

Inducted and Collated

It sounds like a medical procedure followed by a cold buffet but that is the official terminology when I, David Slater, one of our Trustees and Chaplains was appointed as Honorary Lay Canon of Canterbury Cathedral just before Christmas.

The Cathedral has 12 ordained and 12 lay honorary canons and 10 of the lay ones were new appointments for the next 5 years. The duties are limited, mainly electing any new archbishop, but as one of the College of Canons David is part of the Cathedral Foundation.

The service, included in Evensong, consisted of being inducted by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover at the east end of the quire and then moving west to be collated into the canons' stalls by the Dean of Canterbury.

As well as a few members of his family Canon David was supported by a wide range of church colleagues from different denominations and faiths as well as civic leaders. David was recognised for his roles as **“Chaplain to the Port of Dover and Channel Tunnel”** and is the first lay canon appointment so far east of Canterbury, or for workplace chaplaincy, in current memory. Watch this space...



Canon David Slater (KWM Secretary) with Bishop Rose

Zeebrugge Disaster 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, including 39 crew.

On the **37th** anniversary of one of the worst accidents at sea in recent years, the Port Chaplains in Dover lead a commemoration service to read the roll of those lost, to remember those who died, and those who survived.

Some 50 people met in the Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Club with the Chair of the District Council, survivors, family members, colleagues, current sailors and one of the divers who worked on the wreck. Richard, David & Malcolm led the brief service

which was followed by coffee & doughnuts before a small number walked along the pier for a final service of prayer and casting flowers into the sea.

This year the weather was fine, but the anniversary has been marked each year, especially since the Sailors' Society moved from Kent, even when only 6 people were allowed during Covid.

David Slater (KWM Secretary)

BBC Local Radio Lent Series

Special Programmes for the Lent Season

Traditionally, BBC Radio Kent has broadcast a series of special programmes for the Lent season. In the past they were Bible studies, where listeners were encouraged to join groups and tune in together, then discuss the readings. More recently, they were a series of themed programmes which covered topics such as pilgrimage and the beautiful Chagall Stained Glass Windows at All Saints Tudeley.



Across Surrey, Sussex & Kent



This year, the Rev Canon Chris Stone and I proposed a series based on chaplaincy, which was accepted. BBC Local Radio on Sunday mornings has now merged three counties in the South East – Surrey, Sussex and Kent.

Each week a different chaplain was interviewed about their ministry and their life and beliefs and how they were observing Lent.

The chaplains included **Ian Nicholson**, Club Chaplain at Woking FC, a lifelong fan, who ministers to players and staff. We also met **Deborah Annells**, a chaplain for St Giles Trust, who supported their clients leaving prison and on probation and the staff who work with them. A YMCA chaplain, **Elly McKay-Smith** spoke about her work with vulnerable young people housed in Eastbourne and Guildford. Movingly, **Matthew Van Grutten**, one of the Beachy Head Chaplaincy team, spoke about how the team literally helps to save lives and restore hope.

Kent Workplace Mission's **David Slater** spoke about his work at The Port of Dover and the Channel Tunnel and I talked about chaplaincy in the retail sector at Bluewater.

Chris Stone rounded off the series, by speaking about the history of chaplaincy and the story of St Martin of Tours.



**BBC RADIO
Kent**

Most of the interviews were conducted by BBC presenter, Allison Ferns, who liaised with Chris and me on this project. Kevin Duala hosted two of the programmes. Allison was clearly impressed by the variety of projects and dedication of the chaplains she spoke to, wishing the BBC had a chaplain available to staff.

You can listen to some of the broadcasts for a limited time at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0hgx5k7> The interviews are 2 hours 10 minutes into the programme.

Penny Culliford (KWM Coordinating chaplain)



May God bless you with
love, joy and hope this
Easter.

From darkness into Light : Jeff Hawthorne

This year we offered Easter cards to our Chaplains to give to those they come across in their ministry. This photograph was taken by Jeff Hawthorne, our chaplain in Anerley.

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 churches.

We have developed [resources](#) for Bible Study, Prayer, Worship and Reflection for use this May. Consider approaching your church 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



Annual General Meeting 2024



Registered Charity No. 1105783

All are invited to our

Annual General Meeting

To be held on Tuesday 7th May 2024 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

Ashford Outlet Chaplaincy Commissioning Event

Formal Commissioning Event



On 22nd of February 2024 at the Ashford Designer Outlet, after almost a year of getting used to working in this new environment, my lovely colleagues and I (including my 2yr old Labrador Retriever 'Ben' – who is a very effective 'chaplain' for very upset people!) were honoured by being given a formal 'Commissioning Event' in the Management Suite of the outlet centre.



for whom we seek to offer a friendly, confidential and (as appropriate) sympathetic service.

Well attended by local dignitaries

Apart from Revd Rob Sylvester, Chair of the Ashford Outlet Chaplaincy Steering Group, we had Councillor Larry Krause – Mayor of Ashford, Dr Sue Starkings – Mayor-ess of Ashford, Ven. Andy Wooding-Jones – Archdeacon of Rochester and chair of Trustees for KWM, Penny Culiford – Lead Chaplain for KWM, Rev Helen Hollands – Superintendent Minister for South Kent Methodist Circuit and Assistant District Chair for the South East District and Rev Dr Jeremy Worthen, who is Team Rector for Ashford and a brilliant supporter of our chaplaincy work.

Reflecting on the Team

As the short service to commission my colleagues, Sophie, Diana, Claire and Ruthie and myself progressed, I felt slightly emotional when reflecting upon all the kindness, encouragement and welcome that we have received as a team and individually. Apart from the Kent Workplace Mission staff, including the efficient administrator, Madeleine Shepley, we have had a very encouraging reception from the vast majority of the outlet shop staff,

In partnership with McArthur Glen

The customer service managers of McArthur Glen have done their utmost to make our team welcome and have made excellent facilities available to us to assist with our work. One of the managers – Paul Mott – frequently attends our team meetings and has been very helpful in passing information between our team and the shop proprietors and with publicising our presence at their management meetings.

And Churches Together In Ashford

I think that we all feel extremely blessed and grateful to be able to offer this pastoral ministry to people who work in circumstances that can at times be highly pressured and stressful. We have already experienced some interactions with shop staff and seem to have been able to give support and encouragement in difficult personal situations. We thank God for calling us to this work and for all the wonderful people who support and encourage us.

Kevin Taylor (KWM Chaplain)



“What we’re looking for... is somewhere you’ll feel deeply,
deeply uncomfortable.”



Those were the words of my tutor in my second year of training for ordained ministry. He observed that I seemed quite comfortable in Methodist churches (having grown up in a series of them) and felt that I would benefit from seeing how ministry is exercised in a very different setting. Which is how I found myself, for a few weeks, working alongside the multifaith chaplaincy team at HMP Wandsworth, then a Category B/C men’s prison, and one of the largest in western Europe.

This came at a time of record levels of violence against prison staff and among prisoners, overcrowding in 58% of prisons in England and Wales, and heightened security due to the imminent threat of terrorism.

To my surprise, I found the experience far more comfortable than I had expected (and my tutor had hoped). As in other chaplaincy settings, there was a degree to which the context did some of the work for me. When, as a Methodist minister, I have the privilege of visiting church members in their homes, we often spend an hour or so chatting about the weather, their holidays, and their grandchildren – perhaps, towards the end of the visit, they might feel able to share with me the worry that has been keeping them awake at night. But, in a prison, before a pastoral visit even takes place, the setting has already made clear that something, somehow, has gone terribly wrong. I found that the men who wanted to speak to a chaplain got straight down to business, pouring out their regrets, hopes and fears with no preamble. There was a rawness I valued – and a sense that, in being there to listen, I could offer something of worth.

Working as part of a multifaith team caused me to reflect on what makes a Christian understanding of chaplaincy distinctive. Several people suggested that it boiled down to [Matthew 25:25-26](#), and the Gospel imperative that, when we visit those in prison, we serve Jesus himself. Many Christian chaplains believe they are not simply doing God’s will, or offering pastoral care to God’s children in prisons, hospitals and workplaces, but, in a very real sense, tending to the Son of God himself. Such a theology is echoed in the ordination service for Methodist presbyters, which says: “In his name you are... to serve others, in whom you serve the Lord himself.”

I am delighted to be a Trustee of KWM, and to support (in a very small way) the work of chaplains who are serving the Lord himself in such a wide range of contexts across Kent. I have continued my involvement at HMP Wandsworth, through serving as a Trustee of Change for Good, a small charity offering mentoring and befriending to ex-prisoners resettling in London and seeking to transform their lives with our help. You can find out more about us here: www.changeforgood.info

Naomi Oates (KWM Trustee)



You're alive, You have risen, Alleluia!



**At break of dawn, poor Mary
Still weeping she came
When through her grief she heard Your voice
Now speaking her name
Mary, Master
Mary, Master
You're alive, You're alive, You have risen
Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given
Alleluia, Jesus, to You**

Many of us will be familiar with the words of Graham Kendrick's Easter song – 'You're alive'. I often feel really moved by the simple way in which he captures the extraordinary moment of recognition as Jesus speaks Mary's name and she identifies her risen Master. Her weeping and grief are transformed in this powerful relational moment.

Chaplaincy is so often about meaningful encounters. It may not always be in the context of grief or weeping but of course sometimes it is. We hope these times will be relational; as we reconnect with someone we have talked with before or we ask a name to make that time together more personal. In these conversations Chaplains may be the immediate focus but hopefully they also bring the Master's presence and peace too as they offer hope and reassurance.

In our own journey as Christian disciples may we be attentive and listening as God speaks our name and offers us identity, affirmation, reassurance and the joy of being personally known by him. Like Mary might we respond with trust, with conviction, with obedience as we recognise him as our 'Master' alongside the other words we might use to describe God's place in our lives.

As we celebrate Easter together may Jesus' resurrection cause us to rejoice as 'the power and the glory is given Alleluia, Jesus, to You'!

Thank you for your ministries and all the ways in which you are part of the KWM community.

Andy Wooding Jones (KWM 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

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

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one vacancy

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