



Looking Back...



In 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 thirteen years 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 thirteen years 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, computers or i-pads!

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

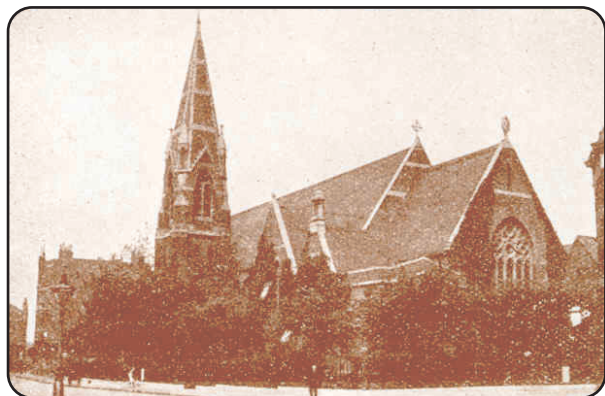
Mr Goldstraw starts **The Gordon Boys' Brigade** at St. John the Evangelist, Walton, Liverpool. Named after General Gordon, the hero of Khartoum, it is modelled on the BB but is strictly Anglican. Companies are formed all over Britain.

Walter Mallock Gee
Founder of
The Church Lads' Brigade



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

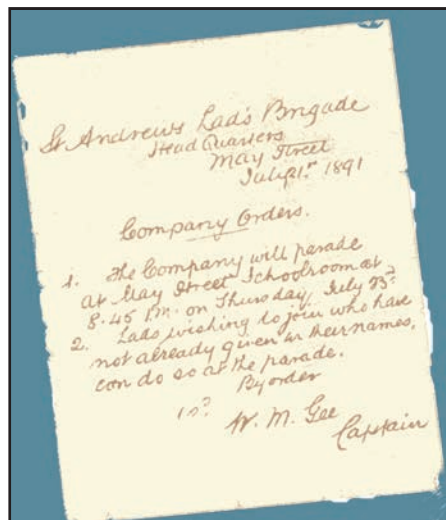
1891

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.

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1896

Command performance:
The first Royal Review.
By command of
H.M. Queen Victoria at Osborne House, Isle of Wight.

(left)



Rev. Thomas Milner



Left:
members of the CRCB with their distinctive uniforms.

1902

Coronation of King Edward VII the first monarch to be Patron of the CLB. H.R.H. Prince of Wales reviews CLB LDCLB and all the major boy brigades on Horse Guards Parade.

1901

Rev. Thomas Milner forms the **Church Red Cross Brigade** at Christ Church, West Green, Tottenham London. This was for young women and girls. Milner, who had been a LDCLB Captain, became the first 'Commandant'. The uniform and badges have a distinctive Red St George's/Greek/Cross. The CRCB performed much high-profile community service, most famously at the funeral parade of King Edward VII in London in 1910 when 150 members attended 'First Aid Posts' along the route. It was a very hot day and their services were well used.



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. Scouting activities using Baden-Powell's guidelines had been used in the Brigades since 1900.

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

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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**, relinquishing some of their autonomy. Drill with rifles, military manoeuvres and inspections are commonplace.



1911

The name of **The Church Red Cross Brigade** is changed to: **The Church Nursing & Ambulance Brigade** for Young Women & Girls. Its distinctive emblem, very soon after, being changed to a red 'cross patee' to make it distinct from the Geneva Cross used by the newly-formed British Red Cross Society. The large Red Cross disappears from the uniform. It soon becomes known simply as the '**CNAB**'. Milner's wife, Florence Nightingale Milner, is now Secretary and the organisation is run from the Milner's home in Edgware Rd. London.



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

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.



A JTC Lad

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.

1914-18

Thousands of CLB lads joined-up to fight for their country as The Great War started. By 1918 many had made the final sacrifice and would not return. More than 24 were awarded the Victoria Cross for their bravery.

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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 at High Wood and other locations 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 & pipelines, 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

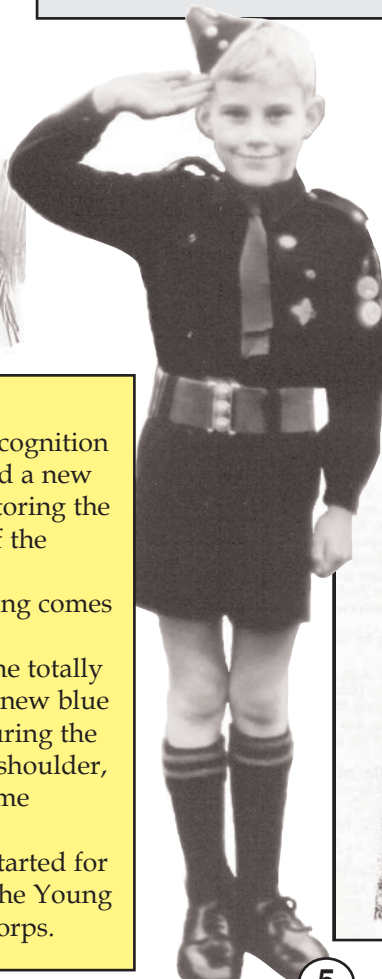
In recognition of the sacrifice made by the brave men of the 16th Battalion KRRC, the CLB affiliate en - masse to the King's Royal Rifle Corps as the KRRC Cadets. An appeal is immediately launched to equip all members of the CLB with khaki uniform.

1919

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



A LDCLB Lad.



A YBC Lad (left)



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.

1924

A blue uniform is introduced in CLB as an option to khaki

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.



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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.

1958

HRH Princess Alexandra deputised for HM The Queen who had, sadly been taken ill and was unable to take part in the Royal Review. The event was a great success, however, and included the march-past at Buckingham Palace by 370 chosen members (Pictured right) a Display at The Royal Albert Hall and, on the following day, a parade of 4,000 members to an open-air Service in Hyde Park. Just as the 1951 'Festival of Britain' (in which the CLB had taken part) had provided a post-war 'tonic' for the nation, so the 1958 review was uplifting for the whole Brigade.



1960

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

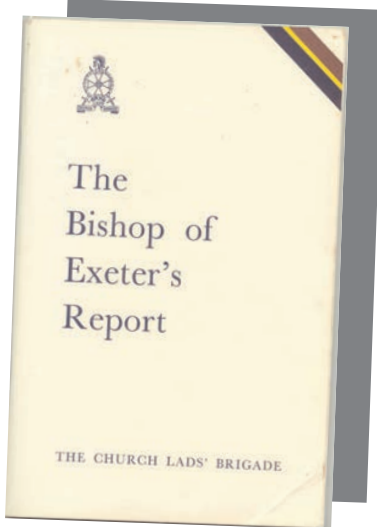
The first recipient is Sgt. Kevin Roberts, of the St James' Darwen, Company who also received the first Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Brigade! The name changed to Bishop's Award in 2001 then the Archbishop's Award was introduced as a replacement in 2003 along with some changed award criteria

1963

HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh Review members of the CLB in Windsor Great Park.



**Left:
taking
the
salute
at the
1963
Review**



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.

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1978

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



Courtesy Barnsley Chronicle

1979
The National Band Started.



Right & below:
H.M. The Queen at the 1980 Review

1980

H.M. The Queen reviews the Brigade in Windsor Great Park. This is the first Royal Review of the newly amalgamated CLCGB. As in previous reviews, overseas contingents were present on parade, notably from Newfoundland, Canada. Most participants were housed at a massive campsite near the review area and had travelled by coach from all over the UK.



1981

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



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1988

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

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.



1994

H.M. The Queen visits National Headquarters at Wath-upon-Dearne. She is accompanied by Sir Desmond Langley, Brigade Governor.



2002

The **Young Boys' and Young Girls' Corps** 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.



1996

The Historical Group Is formed to co-ordinate historical activities, explore the educational possibilities of the Brigade's history and to preserve, conserve and collate the Brigade Archives.



1996

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

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JTC Members

2002

The Junior Training Corps re-launched as 'JTC'

The slogan is 'Jump to the Challenge'

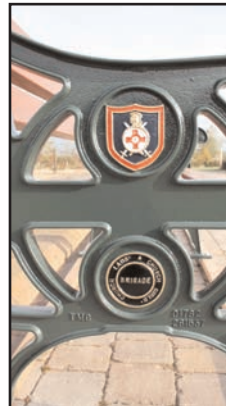
The new image is more than just a facelift with a new logo, sweatshirt uniform and badges.



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. Every year on the Saturday nearest Nov. 11th (The Brigade's Foundation Day as well as Remembrance Day) Wreaths have been laid in Remembrance. Since 2006 a Service has also been held in the NMA Chapel



Scenes from the Memorial Garden



2012

The St. Martin's Banner, the Brigade's Great War Memorial, forms part of the backdrop for the Royal wedding of The Duke & Duchess of Cambridge in Westminster Abbey.



A series of detailed 'Historical Factsheets' is available on the website covering many different aspects of the CLCGB



Looking Forward...

... going for growth.

Produced by Robin Bolton, Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade Historical Group for:

The Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade,

2, Barnsley Road, Wath-upon-Deerne, Rotherham, S63 6PY. Registered Charity No. 276821.

Tel: 01709 876535 Fax: 01709 878089. e-mail: brigadesecretary@clcgb.org.uk - website: www.clcgb.org.uk

