



Railway Mission

News

Issue 4 • 2023



Railway **Mission**

Support on life's journey

www.railwaymission.org

Railway Mission
Rugby Railway Station
Rugby • CV21 3LA

office@railwaymission.org

support@railwaymission.org

0203 887 7000

Railway Mission is a registered charity in England and Wales (1128024) and in Scotland SC045897). A company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (06519565)



Cover photo by Liam Johnston of Kidderminster Station Manager Geoff Smith reading a Service of Remembrance at the Severn Valley Railway

- 3** From the top
- 4** The importance of welfare
- 5** Introducing Phil Tucker
- 6** Railway Mission Conference report
- 8** Bringing comfort and compassion
- 10** Remembrance Services 2023
- 11** Commemorating sacrifice
- 12** Mission indispensable
- 14** An extraordinary partnership
- 16** Chaplains' news & prayer
- 22** Tough Mudder challenge...
- 23** Six ways to support Railway Mission

Scan to
find a
chaplain



Chaplaincy, a symbol of charity

St. Martin, a Roman soldier, encountered a beggar on a bitterly cold winter's day. The beggar was shivering from the cold, and Martin was moved by compassion and empathy. In a spontaneous act of kindness, Martin took his military cloak and cut it in half with his sword. He gave one-half of the cloak to the beggar to provide warmth and comfort.

That night, St Martin had a dream in which he saw Jesus Christ wearing the half-cloak he had given to the beggar. Jesus praised Martin's compassion and selflessness, recognising the act as an expression of love and charity. This dream had a profound impact on Martin, leading him to be baptised as a Christian and eventually become a bishop.

The cloak became a famous Christian relic kept by the Merovingian kings of the Franks at the Mar Moutier Abbey near Tours. During the Middle Ages, the relic of St. Martin's cloak (cappa Sancti Martini) was carried by the king even into battle, and used as a holy relic upon which oaths were sworn.

The priest who cared for the cloak in its reliquary was called a

cappellanu (or in English Chapel), and ultimately all priests who served the military were called cappellani. The French translation is chapelains, from which the English word chaplain is derived.

St. Martin's act of sharing his cloak with the beggar became a symbol of Christian charity, emphasising the importance of helping those in need, even in the face of personal sacrifice. Over time, this story also became associated with chaplaincy.

The feast day of Martin of Tours falls on Nov. 11, a date we also know as Armistice Day. As the end of the Great War approached late in 1918, the choice of Martinmas as the date for signing the armistice was profound. France, where so much of the slaughter had taken place, celebrated peace under the patronage of one of its greatest and oldest saints, himself a soldier who had laid down his arms and embraced peace.

Liam Johnston is the Executive Director of Railway Mission



The importance of welfare

David Hardy, our chaplain for Gloucester and for Retired Rail Staff, talks about the importance of welfare initiatives in the rail industry

In August John Roe and I were invited to attend the GWR Welfare event held at Worcestershire Parkway station, organised by Helen and Lucy of the GWR staff.

It was well attended by railway folk including managers. There were many stalls from the community which were there to promote various charities such as Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Railway promotion groups were present to show the importance of railway travel to reduce our carbon output. The BTP attended and the children enjoyed being able to sit in the police cars and work the flashing lights!

Music played an important part of the proceedings, both piano playing and John Roe on his euphonium (*pictured*) which the crowds really enjoyed.

What a great opportunity for the Railway Mission to be present, to raise our profile and to



demonstrate how God is interested in all aspects of wellbeing including the spiritual side of life.

We look forward to future community events of this nature and the opportunity to show that the Railway Mission cares for all.

wellbeing 
taking care of rail staff





Introducing Phil Tucker

Chaplain for Wales & The Marches

Railway Mission has appointed former businessman Phil Tucker as chaplain for the Wales and Marches rail network.

Phil joined the Railway Mission in June, having worked for more than 30 years in sales and marketing within the consumer electronics sector.

"A Christian since my early 20s, I applied for the Railway Mission chaplaincy role because I want to make a positive contribution to society," explains Phil.

"It is my hope to end each working day feeling I have made a difference for someone."

Phil works three days a week and during his first three months in the position has been focusing on reaching out to and building on relationships with railway staff.

"We are delighted to welcome Phil to our chaplaincy team," commented Liam Johnston, executive director of Railway Mission.

"Our chaplains support the mental health and wellbeing of railway staff and the travelling public dealing with the stresses and strains of their work and personal lives.

"It is a vital role and one in which they face unique challenges, including offering emotional solace and reassurance to railway staff impacted by traumatic incidents."





Railway Mission Conference report

Each year Railway Mission brings together the chaplaincy team for a time of fellowship and mutual edification. Normally this is done in the spring, but this year we switched the venue, from Northampton to Derbyshire and the time of the year to the start of autumn.

This year the conference had three parallel events, the chaplains' conference, the Trustee Board and AGM, and the first in-person meeting of the new Railway Mission Advisory Panel (RMAP).

For many the highlight of the conference was an address by Tom Joyner, Managing Director of Arriva CrossCountry. Tom was not the only external guest. We had presentations from Beth

Kimberley of Maximus. Their Access to Work Mental Health Support Service, delivered on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions, provides nine months of tailored mental health support to employees who are experiencing depression, anxiety or stress to help them stay in, or return to, the workplace, at no cost to the individual or employer.

We also had Rob Thomas (of GWR and Christian Rail) attend the conference. Rob presented on the organisation Christian Rail, a relatively new initiative that hopes to bring together Christian groups around the railway network under one banner.

As well as a presentation by Andy Castledine of the RMAP there was also a workshop with Nimble



RM Chair Alex Volossevich addresses attendees



Tom Joyner (right) chats with chaplains



Ray Porter acknowledged for his service to RM



Barry Brown also acknowledged for his service

Media, a marketing company that Railway Mission has started working with to raise the profile of the chaplaincy both within the industry and beyond.

The conference was also a time to say farewell to two exceptional individuals, Barry Brown and Ray Porter, both of whom stood down as trustees after many years of service.

Barry (*above, bottom right*) has an HR background and Ray (*above, bottom left*) has a Pastoral and Theological background. Both were presented with railway-related Christian artworks and gift vouchers as a small token of our appreciation for all they have done over the years.

We pray that God will continue to bless them as they move on from being Trustees for Railway Mission and pray that the Lord will replace them with people who have the skills and capacity to help shape the future of the chaplaincy.

However, Ray will not be leaving Railway Mission completely but will remain available for the pastoral support of the Railway Mission team. Something that we are all grateful for.



Bringing comfort and compassion

The tremendous value of railway chaplains

by Liam Johnston

In the bustling and often challenging world of the railway industry, one often finds unexpected heroes in the form of railway chaplains.

Along with these dedicated individuals, Mike Roberts stands out as a beacon of compassion and support in the Northwest, so much so that recently Avanti West Coast asked Mike to present on the subject of 'Caring is Tough,' at the relaunch of their well-being and mental health tool-kit.

His unwavering commitment to the well-being of railway workers has demonstrated the tremendous value that chaplains bring to this vital industry.

Railway chaplains play a multifaceted role in the lives of railway employees, providing emotional and spiritual support, offering a listening ear to those who often face high-stress situations and demanding schedules.

The railway industry is not just about trains and tracks; it's about the people who work tirelessly to ensure the safe and efficient

transportation of passengers and goods.

Chaplains have shown the railway community that they are not alone in their challenges.

Their presence at railway depots and stations provides a sense of comfort and reassurance to workers who may be grappling with various issues, from work-related stress to personal difficulties.

They offer a safe space for individuals to discuss their concerns and seek guidance when needed.

Chaplains also offer critical support during times of crisis. When accidents or traumatic events occur in the railway industry, chaplains are there to provide immediate emotional aid to those affected.

They help employees cope with the aftermath of such incidents, offering a compassionate and understanding presence during what can be an incredibly trying time.



Moreover, the work of railway chaplains extends beyond the immediate concerns of employees. They foster a sense of community and camaraderie among railway workers.

By organising events, gatherings, and outreach programs, chaplains help build stronger bonds within the railway industry, promoting a culture of mutual support and compassion.

Railway chaplains are unsung heroes in the railway industry, providing invaluable emotional and spiritual support to its workforce.

Their work goes far beyond the tracks, touching the lives of those who keep our railways running smoothly. Their presence brings comfort, compassion, and a sense of community to the railway industry, making it a safer and more caring place for all.

Mike in the Northwest is a shining example of the tremendous value that chaplains bring to this essential sector.

Why we do this

Strictly speaking, Railway Mission is not a religious organisation, except in the sense of being supportive of widows and orphans, as prescribed in the New Testament.

Rather, we are a Christian organisation that applies the principles handed to us by Jesus to love God wholeheartedly and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Working in a secular industry, we bring this characteristic of love to the wellbeing and care wing of the sector, not to proselytise, but to share that high level of support for those who work in the railways. Some may be going through a rough patch, needing a shoulder to lean on and someone to listen to their cry for help.

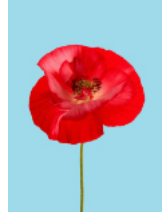
Like the Good Samaritan, we cross over to the side of the road where a broken person needs to be wrapped up in cotton wool and set back on their feet.

Wellbeing 

Remembrance Services 2023

Location	Day	Time	Chaplain/Minister
London Hoxton Station	Nov 7	10:45 am	Andrea Smyth
Dover Western Docks Cruise Terminal 1	Nov 8	10:00 am	Dylis George
Birmingham Moor St	Nov 9	10:45 am	Andrew Hall
London Liverpool St	Nov 9	10:50 am	Michele Ashton
Alstom Crew Works	Nov 9	11:00 am	Mike Roberts
Alstom Longsight Depot	Nov 9	14:00 pm	Mike Roberts
London Kings Cross Station	Nov 10	10:00 am	Dylis George
Cardiff Central	Nov 10	10:40 am	David Hardy
London Marylebone Station	Nov 10	10:45 am	Andrea Smyth
York NE Railway War Memorial	Nov 10	10:45 am	Angela Levitt-Harwood Helen Bartlett
London Paddington Station	Nov 10	10:45 am	John Roe
Preston Station PALS Memorial	Nov 10	10:45 am	Mike Roberts
Derby Station	Nov 10	10:45 am	Colin Fraser
Birmingham New St	Nov 10	10:45 am	Andrew Hall
Bristol Temple Meads	Nov 10	10:50 am	Alan Thorpe
London Euston Station	Nov 10	10:50 am	Stephen Rowe
Liverpool James St Station	Nov 10	14:00 pm	Karen Schofield
Crew Station	Nov 10	14:00 pm	Mike Roberts
Sheffield Station	Nov 10	14:00 pm	Colin Fraser
Glasgow Central Station	Nov 11	10:40 am	Graham Whitehead
London St Pancras International	Nov 11	10:45 am	Ray Porter
Reading Station	Nov 11	10:45 am	John Roe
Manchester Piccadilly Station	Nov 11	10:45 am	Mike Roberts
Edinburgh Waverley Station	Nov 11	10:45 am	Dereck Grant
London Waterloo Station	Nov 11	10:50 am	Christopher Henley
Kidderminster Station	Nov 12	10:45 am	Andrew Hall
Grand Central Memorial Sheffield Royal Victoria Hotel	Nov 12*	10:45 am	Colin Fraser
Manchester Victoria Station	Nov 12	10:50 am	Mike Roberts
Barrow-in-Furness Railway Station	Nov 13	10:45 am	Mike Roberts
*To be confirmed, please check with the relevant location staff for confirmation			

Commemorating sacrifice



The importance of Remembrance Services in UK railway stations

Every November, as the UK dons its poppies and prepares to pay homage to the fallen heroes of wars past and present, the railway industry plays a significant role in keeping the flame of remembrance alive.

The tradition of holding remembrance services at railway stations across the UK is more than just a symbolic gesture; it is a testament to the industry's commitment to honouring the sacrifices made by service personnel and civilians alike.

Railway stations have played a pivotal role in times of conflict. They were essential for the transportation of troops and supplies during both World Wars. By hosting remembrance services, railway stations pay tribute to their own history and their contribution to the war efforts.

Remembrance services held at station locations are open to all, making it inclusive for both commuters and visitors to participate in the act of remembrance. This inclusivity ensures that the message of remembrance reaches a broad spectrum of society.

These services serve as educational opportunities where younger generations can learn about the sacrifices made during

wars and the importance of preserving the memory of those who served. They can be informative, teaching history in a tangible and memorable way.

By hosting remembrance services, the railway industry demonstrates its commitment to upholding a cherished British tradition. It ensures that the values of remembrance, gratitude, and respect continue to be passed down through the generations.

They allow individuals to pause amid their busy lives and consider the price of freedom. Such moments of introspection promote a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by countless individuals.

The annual remembrance services held at railway stations in the UK are not just ceremonies; they are a powerful symbol of national unity, respect, and gratitude. They bridge the gap between the past and the present, ensuring that the sacrifices made by those who served our country are never forgotten.

The railway industry's commitment to hosting these services underscores its role as a custodian of history and a conduit for communal remembrance.

Photo by clewtop157 for Pixabay



Mission indispensable

Most entries in the Mission's Minute Books begin with 'The meeting was opened with prayer.' Today this is reflected in meeting agendas that begin 'Apologies for absence,' followed by 'Opening remarks and prayer.'

But what is prayer? A recent definition from the Anglican diocese of London is: 'Prayer is giving our attention to God in a two-way spiritual relationship where we talk to God and also listen to Him. Prayer is like a child's conversation with their father. It is natural for a child to ask his father for the things they need, or to ask for advice or guidance.'

Virtually every branch of the Mission held meetings specifically for prayer which might be before Sunday services or on a weekday evening. Regularity was maintained across the years and across the Mission. Sometimes prayer meetings might last for two hours as in 1883 when the GWR General Manager made a room available at Paddington and it was "resolved to hold regular prayer

meetings every Thursday from 12 to 2." At Watford their regular prayer time was 7.30pm on Thursdays with the theme 'God is a very Present Help in Trouble.' Prayer formed part of the routine in the Mission's Convalescent Homes with Rule 7 stating that 'Patients are expected to attend daily prayers: Morning and Evening.' How well this was received by patients is unknown.

The 1950 Constitution included a 'Prayer Partnership' the object of which was 'to bind together helpers and members of the Mission in intelligent intercession. No pledge is required, but all members are asked to pray daily for their own branch and for the special needs as indicated in the monthly circular.'

For people to pray intelligently there must be communication of need; and in the 1980s there were newsletters such as 'Branchlines' and 'Network News'. Today there is 'RM News', and the weekly 'RM Prayer' email along with social media.



Luis Pintero for Pexels

Does God answer prayer? Members of the Mission have always expected it to be so. Answers were reported in the Railway Signal and in the RM Prayer email today. In the September 1884 Railway Signal the editor declared that 'It is with the utmost joy that I write to tell you that the Directors [of the L&SWR] have kindly provided for the staff at this station a coffee and dining room, beautifully fitted and arranged for the convenience and comfort of the men... It was the matter of earnest prayer... And we look upon this building as a blessing from God, and an immediate answer to prayer.'

In 1916 branches on the Eastern side of Britain were literally on the 'Front Line' with fears of bombing raids by Zeppelins. One Scottish branch having been warned of an impending raid closed their meeting and a member 'offered earnest prayer that God might send down the mist as He did in the days of the Covenanters and hide us from our enemies'. That prayer was heard.

FOR PEOPLE TO PRAY
INTELLIGENTLY
THERE MUST BE A
COMMUNICATION OF NEED

Prayer in the history of the Railway Mission followed the pattern of most Nonconformist churches; Extempore [Done or said without preparation and used in public worship or prayer meetings] and often Open [when part of a meeting includes an invitation for anyone to lead the gathering in prayer.] It was not Liturgical [with prayers set by the Church]. But set prayers are used for formal occasions commemorating events such as Remembrance services or the recent commemoration for those in the rail industry who suffer or died because of the COVID pandemic.

Dudley Clark: October 2023



Railway Mission's ED Liam Johnston (left), with other winners of the Award for Extraordinary Partnership Working

An extraordinary partnership

Railway Mission is pleased to report that the National Covid Memorial Day was awarded in the category of 'Extraordinary Partnership Working'. The judges recognised that there were three 'once-in-a-lifetime events': the Covid Pandemic, The Death of the Queen, and the coronation of King Charles III.

There were four groups in this 'special' category and all four were awarded for their 'Extraordinary Partnership Working.' We thank God for this recognition and pray that this will further help raise Railway Mission Chaplaincy in the thoughts of those who are influential in the railway and government.

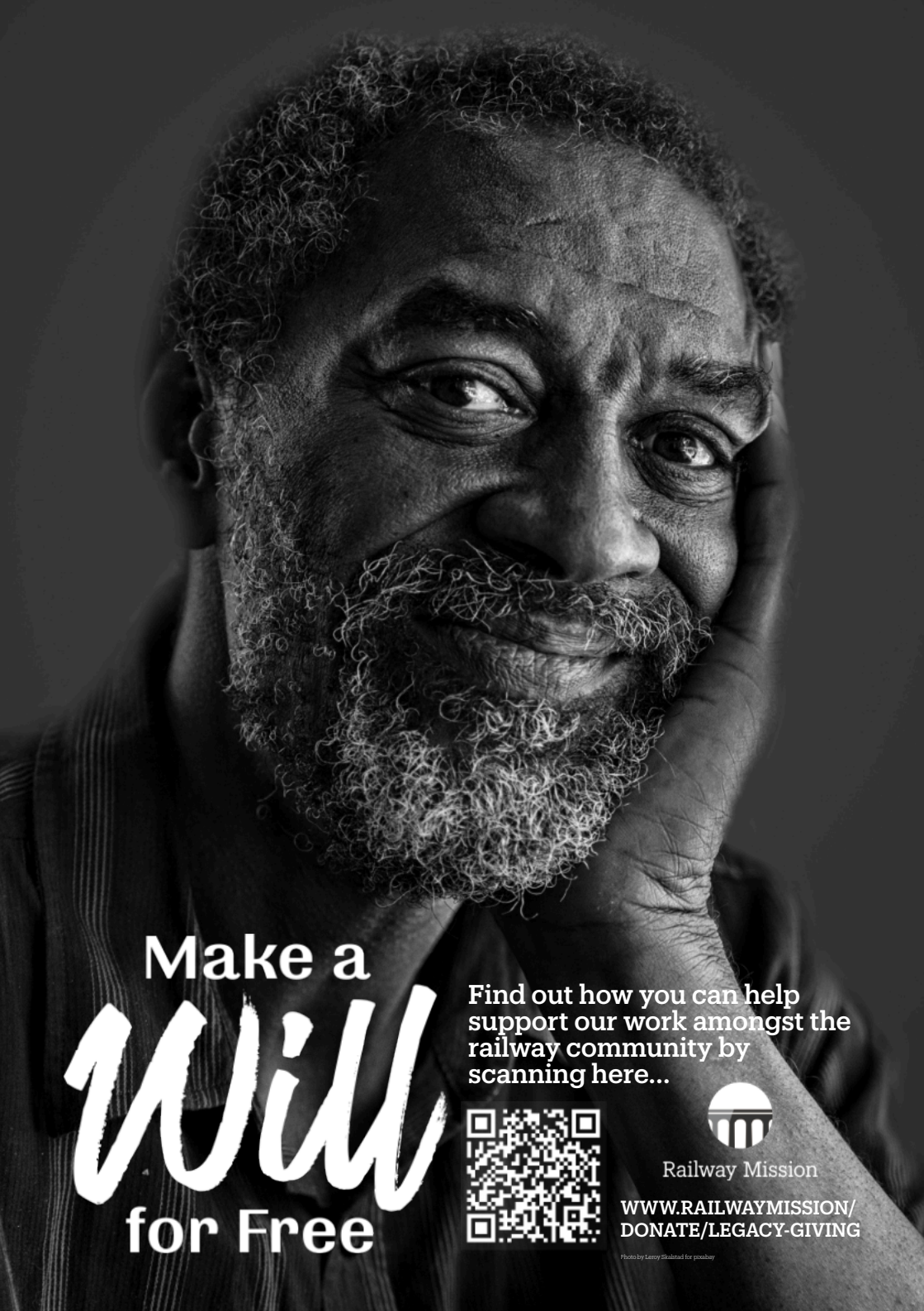
This award reflects the work of all the chaplains, engaging and integrating into the companies you support. It is these individual relationships that make the work and influence of Railway Mission so valued by the railway family.

Extraordinary Partnership Working Winners

- ▷ **NATS:** Silencing the Skies for The Queen's Funeral
- ▷ **Network Rail:** King's Coronation - biggest movement of military personnel by the rail industry since Winston Churchill's funeral in 1965
- ▷ **Network Rail:** Rail Industry (COVID) Memorial Day
- ▷ **Transport Scotland:** The Death of Her Majesty the Queen, the funeral cortege from Balmoral to Edinburgh

A special thank you to everyone who led one of the satellite events on the day.





Make a
Will
for Free

Find out how you can help support our work amongst the railway community by scanning here...



Railway Mission

[WWW.RAILWAYMISSION/
DONATE/LEGACY-GIVING](http://WWW.RAILWAYMISSION/DONATE/LEGACY-GIVING)

Photo by Lenny Skabbed for prashby

Chaplains' news & info



John Roe

South West, Paddington

Almost every day, chaplains will be travelling to Railway stations, depots, offices, and other installations, in response to requests for support for individuals or groups, participation in meetings, presentations or events.

We pray for each one of those encounters that they may be fruitful, supportive, and most of all, means of sharing Christian love, hope and life.

Also, I have found increasingly common, those apparent 'bumping into' railway workers whilst travelling to appointments: those God-given spontaneous opportunities to help and support staff 'on the job.' Thank you, God, for directing our paths and thank you for your prayer covering.



Alan Thorpe

Bristol

The most dominant topics of conversation in recent days have been Rail Strikes and Job Insecurities.

We certainly do not 'take sides' in these disputes, but I have had individual sessions with staff of diametrically opposing opinions and attitudes. At the end of the day, I think most staff are wanting

someone who will simply listen to their concerns.

Our aim is to provide that listening ear, and as staff open up, very often other issues come to the surface. We don't have all the answers, but nonetheless have at times been able to help, and even point to the One Who is the answer to our every need.



Helen Bartlett

North East, Newcastle

Three Northern Chaplains met Nick Donovan, the MD of Northern Trains.

A lively and approachable man, he is about to 'retire' soon. It is striking that he keeps his family and himself at the top of his agenda as well as Northern. He spoke about the challenges of life and how these were opportunities for him.

Currently, the Railway Network faces lots of challenges (opportunities?) - ticket office closures, fatalities, gender and relationship issues, financial and family situations.

Our God is a God who can give us strength and can build us up to positively support both ourselves and other people and situations.

Prayer, praise and stories from chaplains to the railways of England, Scotland & Wales



Mike Roberts

North West, North Wales, Manchester

Increasingly, I am asked to work with train

companies to support staff affected by bereavement and deaths in service and to support managers as they offer care for their teams. Recently I have been asked to work with companies to refine or introduce policies and procedures to improve the care staff are offered at a challenging and vulnerable time.

Please give thanks for the openness of the industry to use and rely on chaplains in seasons that are difficult and pray that as we work together to offer support that we may offer light in darkness and hope in despair. Please ask God to give chaplains His wisdom in all these things as we weep with those who weep and mourn with those who mourn.



Andrea Smyth

North London, London Overground

In addition to the usual things, I've been taking the opportunity to visit some of my ticket offices, in light of the proposed closures.

Different train operators are handling communicating these changes to staff in different ways, with varying results. For one

operator, the morale is quite low, and there are worries about redundancies. For another, there has been a bit of 'spin' and staff are on the surface seeming more positive. Please pray for all staff who may be affected by these changes.

Please pray also for a wellbeing talk I am giving for Network Rail staff which is coming up soon.



Colin Fraser

East Midlands, Derby

There was a complex incident on my patch over the summer.

Because of the nature of the incident, I felt unsure in how to provide the support. I needn't have worried as the Lord provided the wisdom in how to offer support, by simply telling me to "listen".

The offer of support was welcomed as it normally is, but what seemed to be really valued was that I was 'just here' and knowing that support is available 'is a comfort.' The wisdom was not in anything that I said but in the listening which in turn created the space for individuals to open up. Sometimes chaplaincy is just being available with time and no other agenda.

Please pray for words of encouragement for chaplains and

Chaplains' news & info

for continued wisdom as in how we support others.



Dereck Grant

East Scotland,
Edinburgh

Now, this year was the third anniversary of the Stonehaven train derailment, and we were able to attend a very small memorial service at Aberdeen Station to pay our respects to those who passed away on that tragic day.

At the same time, there has been a lot going on in Aberdeen with Network Rail pleading guilty for the train derailment. A well-known staff member passed away at the beginning of September at Aberdeen Station, another difficult situation for staff to deal with.

Of course, I have been busy elsewhere, for example, with Suicide Prevention events at Dundee and Edinburgh Waverley. I would be grateful if you could pray for members of staff at Aberdeen Station as they have had a tough three years.



Graham Whitehead

West Scotland, Glasgow

Since writing my last note, I have managed to fit in a family holiday, a long weekend away with my wife, and a few days on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. It has been important to refresh my

spirit. Jesus did the same, withdrawing to pray alone (refreshing himself and his relationship with his Father) and taking his disciples off to get away from the distractions of the world.

It seems that more and more of our time can be stolen from us by 'things we need to do,' so that we don't spend enough time on things which are actually the most important.

I ask your prayers for every person, that they would find the time to refresh themselves and their relationships.



Karen Schofield

North West, Liverpool

We pray for all staff affected by racism, overt or hidden amongst systems, during this Black History Month.

We thank God for all those pioneers who fought against colour-bars within the rail industry and other discrimination throughout our society. Today and in the past.

We thank God for those who still fight against bigotry wherever it may be found. Help us Lord, to seek our own hearts out for prejudice or malice, to address it, and become ever more accepting as your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, was. We ask this in your most holy name. Amen

Prayer, praise and stories from chaplains to the railways of England, Scotland & Wales



Angela Levitt-Harwood

East Coast, York

I've recently completed eight years working for Railway Mission, a relatively short time in comparison to some of my colleagues and predecessors but enough to build up a bit of history.

I was told when I started that I would never be totally prepared for who was coming through the door, be on the other end of the telephone or what the next email would bring and that is very true.

It's always been and remains a privilege to hold the hand of the bereaved, the hurting one day, to be helping out at a community event on a station the next, or welcoming new recruits to the railway family, and everything in-between.

It's all part of "support on life's journey" and is underpinned by the ongoing prayers of our partners for which we are very grateful.



Dylis George

Southeastern, London Bridge

First and foremost, let me register my thanks for the continued prayer support. I must say, I have been enjoying God's blessing in my role as a chaplain. It continues to be a joy to serve the Railway staff by being

present at Wellbeing Days. I have had the opportunity to engage with staff in various train stations and some scheduled Network Rail events.

The opportunity to promote the Chaplaincy at staff wellbeing days has been phenomenal.

As there have been quite a number of young person fatalities, we continue to pray for our British Transport Police Officers who have been first responders during these incidents.

Kindly requesting your continued prayer support for the Railway staff as I believe God for every given opportunity to be a blessing.



Phil Tucker

South Wales & the Marches

After four months in this role I'm pretty certain I've made a friend, who shared with me about a deep and difficult family relationship with a parent. Hopefully, my being there and providing a listening ear was in some small way of benefit to them.

I have at times felt overwhelmed by the complexity of the rail system, its acronyms and difficulties, etc.

The time that I spent with my new friend was a great reminder to me that despite this, the reality is that

Chaplains' news & info

the things that matter in life are almost always those that our minds continually remind us of in the wee small hours: Our self-worth, our doubts, our relationships with friends and families and the mistakes that we have made.



Andrew Hall

Area Manager North,
West Midlands,
Birmingham

We have just returned from our annual Railway Mission Conference.

This is always an interesting time as we all experience the tensions of wanting to be with our colleagues whilst being aware that there is so much to be done 'on our patch.'

While it is imperative that we pray into the work on the network it is also important to pray that we, as chaplains and as an organisation, take time to refresh, fellowship and learn from one another. 'The poor of the world will always be with you...'(Jn 12:8) but equally, those requiring support on the railway will always be around.

Please pray that we may learn to follow Jesus' example and withdraw from the fray in order to refresh.



Christopher Henley

South West, Waterloo

What incredible teams of people I have the privilege of meeting with.

From Guildford EIU meeting new Mobile Operation Managers, to accessible Network Rail areas, Bournemouth Drivers, Driver Manager's, Flagship and Station Manager teams, BTP's Welfare Police Dog Holly, the BTP Teams in Southampton, followed by the 175th Anniversary of Feltham Station, with the SWR Hounslow, Feltham and Richmond Community Group, including Hounslow Counsellors, and many Signallers who are always wanting a chat, knowing my passion for Signal Boxes.

I also led a service of reflection for our amazing Train Presentation teams at Waterloo who mourned the sudden loss of their dear manager Simon Langley.

I am delighted to advise you that I am now a qualified Mental Health First Aider. Please do take the opportunity to reach out if you fancy a chat.

Help!
0203 887 7000

Prayer, praise and stories from chaplains to the railways of England, Scotland & Wales



Tony Miller

South London, Southern

I have been a part of the Railway Mission for a year now.

At times, it has been a little bit challenging to interact with some of the Train Operating Companies, particularly with the signallers at the Rail Operation Centre (ROC), especially if there was a fatality.

Anyhow, I'm proud to announce I've had a breakthrough. I had my first one-to-one drop-in session at the ROC, supporting all the signallers and controllers. It has been quite a sobering experience. All the staff made me feel welcome and supported, as they can now put a face to my name as their new chaplain.

Lastly, please pray for me as I will start a new drop-in session at Brighton Station at the beginning of November, supporting all Southern, Translink and BTP staff.



Stephen Rowe

Area Manager London & South, Kings Cross

Occasionally we have frustrating days or weeks when things don't go according to plan, scheduled meetings are changed, trains are delayed or cancelled, journeys thwarted, but we have to do our best to make the most of change

and see the positive side of daily life. "In everything give thanks" we're told.

The main point is to stay focused; to be available to staff because that is why chaplaincy exists; to see every ounce of effort as a valuable part of life's learning curve, come rain or shine, and to not become 'weary in well-doing' as the Apostle Paul advises.

Please continue to uphold chaplains in prayer as we stay in faith and remain constant in our care for rail staff and officers.

Wellbeing

Talking to someone helps offload so many issues that can become a weight and a burden.

Chaplains are available to all rail staff as part of the wellbeing team for support when the load becomes too much to bear.

Don't think you're alone!

www.railwaymission.org



Tough Mudder challenge... ...in aid of Railway Mission

A team of intrepid Railway Industry Association (RIA) employees and staff from membership organisations have taken on a Tough Mudder challenge to raise vital funds for Railway Mission. The 10km Tough Mudder race was on Sunday, September 24 in Faygate, West Sussex, and saw the seven participants face twenty obstacles, including the three-storey tall 'Mudderhorn' and teamwork-testing Everest.

The seven-strong Railway Mission Tough Mudder Team tackling the extreme endurance course comprised Isabella Lawson, Rose Garber, Grace Smithen and Robin Hay from RIA, Jonathan Howard and Melissa Warren from Dura Composites and Neil Cross of Anderton Concrete.

The team aimed to raise £500 to support Railway Mission, however they managed to smash their target and have so far raised £535!

Participant, Isabella Lawson Policy Manager at RIA, said: "We wanted to support Railway Mission as RIA's charity for the year, and it made sense as a railway team that we would do so. The whole thing was absolutely horrible! But also extremely good fun."

Liam Johnston, Railway Mission Executive Director, said: "We are extremely grateful to them, and all the generous individuals and organisations who undertake fundraising activities, donate or leave a gift in their will. Every kind donation helps to support our chaplaincy team's vital work."



Six ways to support Railway Mission chaplains

Payroll Giving*

Because every donation is taken from your gross pay, every pound you give will only cost you 80p, or only 60p if you are a higher rate taxpayer.

Cheque or Postal Order

A one-off or regular donation by Cheque or Postal Order sent to: Railway Mission, Rugby Station, Rugby, CV21 3LA.

Standing Order

A one-off or regular donation through your bank. Email our Administrator for more information: office@railwaymission.org.

Web Donation

A one-off or regular donation through our website. Visit www.railwaymission.org, and click on the Donate page to find easy-to-follow directions.

Wills & Legacy

To include us in your will, our charity name is Railway Mission, our charity number in England & Wales is 1128024, and in Scotland is SCO45897.

Gift Aid as an extra

Railway Mission can claim 25% from HMRC on donations made by UK tax payers who are signed up to Gift Aid.



*For more information on Payroll Giving, go to:
www.railwaymission.org/donate

Scan the QR-Code to go to our Donate page online



Support on life's journey



in partnership with



Railway Mission



Support on life's journey

Railway Mission



**They were there
when I needed
someone to talk to...**