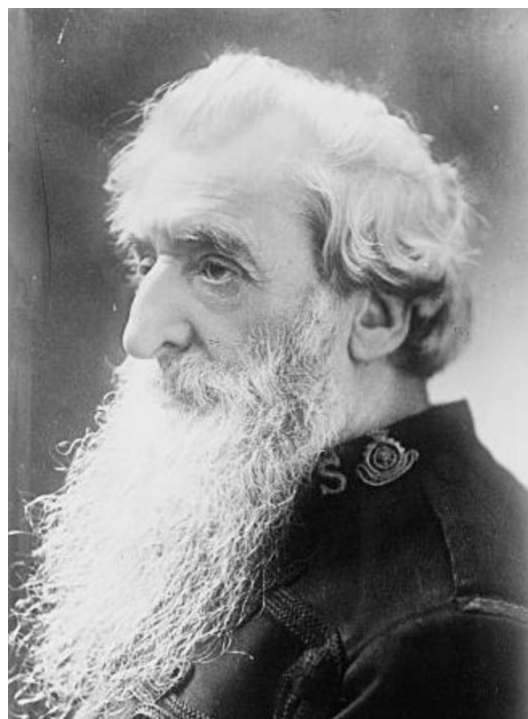




William Booth

Born in Nottingham in 1829 William Booth's first job was as an apprentice in a Pawnbroker's shop. He started attending Broad Street Wesley Chapel in 1842.

In 1846 he was impressed by the preaching of the Reverend James Caughey from America and David Greenbury from Scarborough. Encouraged by Greenbury he joined a group of fellow believers who preached in the streets and then delivered his first sermon in Kid Street Nottingham.

The former Bethel Methodist Chapel at 22 Bethel Street in Brighouse, now office premises, was a place of worship from 1811 to 1904 and it was there that the Rev William Booth was the minister within the Methodist New Connexion from 1857 to 1858

William Booth left this area in 1861 to travel around Britain preaching until, in 1865, he and his wife Catherine moved to the East End of London where he first preached in a tent in Whitechapel before forming the Christian Mission. In 1878 this was renamed the Salvation Army with William Booth as its first General.

By the time of William's death in 1912 the Salvation Army had grown to 15,875 officers and cadets, operating in 58 countries. In 2020 this has grown to operations in 130 countries and in the UK there are some 650 local Churches/Community Centres.

The first Salvation Army Church in Brighouse was on Bethel Street before moving in 1995 to the current location on King Street.

