

Chaplaincy and Walking alongside you

Chaplaincy is often described as “walking alongside”. No sooner had I started in this role, than I broke my ankle and couldn’t walk anywhere. I couldn’t walk, couldn’t drive, but fortunately I could work from home. In-person meetings went online and I attended webinars and training sessions that would have been difficult if I were travelling around as much as I usually do.

The Methodist Covenant Prayer contains the lines,

*“I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you,
or laid aside for you...”*

Even knowing it to be true, doesn’t make it easy to accept.

However, it has given me the opportunity to slow down, to reflect, pray and to ask questions. So far David Slater and I have looked into training for Chaplains. What are the basics that every new or returning Chaplain needs? What other skills or areas would be helpful to cover? How do we ensure we all meet professional and accountable standards in safeguarding?



Penny with Andy Wooding Jones (chair)

We want all Chaplains connected with KWM to feel supported and encouraged. We want to give Chaplains and others the chance to meet together and pray regularly, whether that is online or in person and ensure they have access to knowledge and resources which are available and accessible. We want to assure them that their prayers and their presence makes a difference. We want to reassure them that they are living out their faith in Jesus in places outside the Church.

We are looking at initiatives such as Christ the Worker and seeing what has been valuable and what could be better. Work and identity are often linked. Some work is a vocation, a calling from God. Others work to live.

It’s a time of growth with two new retail Chaplaincies in Ashford and Tunbridge Wells. Early reports are that staff value the visits and the opportunity to talk, and the knowledge that someone cares. Potential Chaplaincies in towns and villages, as well as other workplaces are also under discussion.

Being injured has also helped me to pray for those who face longer term, or permanent health problems and disabilities. Our fellow travellers and companions with Jesus, showing that everyone has a role and a task in the Kingdom. I hope to be present again before too long – as soon as the ankle is mended!

Penny Culliford (Coordinating Chaplain)

News from the Port of Dover

Chaplains can get asked to get involved in all sorts of oddball things where people don't want an established denomination.

On April 26th the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run came to Dover to visit several schools and unveil a Peace Statue on the sea front. Rather than approach any of the regular churches, the District Council started with the Port Chaplaincy as an ecumenical group.

I saw the runners off from the Roman Pharos lighthouse in Dover Castle with prayers and then with the local Catholic Area Priest said prayers before the unveiling.



More conventionally, a sailing pilgrimage is underway around the UK on behalf of Stella Maris, the Roman Catholic mission to seamen & women.

They stopped in Dover overnight of the 1st May and as Port Chaplain I was invited to participate in the Mass held by Bishop Paul Hendricks at the local church.



David with Bishop Paul Hendricks, and John Fogarty



John Fogarty one of our local chaplains was involved organizing the southern section of the trip.

It was good weather as we assembled to send the boat on its next leg (and I wasn't photo-bombing the bishop & clergy, honestly) [\[Really though?\]](#)

David Slater (Secretary)

Annual General Meeting 2023

The KWM Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church.

You can read the minutes [here](#). There was a moderate turnout. We were particularly delighted to welcome our newest Chaplaincy team who started at Royal Victoria Place, Tunbridge Wells (see page 5).

For the Methodist District, Helen Hollands stepped down – she was thanked for all her work as a Trustee and as our Safeguarding lead. David Hinchliffe has been appointed in her place. Jonathan Arnold and Andrew Sewell stepped down from the Church of England, Canterbury Diocese. Will Adam was welcomed as the appointee for one of their places. Alan Wood stepped down after 10 years in the role as Treasurer – Andy thanked Alan wholeheartedly for his diligence and work over that time.

Two new appointments:

I am **Will Adam**, the Archdeacon of Canterbury and a Residentiary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. I arrived in Kent in July 2022 after having spent five years working at Lambeth Palace and the Anglican Communion Office where I was responsible for supporting ecumenical relations for the Anglican Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Prior to that I was in parish ministry since my ordination in 1994.

My interest in workplace chaplaincy stems from the time when I was an incumbent in the Diocese of Ely. The chaplain for Cambridgeshire's Chaplaincy to People at Work lived in the parish, as did the Chaplain to the Hertfordshire Fire Service. Since that time I have recognised the importance of workplace ministry, but also its struggles and pressures. I am looking forward to getting to know KWM and its work across the County.



Will Adam (Canterbury Diocese Trustee)



Hello! My name is **David Hinchliffe**, and I serve as the Chair of the South-East District of the Methodist Church. The District stretches from East Berkshire, through North Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and across Kent – and not forgetting Malta and Gibraltar!

Although I was born and raised in Yorkshire and trained for Methodist ministry in Durham, my ministry has been exercised in the South East of England and the Channel Islands: in Hampshire, West Sussex, Surrey and the Channel Islands, where I was based in Guernsey. And now I am back in the South-East District! I am married to Kathryn, and we have two grown up children.

Since the earliest days of Methodism, Methodists have gone where people have gone – literally and metaphorically at the coalface – and that certainly included Kent! Many churches have a “come to us” view of the world. Workplace chaplaincy means taking God’s love and presence to where people are in their space – which is holy ground. I am so grateful for the amazing KWM chaplains, and for the many ways and contexts in which they show God’s love through chaplaincy. I look forward to supporting this wonderful piece of ecumenical work across Kent.

David Hinchliffe (Methodist Trustee)

Christ the Worker

1st May is observed in many places around the world as International Workers' Day, or Labour Day, honouring the role of work in society and the dignity of workers.

Churches around the world have adopted the *first Sunday in May* as a day to honour workers. As [Kent Workplace Mission](#) is an ecumenical trust providing workplace chaplaincy it follows that Christ the Worker is a fitting feast to bless those in work around us and bringing KWM to our parishes.

We will be developing resources for Bible Study, Prayer, Worship and Reflection in the lead up to next year. Consider approaching your parish leaders to mark the day in honour of all at work. The Blessing cards are just one resource that we offer as a start of a conversation with those we come across in our daily lives.

bless you

blessings be at work for you
as you are at work for us
kentworkplacemission.org

A date for your diary:

Christ the Worker
Sunday 5th May 2024



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

All in God's timing... Tunbridge Wells Chaplaincy

A heart for Retail Ministry

Isn't it amazing how God has a way of bringing people together at the right time and in the right place. This was the experience of Tony, Rev Anne and Captain Zoe in Tunbridge Wells. All 3 had a heart for retail ministry and were waiting for God's timing. This is our story...

Our Journey together

Following his licensing as a lay minister in May 2020, it was agreed that Tony Fitzpatrick would explore the possibility of retail Chaplaincy in his hometown of Tunbridge Wells.

Since moving to the town in 2017 Captain Zoe Smith, had a passion for this ministry after her time in the Bluewater team.

Royal Victoria Place Shopping Centre

It wasn't until the Spring of 2022 that Tony came across Captain Zoe and felt God saying the time was now.



After receiving the backing and support from Churches For Tunbridge Wells and engaging with KWM Mark Ball, we began to plan our next steps.

At an information evening at RVP in the autumn, we met Rev. Anne Payne, who had earlier experience in the outlets of Guildford. God was bringing our first team together.



May 2023 Launch

Once again, we had to trust in God's timing as whilst we'd hoped to start around Christmas things had to be put on hold. Various meetings followed before the lead up to the launch in May 2023.

God's amazing timing continued as in the week following 'Christ the worker' Sunday and equipped with blessing cards, the team ventured out for the first time, splitting the outlets between them, introducing themselves to the store managers and we were welcomed into every store we visited.

Big Vision

It's still very early days, and our team is quite small, but we have a vision that one day all of our stores and restaurants in Tunbridge Wells will have their own chaplain. We know that this is a big vision but we believe in a big God and we will continue to trust Him and His timing as we all look forward, praying that this ministry will flourish in the weeks and months ahead.

Tony Fitzpatrick (Chaplain)

Meet the team:

Captain Zoe Smith, Tony Fitzpatrick, Rev Anne Payne



Vacancy for: Volunteer Treasurer still open

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 still looking to fill this vacancy.

If this might be your calling or perhaps you know someone suitable or you have further questions, please contact initially the Administrator Madeleine Shepley at: admin@kentworkplacemission.org

The Fruit of the Spirit

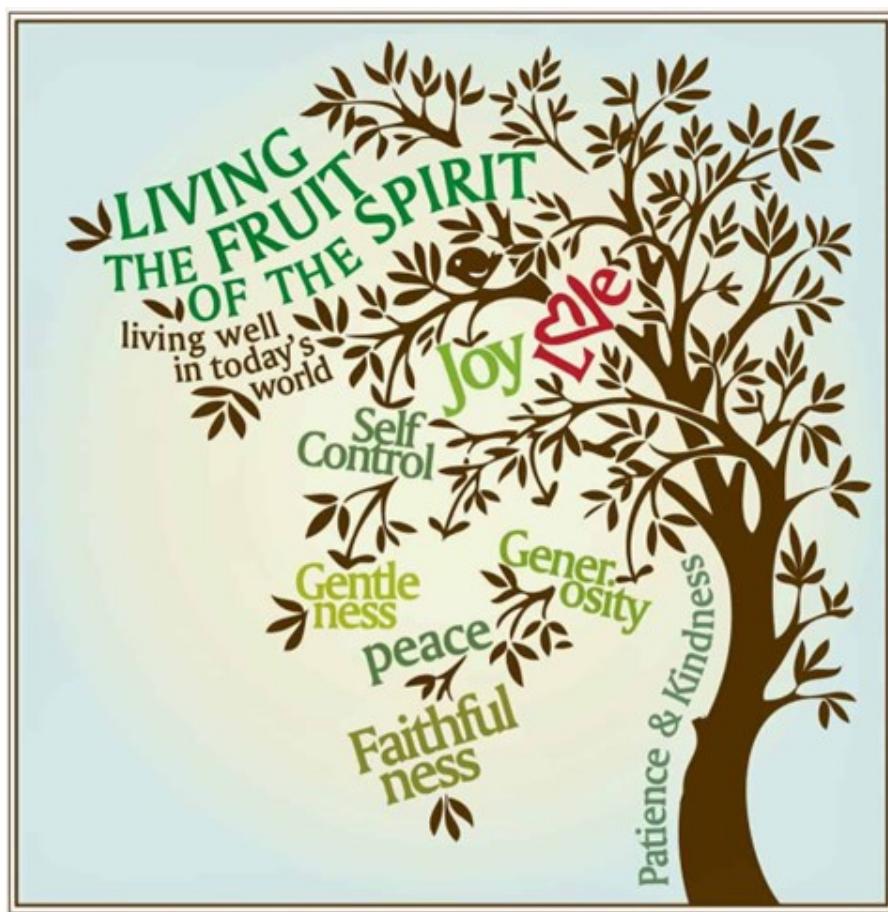
Recently I was invited to preach in a church who were following a series on the Fruit of the Spirit. They had reached 'kindness' and I was asked to speak using 2 Samuel 9 where David is eager to show kindness to the house of Saul for the sake of his friend Jonathan. David is told that only Saul's grandchild, Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth is alive. Whilst the chapter draws attention to the fact that Mephibosheth is lame, David's kindness is not about Mephibosheth's needs but his desire to show kindness as he had promised earlier to Jonathan in 1 Samuel 20:14.

Kindness is one of the qualities which we are called to live as Chaplains. David discovered how to give kindness generously in order to show blessing to Mephibosheth. He does not focus on his lameness but instead restores to him Saul's farming land and furthermore Mephibosheth ate at the King's table like a member of David's family. David also honoured Saul's servants by restoring their work.

This passage challenged me about the ways I show kindness. Is there a danger that I only respond to obvious need? Am I generous and do I go the second mile? Am I asking for the help of the Holy Spirit so my kindness is about how God uses me and not limited to what I can do by myself?

As we pray for our KWM chaplains may they confidently carry Godly kindness in the places, and amongst the people, they serve. May they discover God leading them in unexpected ways.

Andy Wooding Jones



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

Anglican Rochester Diocese

Ven Andy Wooding Jones and Ellen Couzens

Anglican Canterbury Diocese

Ven William Adam and *one vacancy*

South East Baptist Association

two vacancies

Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark

Revd John Letley and Revd Michael Dale

South East Methodist District

Revd Dr David Hinchliffe 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

one vacancy

Contact

 kentworkplacemission.org

 admin@kentworkplacemission.org

 07423 767 051



Registered Charity No. 1105783