

Not so 'standard chaplaincy' at the Port of Dover

2024 Election Purdah and Raising the Flag for the Armed Forces

The last few months have seen a lot of activity, but not necessarily 'standard chaplaincy' as the Port Chaplaincy is getting involved in a wider 'civic' role, with a few things changed due to the election.

The Lord Lieutenant performed the opening of the Dover RNLI with many VIPs. The Duke of Kent came after the election for a smaller gathering with the crew, the Dover team and a chaplain.



In a similar way David was asked to say prayers at the unveiling of the Armed Forces flag outside the Dover Town Hall, but due to political purdah the photographs with the Mayor and Leader of the District Council could not be published until after the election.

Mass on the beach with the Franciscans



One unusual event was David being asked to lead prayers at the naming of the new Dover Harbour Launch. They wanted choir dress of cassock and surplice, but it also required a life jacket as it is a working boat, and the deck has no safety rail at the edge. I don't recommend that sort of activity in a long dress!

The next day there was a major service on the beach commemorating the 800th anniversary of Franciscan monks arriving in England, over 100 gathered on a fine morning before going for breakfast, after which a few of the hardy ones were seen off re-enacting the walk to Canterbury.

A Christian presence...

November starts with the Service of Remembrance at the Railway War Memorial in what is now Dover Cruise Terminal. Run in conjunction with Southeastern Railways and the British Torch of Remembrance it will be led again by the Port Chaplains, assisted by Dylis George the Railway Chaplain.

The big non-event was the European Entry/Exit system which has been deferred until software solutions can be found. Our chaplains are now gearing up for the coming season and going out to be a 'Christian Presence' with the workers caught up in the commercial season of Christmas Presents.

Canon David Slater (KWM Secretary)

Telling your story well – Communications Training for chaplains

It all started with a donation...



Kent Workplace Mission was blessed to be the recipient of a donation to use for Media Training for our chaplains. We could have commissioned a media company, but The Rev Canon Chris Stone, who previously worked in broadcasting, and I decided we could make something more tailored to our needs by doing it ourselves. We both have contacts in the worlds of broadcasting and social media, so it seemed the ideal opportunity.

The training day took place on 19th September in the Learning Shop in Bluewater, where 19 chaplains and people associated with KWM gathered to listen to experts who kindly shared their insight with us.

Did you know **Bluewater has its own community radio station**? Matt Soper, from Made in Kent Radio told us about their work with charities, communities and young people. Mike Ziolk, with his long experience of broadcasting with BBC local radio told some stories of some of the people he had interviewed, including actors and bishops. He then showed some participants what it was like to be interviewed, putting people's minds at rest, that with a little preparation, it is not intimidating to talk about your subject. Chris Stone spoke about communicating with the press, and I shared about writing newsletters, with some help from Madeleine Shepley.

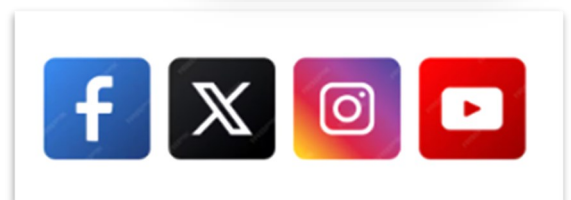
David Slater on KECS

After lunch, where chaplains, other participants and guests could talk and network, David Slater spoke about communication in a crisis, sparking interest in the Kent Emergency Chaplaincy Service.



Adam Graver on social media.

Our final guest speaker was Adam Graver from thirty-one:eight who spoke about using social media effectively, and gave some useful tips on engaging with your audience and sourcing photographs.



The feedback from the day was very encouraging and we are discussing the possibility of future communications training. What would you like to see on KWM's training schedule?

Get in touch with Madeleine:
admin@kentworkplacemission.org

Penny Culliford (KWM Coordinating chaplain)

Christ the Worker

Sunday 4th May 2025

✠ bless you

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



On the Seventh Day...

When we read the story of creation in Genesis 1 and 2, we watch the spectacular work God did in the first six days unfold. Intriguingly, then he rested. Why would the almighty, all powerful God rest? He called the seventh day holy, and we find it mentioned again in the Ten Commandments – six days for work and one holy day for rest. King David eats the holy bread on the sabbath, and Jesus was accused of breaking the sabbath by healing and by allowing his disciples to pick grain and rub off the husks.

Is the sabbath still relevant today? How can modern workers keep a holy and restful sabbath?

This year's Christ the Worker readings explore the theme of rest. Watch out for new materials in the Christ the Worker section of the KWM website in February.

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

A farewell and a new appointment at KWM:

Outgoing Chair

We bid a fond farewell to our outgoing chair Andy Wooding Jones, who has now moved to Yorkshire.

“Thank you for being such a wonderful group of people to work with and to show what happens when ‘brothers and sisters dwell in unity...’

I prayed these words over KWM (before I left) and I pray they be real for you in your mission and ministry and in your lives individually:

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

May God continue to bless you all.”



Ellen Couzens (Trustee) presenting Andy with a farewell cake.

Our Canterbury Diocese Trustee now KWM Chair

Will Adam is the Archdeacon of Canterbury, a post he took up in 2022. Prior to that he had more than 20 years in parish ministry, followed by a period of time working in international ecumenical relations as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Ecumenical Adviser and then Director of Unity, Faith and Order and Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican Communion.



Will's interest in workplace chaplaincy stems from his years as the Rector of a parish on the edge of Cambridge, where the Chaplain to People at Work for Cambridge and the surrounding area also lived.

Will has been a Trustee of KWM since 2023.

“I am grateful to Archdeacon Andy Wooding Jones for many things, one of which is the care he showed to KWM during his time as Chair. Ecumenical partnership in mission and ministry is very close to my heart and I look forward to getting further involved in the work of KWM in the future.”

Ven Will Adam (KWM chair)

Commissioning Chaplains at Tunbridge Wells

Revd Caz Mills

Chaplaincy IS brilliant! We are able to come alongside those who may often be overlooked, taken for granted or looked down on. In our role as Chaplains, I feel, we are to lift such people up, both in their spirits and in prayer; to listen, support and encourage. In short, to serve those who serve us.

At the Royal Victoria Place centre we have some wonderful people who may feel that religion is not their 'thing', but you'd be surprised how many are spiritual. As a chaplain I love being able to act as Jesus' hands and feet - going to visit those who may not come to church, but who the Bible tells us are made in God's image. You could say its an extension of **Matthew 25:36...** *I worked in retail and you came not to purchase, but to cherish me and build relationships, you saw me as a fellow person.*

Tony Fitzpatrick

For me, the commissioning was yet another reminder that God's timing is perfect, and patience is a virtue that should be paramount in our plans if we want to be involved in what he's already set out for us...

We launched 6 months later than we first thought, and the service had to be rearranged twice before a date could be finalised that worked for everybody involved.

The venue was filled with representatives from Churches across the town which was wonderful, as our biggest aim was to magnify this ministry and the work of KWM. Had the original date been confirmed there would have only been 3 people commissioned. In the end, fortuitously, there were 5 of us.



Chaplains Leo Harvey, Rev Rob Byrne, Rev Caz Mills, Captain Zoe Smith and Tony Fitzpatrick with Andy and Penny.

Revd Rob Byrne

It was really exciting to be commissioned as a town centre chaplain with KWM, alongside Zoe, Tony, Caz & Leo. It was a delight to see so many from our respective churches come along to support us & hear about what we're doing in the town centre - as the saying goes, *loitering with intent!*

Captain Zoe Smith

"So we have many people of faith around us. Their lives tell us what faith means." (Hebrews 12:1 ICB). This was my experience of our commissioning as chaplains at Tunbridge Wells earlier in the year. As the 5 of us sat on the front row, I felt surrounded and encouraged by all those that came to support, celebrate, and pray with us that evening. For me the evening was like placing a marker, a stone, to acknowledge all that God has done through us and many others to get us to this point and a moment to step out into the future, knowing that God was ahead of us, trusting Him with it all. I continue to feel blessed and privileged to be in this place, serving others as I do, through chaplaincy.

Commissioning Chaplains at Bluewater

Siân Thomas

After being missionally called to chaplaincy, I am feeling honoured to have joined the Bluewater team. Kent Workplace Mission have welcomed and supported me and I continue to pray and hope I can serve at Bluewater for many years to come.



Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to
do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses
all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

— a prayer attributed to **St. Teresa of Ávila**

Penny and Andy with Chaplains

Jan Foreman, Pastor Andrew Olowu and Siân Thomas

Andrew Olowu

This meant a lot to me because I had observed my wife doing the chaplaincy in Bluewater for many years. Every time she came home, there was something to say about who she met and what transpired. I was fascinated by it all and wished one day I would sign up for this. It happened after I retired when I had some free time.

The commissioning was one of the best days of my life. I realized that I could help people as a chaplain and stand in the gap for them. People who work in Bluewater where I am commissioned, may seem okay going about their daily jobs, but some often suffer stress or even depression because of circumstances at work, or home, or elsewhere. Until somebody speaks to them, these things are bottled up inside of them and affect their productivity at work.

As it is, as chaplains our questions or concerns can be timely, opening the door to a conversation that can bring relief to a rather burdened soul. Of course, you get those who reject your welfare concerns, but most people are receptive and welcoming. I hope we will continue to have an impact on Bluewater as chaplains because I have heard positive comments that welcomed the idea of chaplains in Bluewater. It shows, as one staff puts it, that management cares about them.

Ordination of Revd Rob Byrne



Photo with kind permission of
The Diocese of Rochester
*Bishop Jonathan (centre) and
Bishop Simon (centre-right) stand
with the newly ordained priests
following their ordination service.*

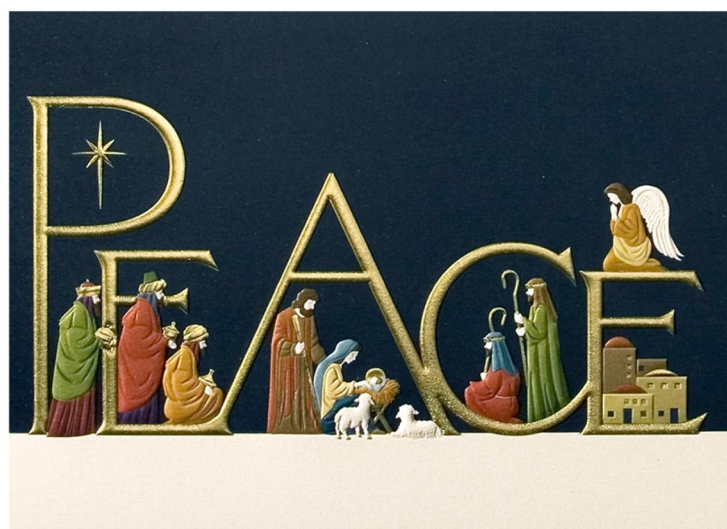
Revd Rob Byrne indicated with an
arrow!

We are delighted to announce that Revd Rob Byrne was ordained
on 28th September at Rochester Cathedral.

"Being ordained as a priest in the Church of England feels like the culmination of a great journey God has led me on over the last six years. But I know it's merely the beginning of a life of ministry. I used to be a journalist - I spent my life telling other people's stories. But soon I discerned that my calling in life was to **bring Jesus into** other people's stories. When I think about Jesus Christ, I picture what humans are really meant to be like. Testifying to his love, while serving & shepherding his people through their hour of need & joy is the end to which I'll gladly dedicate the rest of my life."

Revd Rob Byrne (KWM chaplain)

The services were led by Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, the Bishop of Rochester, and were livestreamed on the Diocese's YouTube channel. [Watch the service of ordination of priests](#)



From all at Kent Workplace Mission
May God bless you with love, joy
and peace this Christmastide



Anyone going shopping?

My female relatives will tell you I have a strange, equivocal view of shopping. The joys of retail therapy have passed me by. Why some people when on holiday want to waste precious time browsing the local shops is a complete mystery to me. In exceptional circumstances, I might just make an exception for a bookshop.

The one sort of shopping I really enjoy is Christmas shopping. Setting out with some broad ideas for people I care about and then eventually finding and handling just the right gift is a delight. Making a bit of effort feels a more genuine expression of love than just buying online, and hoping the blurb is true.

Shopping for children

And the best sort of Christmas shopping is for children, the younger the better. With no fewer than four babies being added to our family tree in recent months, I shall have plenty of excuse to find out what the toyshops are featuring this year. What old favourites are still selling; what completely new ideas our technological age has created.



Think of all the people involved

But whether we love or loathe going shopping, every transaction across a shop counter is a statement of our interdependence as human beings. The few seconds before we move on is hardly long enough to even think through all the people who have made a contribution to that moment. Someone had an idea; someone created a process; someone provided some raw materials; someone managed a factory; someone transported the item to reach the shop, perhaps from the other side of the world; someone stacked the shelves; someone cleaned the shop floor; someone opened the doors this morning; someone is monitoring the accounts. My purchase and each of their livelihoods depend on everyone else.



God's regard for each of us

The only thing we know for sure about every one of the people involved in my latest shopping is that God loves them and regards them as infinitely precious. If as shoppers or Chaplains we can get any sense of that across to those who serve us, our Christmas shopping will be an even more valuable enterprise.

Now, where's my list...

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

Anglican Rochester Diocese

Canon Ellen Couzens and *one vacancy*

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

Canon David Slater

Jacky Trice

Alan Wood

Officers

Chair

Ven William Adam

Vice-Chair

John Ellis

Secretary

Canon David Slater


Treasurer

Jennifer Mulrooney

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