

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Kent Workplace Mission

Welcome

In this edition we look back at Easter and the AGM and forward to a commissioning of new chaplains in Dartford.

Easter joy at Bluewater Shopping Centre

On Easter Monday the chaplaincy team at Bluewater hand-tied and delivered over 800 daffodils to staff around the centre.

Paul Winchester, Valerie Winchester and Michael Dale



This was a great team-building exercise for the chaplains, as well as bringing the joy of Easter to staff.



The staff were touched that the chaplains brought the flowers round on a Bank Holiday.

Ella is now looking for ideas to connect with the staff in the centre in summer.

Michael and Ella take a break

Annual General Meeting

At our AGM in May Trustees were appointed from the following denominations: South Eastern Baptist Association (1), Canterbury Church of England Diocese (2), South Eastern Methodist District (2), Rochester Church of England Diocese (1), Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark (2), Salvation Army (1), Southern Synod United Reformed Church (2). Five trustees were nominated by the members of KWM.

At the AGM Ella Sibley, Lead Chaplain at Bluewater, introduced a new presentation that explains about KWM and its work. Thanks to Ella, Paul Buckley (KWM Trustee) and Gary Colville (KWM Lead Chaplain) for the work they have done on this. The plan is to use this presentation at meetings and events to introduce the work of KWM and what workplace chaplains can offer. If you would like to use it to talk about KWM at a meeting or event that you are holding please contact us on the email address overleaf. Or we may be able to send a speaker to advocate for chaplaincy and KWM.

Chaplaincy at the forefront, part two

In the previous Newsletter we heard from Canon Tim Mercer of the growing importance of chaplaincy in the Rochester Diocese.

The Methodist Church
South-East District



In this edition we hear from Alan Wood, a KWM Trustee representing the Methodist South East District, about raising the profile of and supporting chaplaincy.

The South East District is a key partner of the Bluewater Chaplaincy, which is part of KWM, having made significant financial contributions from when it was still a hole in the ground to today, 19 years later. Indeed the latest grant continues to the end of 2020.

In June 2017 the District set out its policy on Chaplaincy that builds on its history of supporting and promoting chaplaincy in a variety of settings. The District seeks to promote chaplaincy primarily as an outworking of discipleship: “seeking to work for the transformation of society through offering God’s love and care beyond our structures and buildings to where people work, learn and are cared for, and other community contexts, often in interfaith settings”.

Chaplains are described as ambassadors, representing the church in a variety of places. They are also described as “midwives enabling the birth of the awareness of God in the place in which they serve”.

To back up this support of Chaplaincy the District hope to appoint a District Chaplaincy Officer (voluntary). Among other duties this person will seek to raise the profile of chaplaincy as a vital ministry of the church and advocate for chaplaincy across the District. They will also take the lead in advocating for Methodist policies that relate to the economy. They will also liaise with existing ecumenical chaplaincy organisations, such as KWM and also across different sectors, such as health and education.

How you can help KWM

Prayer diary - there is now a prayer diary available to help focus prayers for KWM. Each day of the month there is a different area of the organisation to pray for. This is available on the KWM website or a printed copy can be requested.

Church support - if you are a chaplain the members of your Church will be supporting you in your chaplaincy. Ask for an opportunity to tell your church about the chaplaincy that you do; perhaps as part of a service, or at a meeting. We have a service plan about chaplaincy that we could send to you to use. This gives an idea of where chaplaincy came from and gives space to include your experience as a chaplain.

Leaflets - we have some re-designed leaflets that will be available soon to give out at an event or meeting. One asks people to consider volunteering for chaplaincy and the other explains about KWM and what we offer.

Come and join us

You are invited to a

Commissioning Service

for

The new chaplains who are starting a chaplaincy to
Dartford Town

When: Thursday 5th July 2018
What time: 12.45pm - 1.30pm
Where: The Meeting Place, The Orchards Shopping Centre,
High Street, Dartford DA1 1DN

Tea and coffee before the service (from 12.30)

Buffet lunch provided after the service

This chaplaincy is a joint venture between Kent Workplace Mission and Churches Together in Dartford



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