



HISTORY

William and Catherine Booth started The Salvation Army.

I was a **preacher** – I talked about God. But I realised people did not want to listen when they were **cold, hungry** and **ill-treated**.

So we decided to **show people God's love first**.

Our motto was '**Soup, Soap and Salvation!**'



We set up **soup kitchens** and sold **cheap breakfasts**. We ran **shelters** for people who were **homeless**.

We helped people get **training and find jobs**. We bought **a farm** so people could **learn new skills**. We campaigned for **fairer wages** and **against slavery**.

We set up **thrift shops** (charity shops) so people could afford to buy things they needed. We visited people **in prison** and helped them find jobs and homes when they left.

We helped families **find missing loved ones**. We ran a **factory** that made **matches** using safe chemicals.

KEY DATES

1865 The Salvation Army began on **2nd July** in the East End of London.

1878 The name changed from **The Christian Mission** to **The Salvation Army**. Members start to wear a **uniform**.

1880 The Salvation Army **started in other countries**. Members soon went as far as **Africa, China, India** and **Australia**.

1890 William wrote a book, ***In Darkest England and the Way Out***, about his plans to make life better for the poor. It was a best-seller and helped fund their ideas.



Farthing breakfasts helped poor children – bread with jam was really popular. A farthing was a quarter of an old penny.

The first **homeless shelter** was in an old tram shed with beds in wooden boxes! It was run by their eldest son, Bramwell.



The **Cab Horse Charter** called for fairness, for people to have food, shelter and work – basic rights that even horses had.

Safe houses protected women from people who would harm them. They were given training, to find better jobs.



Many people lived in dirty and overcrowded slums. **Regular visits** gave comfort, food, and a helping hand.

AN ARMY FOR GOD

Members felt they were like soldiers, **fighting against poverty and injustice**; fighting for Jesus and **armed with love**.

Many chose to wear a **uniform**, at first often home-made, to show that they were **serious about their faith** and committed to helping others.

Members often **celebrated their faith through music**. They played instruments in the street and during meetings. People came to listen and to **hear about Jesus**.

For more information check out www.salvationarmy.org.uk