



Police Remembrance Trust

Patron: His Majesty The King

December 2025



Season's Greetings from all at The Police Remembrance Trust

As Christmas fast approaches, we reflect on the year that is coming to an end and look with hope and optimism to 2026.

Astronaut James Irwin, one of only twelve people to walk on the moon, described looking back at Earth: "The earth reminded us of a Christmas Tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it diminished in size. Finally, it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine. That beautiful warm living object looked so fragile, so delicate, that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart."

We don't need space travel to recognise that fragility of our planet. We see it in daily life, in the news of our conflicted world, and in so many of your own lives. Within policing we encounter human fragility up close as with commitment and dedication you serve our nations. You know what brokenness looks like, because it turns up on your shift.

For many, it's a time of year when the loss of a loved one is more profound and the festivities of the season often overwhelming. May you find peace and comfort in the love and friendship that surrounds you.

So on behalf of all at the Police Remembrance Trust we wish you season's greetings of peace and goodwill.

Let 2026 be a year of meaning - because nothing is stronger than a life lived with purpose - and nothing nobler than a purpose that reaches beyond ourselves.

It's hard to believe that National Police Memorial Day was nearly three months ago. For those who joined us in Coventry, thank you for helping to make that special Day in the policing calendar so memorable.

For those who couldn't make it, I hope you were able to watch highlights in the short online service, for which I am again sharing the link to in this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Reverend Canon David Wilbraham MBE



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A memorable NPMD 2025 at Coventry Cathedral

On 28th September 2025, we gathered at the majestic Coventry Cathedral for the 22nd National Police Memorial Day (NPMD).

The steps, ruins of the old Cathedral and Square were filled with historic police vehicles, Standards from almost all forces and a Guard of Honour to welcome those attending – thank you to all who took part in this display.

Secretaries of State and Police Chiefs joined a congregation of more than 1,400, standing in unity to remember officers who gave their lives in service – many in horrific circumstances.

Pre-service films

Shortly before the service, we played a series of short films to the congregation.

This being the 85th anniversary year of the Coventry Blitz, we commemorated police officers lost in World War II, by playing [this short film produced by The Police Arboretum Memorial Trust](#).

During the service, candles are lit by family members to commemorate police officers who have died on duty in each of the four nations of the United Kingdom.

We also shared this year's candle lighters' stories in two short films:

Lighting the candles for Scotland and Wales:

[Linsey Dempsey and Lowri MacArthur](#).

Lighting the candles for England and Northern Ireland:

[Kelly Swindells and Peter Olphert](#).

Policing Minister Sarah Jones, said: "Our brave police officers work tirelessly to protect the public, facing down danger and putting themselves in harm's way to keep us safe. They will always have my full and unwavering support.

"National Police Memorial Day is a time to honour the fallen and recognise the loss felt by those they have left behind. We thank them and their families and pay tribute to their bravery."

There was silence as petals of remembrance, representing all who have lost their lives, descended from the gallery as the Last Post was sounded.



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Families received the Elizabeth Emblem

Elizabeth Emblems are given to families in recognition of those who lost their lives in the course of undertaking eligible public service. First presented by His Majesty The King in 2024, NPMD was honoured to present these commemorative Emblems to five families, during the service in Coventry.

Emblems were presented by Home Secretary, The Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP, and Deputy Lord Lieutenant David Moorcroft OBE DL to the next of kin of:

- **PC Royston Jerred, Sussex Police**
- **PS Noel Lane, Metropolitan Police**
- **PC Mark Peers, Metropolitan Police**
- **PC Ian Rodgers Greater Manchester Police**
- **PC Dennis Arthur Smith QPM, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary**

If you are the closest surviving next of kin and would like to apply for the Elizabeth Emblem, please do so [via the Cabinet Office](#).

In case you missed it... or would like to watch back

[A short film of highlights from NPMD 2025 can be viewed here.](#)

[Photographs from the service can be viewed here.](#)

Enter 'Police Gallery'. The password is NPM.

We welcome your feedback on NPMD 2025

For those of you who attended, we would appreciate if you could please take a few minutes to [complete this short survey](#).

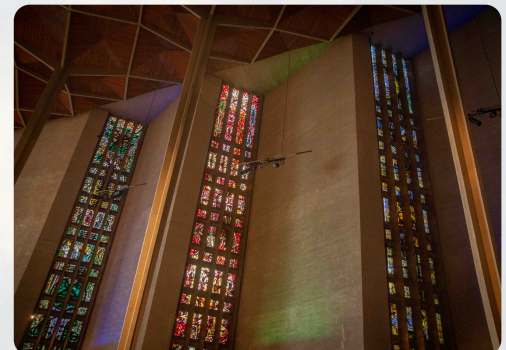
NB. The survey will close on 12th January 2026.

NPMD 2026 – Waterfront Hall, Belfast

The 23rd National Police Memorial Day will take place on Sunday 27th September 2026. A link to register will be shared in the New Year.

Digital Police Memorial

The Police Remembrance Trust is currently working on an exciting project in partnership with our sister charity, The Police Arboretum Memorial Trust (PAMT), to develop a world leading digital Memorial display which, alongside the names of those who have died, will commemorate so much more about their own and policing history. We look forward to sharing more on this in the new year.



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Reception at the United States Embassy, London

Trustees of the Police Remembrance Trust hosted a private reception at the United States Embassy on 9th December 2025. Those present included families of officers who died on duty in the past year, participants in NPMD 2025, volunteers, supporters, and sponsors.

We were joined by the Minister of State for Policing and Crime, Sarah Jones MP, who spent time chatting with families and other guests.

Recognition was given to the recent loss of PC Mathew Parker from Essex Police, as his name was added to the Police Roll of Honour.

Those present reflected on Coventry and gave thanks to those who enable this important annual event in the policing calendar to happen.

Acknowledgment and gratitude was given for the ongoing support of police forces in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, non-Home Office forces, and several sponsors including Serve and Protect, and PoliceFriendly.

Awards were presented to several fundraisers for the charity, including one to Mark Jones and Trystan Bevan from North Wales Police who presented a cheque for £5,000 to the Trust earlier on this year, at the North Wales Police Bravery Awards.

We are very grateful to all who help raise funds for the charity.

Special Agents added to the Police Roll of Honour

The Trust has developed a strong link with the US Embassy and other US Law Enforcement Memorial Charities since 2018, when US Special Agent Nole Remagen sadly died on a presidential visit to the UK. Nole was subsequently added to the Roll of Honour.

The Trust was recently made aware that two American Special Agents - Daniel Emmett O'Connor and Ronald Albert Lariviere were killed in the terrorist attack on PanAm103 on 21st December 1988. Their names are now also on the Roll of Honour.



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Handover of the NPMD Co-ordinator role

During the US Embassy reception, David Wilbraham MBE announced that he is handing the reins of the NPMD co-ordinator role to Joanne Matulevicze, currently Deputy Co-ordinator.

To many, David is the voice and trusted keeper of NPMD. Therefore, we are all delighted that he will remain involved, supporting Joanne and the wider team.

In handing over, David said "I am so grateful to work with the most incredible group of dedicated, passionate and committed volunteers who make NPMD happen each year. They are truly amazing and are the best team I have ever been part of.

"It has been a privilege to be entrusted with responsibility for this important day and to meet, cry and laugh, over the years, with so many lovely people, many of whom have faced real personal tragedy. Joanne is committed to National Police Memorial Day and brings her great personality and many skills to take things forward."

David was thanked for his work and was completely surprised by a personal recorded message from our Patron, His Majesty The King.

Joanne has been involved with The Police Remembrance Trust for many years as the charity's Treasurer. Joanne is a Police Inspector with Police Scotland and brings that day to day experience of the realities of policing to her position. The team and all involved welcome Joanne to the role and have already started planning Belfast 2027.

On swapping roles with David, Joanne, said: "These are big shoes to fill. It is an honour to take on this role and I look forward to working with David and the team on Belfast 2026. David is an inspiration and a joy to work with. It's comforting to know he is still part of the team."



Please scan the QR code to donate to the charity, thank you.

We are grateful for any support you are able to give, and look forward to seeing you in Belfast next year.



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