



Railway Mission

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Mission and Ministry 2020

‘Support on Life’s Journey’

“People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care”



Railway Mission

The Board of Trustees and all the team at Railway Mission wish to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has supported the work of the chaplaincy through 2020.

Objectives

Railway Mission chaplains offer independent, confidential impartial short term pastoral care to railway industry staff and members of the public. We are a Christian charity whose support is for all people, regardless of faith, gender or position.

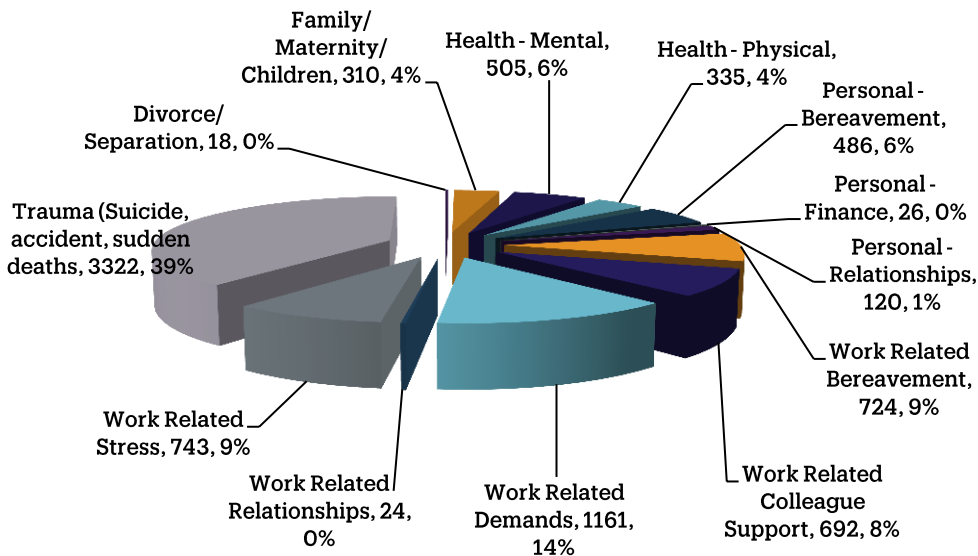
Our charitable objectives are:

To propagate the Christian Gospel and preserve and protect mental and physical health primarily amongst railway and transport staff and also members of the public affected by railway operations, by all appropriate means.'

Mental health and wellbeing are important issues, but the COVID-19 has both exacerbated the problems people face at the same time as COVID restrictions reduced access to community support services. Railway Mission has sought to maintain support to the industry through this difficult time.

Pastoral care

Maintaining access requires Railway Mission provides a service that is of a value to the rail companies. Despite COVID-19 we have remained effective and proactive providing pastoral and welfare service.



Number of occasions for support offered in 2020
8,466 times for 6,959 people

COVID-19 Challenges



In January 2020 the world was unprepared for the Global Novel Coronavirus that would sweep across the world and become a global pandemic.

Rail Delivery Group has been collecting data on the impact of Covid-19 on the workforce. Their analysis indicates that, by end the of March 2020, 11,580 staff had been absent from work. Of these absences, 6,384 (55%) were attributed to Covid-19 symptoms (RSSB Report).

By March 2020 it was clear that the UK faced an unprecedented health emergence, the likes of which had not been seen since the 1957, influenza virus emerged in East Asia, triggering a pandemic ("Asian Flu") in which the estimated number of deaths was 1.1 million worldwide.

23 March 2020, the PM announced the first national lockdown in the UK, ordering people to "stay at home"

COVID-19 Opportunities



The trustees and staff of the Railway Mission join in prayer with many others in the UK and across the world, to pray for all those affected by the pandemic, and for those who are involved in providing essential services.

The 'Stay at Home' message has been followed wherever possible to protect our team and prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, as an essential support service to an essential industry this has not always been possible, but following government and industry guidelines we have kept our team safe.

Like other organisations we have found new ways of engaging with people, relying on technology to contact people. Investing in new Laptops for all of the chaplains; we are using Microsoft Teams' video conferencing, social media and have setup WhatsApp Groups to support people.

We have been more able to effectively meet with rail staff because people find gathering on line easier than gathering physically.

Key Events

The following list highlights the significant events of 2020, but is not an exhaustive list.

- COVID-19
- Pandemic Multiagency Response Teams (PMART)
- BBC Radio 4 Documentary
- Carmont / Stonehaven Train Crash

COVID-19

The Covid-19 pandemic brought about profound change within the railway industry, with reduced services and trains carrying far fewer passengers. But what hasn't changed is our commitment to supporting everyone who works on the railway demonstrating the love of Christ in an open, honest and relevant way.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement and the introduction of new laws restricting travel to essential travel only, Railway Mission took the decision to access the government's Job Retention Scheme for some staff, while continuing to pay 100% of salary, and maintaining a core team to respond to industry needs.

We also setup a dedicated email and phone line for railway staff concerned about COVID-19; this number and email was shared by railway businesses to all of the railway industry staff via the HR teams.

Many have been bereaved by COVID-19 and this has included numerous transport workers. In April a detective with British Transport Police died after contracting the coronavirus. Detective Constable John Coker, 53, who was based at Euston's criminal investigations department, leaves a wife and three children. On behalf of British Transport Police Liam Johnston supported the family and with the local vicar conducted the funeral. Sadly, John was just the first of many to lose their lives to COVID-19 in 2020.

Pandemic Multiagency Response Teams

At the end of March, the Railway Mission chaplaincy was asked to assist with the welfare support of British Transport Police officers, who would be working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, City of London Police and London Fire Brigade. Set up, to relieve pressure on the NHS and to help ensure it would not be overwhelmed.

Working alongside the Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) Practitioner, chaplaincy provides pastoral support following the deployment British Transport Police. The support was designed to ensure that the psychological needs of personnel involved in the event are assessed and managed, thereby improving their psychological wellbeing and

building personal resilience; this strategic use of chaplaincy and TRiM support aims to keep officers and staff functioning after traumatic events.

BBC Radio 4: Faith on the Move

On the 20th of March 2020 the Radio 4 documentary was first broadcast and repeated in August. 'Faith on the Move' looks at the work of the chaplaincy and hears stories and experiences of rail staff who explain how the chaplaincy has helped them and their families as well as in the aftermath of the London Bridge Terrorist Attack. Listen at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gc4j>

Stonehaven Train Crash

On Wednesday the 12th of August the Aberdeen to Glasgow Queen Street passenger train left the tracks after it hit a landslide near Stonehaven; killing two members of train crew and a passenger.

As a chaplaincy, we have tried to be a support to those who have been affected by this tragedy, we have the desire to help restore the broken-hearted, but when faced with such tragedy we realise that without the presences of the Holy Spirit, we have nothing to offer. Being present with those touched by the sorrow of the event is sometimes the best we can do.

Financial

2020 has been difficult for many charities. But Railway Mission has been blessed with a solid supporter base that has continued to support the work of the Mission with both prayer and finance. Despite the difficulties face by the industry the companies too have continued to support the mission, but it is not yet clear what the next financial year will bring as the Treasury and Department for Trade and Industry take control of industry spending. Our aim for 2021 is to enhance payroll giving from the railway staff we support and increase funding from the wider Christian community while still demonstrating a value to the industry that maintains financial support.



For more information about Railway Mission visit www.railwaymission.org