An answered prayer!

n paper all seemed quite easy. It was a beautiful March day, but I was nervous as I made my way to the Headquarters of 19 Mech. Brigade. I drove to Catterick Garrison along a road lined with daffodils and in a car lent to me by Peggy Boynes. I would be working with the Soldiers. Airmen's and Sailors' Readers' Association (SASRA), taking school assemblies, hospital visiting and contacting other regiments. I began to wonder what else the next four weeks would have in store for me.

My first shock was living in an Officers' Mess and coping with formal and informal dress. Before leaving my room for my first evening dinner, I prayed for God to send me someone to talk to. I was joined at the table by an Officer who was very talkative and shared with me that he had been involved in getting Bibles into China. An answered prayer!

During my second visit to a psychiatric hospital, I was talking to a patient in the communal area when a young man joined us. The patient I was visiting left but the young man stayed. Then he said: "I went to the chapel today but I am sure God was wondering what I was doing there, wasting His time." I answered: "Had you ever thought that God was waiting for you to come and talk to Him and was wondering

what had taken you so long?"

The young man said he had never thought of it like that before and, as he began to think about it, his face just lit up. Our conversation continued for another half hour or so. We parted with my agreeing to pray for him and left wondering what those answered prayers would have meant to him. I still think about him and wonder how he is getting on. He is in God's hands now.

The placement on a personal level was about testing my call to work with the Armed Forces. This type of work has been on my heart for a long time and I went to Catterick hoping I would hate it but I came away having loved it. The placement has surprised and challenged me in ways I had never expected. It was probably the

most rewarding placement I had in college.

Val Thom

Prayer Request

Pray for Val that as she begins her new role as a Community Evangelist in the Upper Shankill Road, Belfast that whilst working with people in the local community, she may help them to find God in a way that is relevant to where they are.

