Service', guarding reservoirs, collecting newspapers, blowing 'All Clear' bugles after Zeppelin air raids etc. CLB Headquarters in London suffers bomb damage.

**Above: The Badge of the CLB KRRC Cadets worn from 1917 - 1930**

**Right: The uniform of the KRRC CLB Cadets.**

### 1917

In recognition of the sacrifice made by the brave men of the 16th Battalion KRRC, the CLB affiliate en - masse to the King's Royal Rifle Corps as the **KRRC Cadets**. An appeal is immediately launched to equip all members of the CLB with khaki uniform.



### 1919

The LDCLB & CLB amalgamate, the LDCLB becoming the **London Division** of the CLB.

**A LDCLB Lad.**

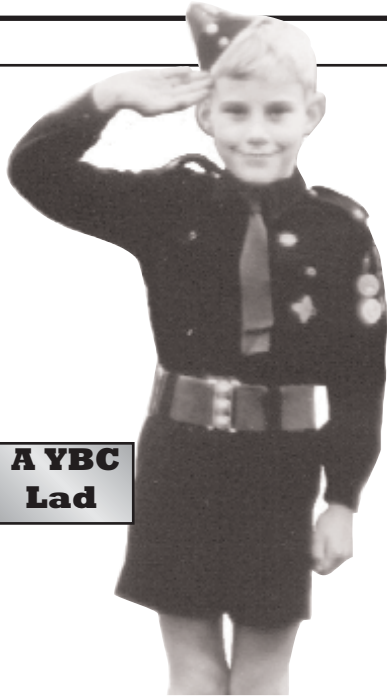


### 1922

The Church Nursing & Ambulance Brigade seeks a merger with the CLB and in anticipation changes its name and constitution to become **The Church Girls' Brigade**. Unfortunately, the CLB Brigade Council reject the offer! Nationally however, the CGB begins to work with the CLB at local level.

## Looking Back ...

The story of the CLCGB



**A YBC  
Lad**

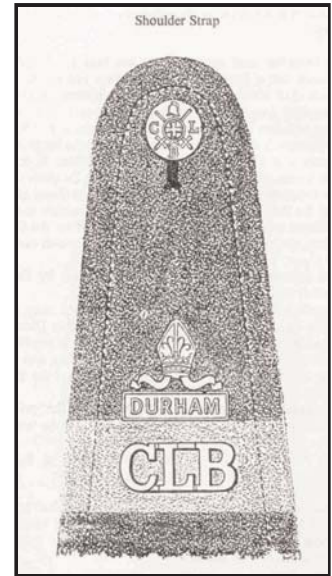
**1936**

All Cadet Affiliation and Recognition is abolished by the CLB and a new constitution is approved restoring the Churches' full control of the organisation.

Church Lads' Brigade Scouting comes to an end.

The London Division become totally merged with the CLB and a new blue uniform is introduced featuring the Bishop's mitre worn on the shoulder, leading to the nickname 'Bishop's Boys'.

The **Young Boys' Corps** is started for 8 to 12 yr olds. Later called the Young Boys' & Young Girls' Corps.



**1955**

A New Badge Scheme is introduced into the Senior Corps & JTC which develops throughout the 1950s.



**Left:  
One of  
the 1955  
awards.**

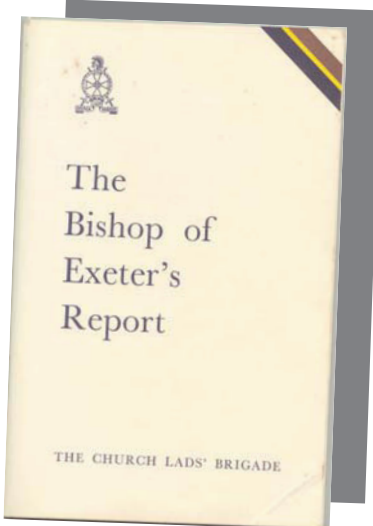
**1956**

The Brigade becomes one of the first Voluntary Youth Organisations to operate **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme**.

**1960**

**The Bishop's Badge**, the top proficiency award in the CLB, is introduced.

The first recipient is Sgt. Kevin Roberts, of the St James' Darwen, Company who also received the first Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Brigade!



**1966**

**The Bishop of Exeter's Report** on the CLB is published. Recommendations include; a more challenging programme of activities, the appointment of a full time Training Officer, Closer links with Girls' organisations and a 'playing down' of 'military characteristics'. A more progressive image is sought.



**1969**

A New Badge Scheme is introduced for Senior Corps. There are now 400 plus 'Bar' Badges, all compatible with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.



**1968**

The '**CLB International Association**' for serving and ex - members is formed as a support group. In 1980, it changes its name to the '**CLCGB Brigade Association**'

## Looking Back ...

The story of the CLCGB



**1978**

The CLB & The CGB amalgamate to form **The Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade**  
Membership is about 15,000 all ranks.

**1979**  
**The National Band Started.**

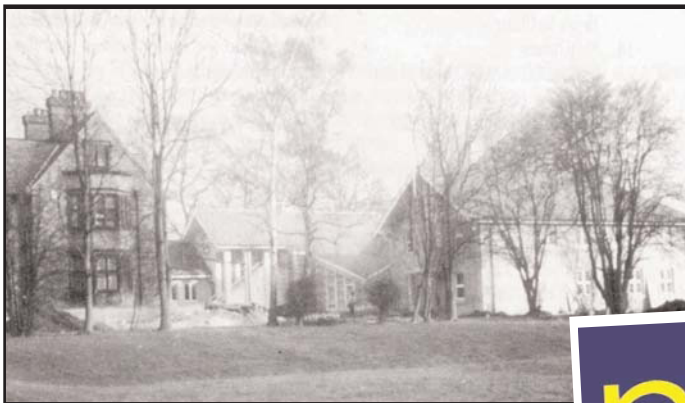


*Courtesy Barnsley Chronicle*



**1981**

Senior Corps **Badge Scheme** simplified into four categories each at bronze, silver & gold level.



**1988**

**National Headquarters** is moved from London to Wath-upon-Deerne, South Yorkshire.  
A new Training Centre is developed between 1993 and 1995.  
Called 'St Martin's House' in 2002

**martins**

**1991**

**The Minor Corps** is formed for members of the CLCGB aged from 5 to 7 yrs.  
A completely new scheme is introduced along with a name change to '**Martins**' in 1998. The name comes from the Brigade's Patron Saint, St. Martin of Tours.



**1996**

'**Team Challenge**' is launched for Senior Corps members.

# Looking Back ...

The story of the CLCGB

**2002**

**The YBYGC becomes the 'Y Team'**

New name, new programme, new logo, new badges, new sweatshirt uniform, introduced between 2002 - 2005. The new badge scheme is based around a four-sided programme of Discovering, Exploring, Doing and Helping.



**2002**

**The Junior Training Corps re-launched as 'JTC'**

The slogan is 'Jump to the Challenge'  
The new image is more than just a facelift with a new logo, sweatshirt uniform and badges.



**JTC Members**

**2002**

**The Brigade Memorial Garden opened.**

The garden, next to the chapel, is 'Dedicated to the members of The Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade who served their country in war and peace' and is open to the public daily at the National Memorial Arboretum Alrewas, near Lichfield, Staffordshire.

**Right: The plaque at the Memorial Garden**



*A series of detailed 'Historical Factsheets' covering many different aspects of the C.L.&C.G.B. is being prepared.*



*Looking Forward...*

*... into the new Millennium.*



Produced by Robin Bolton, Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade Historical Group for:  
The Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade,  
2, Barnsley Road, Wath-upon-Dearne, Rotherham, S63 6PY. Registered Charity No. 276821.  
Tel: 01709 876535 Fax: 01709 878089. e-mail: Tonyreedscreen@clcgb.org.uk - web site: www.clcgb.org.uk

