

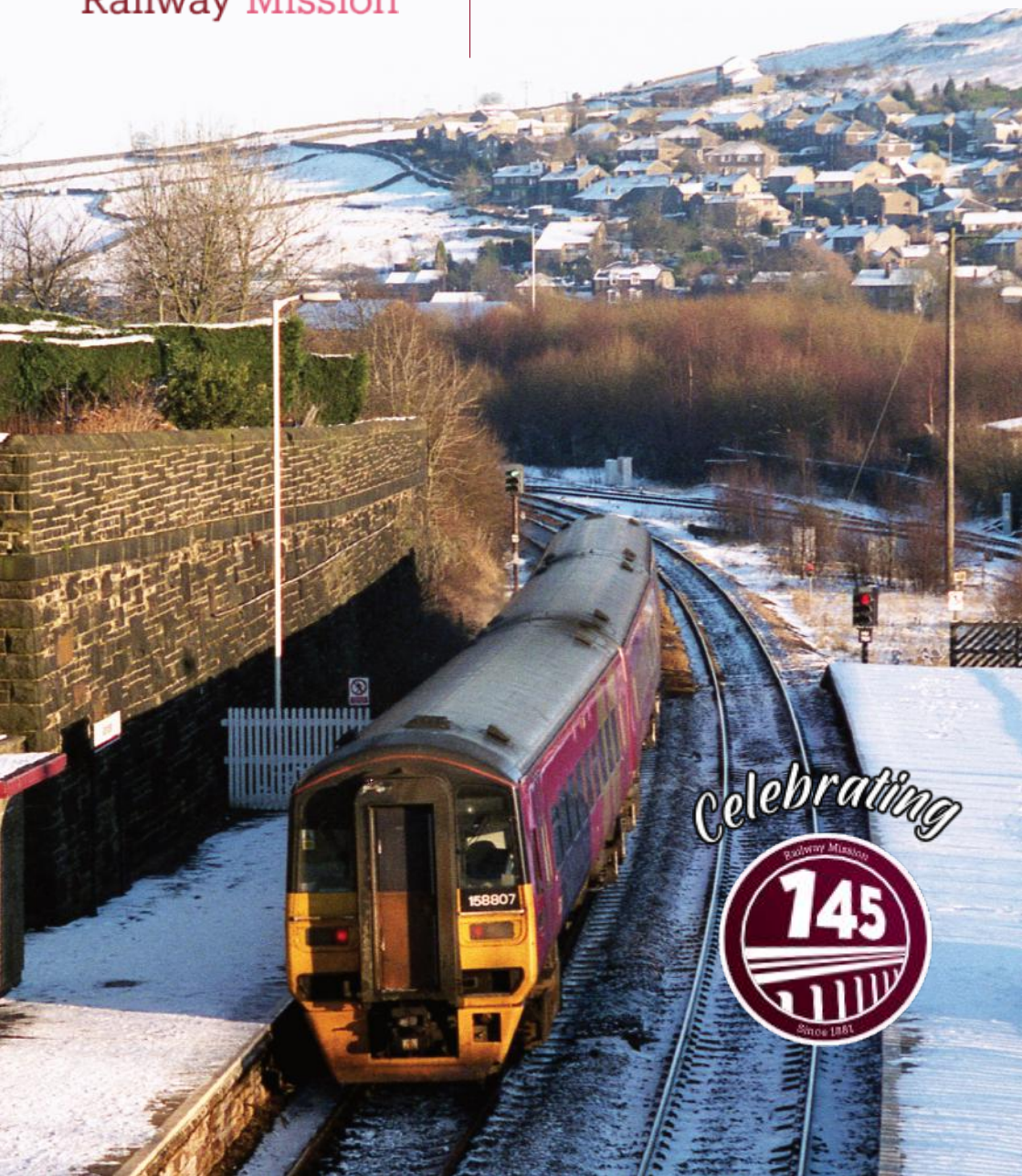


Railway Mission

RM News

Issue 1 2026

Support on life's journey



Celebrating





Railway Mission

Support on life's journey

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Cover photo by R Allen: Marsden in the snow

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Scan to
find a
chaplain
in your
area



Looking forward in faith: 145 years of service

Liam Johnston MBE, Executive Director

In 2026, Railway Mission will mark 145 years of ministry since our foundation in 1881.

It is a remarkable milestone and one we celebrate with deep gratitude. Throughout those years, the Mission has stood alongside the people of Britain's railways, offering comfort, encouragement and Christian hope in every kind of circumstance. Yet even as we look back with thankfulness, we believe God is calling us to look forward with faith.

From the very beginning, Railway Mission has understood that our work is not driven by our own abilities alone. We are called to do more than we ever thought possible because God equips us for His purposes. Every time a chaplain offers a listening ear after a difficult shift, supports a colleague through a personal struggle or simply brings a sense of peace into a pressured moment, we see God working through ordinary people to bring extraordinary care.

The rail industry today is changing rapidly. New technology, new expectations and new challenges affect the daily lives of staff across the network. Alongside this change,



the need for emotional and spiritual support remains strong. Our chaplains are committed to being present wherever they are needed, whether on stations, in depots or out on the tracks. We are also developing new ways to serve, including resilience and wellbeing support that reflects the realities of modern railway life.

We do not know exactly what the future holds for the industry or for the Mission. But we hold firmly to the truth at the heart of our faith. We may not know what the future holds. We do know the One who holds the future. And because of that, we move forward with confidence, hope and trust.

Thank you for standing with us as we continue this God given work. Your prayers and support help ensure that Railway Mission can remain a beacon of care for the rail family for many years to come.



Celebrating hope & resilience at Westminster

Railway leaders, chaplains, and supporters came together in London on the 27th October for a special Parliamentary reception hosted by Lilian Greenwood MP.

The evening recognised the Railway Mission's steadfast pastoral care for the rail family and celebrated the launch of an exciting new initiative to strengthen mental health and resilience across the industry.

The Terrace Pavilion at the Houses of Parliament provided a fitting backdrop as guests gathered from passenger and freight operators, infrastructure partners, unions, and supporting organisations. Together, they shared stories of how Mission chaplains walk alongside those working on the rail network, offering comfort after traumatic incidents, a steady presence during personal struggles, and a compassionate ear for anyone in need.

Lilian Greenwood MP (*pictured above with Liam Johnston MBE, Railway Mission Executive Director*) warmly welcomed attendees, saying: "The chaplains of the Railway Mission may not always be seen, but their influence is deeply felt. They provide care when it's needed most, bringing calm, hope, and humanity to the rail industry."

Guests also heard expressions of thanks from Rail Minister Lord Peter Henty and Shadow Rail Minister Jerome Mayhew, who both highlighted the Mission's enduring role at the heart of Britain's railway workforce.

The event was kindly sponsored by Netcompany and supported by sector organisations including CIRO, Rail Forum, the Rail Freight Group, the Railway Industry Association, and RSSB, demonstrating a strong shared commitment to the well-being of rail staff.



Launching Paideia Coaching: A new chapter

One of the evening's most significant moments was the official launch of Paideia Coaching, the Railway Mission's new professional training arm.

Rooted in the Greek word Paideia, meaning lifelong learning, the programme equips rail workers with practical tools for personal growth, emotional resilience, and mental well-being.

Developed in partnership with the Chartered Institution of Railway Operators, the training responds directly to requests from rail companies seeking structured, evidence-based support for colleagues facing the day-to-day pressures of railway life.

Lord Hendy joined Phil Sherratt, CEO of CIRO, in presenting a Certificate of Endorsement to Liam Johnston MBE, Executive Director of Railway Mission (*pictured above*), an important milestone recognising

the excellence and industry value of the programme.

Early participants are already reporting a profound impact. Matthew Greenwood of Carlisle Support Services reflected on his recent pilot session:

“The training was refreshing and thought-provoking. It could truly be a game-changer.”

As the Mission expands its ministry into new areas of support, this reception served as a powerful reminder: whatever challenges the future brings, Railway Mission chaplains continue to be a source of strength, compassion, and hope for the rail industry they serve.



12019 for pixabay



Pictured: from the left, Michele Ashton, Liam Johnston MBE, Dylis George, Steve Rowe, and Manuela Mai

London Dangoor Awards presentation

Railway Mission is delighted to announce that its London chaplaincy team has been presented with the Health and Wellbeing Award at this year's London Dangoor Awards, hosted by The Faith and Belief Forum.

The awards ceremony took place at the Guy Whittle Auditorium at the Royal Society of Medicine on Wimpole Street, where community organisations from across London were recognised for their contribution to improving lives and strengthening social inclusion.

Executive Director Liam Johnston MBE was invited to address the gathered audience and express Railway Mission's appreciation for the honour. In his remarks, he acknowledged the exceptional work carried out by all organisations nominated in the

Health and Wellbeing category, and he offered sincere thanks to the judging panel for recognising the Mission's contribution to wellbeing across the railway community.

Liam Johnston was joined on the platform by chaplains Dylis George, Michele Ashton, Tony Miller and Manuela Mai, along with Area Manager Stephen Rowe.

Members of the team who were present to receive the award on behalf of the wider Mission represented the ongoing pastoral care provided to railway staff, passengers and the communities affected by incidents on the rail network.

Other members of the London team not present include John Roe, Christopher Henley and Andrea Smyth. Andrea retired toward the



The award highlights the impact of community-based initiatives

Beesmurf for pixabay

end of last year but was intrinsic to the team's recognition.

Speaking after the ceremony, Liam Johnston said: "We are grateful for this award and humbled to stand alongside so many outstanding organisations doing important work across London. Although this is a London-based award, it belongs to everyone at the Railway Mission. Our chaplains across the country share the same commitment to supporting the rail industry during times of need, and this recognition reflects the dedication of the entire Mission."

The Dangoor Award holds significant value for its recipients because it shines a spotlight on grassroots organisations whose vital work may otherwise go unnoticed.

The award highlights the impact of community-based initiatives, provides an opportunity for recognition on a London-wide stage, and offers practical support for future development. By acknowledging organisations that

support mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing, the awards help raise their visibility, open doors to new partnerships and encourage continued investment into their work. For the Railway Mission, winning this award affirms the importance of its chaplaincy service and strengthens its ability to support those facing hardship across the rail network.

Railway Mission remains committed to offering confidential, compassionate support to railway personnel and communities, working alongside rail companies, emergency services and partner organisations.

**The
Faith
& Belief
Forum**





Enjoying Christmas cheer at the end of a busy year!

During the winter months in the run up to Christmas, it can be a very busy time for our staff. People are struggling and need support for many reasons; difficult weather conditions and the resulting fractious rail customers, the thought of spending Christmas alone or without loved ones and of course the sadly inevitable fatalities that happen all too frequently.

However, there was light amongst the darkness and a chance to share joy and hope at a special time of year, as our Chaplains met to join in song at one of the carol services or to share a meal together at one of our Railway Mission Christmas lunches.

2025 saw 3 of these festive lunches arranged around the country, ensuring all had a chance to attend and celebrate Christmas together.



We had one in central London (pictured) with a good turnout of Southern Chaplains and our Chair of Trustees Alex Volossevich. One in Edinburgh for those in Scotland and the Northeast joined by our Executive Director Liam Johnston, plus a gathering in Birmingham for those in the Midlands, Wales and the Northeast, where Liam enjoyed a second Christmas lunch!

Christmas jumpers were optional, yet there was a good show of them this year and all who attended reported full bellies and great camaraderie.



There were also 3 carol services in 2025 that Railway Mission are always a key part of. One at Paddington Station in conjunction with GWR and the Christian Rail group on a crisp Friday evening, where all gathered on the main concourse by the Christmas tree to raise the roof of 'Brunel's Cathedral'.

For the third year in a row we worked with LNER to hold a Christmas service for Rail Staff and for the second year it was at the National Rail Museum in York (pictured). It was a wonderful turnout as over 100 people gathered in the newly refurbished and reimagined Station Hall.



Added delight was provided by the York Minster Schools Singing Programme bringing children from 3 schools singing both traditional

and modern songs – they were wonderful!

We always support our fellow rail charity TBF (Transport Benevolent Fund) at their service in St Mary's Somer Town – just outside Euston Station. A chilly church was filled with warm hearts and full voices as the carols were woven into a moving service, followed by the very appreciated tea and mince pies. A collection is always made for a local food bank, providing nourishment to those in need at this time of year.

All these events provided a wonderful opportunity for us to pause for a short while and come together in such a joyous and uplifting way, which is very welcomed at such a special time of year.

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with your giving**



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donate/](http://www.railwaymission.org/donate/)**

Manuela Mai

New chaplain for North London

We are delighted to welcome Manuela Mai as the new Railway Mission chaplain for the North of London area.

Manuela brings with her many years of Christian leadership and a deep passion for missional service within the local community. A Theology and Worship graduate of the London School of Theology, she serves as an Elder in her church, overseeing ministries that support people of all ages and backgrounds. Her heart for holistic wellbeing – mind, body, and soul – shapes every aspect of her ministry.

Manuela has extensive experience walking alongside individuals during life's most challenging moments. She has served with the Samaritans as a befriender, team leader and trainer, and has volunteered within prison chaplaincy, care homes, homeless



outreach, and hospice care. Her warm and compassionate presence helps others to feel heard, valued, and hopeful for the future.

She is committed to reflecting Jesus' servant leadership by responding to people's immediate needs, offering encouragement, dignity, and spiritual support. Alongside her chaplaincy role, Manuela will begin a Master's in Practical Theology and Ministry later this year, further equipping her for this vital work.

Manuela is excited to serve railway staff and all she encounters, bringing comfort, connection, and God's love to the rail community.

Frances Roscoe

New chaplain for the North East

We are pleased to introduce Frances Roscoe, who joins the Railway Mission as chaplain for the North East of England.

Frances is a dedicated mother of two who relocated to the region in 2023, bringing with her a rich background in both pastoral and educational work. She began her career as a Primary Teacher and later served as a Tutor, EFL Teacher, Parent Support Advisor and Teaching Assistant, as well as teaching psychology at A Level. Encouraging others and helping them see their own potential has always been at the heart of her work.

Frances discovered her calling to chaplaincy in 2018 when she became a University Chaplain in Falmouth, Cornwall. Within a Multifaith Chaplaincy team, she supported students and staff



through many of life's challenges. She offered a welcoming presence, confidential listening sessions and gentle guidance for those dealing with relationship breakdowns, bereavement, mental health concerns and work pressures. Her warmth and sensitivity enabled people from all backgrounds to feel safe and understood.

After moving to the Northeast, Frances worked as a Learning Support Assistant, supporting vulnerable pupils and encouraging teachers in their work. She now feels called once again to serve the wider community. Frances looks forward to offering friendship, compassion and encouragement to everyone she encounters on the railways of the Northeast.



Mike Roberts

Northwest

Edges of desks are important for this job. It's not all about the big conversations when you sit down with someone, sometimes you perch just for a moment. In just a minute you have time to share life together. Sometimes there's nothing of lasting memory, but each time it's building a bit of that relationship.

I perched on a few desks today: one was very serious, the other had laughter from the first word. Perching is unplanned, it's not always fruitful, but sometimes I'm realising that perching helps you earn the right to sit down with people later on. Please remember those encounters, whether joyful or sorrowful, and that we take the time to seize those moments.



Tony Miller

Southern

Never ever think what we do as chaplains goes unnoticed.

I was asked if I could support friends, family and colleagues at a pub near a depot, following the death of a popular train driver. I listened to everyone's story, pains, fears, and was present and engaged with them all. The deceased driver's

son was also there. He shared his memories of his father.

This experience reminded me of the story of Jesus, with the woman of the issue of blood. "And Jesus said, somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. (Luke 8:46 KJV)" please be in courage, whenever you feel weak, that's when you're strong because His grace is sufficient for us in the midst of people's heartbreak and anguish.



David Hardy

Gloucester Area & Retired Rail Staff

Until recently I have taken good health for granted and so it came as a shock to learn I needed a major operation.

Fortunately, I am now out of hospital and making progress, albeit rather slow. Sadly, I am still not able to get out much. It is at times like these that I have been so grateful for people's prayers and visits and messages of support.

It has made me realise even more how important and beneficial prayer can be, specially for those who are ill or bereaved and how a message of encouragement can give a person a boost. Please keep up your prayer for the railway and for the folk in need and for the Chaplains who care for people.



Derek Grant

East Scotland

October was the busiest of an eventful few recent months: the White

Ribbon Scotland Conference in Perth; the Cross-Country Mental Health Day in Edinburgh; then the Rail 200 events in Aberdeen and at Edinburgh Waverley.

Still, there were more events in November with a Network Rail Stand down Day in Edinburgh (South Gyle); ScotRail Road shows at Haymarket Depot and Edinburgh Waverley.

The Armistice Day Service was extra special for me this time because after I had finished with the service an elderly man came up to me to tell me that his uncle was one of the 775 railway workers on the war memorial plaque on the station wall.



Bernadette Cendrowska-Salt

North Scotland

There's been quite an unprecedented period of rail fatalities in my area, including the suicide of a colleague which has upset a lot of staff. Along with this there was the passing of a popular, well known and respected retired signaller of 42 years whose funeral was well attended. Although it

covers a vast area, the highlands railway community is quite tightly knit, so everyone is affected in one way or another, even when small events happen. I pray for a peace, godly comfort and kindness through this often difficult time of year.



Alan Thorpe

Bristol Area

One of the stations in my patch has in recent years become a magnet for anti-social behaviour especially among the local youth.

Their young age means that BTP and local Police are restricted in what they can do about it. The youngsters know they are untouchable, and so the behaviour patterns continue.

I have been able to support staff who have been subject to abuse etc, and these one-on-one conversations have led to opportunities to talk about other issues affecting staff, often in their private lives. These conversations have opened up opportunities to share the subject of Chaplaincy and Faith. God does indeed move in mysterious ways.



Tim Hill Fixabay



Karen Schofield
Northwest Midlands

As a chaplain, each day brings with it the unknown: moments of disruption or improvement, accidents, and grief that arrive without warning. We step into emotionally charged spaces, offering presence in an industry where long hours and isolation often weigh heavily on those who keep the trains moving.

There are profound rewards. Sitting with someone in their pain, or to hear of injustice within the workplace we witness the resilience of this precious community. Then there's the privilege of walking alongside new staff and helping them find their place in this industry.

I have also stood with colleagues in times of loss that leaves shock in its wake. Each encounter has been a reminder that grief wears many faces, but compassion and presence remain constant companions.



John Roe
London Southwest

I had the privilege recently of participating in a training exercise at one of the large Underground Stations, in which rescue services

from TfL, British Transport Police, Ambulance Service and Fire Service, enacted emergency scenarios, including a rescue from under a train at the station. I was the rescued 'victim.'

It was an extraordinary experience, and one which gave me a much better appreciation of exactly what is faced by these amazing rescue workers, for whom this is the 'day job'. In between these enactment scenarios, there was plenty of opportunity for conversations, in which much appreciation was expressed by railway staff of the Railway Mission chaplains in being alongside in their pastoral support role.



Angela Levitt-Harwood
Northeast

The last few months have been ones of getting used to being back in the world of Railway Mission after being off ill and of reacquainting myself with the railway as a whole. It's amazing how much can change in a relatively short period of time!

As one of those who brought support following the Huntingdon attack, it was back to the front line and once again a privilege to offer support to those who were shocked, upset and fearful that

their work "family" had experienced such a trauma.

I would ask for your ongoing prayers over the next months as I continue to find my way through my new normal and believe with me for better times ahead.



Michele Ashton

Anglia

The transition for c2c and Greater Anglia to government ownership took place last year and things are going well after a lot of apprehension of what the new ownership will look like. I see directors of both train companies joining together and working well. There is still the uncertainty of what changes may take place, but with the experience coming together and being united it can only be for a greater railway.

It's a privilege to visit the offices and support directors, who not only face the challenges within their work but carry the challenges within their families



Manuela Mai

North London

I joined Railway Mission, just in October 2025, and it's been quite a rollercoaster of learning, discovering, and being very inspired by the work everyone

does. At times it has felt like having landed in a foreign country and only knowing a handful of words, but colleagues and staff have been so encouraging and helpful, and I know that with their support and God's leading, I will go from strength to strength.

I've enjoyed meeting railway staff, participating in Remembrance services, and attending prestigious events. A great start for the new girl!

I look forward to growing in my role and being the listening ear we all need at times. Serving the railway family is an honour to which I will give my very best.



Andrew Hall

Area Manager North

Over the last few months we have been very busy recruiting new chaplains.

Frances Roscoe has joined us in the Northeast, and it's been a pleasure to help introduce her to the railway. Following Andrea Smyth's retirement, I temporarily took over Chiltern South again but have now been able to hand it over to Manuela Mai. We'll also have a new chaplain in South Wales shortly.

It's always sad to see colleagues move on but it's always a joy to introduce new chaplains to the railway and the uniqueness of the

role. Please pray, as we begin 2026, that we'll see a period of stability, growth and financial blessing to enable Railway Mission to bring more and more Support on Life's Journey.



Colin Fraser
East Midlands

At the core of chaplaincy whatever the industry sector, it is about being present. There have been numerous times I have reflected on my day and thought am I achieving anything as a chaplain. Over the past eight or so weeks I have seen fruit from just being present and turning up at various places. I have been involved in providing support to rail staff in the aftermath of very distressing events some of which have drawn media attention. Rail staff have contacted me for support because and I quote a member of rail staff "people know who I am and padre you are a safe and valued space".

I am grateful for the encouragement, please pray for wisdom and resilience.



Frances Roscoe
Newcastle Area

I recently started my journey as Railway Chaplain for the

Northeast of England. It has been a bit of a whirlwind with so much to take in and so many people to meet.

But I have quickly learned that it is indeed a railway family. People have been friendly and helpful, and I know with prayer and support I'll find my way.



Dylis George
Southeastern

What a year 2025 was, marking the 200th anniversary celebration

of the railway, I had the utmost privilege to be part of the officiating team for the Southeastern Trains Remembrance Day service held at Dover Port, wherein I supported the organising team. It was a great opportunity to just be there for the HR team in particular.

During this period of commemorating Remembrance Day, there was a sudden death in service that shook the Network Rail station staff members. It was a time when chaplaincy support was given to staff members who were going through grief and pain of losing a colleague. As always, your prayer support is highly appreciated.

Railway Mission
Chaplaincy to the railways



Stephen Rowe
Area Manager South

It's been exhilarating to be out and about leaving administration behind for a while to hand out calendars to rail staff at various locations.

People love a gift and it opens the way for conversations and reunions, especially with those workers who retain a calendar from the previous year. A catchup and a chat. It's amazing how popular the calendars remain even though we have any number of ways to determine the date and appointments on various devices.

It's also heartening how many people love the scripture verses and take them as a word of encouragement. Doors open into hearts, so your prayers are much valued alongside chaplains' endeavour.



Graham Whitehead
West Scotland

Here in Scotland, we have a policy of introducing Blanket Speed Restrictions proactively and quite readily, perhaps influenced by our experience at Carmont in 2020.

Disruption due to the weather has had a big influence on where I could go, and a major influence on all of the operational staff I've met.

Whilst this is frustrating for staff and passengers alike, the industry prides itself, quite rightly, on its safety first approach, although sometimes the frustration of the travelling public boils over. Please pray that we will be able to explain the situation, and that passengers will understand our decisions.



Christopher Henley
Wessex

In recent months I have stood with railway colleagues at three special events. Barnes Station marked the 70th anniversary of a railway accident, at Southampton's memorial Christmas tree we held the names of colleagues who have died over the past fourteen months, at Clapham we honoured the 36th anniversary of another deeply painful day in our shared history.

What has struck me is how Remembrance draws us together. Each name spoken and each silence kept becomes a small act of care, strengthening the bonds of our remarkable railway family. These moments do more than look back—they help us face forward with hope. As we enter a new year, may kindness, courage, and hope guide our journey.

A happy and blessed New Year to you all.



Major Incident response at Huntingdon on LNER train

It was the seeming debris strewn across the forecourt of the station that first struck me.

From a distance it looked as if people had left their litter in the entrance and abandoned it. In reality they were backpacks, coats, items used by medics, blankets, first aid kits where people had been treated for wounds inflicted by a perpetrator on the 18:25 LNER train from Doncaster to Euston, which had pulled into Huntingdon through an act of quick thinking, courage and potentially life-saving skill by the driver.

Forensic officers were carefully meandering around the equipment in their white overalls and blue protective gloves photographing individual articles, discussing what needed to be recorded. Police stood around in their Hi-vis vests and jackets, some directing car owners back to their vehicles which had

been left at the station after they'd been ushered from the scene on the night, now having to retrieve their belongings, traveling in on replacement buses from St Neots and queuing at the cordon to give their car details to officers, some of whom were on duty for more than 12 hours, assisting the public.

You will have read or seen the news that there had been a stabbing event on the train, and ten passengers or crew injured, some seriously. The suspect is in custody, motive, as yet, unknown.

It was declared a Major Incident, so chaplains were assigned to support responders and BTP officers. My first request on arriving was to take some refreshments to an officer on the other side of the station, which meant crossing the bridge and walking down the lower level of the car park to give him some much-appreciated food and drink. The



Our prayer is that they'll never be faced with this kind of destruction again

media was perched like a flock of blackbirds on the upper-level car park with tripods and cameras waiting for something to happen, although it was mostly still at the scene. I think I managed to slip by them.

A team of officers were slowly walking in a line along the opposite car park scouring the tarmac, gardens and parked vehicles for any other evidence. At least half a dozen times they crept along in unison back and forth until they were satisfied they'd missed nothing.

A BTP team arrived all the way from Cardiff in Wales. Others came from Leeds and Southend that I know of, although mostly from Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

Several of our chaplains were involved in providing support, including Colin Fraser, Michele Ashton, Angela Levitt-Harwood, Andrew Mitchell all overseen by Liam Johnston MBE. Others offered and were on standby.

The whole nation was thinking and praying about this incident. Please continue to uphold those who have been injured, or who put their lives on the line to protect others, who rushed to this emergency to do what they could to protect and guard people from danger, who painstakingly recorded evidence

for later enquiries and court action, who stood guard for hours on end, for people whose possessions were left behind and needed to be retrieved, for officers who remained on duty for twelve hours a day during the operation, for train crew caught in the cross fire, for recovery of rail journeys, for the staff at the station who were affected by what happened to their evening as this incident unfolded, for their bravery and duty of care for the travelling public, for medics, and everyone not mentioned involved in this situation, and, of course, for chaplains as we do what we can to support staff and passengers through this.

David Horne, Managing Director at LNER, said of staff, including driver Andrew Johnson and injured onboard staff member Samir Zitouni, "We're grateful to Andrew, our onboard colleagues, the signaller, and the station team at Huntingdon, for their actions on Saturday. Our thoughts remain with our colleague in hospital."

Chaplains have since visited the station staff as they return to duty, and will continue to offer support to all staff involved. Our prayer is that they'll never be faced with this kind of destruction again.

Report by Chaplain Steve Rowe



Down the years

Railway Signal editorials

Dudley Clark

Most journals include an 'editorial', or article expressing the opinion of the editor or publishers. These might inform, challenge or encourage. The following five extracts from *The Railway Signal* are dated between 1883 and 1948.

1883

'Objects of our Mission'

'The special object of the Mission is to provide for the spiritual requirements of Railwaymen, who, from the peculiar nature of their duties, are frequently unable to attend places of worship at the usual hours.

The Mission provides, as far as its means will allow, special buildings, where bright and suitable Evangelistic Services are held at such hours as best suits local railway requirements.

In certain cases, where funds are obtainable, institutions are provided for the moral and social elevation of the men and their families under sound Christian influence, believing this to be the surest means of rendering their lives profitable and happy.'

1909

"I Sent You to Reap"

Is our work actually producing the results expected of it? Are our Railwaymen being brought to faith? Is the right type of Christian life being developed in our Mission members? Are they being led into lives of self-sacrifice for their fellows? Are we doing aggressive invitation work among the non-members of the Mission?...

The essential thing is thoroughness. It is easy to do much work to little purpose... One of the great dangers of work in all departments of life today is superficiality. Too much work is machine made. Things do not get time to grow. It is the age of incubators, hot-houses and condensed foods...

Railway Mission
Since 1881





1914 'A Nation at War'

For more than a decade the dread of a general European war has haunted the nations like a horrible nightmare, but many refused to believe in the possibility of such a dreadful calamity owing to the awful carnage which would result from a conflict in which millions of men would be engaged.

The war is now a terrible reality...

In these days of stress and strain it is good to know the secret of peace of mind and heart. The Holy Spirit reveals it in Philippians iv. 6, 7: - "In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus." (R.V.)

1921 "Let your light shine"

The spiritual darkness around gives the true Christian an opportunity to carry out the Lord's injunction in our Motto for 1921, "Let your light shine." This poor sin-darkened world sadly needs the true light. God expects His people so to reveal His power in and through their lives that others shall be compelled to recognize and glorify Him as a mighty Saviour.

1948 'A Personal Word - Atomic Energy'

We have been reading a great deal in recent days about atomic energy and the possible effects the release of it may have upon the future life of the world... One shudders to think what the end of this discovery of such destructive force will be, if used for war, if one bomb in the infancy of the discovery can wipe out a city and blot out 150,000 lives.

The fact of the matter is it is spiritual force, not fear of atomic energy, that this world needs. The warless world will come when the Lord Jesus Christ himself establishes peace on this earth... It is a grim warning... and call to every Christian to sound a note of warning to the unconverted to flee from the wrath to come.

Pictured this page: Front cover from the bound volume for 1909, of the Mission's monthly journal.
Photo previous page of viaduct by Tim Hill for Pixabay



RailHope Singapore Confer

Recently the Railway Mission was represented on the international stage when David Giles, one of our trustees, and Liam Johnston, our Executive Director, were invited to attend the RailHope International conference in Singapore.

RailHope International brings together Christian railway ministries from across the world, creating a unique space to share experience, encouragement and vision. Delegates came from a wide range of countries and cultures, each with their own railway systems, challenges and opportunities for ministry. Despite the differences, there was a strong sense of unity around a shared calling to care for railway people wherever they serve.

David Giles contributed to the conference by delivering practical training focused on teamwork. His sessions explored how teams

function, how individuals can better support one another, and how trust and communication are essential for effective ministry. Delivered with warmth and humour, the training was both insightful and entertaining. Delegates were quick to engage, reflecting on their own contexts and considering how stronger teamwork could help them face the pressures and complexities of railway ministry in their home countries.

Alongside this, Liam Johnston encouraged delegates to think creatively about the opportunities for ministry within their own railway networks. He spoke about the importance of understanding the specific legal and cultural frameworks in which each organisation operates. While the calling to care remains the same, the way it is expressed must be sensitive, wise and appropriate to



Reaching rail staff with the good news for 100 years

Railway Mission is part of the RailHope International family, with a global mandate to reach out to rail staff everywhere to provide emotional and spiritual support when life throws out problems, difficult issues and challenges.

Just as Railway Mission is celebrating 145 years of service to the rail industry in 2026, so RailHope International is celebrating their centenary—one hundred years of touching the lives of rail staff with hope for the future and comfort for today.

The centenary event will be held in Interlaken, Switzerland in 2026 from August 13-19, so if you'd like to enjoy glorious scenery and an uplifting rail conference check details at the RailHope website.



**Rail
Hope
100**

conference notes

local conditions. Liam challenged attendees to look beyond limitations and to prayerfully explore what is possible, even in environments where faith based work can be complex or restricted.

The conference was a valuable reminder that the Railway Mission is part of a much wider global movement. Learning from others, sharing our own experience, and standing together in encouragement strengthens us all. David and Liam returned with fresh insights, renewed relationships and a deeper appreciation of the diverse ways in which railway ministry is taking place around the world.

For more information about RailHope International and its work, visit www.railhope.net.

Remembering together on the railway

Remembrance in 2025 was marked not in one single location, but across the working heart of Britain's railways.

From England to Scotland and Wales, Railway Mission chaplains led services at railway memorials, bringing remembrance directly into stations, depots and workplaces. In doing so, they ensured that reflection and gratitude remained closely connected to the everyday life of the railway community.

The services varied in scale and setting. Some were small, intermittent gatherings, with only a few colleagues standing quietly beside a plaque or engraved roll of honour as trains passed nearby. Others were larger and newsworthy occasions, drawing together railway staff, veterans, local communities and civic representatives.

Whether modest or widely attended, each service shared a common purpose, to honour those who gave their lives and to remember the sacrifices made by railway people in times of war and national service.

One of the most prominent services took place at Paddington Station, a location deeply associated with the history of the railway and national



remembrance. The service was led by John Roe, the Railway Mission chaplain for Paddington. With sensitivity and clarity, he guided those gathered through prayers, readings and moments of silence, helping to create a space that was both dignified and deeply reflective within the busy station environment.

This year's Paddington service was attended by Queen Camilla (*above*), who laid a wreath in tribute. Her presence was a powerful reminder of the importance of remembrance within the railway family and of the long-standing contribution railway workers have made to the life and security of the nation. It also highlighted how railway memorials continue to hold national significance as places of collective memory.

Across all three nations, chaplains from the Railway Mission played a

central role in leading services and supporting those who attended. As familiar and trusted figures across the network, chaplains offered not only words of remembrance, but also pastoral care for individuals for whom these occasions can stir personal loss or reflection. Their presence ensured that each service was inclusive, respectful and rooted in compassion.

There is something especially meaningful about holding remembrance services on the railway itself. These are places defined by movement and progress, yet they also hold enduring reminders of the past in stone, bronze and engraved names. Railway memorials ensure that remembrance is not confined to a single day each year, but remains visible and relevant to thousands of staff and passengers who encounter them in daily life.

In a time when we face an uncertain future, remembering the lessons of the past is more important than ever. The stories represented on railway memorials speak of service, sacrifice, resilience and unity in the face of challenge. By gathering across England, Scotland and Wales, the railway community affirmed that remembrance is a shared responsibility, one that connects generations and strengthens our sense of purpose as we look ahead.



Liam Johnston awarded MBE

Our Executive Director has been awarded an MBE by HM King Charles III in the 2026 New Year's Honours.

The award, for services to the rail industry, comes as Liam also marks 25 years of chaplaincy, now providing leadership to our near 20-strong team of regional chaplains as Executive Director.

Railway Mission offers railway workers support in strengthening their mental, emotional and spiritual health, through our professional team. The services provided complement welfare provision supplied by the railway companies.

Liam's quarter-century of work with Railway Mission has included providing urgent care at some of the most significant incidents across the UK railway network. Beyond the rails, Liam was present to support British Transport Police at major disasters such as the Grenfell Tower fire and Manchester Arena bombing. Liam serves additionally as Vice-President of RailHope International, providing bespoke training, mentorship and advice on best practice to rail organisations around the world.

Reacting to the news, Liam said: "Being awarded an MBE is a tremendous honour, and I'm deeply



grateful. While my name may be on the citation, this recognition belongs to all of us at Railway Mission; to every chaplain and colleague who quietly shows up day after day for railway people. It also belongs to our supporters, without whom we would not be able to achieve as much as we do for the railway family."

Railway Mission trustee David Giles said, "We are thrilled that Liam's dedicated service has been publicly recognised, particularly as this work often takes place well away from the public gaze and in people's most vulnerable moments. I am confident that the railway family joins me in thanking Liam for his tenacity and tenderness, his passion for people, and his vision, leadership and strength of faith."

Liam added, "I am proud to accept this as an award for the whole Railway Mission team, as tribute to the compassion, professionalism and commitment that underpins our work."



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