



# WILLIAM BOOTH

William Booth was one of the Founders of The Salvation Army.

I dedicated my life to telling people about **God** and **helping others**.

I passionately wanted people to experience **God's love** for them.



I preached about God's love for everyone, and spoke on the streets so I could **reach people who didn't come to church**. Then I met **Catherine Mumford**. She challenged some of my ideas and encouraged me to become a **full-time minister**.

After we married, I got a job as a **travelling preacher**. It was hard work but we loved it.

We understood that people needed not just words, but **practical help**, so they could **aim for a better life**.

When the church wanted me to work in only one place, we knew it was time for us to leave, **to be independent**.

**I was preaching** outside a pub in East London when I was invited to speak to a group, **The Christian Mission**.

They were **inspired by our ideas** and asked us to lead them. Together we took action to **help people** and to show **God's love** for them. We became a new church and charity – **The Salvation Army** – dedicated to **love God and love others**.

## KEY DATES

**1829** Born in **Nottingham** on 10 April.

**1842** Leaves school. Becomes an **assistant pawnbroker**.

**1844** Becomes a **Christian**. **Preaches** in the streets.

**1849** Moves to London for work. Still preaching on the streets.

**1851** Meets **Catherine Mumford**.

**1854** Completes training to be a **full-time minister**.

**1855** William and Catherine marry.

**1861** Leaves the church to be a **travelling preacher**.

**1865** Is asked to lead **The Christian Mission**.

**1878** Changes the name to **The Salvation Army**.

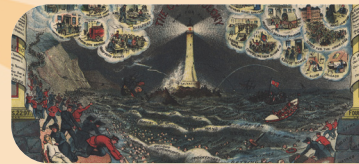
**1890** **Catherine dies**. Publishes ***In Darkest England and the Way Out***.

**1912** **William dies**. Their son, Bramwell, is the next General.



Lots of people came to our meetings, and many decided to change their lives and become Christians.

Members started calling me the General, as they felt we were an army, fighting for God and fairness for all.



I wrote a book about my plans to help people. It was a best-seller and raised lots of money to help carry out our ideas!

We helped change laws to protect people from exploitation and poor working conditions.



In the 1900's I went round the world to see all we had done. In the UK I travelled by car, and crowds flocked to see!

## WILLIAM'S WORDS



**'God shall have all there is of William Booth.'**

William's promise to God, when he became a Christian aged 15.

**'Soup, soap and salvation!'**

It was important to care for people first, as God loves and cares for everyone.



**'While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight. While little children go hungry, as they do now, I'll fight...'**

Attributed to William's *I'll fight* speech, aged 83.



For more information check out [WWW.SALVATIONARMY.ORG.UK](http://WWW.SALVATIONARMY.ORG.UK)