

## Herald of Free Enterprise — 36th Anniversary.



On Friday, 6th March 1987 at 18.30 hours GMT, The Herald of Free Enterprise on passage to Dover, carrying 430 passengers and 80 crew, capsized off Zeebrugge with the loss of 193 lives.

This had a major effect on the people of Dover as so many had worked on ferries or had family who died. Of the 80 local crew 39 died, most Dovorians of that era can tell you where they were when they heard the news (I was in a hotel bar 6000 miles away).

The annual Remembrance services have taken many forms but after 35 years, and the withdrawal of all Sailors' Society clergy from the South East it was decided to stop the formal service in St Mary's and just have a simple service on the sea front.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March the Dover Port Chaplains team led the Act of Remembrance, the two minute silence, the reading of the roll, a blessing and then further prayers at the Pier Head when flowers were cast into the sea.

It was bitter weather, but no worse than the night of the disaster, and still 40 people gathered in remembrance: from family members, survivors, a diver from the wreck and civic leaders.

The media were there and we made the second item on the Meridian news that evening.



It was only 25 minutes for the main event, but whilst there are so many local families still grieving it cannot be forgotten.

*David Slater (Secretary)*

## New beginnings

### From our soon to be new Coordinating Chaplain and Bluewater Lead:

My background and experience is in primary education but I have spent the last seven years as a chaplain at a YMCA, covering hostels, nursery schools, and a gym in Kent, South East London and Essex. I have offered pastoral support to staff, residents and members and told lots of stories to small children. I also enjoy working with community organisations and interfaith groups. I am a licensed Lay Reader in the Church of England and worship and serve at St Michael and All Angels, Wilmington. I'm involved in the training of Lay Ministers with Rochester Diocese.



When I'm not at work, I write books, plays and scripts and have enjoyed working with professional publishers, actors, producers and directors.

I've also had experience of speaking to adults and children, in writers' groups, colleges, at arts festivals and broadcasting on BBC Radio Kent.

I'm looking forward meeting and working with staff, trustees and other chaplains at Kent Workplace Mission and at Bluewater.

*Penny Culliford*

## Ellen Couzens (Trustee) at SECamb

I was licensed by my Parish in 2021 as a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM). After I left that church last year, Rochester Diocese decided to license me directly into my South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb) chaplaincy, commissioned in 2019, and also to the Diocese!



*Ellen Couzens (Trustee) with Andy Wooding Jones (KWM Chair)*

Apparently this is quite unusual as all LLMs are usually licensed to their parish.

SECamb covers Kent, Surrey and Sussex.



*Ian Kelly (Paramedic), Ellen Couzens (Trustee), Vic Twine (Chaplain), Rachael Curtis (Community First Responder), Paul Fermor (Senior Chaplain).*

We have a network of chaplains within the service, one for each ambulance station and control room, headed by a team of 4 Senior Chaplains (of which I am one). I look after the staff at Medway Ambulance Station as their chaplain and have oversight of two control rooms as a senior chaplain. All the chaplains are volunteers.

# Annual General Meeting 2023



Registered Charity No. 1105783

**You are all invited to our**

## **Annual General Meeting**

**To be held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 19:30**

**At Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church,**

**New Hythe Lane, Larkfield ME20 6PN**

## **Weekly Fellowship**

Wednesdays, 10.00am-11.00am on Zoom

We really look forward to you joining us some time to share with us in an engaging hour of reflective bible study and supportive prayer for the work of KWM. For joining details follow this link on our website: [Weekly Fellowship | Kent Workplace Mission](#)

or email: [admin@kentworkplacemission.org](mailto:admin@kentworkplacemission.org)

# A Journey through to Easter

## Out of Ashes comes new life.

I am writing this on the evening of Ash Wednesday and as I was walking home after serving my second Mass of the day with the Imposition of Ashes, I got to thinking what a damp and miserable day it has been to welcome the start of this most glorious season of Lent. My mood of disappointment was soon to pass when I started to think that journey to Easter Sunday would see a change in the weather, the days would get longer, and buds of new growth would start to spring through.

## Our Journey to Easter.

It is a joy to relive, each year, this beautiful path that leads us throughout lent, to the feast of Easter, the manifestation of the infinite love of Jesus for each of us.



Lent is the perfect time to turn again to the centre of the universe, God, our Creator, our Saviour, our Father. We must constantly strive to keep our lives aligned with God, but also to develop and deepen our relationship with our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

The Church's Tradition proposes three tools for inner conversion: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

These three tools successively express conversion in relation to God, in relation to oneself and in relation to others. They help us to correct our vices while growing in charity.



## Rediscover His image

Before my retirement in December 2021 due to poor health and whilst managing the chaplaincy team at HMP Swaleside I would ask and encourage my chaplains to use Lent wisely and reconnect with our Saviour, to rediscover His image. The reason for this is because if you do not recognise our Saviour how can you recognise His image in the face of those you are ministering to.

The time of Lent may seem austere because the path to salvation, in the beginning, is always challenging. However, as St. Benedict writes,

*"For as we progress in a holy life and in faith, our hearts expand, and we run the way of God's commandments with unspeakable sweetness of love."*

Therefore, Lent is not a time of sadness, but a time of joy. Let us rejoice because, once again, we have the opportunity to show Jesus how much love him by helping those we minister to love Jesus also!

*Reverend Deacon John Letley  
(Trustee KWM)*



# Vacancy for: Volunteer Treasurer

*Kent Workplace Mission supporting Chaplaincy in the Workplace across Kent*

**The Treasurer is a Trustee of the charity responsible to the Council for developing financial strategy and ensuring delivery.**

**The Treasurer works closely with the Administrator who normally handles financial transactions, book-keeping, and banking.**

**The Treasurer's contribution includes:**

**Leading thinking on financial strategy**

**Leading fundraising for the charity**

**Preparing the annual accounts**

**Reporting the current position at the Operations Group and Trustee Council meetings**

There is a requirement for the Treasurer to be a practising Christian. He or she will mostly work from home but also attends meetings either on Zoom or at the Larkfield base, including the Council four times a year and the Operations Group on about another six occasions. Reasonable expenses can be reimbursed.

**Kent Workplace Mission** is a Local Ecumenical Partnership of Churches Together in Kent, and a registered charity. We promote and resource workplace chaplaincy as a model of mission, community engagement, and loving service. We work in partnership with local congregations and workplaces to offer chaplaincy support services across Kent, Bexley and Bromley. We currently have teams in businesses, local councils, and town centres across the region. The majority of our chaplains are volunteers.

The Trustees of KWM are hoping to fill the above vacancy before the AGM in May 2023 to allow a handover period from the retiring Treasurer.

If this might be your calling or you have further questions, please contact initially the Administrator Madeleine Shepley at: [admin@kentworkplacemission.org](mailto:admin@kentworkplacemission.org) by **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

## Hard work for Lent

Most of the prominent people in Kent Workplace Mission are natural activists. The work they do for KWM is but a fraction of their whole Christian service. Finding dates for meetings when even a small number are all free simultaneously is always a challenge. And without their commitment KWM would collapse.

The story we usually link most tightly with Lent is Jesus escaping from any normal “work” for forty days – almost a sabbatical. He did not clear his diary of trivia in order to work harder but to do nothing. Except that when I sat alone in the desert above the Dead Sea a few years ago it did not feel like doing nothing. It was an extraordinarily intense experience. “Doing nothing” is such hard work, especially if you sense the whole earthly journey of Jesus being burnt into your consciousness by the sun.

Activity returned of course, as it did for Jesus. The busy world is never hushed for long. There are five more emails already. But a bit of “doing nothing” might make my answers better.

If you are just off to do a bit of chaplaincy, remember that the people you meet may covet your unusually still centre more than your impressively full diary.

*John Ellis*

*(KWM Vice-Chair)*



# Trustees and Office Holders

KWM is a Local Ecumenical Partnership being a mission partner of Churches Together in Kent, and so has trustees from the partner denominations, as well as trustees representing the membership. Trustees are appointed, and officers elected, annually.

## Denominational Trustees

### Rochester Diocese

Ven Andy Wooding Jones and Ellen Couzens

### Canterbury Diocese

Revd Dr Jonathan Arnold and Ven Andrew Sewell

### South East Baptist Association

*two vacancies*

### Archdiocese of Southwark

Revd John Letley and Revd Michael Dale

### South East Methodist District

Revd Helen Hollands and Revd Naomi Oates

### South East Division Salvation Army

Major Mark Herbert and *one vacancy*

### Southern Synod United Reformed Church

Richard Blackwell and John Ellis

## Members' Trustees

Paul Buckley

David Slater

Alan Wood

## Officers

### Chair

Ven Andy Wooding Jones

### Vice-Chair

John Ellis

### Secretary

David Slater

### Treasurer

Alan Wood

## Contact



[kentworkplacemission.org](http://kentworkplacemission.org)



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