

Christian care in the economy

**WCM UK
Mini-Conference
May 11th
7:00–8:30pm
on Zoom.**

A chance to hear a fascinating view on the present state of the retail sector as it emerges from COVID lockdown.

James Allport is a senior executive with the John Lewis Partnership. During lockdown, when JLP stores were closed, he and other executives were drafted into their local Waitrose (part of JLP) to help out when many shop staff were isolating and unable to come to work.

James will speak about this unique experience of lockdown and give his perspective on the future of retailing post-COVID.

The event will also include an update on how other teams from around the country are responding to the challenges of returning to chaplaincy, and a chance to meet their chaplains.

To register follow this link to **Eventbrite**.

**NEXT
MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING**
Wednesday, 14th April
1:00pm - 1:30pm
to be held via Zoom.
You can find the prayer guide
on our prayer portal at
<https://www.faithatwork.org.uk/prayer/>



Signs of Hope and New Beginnings

This year Holy Week and Easter have a particular poignancy as lockdown eases. Our following Jesus to the Cross, and anticipation of the joy of Easter Resurrection, connects with the continuing challenges and suffering that so many have had to face, but also with the new possibilities that Resurrection brings.

This applies to ourselves, as we look forward to meeting friends and family, but also to many aspects of the economy. FWW chaplains have not been able to visit workplaces for many months. As lockdown eases some businesses will not re-open and there will be many still very uncertain about the future. Others will be keen to grasp this new beginning.

As reported in our previous newsletter (Feb 23rd) FWW has been busy preparing for this time of resuming chaplaincy. We have completed, on Zoom, the Introduction to Workplace Chaplaincy Course and are now looking forward to some new chaplains joining the team. For those keen to return to chaplaincy we have produced updated guidance, which is available **on our website here**, and which we are discussing with chaplains. The vaccination programme makes visiting a real possibility, and we have now taken the first step in registering under the government scheme for home Lateral Flow tests. This has just been extended from employers to charities, to allow volunteers to get back to volunteering. Lateral Flow tests are also available in designated centres around the county.

On April 12th we anticipate non-essential shops will re-open, which is where many of our chaplains visit. Although all these measures make chaplaincy possible once again, we are stressing that chaplains should only return if they feel safe and confident in doing so.

So, as the economy continues to open up, presenting new opportunities and beginnings, but also fresh challenges, we ask all our supporters to pray for those who volunteer as chaplains – and for those they visit. And may all know and be able to celebrate the new possibilities that Resurrection brings.

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