

## A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Kent Workplace Mission

### Welcome

We hope that you enjoyed the first issue of KWM News and found the articles interesting and informative. KWM has been busy since the last edition; we have held the annual Kent-wide Chaplains' Conference and hosted two training days. We hope you find the articles of interest.

### Easter greetings - Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

"The great gift of Easter is hope – Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake." Basil C Hume (1923-1999)

### Chaplains' Conference February 2018 - St Martin's Hospital, Canterbury

This was the fourth conference that KWM has held and proved to be the most successful yet. The theme was Mental Health and it was held in a large hall called 'R' Place at St. Martin's Hospital, Canterbury.

Chaplains from many different backgrounds attended; workplace, prison, hospital, university, ambulance to name just a few.

We were privileged to have good speakers in



- Dr Saliha Nazir, a psychiatrist with Kent and Medway NHS Trust,
- Revd Ruth Birebaum, Lead Mental Health Chaplain with Kent and Medway NHS Trust, and
- Ben Ryan, a researcher with TheosThinkTank.

We were able to explore in smaller groups different aspects of Mental Health and there were opportunities for delegates to renew acquaintances from previous conferences and also to make new connections.

We were pleased that Revd. Dr. Philip Luscombe (Asst. Chair Methodist South East District) was able to join with us to lead opening worship, and that The Ven Stephen Taylor, Archdeacon of Maidstone led our closing prayers.

Thoughts will be turning shortly to the conference for next year. The date has been set, but no venue or topic has been decided upon.

In your forward planner book Saturday 21st September 2019 for the KWM Chaplains' Conference.

## Chaplaincy at the forefront

*Canon Tim Mercer explains the growing visibility and importance of chaplaincy in the Rochester Diocese*

In introducing this topic, may I say that I have worked in the Diocese for 36½ years: 14½ in parish ministry and 22 in hospital chaplaincy, currently as a chaplain at King's based at PRUH.

'Called Together' in Rochester Diocese celebrates chaplaincy as one mode of ministerial service. With our ecumenical partners in Kent and some of the London Boroughs, we want to both encourage more people to consider chaplaincy and to seek to create and/or support collaboratively energised ministries in various institutions and contexts.

We have an exciting opportunity to help promote this. There is a new role of 'Dean' of Chaplains, in Rochester Diocese, which I have been invited to take on and share with Rev Gary Colville (Kent Workplace Mission) and Canon Rachael Knapp (School Chaplain). We will engage with Area Deans as we meet to support all forms of ministry. Over time we anticipate that different chaplains will engage in this shared role.

A working group is being formed for the chaplaincy work stream in the Diocese to work in our area with everyone of whatever faith or belief. We will affirm continuing provision on the ground and explore what arises. To make a start, this will include the following: map all the good work on the go; engage with networks; gather wisdom; look to staffing; support training and supervision; communicate; make retreat; and draw upon prayer.

*Canon Tim Mercer (Interim Head of Chaplaincy, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust - The Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough, Kent). (Bishop's Adviser for Healthcare Chaplaincy)*

## How you can help KWM

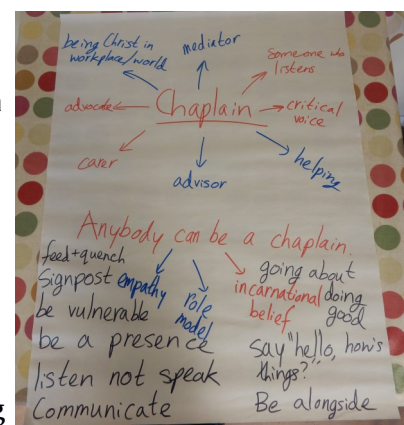
KWM receives grants from Bluewater, the Methodist South Eastern District, some denominations and some congregations. As well as the salaries of the Bluewater Lead Chaplain and part-time administrator there are many other expenses to be met; business cards, publicity material, training events, conference, office costs, CCPAS annual fee, membership of Workplace Chaplaincy Mission UK for each chaplain, to list just some. Please consider helping us by:

- Praying for our work
- Raising awareness of KWM to your congregation
- Raising money so we can support the expansion of the network of volunteers
- Consider volunteering to be a chaplain
- Suggest volunteering with KWM to someone who you think has chaplaincy gifts

## Training and Quiet Days

In early March we held two full days of Chaplaincy Training. This was attended by both those who are new to Chaplaincy and those who have been chaplains for a while. It was a time to learn, listen, share experiences and support each other.

At KWM we are aware that Chaplains need to look after themselves as well as those they meet in the course of their chaplaincy. This year we are offering two Quiet Days - one in May in the East of the County and one in September in the West. Details can be found by going to [www.kentworkplacemission.org](http://www.kentworkplacemission.org) and clicking on the link.



[www.kentworkplacemission.org](http://www.kentworkplacemission.org) - [admin@kentworkplacemission.org](mailto:admin@kentworkplacemission.org) - 01732 220820

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