



Railway Mission

2024 • issue 2

RM **News**

Support on life's journey



Railway Mission

Support on life's journey

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Cover photo by Andrea De Santis for Unsplash, London Underground train on its way out of a station

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Scan to find a chaplain in your area



Spreading light and hope

Reaching those who work on the railways with the message of the Gospel presents a unique and wonderful opportunity to spread hope and light in places that are often on the move.

Railway workers, from engineers to conductors, are vital cogs in the wheel of our society, ensuring the safe and efficient movement of goods and people.

Their work is crucial, yet often goes unrecognized and unappreciated.

Imagine the railways as veins, and the trains as blood that brings life to distant parts of the body.

Just as every city and town benefits from this circulation, so too can every person working on these lines benefit from the transformative power of the Gospel.

The message of love, redemption, and grace is universal, offering peace and strength to all, including those who spend their days and nights keeping our trains running.

Sharing the Gospel with railway workers can be as simple as offering a friendly conversation, a prayer for safety, or a shared piece of scripture

to provide encouragement during a long shift.

Every interaction is a seed planted, which can grow into faith and fellowship. It's about showing genuine care and concern, reflecting the love that Christ has for all of us.

As these workers traverse back and forth across the land, let them not only carry physical passengers and goods but also carry the joy and hope that comes from knowing they are valued and loved by God.

Let us make the effort to ensure that as they connect cities and towns, we connect hearts and souls.

This mission, though challenging, is deeply rewarding and essential, for it is in serving that we truly fulfil the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

Liam Johnston
Railway Mission Executive Director





Railway Mission was represented at the RSSB's reception in Westminster with Rail Minister Huw Merriman

Rail Minister celebrates Railway Mission's impact on society

In a notable event attended by MPs and peers, Rail Minister Huw Merriman praised the Railway Mission for its substantial social contribution valued at £1.8 million.

The gathering, hosted by Chris Loder MP on May 13, included influential figures such as Transport Committee Chair Iain Stewart and Network Rail Chair Peter, Lord Henty of Richmond Hill. It featured insights from both RSSB's sustainability experts and the Railway Mission's dedicated team.

Railway Mission, a faith-based Christian charity, provides essential pastoral care to the railway community and the public affected by railway operations. Our

chaplains are committed to offering year-round, face-to-face support for individuals facing loneliness, stress, depression, trauma, bereavement, or illness. This crucial support greatly enhances self-esteem, health, wellbeing, and overall productivity, proving invaluable to numerous people and organizations within the rail sector.

Historically, it has been challenging to quantify the monetary value of our work. However, thanks to the Rail Social Value Tool, developed in partnership with RSSB and social value experts Loop, we can now measure the exact social value we generate—£3.13 for every £1 of income, culminating in a total societal contribution of £1,848,851



The Railway Mission plays an important role in providing support to railway staff across the country through the most difficult of times and I'm a huge supporter of their work.

Huw Merriman MP
Minister of State for Rail & HS2

over the last year. This tool, recently enhanced with a more user-friendly interface and now encompassing 1,000 metrics, has been instrumental in showcasing the tangible benefits of our services.

Rail Minister Huw Merriman remarked, "The Railway Mission plays an important role in providing support to railway staff across the country through the most difficult of times and I'm a huge supporter of their work. I was pleased to join the team again to hear inspirational stories and welcome the RSSB's report which highlights the valuable contribution this brilliant charity delivers."

Chris Loder MP also expressed his satisfaction, stating, "I was delighted to host this event where the RSSB revealed the impressive social value contribution made by the Railway Mission to Britain's railway. During my many years in the rail industry, prior to becoming the MP for West Dorset, I saw first-

hand the real difference the Railway Mission makes to the wellbeing of both employees and their families across the network."

Liam Johnston, Executive Director of the Railway Mission, shared his gratitude: "As the executive director of the Railway Mission, I am profoundly grateful for the recognition of our work's significant impact. This evaluation reaffirms our commitment to serve the railway community with compassion and dedication, delivering tangible benefits that

[More next page](#)

Featured in the photo page 4, left to right, are:

- Tom Hall, Social Sustainability Principle, RSSB
- Chris Loder MP
- Humaira Ahmad, Sustainable Rail Programme Assistant, RSSB
- Huw Merriman MP, Minister of State for Rail & HS2
- Dylis George, Railway Mission Chaplain, Southeastern Trains & British Transport Police
- Liam Johnston, Executive Director, Railway Mission



The Railway Mission team makes critical interventions across our network every day, protecting the wellbeing of the whole railway family in difficult moments.

Johnny Schute
Chief Operating Officer, RSSB

extend beyond the rails. We are inspired to continue our journey, enriching lives and nurturing resilience across the sector."

Johnny Schute, Chief Operating Officer at RSSB, commented on the critical role of the Railway Mission: "The Railway Mission team makes critical interventions across our network every day, protecting the wellbeing of the whole railway family in difficult moments.

"In many ways their social value is self-evident, but we've been able to calculate tangible figures to get a true sense of exactly what this value is. It's been a great opportunity to road-test the latest version of the

Rail Social Value Tool, which can be used to monitor and measure the social value of projects and day-to-day operations, and guide investment decisions."

This gathering not only celebrated the vital contributions of the Railway Mission but also solidified our place as a cornerstone of support within the railway industry, driven by a mission that resonates deeply with Christian values of service and compassion, as reflected in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

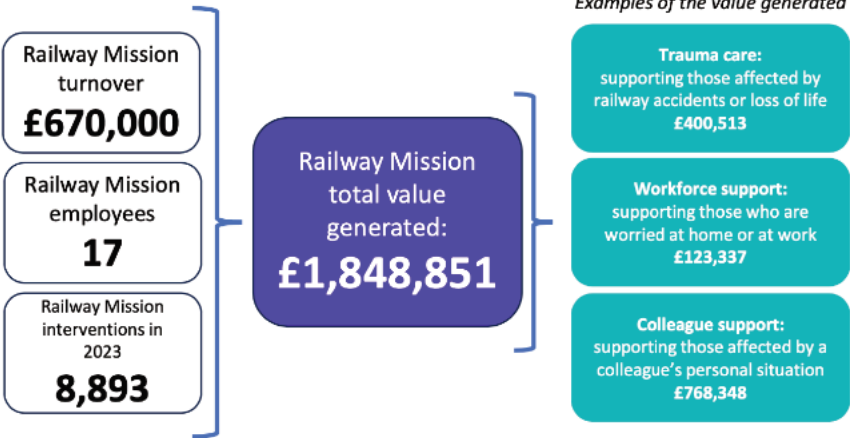


RSSB's figures are featured on page 7

Skitterphoto for Pixabay



Demonstrating the Railway Mission's value to society



It is truly amazing having [the chaplaincy team] supporting our teams. To know you are signposting the staff to such experienced and empathetic people when it comes to such difficult and tragic times makes us proud that you are part of our community.

Liza O'Gorman
Wellbeing Specialist,

Thank you for all that you do for the public, industry staff and of course my colleagues here in BTP. We truly appreciate the pastoral support and compassionate words that you and colleagues provide in often the most harrowing of situations.

Adrian Hanstock
Former Deputy Chief Constable,



Welcome Jane Kilkenny

Railway Mission have a new team member who has started in a support role at Railway Mission Head Office in Rugby, Jane Kilkenny.

Jane has joined Railway Mission to take on the role of secretary to the Board of Trustees and to provide admin support to the charity as a whole.

Jane has recently moved to the area from Doncaster where she was working as a Commercial Assistant in the construction industry.

Jane also has many years of experience in Personal Assistant and Office Manager roles, so is well qualified and equipped with the skills to fulfil her new role.

On a personal level, Jane is a committed Christian and mother to four, one of whom has Jane's first grandchild on the way. She is also a keen runner, enjoys travelling and is a bit of a foodie.

I hope you will join us in welcoming Jane to Railway Mission and wishing her all the best for a long and happy career with us.

Talk to us

**when times are tough
and hard to bear**

0203 887 7000





Welcome to

FIT & FUN

Bike- and hike week in Bernese Oberland

1st – 7th September 2024

in Krattigen (CH)

Lake Thun



Hotel Sunnehüsi

► **STAY FIT:** Discover fantastic regions in the Bernese Oberland during guided bike- and hiketours. During the week, free copies of railway calendars will be given away.

► **EXPERIENCE FUN:** Through international fellowship. Savouring the culinary delights from the region is fun and a great pleasure. Daily inputs from the Bible will encourage us to talk further about hope and doubts.



Fotos: Sunnehüsi • Berger r. Saarbourg

Lodging in Hotel Sunnehüsi

Alte Gasse 10, CH-3704 Krattigen
Phone: +41 (0) 33 650 78 78
www.sunnehuesi.ch

Prices

Room prices per night:
Double room CHF 122.50
Single room CHF 129.–
Included: Dinner (3-course),
breakfast and visitor's tax.
Participant contribution of CHF 40.–
(tour guide, room hire, etc.)

Info & registration

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The «Fit & Fun» offer is realized by «RailHope Switzerland» in cooperation with «RailHope International».



Agenda

Su: Arrival / 2:00 (p.m.)
Mon – Fri: Bike- & hike tours or individual tour
Sat: Departure after breakfast

Raileasy on your wallet

Railway Mission partners with Raileasy to offer reduced rail travel costs and support charity work

In an inspiring new collaboration, Railway Mission has joined forces with Raileasy to bring more affordable railway tickets to UK travellers, while simultaneously supporting a worthy cause.

This partnership not only promises significant savings on travel but also provides critical funding for the chaplaincy services that have been a cornerstone of the Railway Mission since its inception in 1881.

Railway Mission, a highly regarded Christian charity, has been dedicated to offering spiritual and emotional support to railway staff and passengers affected by traumatic incidents, including railway-related suicides. The new initiative with Raileasy will ensure that a portion of each ticket sale is

directly funnelled to sustain and expand the chaplaincy services, enabling them to continue their crucial work across the railway network.

This collaboration provides an easy way for the public to contribute to a charitable cause while benefiting from reduced travel costs.

Each ticket purchased through this initiative not only offers savings but also supports the chaplains who bring comfort and spiritual guidance to those in need within the railway community.

These chaplains play a pivotal role in spreading the gospel and providing a compassionate presence that can make a profound difference in the lives of many.





Chaplain Dereck Grant chats with ticket office staff on his journeys in Scotland. Our arrangement with Raileasy will help the travelling public make savings on tickets while supporting the mission.

We invite all to support this vital service that transcends mere travel. Whether you are a regular commuter, an occasional traveller, or someone passionate about supporting charitable causes, your participation in this initiative can have a transformative impact.

It's an opportunity to save on your travel expenses while contributing to a service that offers hope and comfort to those facing challenging times.

Please visit www.railwaymission.org to purchase your tickets through Raileasy and to learn more about the invaluable work of the Railway Mission chaplaincy.

Your support can help continue a legacy of care and compassion that

has been a beacon of hope on the railways for over a century.

We also call on everyone to join us in prayer for the Railway Mission, its chaplains, and the many lives they touch. Together, we can ensure that this vital ministry continues to flourish and reach those in need.

For more information, to purchase tickets, or to donate, please visit www.railwaymission.org and let's travel together in support of a journey that extends beyond the tracks.

raileasy

International collaboration

In a significant move towards international collaboration, Railway Mission was recently invited to an international conference hosted by RailHope South Africa.

The event aimed to inspire railway workers from various countries to explore and potentially develop chaplaincy services within their respective railway industries. Held in South Africa, the conference saw participation from delegates from 12 countries from as far apart as America to Zimbabwe, showcasing a global commitment to nurturing supportive work environments within the rail sector.

The conference was attended by influential figures such as Mpumi Dweba-Kwetana, Port Manager of the Port of Durban, and Capt. Alex Miya, Harbour Master of the Port of Cape Town, and executives from Transnet. Their participation underscored the significant role of spirituality in enhancing the resilience and well-being of those who keep our transport systems running.

From Railway Mission, notable attendees included Steve Rowe,

Chaplain and Area Manager for the chaplaincy team in the south of England, David Giles, one of the Trustees, and Liam Johnston, the Executive Director. Hazel Govender of RailHope South Africa said, "The reason behind inviting Railway Mission was to present strategies and solutions to the many challenges facing Christians within the rail networks of Africa, as they bring 'hope into the workplace through prayer.'"

The central theme of the conference was to engage different countries in the mission of providing care and support to railway workers, thereby fostering an environment where the Gospel could naturally be shared. This approach underlines the importance of spiritual and emotional well-being as part of overall workplace wellness.

Ueli Berger, from Switzerland and President of the RailHope Association said, that the 'chaplaincy demonstrates the care the Church has for people who don't yet know Jesus,' adding, 'People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care.'





One of the highlights of the event was an organised excursion to Saldana Bay Depot. Here, attendees had the unique opportunity to see one of the world's longest trains, which measures over 4 kilometres in length. These massive trains, pulled by six locomotives, transport ore from mines for processing and are a testament to the scale and complexity of modern railway operations.

The conference not only served as a platform for sharing best practices and strategies for developing railway chaplaincy services but also demonstrated the profound impact of integrating care and support into the fabric of the railway industry. As countries continue to expand and modernise their railway services, the insights gained from this conference could lead to more comprehensive support systems for railway workers globally, enhancing both their personal and professional lives.

The conference also featured profound moments of worship, which included performances that transcended cultural and generational boundaries. Notably,

the voice of Nicole, an 11-year-old girl from Italy, captivated the audience, reminding everyone of the purity and potential of faith to touch hearts and change lives.

The conference also illuminated the profound impact such support can have on the industry. As countries modernise and expand their railway systems, the insights garnered from this conference promise to enhance the lives of railway workers globally.

As we reflect on the success of this event, it becomes clear that the 'bright light' of chaplaincy, deeply rooted in the Gospel, continues to guide and uplift railway workers around the world. In every train's journey, much like in life, there is light and darkness, and through such international collaborations, we ensure that no one has to navigate the shadows alone.

The next International RailHope Conference will be held in 2026, 13-19 August in Interlaken, Switzerland.



Chaplains' News & Info



Dereck Grant

East Scotland & Edinburgh

It has certainly been an action-packed time recently. We are still covering the north of Scotland until our newest chaplain is in post for that area.

In my own patch I have been raising awareness about suicide prevention with a Network Rail employee who does a lot of work for Andy's Man Club.

My last prayer request was that God would put me in the right places at the right time. Well, He certainly did because I was able to respond very quickly to a man who had written out a note of intent to end his life.

Thankfully, I was able to support him and get others to support him long-term. Your prayers for the work we do are absolutely making a difference because lives are being touched.



Christopher Henley

Southwestern & Waterloo

In recent weeks I have had more opportunities to visit a number of Rail Community Partnerships with the amazing Paula Aldridge (SWR Rail Community Manager).

It was an absolute delight to see so many Rail Community Partnerships in place. SWR currently have 100 Community Partnerships and the number is growing with more and more communities wanting to be a part of supporting and caring for their local stations.

If your local station, station outbuildings or attached land needs some TLC and you want to do something about it, do contact the SWR Community Rail Manager. I've personally witnessed the remarkable work achieved by community partnerships.



Andrea Smyth

North London & Marylebone

As I write this, at the very end of April, I've just spent the afternoon in a meeting with a train company, Transport for London, British Transport Police and the Department for Transport, talking about safety and security.

I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting and want to give thanks that after coming up to six years as a Railway Mission chaplain, I can appreciate, and get a lot out of, sessions like this.

I was given the opportunity to share about Railway Mission's work, and



Chaplains' News & Info

to give my own response to issues that were discussed. My background in the Health and Safety Executive definitely helped too.



Mike Roberts

Northwest & North Wales

It seems that an average month includes around two thousand miles of travel for me (I worked it out for a talk I recently gave).

However, although you can work out how far you might expect to travel you can't work out what is waiting for you at the end of the journey.

Some situations you can prepare for, but others you find yourself in with no warning. The phrase I often think about is 'jack of all trades, master of none.'

All the chaplains will feel out of their comfort zone on most days. Please do pray that for those mess rooms, offices, depots and trains we step into that God would give us the tools to deal with what we encounter.

People's needs are becoming increasingly complex, chaplaincy is more essential than ever.



Andrew Hall

Area Manager North & West Midlands

Some roles often are 'one step forward and one step back.' Chaplaincy is rarely like that, it is more 'one step forward and two steps to the side.'

This is not a negative, merely a complexity. As we move forward in any situation, we are given insights into wider issues or the same issues in a larger environment.

We pray for wisdom in negotiating these situations, to respond effectively rather than chasing other agendas. Let us do what we see the Father doing.



Helen Bartlett

Newcastle

Having promised our station manager that I would find out about an American gentleman who was very poorly and had to be helicoptered to Newcastle Hospital I was frustrated to be unable to reach my goal, so I need your prayers, please.

I spoke to the staff who tended the gentleman, lots of chaplaincies, BTP and local Police, the Ambulance Service and Passenger Mobility, Train Operation

Chaplains' News & Info

Company managers and the conductor of the train.

I also talked to the boss at 'The Subject to Access Team.' Unfortunately, as I didn't have his full name, date of birth or full address they were all unable to help, but we still have prayer.

Please pray for the person who was taken ill, especially, and all the staff involved.



Alan Thorpe

Bristol

I recently attended the funeral of Eddie, my earliest Mentor. How grateful I am for those who invested time and energy in me as a young Christian.

Eddie introduced me to 'Christian Endeavour' where we were encouraged to give testimony, lead the services, do the Bible reading or say the prayers.

Eddie also introduced me to the Endeavour Holiday Home in Torquay where we were Excursion Leaders for several years, and where we got involved in open air services.

Happy memories, but amid the nostalgia, a challenge to think of

those starting their Christian journey, and how we can positively influence the next generation.



David Hardy

Gloucester

You may have seen an advert at stations asking if you are "Tired of being tired?" Certainly, a lot of railway staff with whom I talk comment that they get very tired with all the pressures of the job and other responsibilities.

It's not surprising, with the demands that life puts on us. Even chaplains are occasionally worn out with trying to help the people or feel guilty when we can't do all we'd like.

Paul wrote how he endured many hardships, including what he called 'a thorn in the flesh' sent as 'a messenger of Satan to buffet him.' He prayed many times for God to take it away, but God answered him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2Cor.12:7-9)

In our tiredness we need to learn to seek God in prayer and trust Him for guidance and strength to do His will.



Chaplains' News & Info



John Roe

Southwest & Paddington

The core role of railway chaplaincy work is the one-to-one support of railway workers.

Additionally, we are called upon to perform many official functions, such as Remembrance or Memorial services, Blessings—of trains, railway gardens, and so much more.

I had the privilege of being asked by Great Western Railway to conduct a wedding on a train.

Our service at these ceremonial events is very much appreciated, including times of support we are asked to provide to teams as they mourn the death of a colleague.

We value your prayers for our sensitive and caring support on these sad occasions.



Phil Tucker

South Wales & the Marches

I have recently taken part in a Mental Health First Aiders course that was run very ably by Network Rail.

Those on the course shared their experiences either of personal

issues that they have had or of friends and family who had dealt with or were dealing with various mental health issues.

Either directly or indirectly these problems at one time or another affect pretty much all of us. I pray for a greater understanding in society and in the workplace of those living with mental health problems. I pray for those struggling with their mental health.



Dylis George

Southeastern & London Bridge

Life on the railway for me, has been an eye opener to current issues.

As I spend time in the mess room and on the gateline having meaningful conversations with staff members I am able to offer support and bring a sense of relief to our railway staff.

In order to be effective in my role, I am once again seeking your continued prayer support for God's strength and for His divine wisdom.

I had the opportunity to join the Retired Railway Officers Society for their annual lunch. It was

Chaplains' News & Info

interesting to see how life continues for our railway officers post retirement. Please join me in praying for them.



Tony Miller

Southern & East Croydon

Thankfully, I haven't had many fatalities on my route, lately.

However, I have been called out to several sudden deaths, supported members of staff and their managers concerning personal challenges and mental health issues, as well as supporting staff with how to deal with conflict resolution within the workplace.

I have been supporting a staff member through a relationship issue, and I'm happy to say God is reconciling their marriage. I've been building closer relationships with my BTP officers, and I am going out with Gatwick BTP on an early shift.

Lastly, I will be speaking at the TfL Christian forum by introducing myself to them as their chaplain. This event will be once a month. Please pray that God will give me wisdom on how to manage this well.



Colin Fraser

East Midlands & Derby

I heard a sermon recently about discipleship.

The speaker said considering the terrain and people with him Jesus would have walked at an average speed of three miles an hour.

Chaplaincy is a walk on rough terrain at a slow speed, but that slow speed allows for us to see the people that we support and give them time that they need.

Please continue to pray for wisdom as we walk alongside people. Pray for encouragement, for chaplains that they would see the positive effect of chaplaincy.



Michele Ashton

Anglia & Liverpool Street

As I prepared to head into London and meet a colleague to discuss our

plans for ongoing inductions at MTR Elizabeth Line, I received a call from Liam Johnston asking if I was available to take a memorial that morning for c2c as a former colleague had suddenly passed away.



Chaplains' News & Info

Two hours and forty-five minutes later I was in a hotel in Southend. Eleni Jordan the Commercial Director requested I spoke about the role of Railway Mission before conducting a time of reflection.

Over lunch I was asked about my faith as a born-again Christian; how God opens doors of opportunities when we least expect it. What a privilege it is to be a railway chaplain.



Stephen Rowe

Area Manager South & Kings Cross

Part of my role is to assess data to see where we are succeeding and where we can improve.

A recent survey left me in no doubt about the amount of effort and care that is put in by chaplains as they go the extra mile to meet and greet and support rail staff in their areas.

As someone has already said, it's a privilege to be a railway chaplain, and it's also an honour to be amongst such a dedicated and skilled group of people that make up our teams.

Thanks for your prayers for each and every one.

Talk to us

**when you need
a listening ear**

0203 887 7000

railwaymission.org

Making history

Regular Historian Dudley Clark is looking for a collaborator to assist with research and writing

“

I have been working on the history and with the archives of Railway Mission since 2001 and my support of the Mission goes back to 1987. Although I am well past three score years and ten, I would like to continue for as long as my health permits. But I must be realistic, and I need to find a partner to work with me, and eventually replace me...



Interested?

Contact office@railwaymission.org

His wife wept with joy!

by RM Historian Dudley Clark

“Will you not revive us again?” This has been the cry of the Church down the centuries when Christians awake to their faithlessness and their distance from God, who, at the time of His choosing has answered their prayer.

You may have heard about the 1904-05 Welsh Revival, but maybe not that at Lowestoft in 1921. Railway Mission branches in both Wales and Lowestoft were affected.

Material for this article was taken from *The Railway Signal* which carried reports from Welsh mining communities, including Cwmbran, and research into the role that railways played in spreading revival.

In early 1905 a passenger guard, writing in *The Railway Signal*, celebrated that railwaymen were receiving a ‘good share of the blessing’. For example, a GWR signalman was talking with a colleague about the revival, when they heard singing from a nearby openair meeting. It took the signalman back to Sunday School days when his teacher had taught him to pray “Lord, show me myself.”

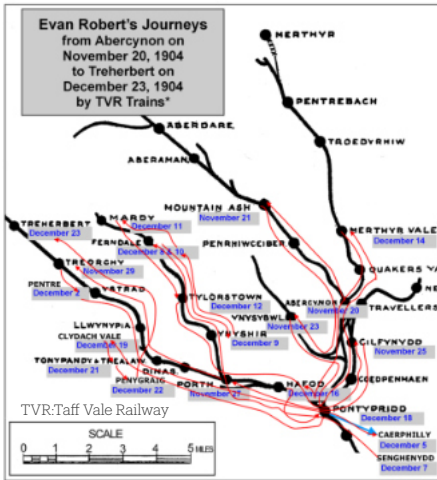


They were talking about revival

Although very conscious of past sins, when he knelt to pray, he found that he couldn't and simply cried to God for mercy. Shedding the first tears in thirty years he gradually realised ‘that God for Christ's sake had pardoned his sins.’ A few days later he attended a revival meeting and publicly professed his new faith, full of happiness.

At Hafod there was a 63-year-old collier who had not been to church





In Dowlais a Christian guard told of how he had been saddened by the appalling language of colliers who travelled to work on his train, but now hymn singing had replaced profanity. One morning, owing to an accident, the workmen's train was delayed, so, the men waiting for it held a prayer meeting on the platform.

The railways brought crowds of visitors and sometimes they would have to wait, and platforms became the scene of impromptu revival meetings. A journalist described this as the way the 'fire is spread'. For instance, between November 20 and December 23, 1904 Evan Roberts, the principal revivalist, made at least 20 journeys by train. Roberts claimed that his every move was led by the Holy Spirit.

God still visits His people in power. On 8 February 2023, a university chapel service in Asbury, Kentucky, closed with a simple prayer: "Jesus, do a new thing in our midst, revive us by your love." From an unremarkable start the next sixteen days and nights saw a powerful move of the Spirit that has reached to the UK.

A decade earlier, Cwmbran, the former mining town mentioned above, witnessed a seven-month refreshing. Thousands visited from around the world, 1,600 came to Christ and hundreds were healed.

Come Holy Spirit.

since he left Sunday School at thirteen. One Sunday his wife attended a revival service and came home singing and praying. The following Sunday, when she was at her chapel, the collier came in and 'publicly gave himself up to Christ.' 'His wife wept with joy!' The congregation were greatly moved in their singing and the sermon had to be abandoned. 'Since then, there have been no regular services; nothing but almost continuous revival.'

'The churches in many districts were saturated with the influence of the Holy Spirit and united with fresh love and power in the great work of winning souls for Christ'. Through the direct intervention of the Spirit whole communities were transformed. At a monthly sitting of justices in Carmarthenshire no magistrates attended as "there was no business to transact".



Chaplains take part in Sutton Coldfield exercise

Between midnight and 0430 on the night of Saturday 16th March, had you been unlucky enough to be standing in the pouring rain at Sutton Coldfield station, your eyes would not have been deceiving you: yes, there were not one, but two living, breathing chaplains in view. Cold and wet, but living and breathing.

Colin Fraser, chaplain for East Midlands and I had been invited to attend a multi agency training exercise. The scenario was a damaged and derailed train inside the tunnel on the approach into Sutton Coldfield station.

A number of volunteers took on the role of injured or deceased passengers while representatives of the wider emergency services network, British Transport Police and Network Rail performed their duties as they would in a real situation.

It was a fascinating experience. As chaplains it also gave a vivid

picture of how we would interact at such a scene. I had been on site at Manchester Arena and at Grenfell Tower, which were far too real, but to see this very different train-based scenario was quite edifying. It was good to be able to mingle with BTP, Network Rail and other railway people as the event unfolded.

Congratulations to everyone involved, particularly Richard Hickman at Network Rail who bore the brunt of the organisational work and the Salvation Army who provided the tea and food.

In the run up to the day, I had been asked to do some research regarding local sensitivities as the 1955 rail disaster at Sutton Coldfield is still remembered by older residents and families of those involved. Some years before, I had been involved in the placing and dedicating of a memorial to those who had lost their lives in that incident.

Report by Andrew Hall

Six great 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



Railway Mission

Support on
life's journey



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