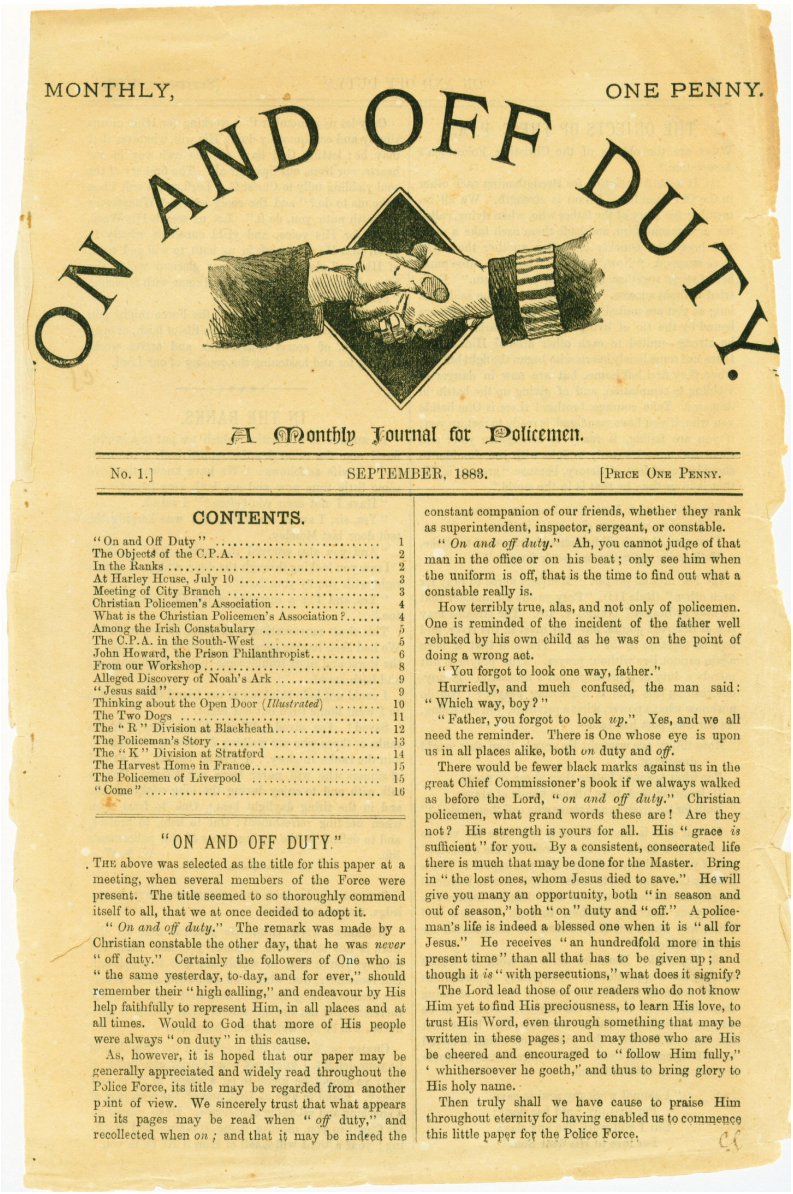
Christian Police Association

A short history of the Christian Police Association **2016 version**

For over 130 years, The Christian Police Association has been encouraging and supporting Christians in the Police Service. Enclosed within this publication is a brief summary of the journey thus far.



MONTHLY, ONE PENNY.

ON AND OFF DUTY.

A Monthly Journal for Policemen.

No. 1.] SEPTEMBER, 1883. [Price One Penny.

CONTENTS.

"On and Off Duty" 1
The Objects of the C.P.A. 2
In the Ranks 2
At Harley House, July 10 3
Meeting of City Branch 3
Christian Policemen's Association 4
What is the Christian Policemen's Association? 4
Among the Irish Constabulary 5
The C.P.A. in the South-West 5
John Howard, the Prison Philanthropist 6
From our Workshop 8
Alleged Discovery of Noah's Ark 9
"Jesus said" 9
Thinking about the Open Door (*Illustrated*) 10
The Two Dogs 11
The "R" Division at Blackheath 12
The Policeman's Story 13
The "K" Division at Stratford 14
The Harvest Home in France 15
The Policemen of Liverpool 15
"Come" 16

"ON AND OFF DUTY."

The above was selected as the title for this paper at a meeting, when several members of the Force were present. The title seemed to so thoroughly commend itself to all, that we at once decided to adopt it.

"*On and off duty.*" The remark was made by a Christian constable the other day, that he was *never* "off duty." Certainly the followers of One who is "the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever," should remember their "high calling," and endeavour by His help faithfully to represent Him, in all places and at all times. Would to God that more of His people were always "on duty" in this cause.

As, however, it is hoped that our paper may be generally appreciated and widely read throughout the Police Force, its title may be regarded from another point of view. We sincerely trust that what appears in its pages may be read when "*off* duty," and recollected when *on*; and that it may be indeed the constant companion of our friends, whether they rank as superintendent, inspector, sergeant, or constable.

"*On and off duty.*" Ah, you cannot judge of that man in the office or on his beat; only see him when the uniform is off, that is the time to find out what a constable really is.

How terribly true, alas, and not only of policemen. One is reminded of the incident of the father well rebuked by his own child as he was on the point of doing a wrong act.

"You forgot to look one way, father."

Hurriedly, and much confused, the man said: "Which way, boy?"

"Father, you forgot to look *up*." Yes, and we all need the reminder. There is One whose eye is upon us in all places alike, both *on* duty and *off*.

There would be fewer black marks against us in the great Chief Commissioner's book if we always walked as before the Lord, "*on and off duty.*" Christian policemen, what grand words these are! Are they not? His strength is yours for all. His "grace *is* sufficient" for you. By a consistent, consecrated life there is much that may be done for the Master. Bring in "the lost ones, whom Jesus died to save." He will give you many an opportunity, both "in season and out of season," both "on" duty and "off." A policeman's life is indeed a blessed one when it is "all for Jesus." He receives "an hundredfold more in this present time" than all that has to be given up; and though it *is* "with persecutions," what does it signify?

The Lord lead those of our readers who do not know Him yet to find His preciousness, to learn His love, to trust His Word, even through something that may be written in these pages; and may those who are His be cheered and encouraged to "follow Him fully," 'whithersoever he goeth," and thus to bring glory to His holy name.

Then truly shall we have cause to praise Him throughout eternity for having enabled us to commence this little paper for the Police Force.

C.G.

Front Page

First issue of CPA magazine

"On and Off Duty"

September 1883

Catherine Gurney OBE The Founder **2**

Significant Venues over time **3**

Where to find the full history of the CPA **4**

The Founder

Born to Joseph and Harriet at Lavender Hill, Battersea on 19 June 1848, Catherine Gurney was raised in the south London suburb of Wandsworth. It was here in about 1880 that she had her first encounters with police officers while walking home from helping the poor.

Following the death of her father, the family moved to Notting Hill, where the very first Christian Police meeting was held.

Her mother was a great support and encourager and the work among the police quickly became established and expanded across the United Kingdom. Everywhere she went, Catherine encouraged people to pray for the police.

Not just concerned with the spiritual welfare of the police, Catherine Gurney was instrumental in starting the first convalescent home entirely for police officers. With many officers dying at a young age and leaving large families, there was also the need for orphanages and schools. Enlisting the help of many benefactors as well as police officers themselves, the first seaside home and orphanage was started at West Brighton in Sussex (later known as Hove), to be followed shortly afterwards by similar facilities at Harrogate in Yorkshire.

Between the First and Second World Wars, Catherine was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of her services to the police.

Being a person of means meant she was able to travel extensively but this never appeared to be purely for pleasure. The CPA magazine records many of her visits and everywhere she was encouraging Christians to be involved with ministry to the police.

It was said that whenever she was asked to write her name in someone's book, she would always add 'Pray for the police'. Today, the Christian Police Association carries on that legacy with prayer being at the centre of what it does.

At the age of 82 Catherine died and was buried in Harrogate where, in 2007, the old headstone on her grave was replaced and a memorial garden inaugurated at the Northern Police Convalescent and Treatment Centre.

As one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary said when the garden was opened, 'The nursing profession have their Florence Nightingale but the Police Service has Catherine Gurney and we must never let them forget her.'

Catherine's legacy to the Police Service remains to this day. The Police Convalescent Homes she founded are now known as Rehabilitation or Treatment centres. They are located in Flint House in Oxfordshire, St Andrew's in Harrogate and at Castlebrae, Auchterarder in Scotland. She also founded Police Orphanages and schools whose ongoing work is continued by the Gurney Fund in the south and St George's Police Trust in the north. The CPA which Catherine founded remains an active voice for Christians in the Police. It is her tradition of practical Christianity that the CPA continually aims to promote.

Significant Venues

An early CPA meeting in the garden of the Gurney home in Ladbroke Terrace, Notting Hill, London.

Clarendon Villas, West Brighton, the location of the first orphanage and convalescent home.

The location of the first Police Institute at 1a Adelphi Terrace, London, which overlooked the river Thames.

St George's, Harrogate became the venue for the Northern Police Orphanage and Convalescent Home.

EXETER HALL.

Exeter Hall, where many of the early CPA annual meetings were held, including those at which C. H. Spurgeon spoke.

Ashley Gardens, Westminster, the home of Catherine Gurney in her latter years.

The full history of the CPA can be found in "Where Duty Calls" [2016] by Don Axcell

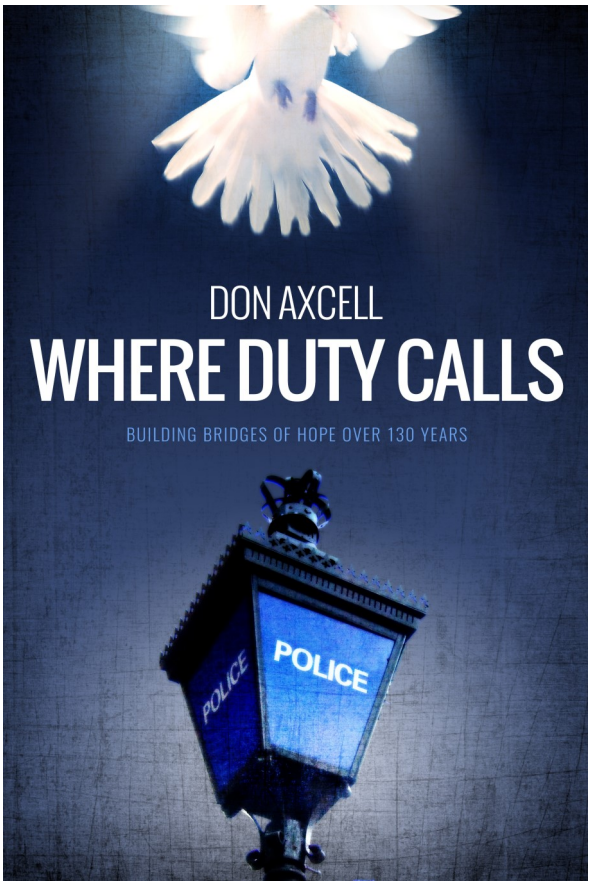
Policing from its earliest days has been a story of constant change, adapting to the needs of society yet always with the deep foundations of courage and concern for people. Those who chose to serve as police officers and staff have over the years faced constant challenges and controversies and many have paid a heavy price.

For much of this time the Christian Police Association has stood alongside colleagues, providing tangible support and the hope and love of the Gospel. Yet until now the truly significant involvement of Catherine Gurney and the Christian Police Association, in meeting both the spiritual and very practical needs of the Police Service, have remained largely untold and unsung.

In this rich and thorough account of the birth and development of the Christian Police Association, Don Axcell not only puts its growth into the wider context of the policing world but also shows how the influence and legacy of Catherine Gurney continues to this day. It is a story of inspiration, commitment and the continued impact and relevance of Jesus Christ in the life of the Police Service and those who go 'where duty calls'.

Sir Matthew Baggott CBE QPM

CPA President



Don Axcell was a Police Officer in London for thirty years before leaving to work full time for the Christian Police Association. He served in many roles, including Executive Director. Don retired from the CPA in 2016. He leaves us with an amazing legacy in the form of a thoroughly researched history of the first 130 years of the CPA.

This superb book was first published in 2016 and is available via Amazon.

Don Axcell