

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by Kent Workplace Mission

Welcome

We have had a busy summer, with an ordination, becoming a Living Wage accredited employer and our Annual Conference. We hope you enjoy the articles. Should you wish to know anything more about KWM please look at our website or contact the Team Support Coordinator. Contact details overleaf.

Kent Workplace Mission Conference 21st September 2019

Our fifth annual Conference was held at Bluewater and the subject this year was “Seeing Our Economy Differently”. It was led by one of our Trustees, John Ellis who as well as being a former Moderator of the United Reformed Church was a former Adviser on Business Ethics to the Governor of the Bank of England. Rt Revd James Langstaff, Chair of KWM and Bishop of Rochester welcomed everyone to the conference and Revd Helen Hollands, Trustee of KWM and Assistant Chair of the Methodist South East District led opening worship.

We were pleased to welcome Revd Dr Richard Higginson who led the Faith in Business project in Cambridge for 30 years and Dr Nathan Mladin a researcher at Theos who has recently co-authored a book titled “Forgive Us Our Debts - lending and borrowing as if relationships matter”.

John gave a talk looking at the economy through a bible lens. Richard Higginson spoke on Driving Business by Christian values and Nathan Mladin spoke about some of the research in his book and a Christian vision for economic justice. There were opportunities for small group discussions and during the breaks there was time to make and renew connections.

John led a panel discussion based on a chapter about the economy in the Archbishop of Canterbury’s



latest book “Remagining Britain”. The panel members were David Slater, KWM Trustee and Lead Chaplain at Port of Dover, Revd Dick Johnson chaplain with Faith at Work in Worcestershire (and former Lead Chaplain with Kent Industrial Mission) and Angela Buckley the Bluewater Retail Manager leading the relationship between the owners and retailers.

We are grateful to Bluewater for enabling us to hold our conference in their Management Suite



Bishop James and Richard Higginson

Living Wage accreditation



Becoming accredited as a Living Wage employer was something that Ella, former Bluewater Lead Chaplain, took to the Trustees. She suggested that as a chaplain she could not advocate for payment of the Living Wage if KWM was not already a Living Wage employer. We have carried this through and KWM is now a certified Living Wage employer.

What does this mean? The Living Wage Foundation independently calculate the Real Living Wage each year to meet the real cost of living. The Real Living Wage is different for Greater London and outside London. As an accredited Living Wage Employer KWM has committed to pay its staff the Real Living Wage. It also is asked to advocate for the Living Wage, particularly for those employed by different organisations in the same building.

What can you do? Look at the Living Wage Foundation website <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage> There is information here explaining the difference between the Minimum Wage, the National Living Wage and the Real Living Wage. If you are in a position to do so you could advocate for the payment of the Real Living Wage.

We have been sent a plaque to 'place on our reception area wall'. As we don't have a reception area we had a photo taken with the Operations Group and the plaque is in the office (which KWM shares with Larkfield Methodist Church).

(Photo: KWM Operations Group with the plaque)



L-R, Mark Ball [Lead Chaplain, Bluewater], Alan Wood [Treasurer], David Slater [Secretary + Lead Chaplain, Dover], Jacky Trice [Team Support Coordinator], John Hougham [Vice-Chair and Chaplain, Bluewater team]

Ordination of former KWM and Bluewater Lead Chaplain

After two years as a probationer Methodist Minister in Cleckheaton Ray Borrett was ordained from the Methodist Conference on 30th July. This is referred to by the Methodist Church as 'Reception into Full Conference and Ordination'. Conference was held in Birmingham this year and so the ministers being ordained were sent to churches in the area. Ray was one of nine ordained at Central Hall, Coventry.

Jacky went to be in the congregation.



The very large church was full to the rafters and the service was conducted by Rev. Barbara Glasson, the new President of the Methodist Conference. It was a service full of solemnity, tradition, inspirational preaching, wonderful singing, but most of all of joy. Jacky said that it was wonderful to be part of the congregation to see Ray and eight others being ordained. She managed to briefly catch up with him and his wife Deb afterwards before they were in demand from the many people from their new congregations who had come to support them.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 30th November 2019 - KWM Quiet Day. At St. Benedict's Centre, West Malling Abbey.

Leader: Rt Revd Laurie Green.

Saturdays 8th and 15th February 2020 - Introduction to Chaplaincy Training. Held at Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church. 10am to 3.30pm.

To book either of these events please email the KWM office, email address below.