



**Firefighters' Memorial Day
4th May 2025**



**Firefighters' Memorial Day Sunday
4th May, 2025
with a minute of silence at 12 noon**

Message from Fiona Usher, Principal Chaplain with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS). Fiona writes:

"They ran towards danger, to help others run away"

Over the last few years I've been working to raise awareness of **Firefighters' Memorial Day on May 4th** each year (which this year falls on a Sunday). As Service Chaplain with Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service I am honoured to serve our local firefighters who put their lives on the line to serve and protect all within our local communities.

Each year I see how our firefighters (if not out on a Call) stand at the front of their stations to observe a minute of silence at 12 noon, paying their tributes to firefighters who have lost their lives. Often they stand alone - with people passing by without realising the significance of this memorial day.

This year it would be lovely if members of your church or faith community could stand alongside them at **12 noon for the minute of silence**. And then thank them for their service - maybe with a card, a packet of biscuits or some cake!

This simple yet powerful gesture will show your support for these brave men and women, standing shoulder to shoulder with them as a community united in faith and respect - and I'm sure it would be really appreciated.

Could you encourage people to pop along to your local fire station and stand alongside the fire crews for a minute of silence at 12 noon? Your presence will send a heartfelt message of love and encouragement, strengthening the links between our churches/faith communities and those who serve.

NB: If they have been called to an incident and there is no one at the station could you mark the minute of silence on their behalf - remembering them and their families in your thoughts or prayers.

If you have time to drop me an email I will forward your details onto the relevant station to let them know you will be attending.

Are you able to take a **photo** (with permissions) and send it to me? I'd love to share it with the Communications Team to highlight how our churches and faith communities support their local fire station.

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Further information:

Below is a **YouTube link** to a great 1.43 minute video describing Firefighters' Memorial Day to give you a little background to the day. Maybe you could circulate through your social media etc to encourage people to show their support for our local firefighters who put their lives on the line for our local community - every day!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fGwuCbpiTw>

My hope is that Firefighters' Memorial Day will become a well-recognised day in our local communities, and that our local churches and faith communities will play a key part in this. Please spread the word, inspire your congregation, and make this a moment of support and reverence. Together, let's show our firefighters they are seen, valued, and remembered.

For your newsletter etc ...

Join Us for Firefighters Memorial Day - May 4th

On Sunday, May 4th, our faith community is invited to honour the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters by participating in Firefighters Memorial Day. Gather at our local fire station for a meaningful minute of silence at 12 noon, to stand in solidarity with these heroes. Let's show our gratitude through prayer, presence, and appreciation for their selfless service.

For more details, contact [church office/contact info].

Are you interested in Chaplaincy?

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about developing a chaplaincy role with your own local fire station or ambulance station (or another chaplaincy context) please don't hesitate to contact me for an informal conversation.

With gratitude and hope,
Fiona Usher

Chaplain Team Leader, Northumbrian Industrial Mission (NIM Ltd),
Lead Chaplain, Newcastle International Airport,
Principal Chaplain, Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service,
Interim Lead Chaplain, NEAS
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Some thoughts on ways you can show support for Firefighters Memorial Day on May 4th - this year or in the future:

1. **Participate in the Minute of Silence:** Encourage people to visit the local fire station at 12 noon for a collective minute of silence to honour fallen firefighters and show solidarity with active ones.
2. **Ask the younger members** of your church or faith community to draw/paint pictures for the firefighters to take along on May 4th.
3. **Host a Special Prayer Service:** Dedicate a portion of the Sunday service to pray for firefighters' safety, strength, and families, acknowledging their sacrifices and service.
4. **Share Appreciation Messages:** Organise a card-writing or letter campaign where members write notes of gratitude to deliver to the fire station, expressing support and encouragement.
5. **Invite Firefighters to Services:** Extend an invitation to local firefighters to attend a service, offering a moment to recognise them publicly and foster community connection.
6. **Promote Awareness:** Use sermons, bulletins, social media, or newsletters to raise awareness about Firefighters Memorial Day, encouraging participation and reflection on their contributions.
7. **Organise a Community Event:** Host a post-silence gathering, such as a coffee hour or small reception near the fire station, to build relationships and express gratitude in person.
8. **Provide Support Resources:** Collect or donate items like snacks, bottled water, or care packages for the fire station to show ongoing care for firefighters' well-being.

