

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Kent Workplace Mission

Welcome

It has been a busy time with planning for the KWM Annual General Meeting, and handover of the Team Support Coordinator role. It has also been a time of taking steps “back to chaplaincy”, where possible., and a time of reflection on what has happened over the last year and a half.

Kent Workplace Mission AGM

Unlike last year, when it had to be delayed, this year's KWM AGM was held at the correct time of year, on Tuesday, 11 May. We were unable to hold the meeting in person at Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church, but we were comfortably accommodated at the Ditton Community Centre. We were able to meet in person and, by the wonders of technology, “virtually”.

Last year John Hougham gave notice that he would step down as Vice Chair at the AGM in 2021. (The Vice Chair chairs the monthly Operations Group meetings that direct the day-to-day running of KWM.) We were pleased to hear that John would continue as a Trustee and will also return as a Chaplain at House of Fraser in Bluewater. Chair of KWM, The Ven Andy Wooding Jones, thanked John for all that he had contributed to KWM as Vice Chair, particularly as Chair of Ops. John was presented with a card and gift.

Picture: John Hougham



We are pleased that John Ellis has been elected as Vice Chair of Kent Workplace Mission. John's experience includes being Business Ethics Adviser to the Governor of the Bank of England, Secretary for Business and Economic Affairs for the Methodist Church and Assembly Moderator of the United Reformed Church.

Picture: John Ellis

Team Support Coordinator

Jacky says: The AGM was my last meeting as I 'retired' at the end of May. I was particularly pleased that this meeting was 'in person' and was able to meet with Trustees and some of the KWM Chaplains. I really enjoyed my time as Team Support Coordinator and was rather overwhelmed by the lovely card, flowers and generous gift. I was also pleased that my successor, Susan, was able to be at the meeting as well.



Susan says: As incoming TSC I am of good old Methodist "stock" and a "northerner" to boot! I am married to Brian and we live in Dover quite close to Brian's sons and grandchildren.

Brian was a farm herdsman in Ashford. However, he retired a few years ago and now enjoys walking, motorcycling and gardening.

My family are all "scattered" with some still "up north", my parents (both now "at rest") being from Yorkshire and the North East. I was initially called to Kent to work for MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) some 30 years ago, a role I loved until MAF changed ... & have now been called to work for KWM.

I have had involvement in Christians Together in Dover for some years now, (which is how I first saw the KWM advert for my role) and so am pleased to be working for another ecumenical charity.

We worship at River Methodist (when restrictions allow) but have been "zooming" of late! I am also Pastoral Secretary and a Steward, with singing & cycling as my main interests. Because of my cycling interest, I took on the role of Area Organiser for the Friends of Kent Churches annual "Ride & Stride" event.

When one of the River Methodist Local Preachers re-located, I became interested in the local CTiD which is how I came to see the KWM advert ... and here I am!

I have also been "mum" to at least 12 re-homed cats over the years and we currently have Flash and Star, two attractive "torties" & real characters!

Taking Kent Workplace Mission forward

Consultative Strategy Review 2021

In a time of transition, with new appointments to key roles, and emerging into a new phase of "life with Covid", the



Operations Group agreed to take stock of where KWM has got to, and to reflect together on where we need to be going. A representative cross-section of trustees, chaplains and employees was drawn together and furnished with a questionnaire to focus reflection and facilitate feedback, and background documentation

The review group members worked together submitting, sharing and discussing ideas, in response to these materials. This was then drawn together into a working document, in three key areas: 'Where are we at?'; 'What have we got going for us?'; and a main section featuring seven attainable goals and corresponding action planning.

These goals have been discerned from the conversations and the aspirational objectives emerging from them under the following headings:

1 Digital 2 Trustees 3 Chaplains 4 Projects

5 Hotline 6 Church 7 Work

A copy of the Report is available from Susan, and Mark is happy to discuss any aspects of the Report or our ongoing work responding to it.



Trustees and Office Holders of Kent Workplace Mission

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 annually and officers elected annually.

Denominational Trustees

Rochester Diocese: Ven. Andy Wooding Jones and Ellen Couzens

Canterbury Diocese: Ven. Stephen Taylor and Revd. Dr. Jonathan Arnold

South East Baptist Association: Revd. Paul Kerley

Archdiocese of Southwark: Revd. John Letley and Revd. John Newman

South East Methodist District: Revd. Helen Hollands and Revd. Tony Graff

South East Division Salvation Army:

Major Mark Herbert

Southern Synod United Reformed Church:
Richard Blackwell and John Ellis

Members' Trustees

Paul Buckley, John Hougham, David Slater and Alan Wood

KWM Officers

Chair: Ven. Andy Wooding Jones

Vice-Chair: John Ellis

Hon. Secretary: David Slater

Hon. Treasurer: Alan Wood

KWM Website

The KWM website has moved host and is now being hosted by Spectulise. This is a Kent company, based in Sevenoaks. The website is still a work in progress, so if you cannot find the information you need, please use the email address below.

Prayers

Please hold the Trustees, Chaplains, Supporters and Staff of Kent Workplace Mission in your prayers.