Salvation Army Citadel

Closed
Christian
4 Shawbury Road, SE22 9DH

Shawbury hall exterior

Historical summary
The Salvation Army used Shawbury Hall as a Citadel from December 1891 until April 1983. The hall seated 400 and there were several other rooms. They also had a house in Hansler Road that adjoined the hall. In the early 1900s, under the aegis of Captain Pinnock, meetings were held every evening except Tuesdays. On Sundays four indoor and three outdoor meetings were held. Attendances were about 60 in the morning with 150-200 in the evening.

The Sunday School had around 90 children with around 50 members of the Band of Hope. Some of the children came from the Maxted Road area of East Dulwich. Members were typically 'people who take a decent wage' with no independently wealthy people. Captain Pinnock said the Army had little contact with other churches in the area. He said Dulwich people did not drink in public but that a 'tremendous lot' of drinking went on 'behind the scenes'. The church also had a Young People's Legion for members aged 14-20. They pray, sing, sew and knit.

During the Blitz, the Salvation Army provided shelter and care for local residents in and around Shawbury Road. The front of the hall was rebuilt after WW2. The hall is now the Gurdwara Baba Buddha Sahib Ji Sikh Temple.

Sources: Southwark Local Studies.