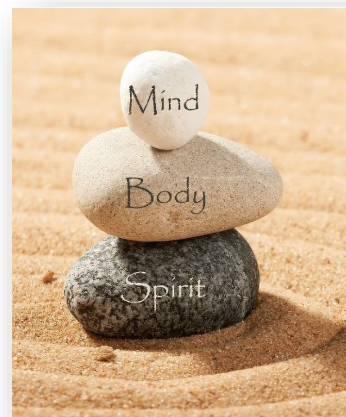


Training with Kent Workplace Mission

Nurturing our Mind, Body and Spirit.

To keep a healthy balance, humans need to nurture their minds, bodies and spirits. We must exercise our minds to keep them busy and to learn new things. We all know our bodies need the right amounts of good food and exercise to be healthy. We also have to look after our spiritual wellbeing, always drawing closer to God by reading the bible, prayer and following our ministry.

In the next two years Kent Workplace Mission is prioritising training for its chaplains and associates. We have so many new chaplains that we will be taking basic chaplaincy training back in house. We are grateful for the work of Workplace Chaplaincy Mission UK who have trained and encouraged chaplains with their excellent course. Returning to training our own chaplains should give us the flexibility to run courses with content that meets the needs in our area on dates that suit our candidates.



Kent Emergency Chaplaincy Service (KECS)

Kent Emergency Chaplaincy Service is being revived, with David Slater training Richard Oliver and me to be able to respond with appropriate and meaningful chaplaincy in the event of an emergency in Kent. We have been working closely with the Kent and Medway Resilience Forum and David has revised the training allowing it to be extended to other Emergency Chaplains.



And a Quiet Day at St Benedict's

We also had our Quiet Day on Tuesday 25th June in the beautiful grounds of St Benedict's, West Malling. Facilitated by Bluewater Chaplain Jan Foreman, the day was entitled "Walking with Jesus – Confidence in God" and explored "giants" and challenges in our lives. It was a day of learning and relaxation to encourage our chaplains spiritually. Seven chaplains benefited from this opportunity.

Media Training Day and more...

In September, we are arranging our media training day for chaplains. With guest speakers, and input from our own experts, we will be equipping our chaplains to be confident interacting with the media.

Our final training day for this year is planned for November in Larkfield and will be aimed at encouraging and preparing chaplains and members. More details will follow.

In the future, it will be good to extend safeguarding training, which all KWM chaplains and trustees are required to complete and look towards mental health training, so that chaplains can provide the best service to the people we minister to and support. It would be good to hear from chaplains and members, any feedback or suggestions for training going forward.

Penny Culliford (KWM Coordinating chaplain)

Maundy Thursday honour



The name "Maundy" and the Royal Maundy Ceremony come from the instruction, or *mandatum*, of Jesus at the Last Supper that his followers should love one another. In the Middle Ages, English monarchs washed the feet of beggars in imitation of Jesus, and presented gifts and money to the poor. The money is in specially minted silver coins, valued at 1, 2, 3 & 4 pence. Over time, additional money, 5 guineas or £5.50 was substituted for the clothing and other items. The origin of the Royal Maundy Ceremony dates back to the reign of Edward II, although feet have not actually been washed since the time of Elizabeth I (and even then about 6 people washed the feet before the Queen got to them).

Canon David Slater (without a Hi-Viz jacket for once) and his wife Marianne.

The ceremony takes place each year and shadows the age of the monarch, King Charles is 75 in 2024 and so 75p in silver coins was given to 75 men and 75 women.

The recipients are pensioners, chosen on an interdenominational basis from various Christian churches for their service to their churches and communities. According to the Lord High Almoner in his briefing the usual response is "why me?", but that is apparently the sort of people they are looking for, ones who just naturally get on and do things for others.

This was exactly the reaction of one of our trustees, David Slater, who was nominated this year and received the two leather pouches from the hands of the Queen as the King was still unwell.

David and his wife attended the service at Worcester Cathedral with full state pageantry.

One purse contained the 75 silver pence and the other a silver £5 and a 50p piece – commemorating the 200th year of the RNLI, coincidentally especially relevant to David's work at Dover which had clearly been mentioned to the Queen in her briefing.



Canon David Slater (KWM Secretary)

Christ the Worker

Sunday 5th May 2024

✠ bless you

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

How was Christ the Worker marked by you? A fitting feast to bless those in work around us and bringing KWM to our churches.

Tessa is delighted with the Blessing cards which she chose to have personalised – Having the mobile phone number on the cards as well as the email makes me much more QUICKLY accessible!

Jeff- The Blessing cards were amazing, really helpful. I gave out all 100 of them! They were really appreciated by our local businesses, one café owner said it made their day! One person stuck it to his laptop screen to look at when he had difficult customers. They were great for making contacts – even in places I'm not usually received. I feel they have made a long-term impact.

Naomi – I used the resources for our circuit's online service on 12th May when I marked Vocations Sunday and Christ the Worker Sunday. Part of the service was a testimony from Valerie, one of the KWM-affiliated hospital chaplains and in another part there was an interview with members of a house group who talked about how they live out their faith at work.

Tony - At St. James Tunbridge Wells we handed a blessing card to everybody and encouraged them to be passed onto somebody at work during the following week.

Joel - At St Peter's Church as part of an all-age service themed around Christ as the vine and the Father as the gardener, we invited everyone to come up to receive a blessing on their work (whether paid or unpaid). We handed them a blessing card and we invited them to take cards for their friends and neighbours as well.

Children and families made a large-scale wall hanging showing themselves and their parents doing their real jobs.

Annual General Meeting 2024



This year we had a varied group of Trustees, Chaplains, Members and visitors to our AGM.

Our Chair, Andy Wooding Jones, led the meeting for the last time as he announced his move to Sheffield later this year. He has kindly agreed to stay in post until we can elect a new chair. Andy's opening devotions illustrated the fruitfulness of KWM. This has been borne out by new chaplaincies flourishing and a new Treasurer joining us.

We are pleased to welcome Jenny Mulrooney (see page 5) as our new Treasurer.

We thank Revd John Letley, Roman Catholic and Major Mark Herbert, Salvation Army, for their time as Trustees and in their place welcome Fr Gary Dyer (RC) and Major Richard Oliver (SA), who has been serving as a chaplain in the very east of Kent alongside Canon David Slater.

We were grateful to be joined by Revd Miriam Barker, who spoke so eloquently on her work as an Anglican Chaplain at Rochester Prison, comparing her community to that of KWM.

Penny rounded up the meeting with her reflections on the last year and looking ahead to her training plans (see front page).

For a copy of the minutes please follow this link [Minutes](#).

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

New Appointments at KWM:

Treasurer

Hello, I am Jennifer Mulrooney and when I heard about the service the Kent Workplace Mission (KWM) provided I was delighted to be asked if I would like to be Treasurer. I feel this is such an essential service, offering caring support and friendship to people of all faiths and none - in a place, and at a time, that they may be needing it the most.

I am a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and have worked in finance for nigh on 40 years, including seventeen years with Transport for London and three and a half years with the Diocese of Canterbury. I enjoy jigsaw puzzles and seeing everything come together which I have found transfers into the work involved for accounts.

For the majority of my life I lived in Walthamstow, East London - a place that still holds a big part of my heart. However, I always dreamed of living in the countryside and 14 years ago I moved to Rodmersham, a village just outside Sittingbourne. I love how being here I am so much more aware of the beauty and changing of the seasons.

Although very much in the background, I hope that in my role of treasurer I will be of some support to the amazing KWM chaplains. I look forward to seeing KWM continue to grow, reaching and becoming embedded in many workplaces.



Jennifer Mulrooney (Treasurer)

RC Trustee from the Archdiocese of Southwark



Fr Gary Dyer (Trustee)

Fr Gary Dyer was nominated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southward as a Trustee taking the place of Rev John Letley.

Gary is a prison chaplain on the Isle of Sheppey and we look forward to getting to know him and hearing more about him and his work .

We believe he will have much to offer KWM as a Trustee with his experience of chaplaincy in prisons.

Bexleyheath Town Centre Chaplaincy

A year of ups and downs

We have had a year of ups and downs! On the up-side, Dorothy has joined our team, which means we now have both John and Dorothy visiting ASDA at different times during the week. On the downside, Vicky has been unable to carry out visits since Easter as her husband was taken ill on holiday and ended up in a hospital in Spain for several weeks. They are now home, and we are hoping Vicky will be able to join us again in a few weeks' time. In the meantime, Jennie and I are holding the fort with the small shops! Recently we have found some visits taking quite a long time, as people need to talk about financial and health problems. This is especially true of those who work alone, with no colleagues at hand to confide in.

Marilyn Ormes (Chaplain)

Dorothy completed her chaplaincy training



I really enjoyed the training course. It was good to meet like-minded people who have a heart for serving the Lord in the workplace.

I learned much from looking at the different characters in the Bible.

How their lives were changed by their encounter with Jesus and how we can also take His presence to the workplace so that people will encounter His love and care for them. The two case studies based on a real situation that a chaplain faced was also helpful.

I liked the way we met as a main group but also splitting into breakout rooms to discuss answers to questions. The two case studies based on a real situation that a chaplain faced was also very helpful.

It was good to listen to other people's experiences and views and to learn from them. I now feel better equipped to serve God in the work I believe He has called me to.

I am a very new chaplain working in a local supermarket. I enjoy meeting so many different people with different personalities, but all loved by God and very special to him. I am still in the process of building relationships with the staff and getting to know their names and hoping with God's help to make a difference as I represent Him in the workplace.

Dorothy Merrifield (Chaplain)



Some of the small shops we visit

Reflecting on the Team

I find it hard to believe that I am now at the beginning of my fourth year as part of the Bexleyheath KWM team. Throughout this time, I have seen changes both in premises visited and personnel.

Unfortunately, there has been a downward turn in some of these businesses due to the cost-of-living crisis. Footfall has dramatically decreased generally, with one or two eating establishments expressing concern about whether they will be able to stay afloat. As a contrast there have been Civic awards for Best New Business and Best Corporate Employer.

I value both the time I spend visiting, the relationships formed and being part of a supportive, caring team.

Jennie Long (Chaplain)



Ellenor closed as the landlord refused to deal with the damp problem

Our Trustee Canon Ellen Couzens tells us of her role in the Rochester Cathedral Foundation



I shouldn't be surprised by this, but God does have a habit of putting me into situations I never expected to find myself in! I can't count the number of times over the last ten years, when I've said to my family, "well I never expected to be doing **this!**"

A little over ten years ago, I was a lawyer with a small child just about to start school, and I'm now a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in the Diocese of Rochester; Senior Chaplain to South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb); KWM Trustee; Rochester Cathedral Chaplain; and now the latest exciting role to be added to the list, is a Lay Canon and member of Chapter at Rochester Cathedral. Even a year ago I wouldn't have believed anyone who said I'd be a Canon by now, and on the Cathedral Foundation.

But isn't that how faith works? God nudges us into where He knows we need to be.

Over the years, I've got better at hearing what He's saying, and more importantly, actually **listening** and acting upon it. My various roles sometimes seem quite separate, but apart from being linked by my faith, they do intertwine quite nicely.

As a **member of Chapter**, I'm part of the governing body responsible for the Cathedral, its staff and volunteers, and the way we carry out God's mission. There are quite a lot of meetings, and an awful lot of reading to do - fortunately my legal training has equipped me well! When I started the role in November 2023, I thought it would sit separately alongside my role as a chaplain, but I hadn't anticipated the potential conflicts of interest that would arise.

As a **duty chaplain**, I'm there for the visitors who come into the cathedral, but also for the staff and volunteers. I'm a guest in their workplace, which will be very familiar to many of us and already was to me from my work with SECamb. But now that I'm on Chapter, the cathedral is also kind of **my** workplace. As a chaplain, I hear a lot of things from the staff, and now as a member of Chapter, I know a lot of other things that I have to keep confidential. I sometimes have to ask staff, "are you telling me this as your chaplain, or as a member of Chapter? And do you just want to tell me, or do you want me to try and find a solution?" They have to know the distinctions between my roles, and more importantly, so do I. It's a fine balance, but it seems to be working ok so far.

As a **Lay Canon**, I'm also a representative for the cathedral. So you'll often find me in a very fetching red robe at all sorts of services, and then meeting and chatting with people afterwards. While I'm not big on "dressing up", I do love meeting people and learning about them, so the chatting is particularly enjoyable! I've been told that we've never had an LLM or a chaplain on Chapter before, so this is as new to everyone else as it is for me. But I'm relishing the challenge of where God has put me now, and I can see how everything seems to link through chaplaincy in the end! Ultimately, if as workplace chaplains, our only concern is the wellbeing of our colleagues and those we minister to, then we have to say "yes" to God when He puts us in these new situations.

When I was licensed as an LLM, the Bible verse that sat at the front of my mind, was Matthew 19:26 - **"...with God, all things are possible."** It's never been more true than it is now, at the start of this next phase in my faith journey.

Canon Ellen Couzens (KWM Trustee)

When the Road is Rough and Steep



**When The Road Is Rough And Steep
Fix Your Eyes Upon Jesus
He Alone Has Power To Keep
Fix Your Eyes Upon Him
Jesus Is A Gracious Friend
One On Whom You Can Depend
He Is Faithful To The End
Fix Your Eyes Upon Him**

These words were from one of the early contemporary worship songs I recall my church using in the 1970s, although I was surprised to discover it was actually written in the 1940s. The reassurances it underlines have been important to me since then and may even have subconsciously influenced the book I wrote a few years ago around the theme of fixing our eyes on Jesus.

As I pass on the baton of chairing Kent Workplace Mission this autumn these lyrics also represent for me the testimony of the last few years of KWM.

As a charity we have known moments when the road has felt 'rough and steep' with unexpected challenges around financial sustainability and changes in key personnel. We are thankful to God that we have been able to see the outcome of depending on Him – it is great to celebrate a more secure financial situation and an amazing growing team of paid and volunteer chaplains and staff as well as a committed group of Trustees.

The song highlights some of the characteristics of Jesus Christ as He keeps us, befriends us, is both dependable and faithful. It is my prayer that as trustees, chaplains and members we might keep on discovering and sharing those Christ-like qualities with those we serve in the extra-ordinary range of workplaces we connect with across Kent and SE London. As KWM we can also celebrate how those qualities have influenced and guided our life together.

Most importantly the song reminds us to make Jesus our focus as we fix our eyes on Him. My prayer for this important and significant ministry is that all of us would chose each day to live and serve with Jesus at the centre, remembering His presence and His faithfulness in times of joy and times of challenge.

It has been an enormous privilege to have journeyed with you all over these last years. May God continue to lead you as you serve workplaces across our county and SE London.

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 Michael Dale and Fr Gary Dyer

South East Methodist District

Revd Dr David Hinchliffe and Revd Naomi Oates

South East Division Salvation Army

Major Richard Oliver and *one vacancy*

Southern Synod United Reformed Church

Richard Blackwell and John Ellis

Members' Trustees

Paul Buckley

Jennifer Mulrooney

David Slater

Jacky Trice

Alan Wood

Officers

Chair

Ven Andy Wooding Jones

Vice-Chair

John Ellis

Secretary

David Slater

Treasurer

Jennifer Mulrooney

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