

# 93 JOURNEYS TO SAFETY AND STABILITY

February – September 2026

Your care and support  
means so much to the  
women at the  
Marylebone  
Project



As the project ends  
**we're launching a  
£100k campaign to  
ensure every woman  
can take her next step  
to safety and stability.**

Marylebone  
Project 

**CHURCH ARMY**  
ESTD 1882

Photo: Kirsty Edmunds Images

# TOGETHER IN THIS FINAL CHAPTER

**The Marylebone Project is expected to close fully by 30th September 2026, a painful and significant moment for everyone connected to its long history of service.**

In 2025, Church Army began a major strategic review to secure the organisation's long-term sustainability. As part of this, the difficult decision was made to step back from running large-scale projects, including the Marylebone Project, which had faced £2m of losses over four years.

Since then, Church Army has explored every viable option to secure the Project's future. Lengthy discussions with Westminster City Council included a full appraisal of the buildings, but the Council ultimately confirmed in December 2025 that it could not proceed with a bid due to the significant investment required.

Church Army will now move into the next phase: marketing the buildings and managing a careful transition for residents and staff ahead of closure.

This decision is not a reflection of the extraordinary work carried out here. **Countless women have found safety, dignity, and hope because of this legacy of care, a legacy you have helped shape. Your compassion has strengthened our teams and made a profound difference to the women who have walked through these doors.**

**As we prepare for closure, our focus is firmly on the 93 women currently living here.** Each woman's journey is unique. Some will move into new supported accommodation; others will take brave steps into new environments. All need safety, stability, and someone beside them as they take their next step. Although leaving can feel daunting, the Centre was never intended to

be a permanent home. We are very used to supporting women as they move on into new, brighter places, and we remain committed to walking with each resident to ensure she does so with confidence, dignity, and hope.

**Church Army CEO, Matt Barlow,** reflects: "For nearly a century, the Marylebone Project has been a place where women have found safety, stability, and the chance to rebuild their lives. I know how deeply this work matters to so many, and how painful it is to hear that the project will be closing.

My first thoughts are with the women living here today. We remain fully committed to supporting each of the 93 women through this transition, doing everything we can to ensure every individual finds the right next place to live.

I am also profoundly grateful to our staff, whose dedication and compassion continue to shine, and whose generosity has changed so many lives. Together, we will ensure this final chapter is handled with the dignity and care it deserves.

To our supporters, thank you. Your generosity, and belief in this work have shaped the lives of hundreds of women. Many are stronger today because of the stability and kindness they found here, and we are grateful for you."

Your support is still vital to ensure that every woman has a safe place to go and the chance to move forward with dignity, choice, and the care she deserves.

**In this final chapter, we ask you as a supporter, to stand with us, our team, and the women themselves, as we prepare for what comes next. We will support every woman as she moves forward into a new home.**

Marylebone project building, Marylebone road. Photo: Kirsty Edmunds Images



**The Marylebone Project:  
A REFLECTION ON THE  
PAST 12 MONTHS**

# THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

Over the past 12 months, your generosity has made a real and measurable difference. Because of your support 45 women have been able to move on to safe, stable and sustainable futures. Many have grown in confidence, built friendships, shared meals, taken part in creative and wellbeing activities, and received one-to-one support that has helped them take steady, meaningful steps towards independence.

These experiences have not only strengthened the women who have already moved on but have also encouraged those who remain with us. Your support has helped them prepare for their own next steps with greater hope and courage.

Your generous donations have also enabled us to continue supporting women with a wide range of needs, including those who have required longer-term accommodation, consistent contact with support workers, and a slower, more careful approach. This steady, relational work has been essential in ensuring stability and safety throughout the year, as the number of women in our care has gradually reduced to the 93 who remain today.

**As we enter the final phase of the Project, we want you to know that your donations and support over the past year have been stewarded with care and have created real, lasting impact.**



Photo: Kirsty Edmunds Images

## SAM'S\* STORY

Sam arrived at the Project carrying the weight of two years of coercion and control. When she stepped inside for the first time, she whispered to staff, **'I finally feel like I can breathe.'** That moment marked the beginning of her healing.

In the months that followed, she slowly rebuilt her sense of self as safety took root. She joined activities, opening up in workshops, and allowing herself to hope again. One team member reflected, **'We watched her come back to life, not all at once, but in these beautiful, steady steps.'**

After 18 months with us, Sam moved into her own home, securing a lifetime tenancy, something she once believed was out of reach. She described the moment as **'a miracle... like stepping into a life I never believed I'd have.'**

As this ministry comes to a close, Sam's story reflects our hope for every woman: a safe home, a stable future, and the chance to move forward with dignity, courage and hope. Her journey is a powerful reminder of the resilience it takes to begin again, and of the life-changing impact of steady, compassionate support.

**Your kindness has helped make stories like Sam's possible, and it continues to make a difference as each woman prepares for what comes next.**

\*Identifying details have been altered.

# HOW YOUR DONATIONS HAVE BEEN USED

Your generosity has made a real and practical difference this year. Because of you, women have received the safety and support they need during a time of significant change.



**Your donations have enabled us to offer longer-term, transitional accommodation for women who need extra time to stabilise.** Many arrive after trauma or crisis and having a secure place to stay for more than a few weeks gives them space to recover and prepare for their next steps.



**You have also helped fund regular contact with dedicated support workers.** These trusted relationships matter. Support workers guide women through essential tasks such as accessing healthcare, benefits, and preparing for independent living. For many, this steady support has been life-changing.



**Your generosity has also made our trauma-informed approach possible.** This means working in ways that recognise the impact of past harm, avoid re-triggering distress, and help each woman feel safe, respected, and in control of her choices. It takes time and care, and your support enables it.

**Together, you have helped create a calm and reassuring environment at a challenging time for the project. Because of you, women have not faced this season alone. They have felt supported, encouraged, and ready to take their next steps with dignity and confidence.**



Photo: Kirsty Edmunds Images



**93 women remain in our accommodation, and our focus is now on helping each woman navigate her resettlement.**

## WHERE WE ARE NOW

As we enter the final phase of the Project, we remain committed to offering the highest level of care. Providing temporary accommodation has always been at the heart of our work, the Project was never designed to be a long-term home, but a safe, stabilising place for women to stay while they rebuilt their lives and prepared for their next step.

**Today, 93 women remain in our accommodation, and our focus is now on helping each woman navigate her resettlement,** ensuring she has the stability and guidance she needs to move on safely and confidently.

**This closing phase is already underway and will continue over the next 8 months, gradually scaling down as women move on and remaining active until the final transitions are complete at the end of September.**



The Marylebone Project:

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

# WHAT HAPPENS BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF SEPTEMBER?

The next step will look different for each woman, and the funds we receive in the months ahead will be used to prepare each transition with care and compassion.

- ♥ **Women with complex needs** will be supported to move into specialist supported living, with donations funding the support hours, specialist input, and consistent team presence needed to help them prepare for this change. Your support will ensure they reach this next stage with confidence and stability before their ongoing care is taken on by the new service.
- ♥ **Women with age-related needs** will be helped to move into suitable sheltered housing that offers accessibility, comfort, and reassurance. Donations will fund the time and expertise required to secure appropriate accommodation and ensure each woman's individual needs are fully considered as she prepares to leave the project.
- ♥ **Women moving into private rented accommodation** will receive practical support, including help with deposits, essential household items, utilities, budgeting, and moving costs. Donations will also cover small but vital settling-in expenses, such as an initial food shop, and enable short-term follow-up support as women establish themselves and connect with local community networks.

*Every pathway requires thoughtful planning and dedicated resources. Your generosity in the months ahead will allow us to walk alongside each woman, ensuring she can move forward safely, supported, and ready for the future ahead.*

*Amy Hull, Executive Manager, The Marylebone Project*



# CAN YOU HELP US IN THIS FINAL CHAPTER?

Your support could make a meaningful difference to each individual story in the final months of the **Marylebone Project**. As the project continues to run, all of the normal project running costs, such as energy bills and staff time will remain. As the income reduces and the women resettle, Church Army will be bearing this additional cost. This is why we are looking to raise the additional costs that will mean we can resettle 93 women well.

As we guide the remaining women toward lives where they can feel safe and settled, your support is vital to meeting the staffing, energy, and resettlement costs of this final phase. We want to share some examples of how every contribution can make a direct and tangible difference.



**£100**  
could cover transport to a woman's new accommodation



**£150**  
could fund an initial food shop as she settles in



**£500**  
could pay for a home-starter pack with kitchenware, bedding and toiletries



**£500 - £1,000**  
could help a woman set up her home with essentials such as carpets or curtains



**£1,500 - £2,000**  
could cover a rental deposit for a new place to live



**£3,700**  
could provide one woman with one-to-one support from a resettlement worker throughout her move into new accommodation

If you wish to give a more substantial gift, **for instance £20,000, which could provide five women with dedicated one-to-one support on their journey**, please reach out, we'd be happy to talk if this is something you'd like to explore.

**We promise to steward your gift carefully and use it where it will make the greatest difference.**

Your gift will support the wider work of our resettlement programme. The examples above illustrate the kinds of needs your donation may help meet, but funds may not be used for those specific items. This flexibility allows us to respond where the need is greatest.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for caring about the women at the heart of this project



**Help us raise £100,000 to give 93 women the safe, stable lives they deserve.**

As we enter the final chapter of the Marylebone Project, we are seeking to raise £100,000 to support 93 amazing and beautiful women as they take their next steps into safer, more settled lives, and to support and encourage our incredible, dedicated team working hard to walk alongside them.

Your support will show them they are not alone, that you are standing with them and wishing them well as they move forward into a dignified and happy future, one that can feel, as Sam described it...

**“...like stepping into a life I never believed I’d have!”**



**Join us in this challenge, together we can help every woman take her next steps with safety and dignity, so please give or raise what you can; your support will make all the difference.**

# HOW TO GIVE

You can support this project by bank transfer to:

Account name: **The Portman House Trust**  
Sort code: **20-49-81**  
Account number: **70169579**  
Reference: **MBP93Journeys**

Or

Account name: **The Church Army**  
Sort code: **20-49-81**  
Account number: **80255459**  
Reference: **MBP93Journeys**

If possible, please use your SUPPORTER NUMBER when donating so we can allocate your gift appropriately.

You may be wondering why there are two bank account numbers. Some of our supporters use one account and some use the other; both are linked to Church Army. Please use whichever account you have previously used for past donations. If you are donating for the first time, please use the Church Army account.

*From February to September 2026, our focus will be on resettling the 93 women who remain. This is a significant task, and we are asking for your continued support so that this final stage is handled with care and dignity. Support can take many forms, financial gifts, practical help as needs arise, and holding the women, staff and partners in prayer. Together, we can bring this chapter to a responsible and compassionate close.*  
*Matt Barlow, CEO Church Army*



Photo: Kirsty Edmunds Images



Photo: Kirsty Edmunds Images

# THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE MARYLEBONE PROJECT STORY

The Marylebone Project has always relied on the strength and generosity of its partners who have made a significant contribution to the progress made up until now, which simply would not have been possible without you.

Westminster City Council  
The NHS  
Forsters LLP  
The Westminster Homelessness Partnership  
The Baker Street Quarter  
Howard de Walden  
The Harley Street BID  
Greenhouse Sports  
Place2Be  
Westminster Adult Education Service

And finally, a special thanks to our Ambassador Karen Walker, our many Church partners, Charitable Trusts and Foundations and of course countless individual supporters. At the heart of all this is you. Your generosity, encouragement, and belief in the women we serve have carried this project forward. We could not have achieved any of this without you, and we are truly grateful for every step you have taken with us.

“  
**a miracle... like stepping into a life I never believed I'd have!**  
*Sam, a previous Marylebone Project resident*

If you would like to ask any questions about the project or have any questions about this appeal, please feel free to email/call Ally Wenham, Church Army's Key Relationships Manager  
**[ally.wenham@churcharmy.org](mailto:ally.wenham@churcharmy.org) | 01142521653 (DL)**

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Marylebone Project



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