

NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2012 - EDITION 12.2

WELCOME

This is the 8th edition of the UKBHC's Newsletter, the second of our three communications for 2012. We're very pleased with the comments we've received in response to previous editions as it appears that our wider constituency finds it helpful to be kept up-to-date with developments in an accessible way. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for future editions. For archiving purposes we are now numbering each edition of the newsletter. Consequently, this edition is numbered 12.2. The next edition, 12.3, will be due in December 2012.

MEMBER GROUPS OF THE UKBHC

The four member groups of the UKBHC are:

- Association of Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplains (AHPCC): www.ahpcc.org.uk
- College of Health Care Chaplains (CHCC): www.healthcarechaplains.org
- Northern Ireland Healthcare Chaplains' Association (NIHCA): www.nihca.co.uk
- Scottish Association of Chaplains in Healthcare (SACH): www.sach.org.uk

WEBSITE

The main vehicle for contact with the UKBHC is the website - www.ukbhc.org.uk. Please access the website regularly to keep up-to-date with important information for chaplains and others. The Board is currently up-dating the website.

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2012

The Board will meet on the morning of 26th September in Birmingham prior to the AGM; and in London on 6th December. If anyone wishes any information on the work of the Board, please use the website for access purposes or contact the newsletter editor. The Board continues to appreciate hearing from interested parties and regularly explores issues and concerns which are brought to its attention.

UKBHC AGM 2012

Continuing its practice of holding its AGM in different parts of the UK, the 2012 AGM is in Birmingham on Wednesday 26th September at 2pm. It will be held in the Faith and Community Centre Meeting Room of the New Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which is part of The University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB). The room can take about 30 people (Wouldn't it be great if it was full? *Ed*). Further details will be available on the website.

Directions

The New Queen Elizabeth Hospital is a few minutes' walk from University Station, which is two stops and a 5 minute local train journey from New Street Station. It's a 10 minute journey by taxi. There's a mainline train service to New Street from the airport every 10 minutes. Further information can be found at www.uhb.nhs.uk, with a location map at www.uhb.nhs.uk/gehb-map.htm. A bus-map can be made available from the newsletter editor – see e-mail address below.

CAROL ENGLISH

The UKBHC paid tribute at its recent meeting to the role Carol English has played on the Board since its inception. Carol has been the lead officer in the Unite union with responsibility for healthcare chaplains who are members of CHCC. She has offered the Board significant information in the chaplaincy field and always with the interest of chaplains in mind. There are many individual chaplains who have benefitted personally from her support, knowledge and commitment. Her retirement from her role with Unite has necessitated Carol stepping down from her involvement with the Board. Consequently, in thanking Carol for her work for chaplains and commitment to their professional development with CHCC and through the work of the Board, we join with chaplaincy colleagues in wishing her well in her retirement.

SACH

Following the death of Andrew Graham, the Scottish Association of Chaplains in Healthcare is looking at its structure and lead officer roles and, as yet, no decision has been made regarding a new President. The Board wishes SACH well in their work and looks forward to working with a new SACH representative in due course. The SACH AGM takes place on the evening of 25th September at Carberry Tower, East Lothian, as part of the Scottish Chaplains' conference.



CHCC

There has been a lot of change in the life of the College with Carol English's retirement. Echoing the tribute above, Mark Burleigh, current President of CHCC, writes: *'Carol English has worked tirelessly for the College and for chaplains. Her wise counsel and political astuteness will be greatly missed by chaplains and the CHCC officers.'*



Annual Study Course

CHCC is looking forward to the annual study course running 11th - 13th September at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, which will include the AGM on the 12th. The title this year is **"Can We Make Compassion Reliable?"** The Mental Health chaplains' conference will be running as a part of the course. The speakers include:

- Derek Fraser (Chair of UKBHC)
- Christopher Swift (Leeds Teaching Hospitals)
- Jason Leitch (Scottish Government Quality Unit)
- Ewan Kelly (NHS Education Scotland)
- Peter Gubi (lecturer in counselling and psychotherapy)
- Valda Swinton (BACP and editor of Threshold magazine)
- Chris Cook (senior reader in Theology and Religion).

Already a good number of chaplains have booked to come, but there are still spaces available. An application form can be downloaded from the CHCC website - www.healthcarechaplains.org

AHPCC

The AHPCC held a successful conference in the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick in May. The theme of 'Creative Connections' was well received by the 80+ participants. The AGM was held as part of the conference and Judy Davies was elected as the new President. Judy is chaplain at the Sue Ryder Hospice at Duchess of Kent House in Reading. In paying tribute to the outgoing President, Judy writes: *'Steve Barnes has been a dedicated servant to the AHPCC. For several years as Conference Organiser and latterly as President he has brought awareness, humour and commitment to the organisation. All the AHPCC members join me in saying a big 'thank you' for his years of service.'*



NIHCA

The AGM of NIHCA was held on 16th May in South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon, when approximately 35 people attended. In the morning sessions Rev Debbie Hodge shared personal thoughts on how others see chaplains and reflections from some research in England. The general consensus was that this was very helpful and encouraging. All other AGM business proceeded smoothly in the afternoon.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Board continues to have constructive discussions with the Department of Health for England (DHE) and these consultations are helpfully focussed on processes which will prove beneficial.

CHRE

The Board continues to explore a voluntary registration process with the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) and these discussions are progressing well. Such things take time, and quietness on the part of the Board should not be taken to indicate that nothing is being done or that no progress is being made. The Board is engaged in much 'behind the scenes' work which will, it believes, bear productive fruit.

WHO'S WHO ON THE BOARD

You will recall that the Newsletter of August 2010 indicated that the Board was working through its transitional arrangements and was exploring with



people with a background in nursing, NHS regulation, management and education their suitability for and willingness to serve on the Board. This has proven to be a

most worthwhile exercise, and, with thoroughness and care, the Board believes it is well on its way to having an appropriate range of representation within its membership.

Constitution

The Board's constitution informs us that the Board membership will be in four categories: the elected heads or other lead officers of the healthcare chaplaincy bodies throughout the UK; professional/registrant members; lay members; and co-options as necessary. Consequently, the current Board membership is:

- The four representatives of the constituent organisations are Judy Davies, AHPCC; Mark Burleigh, CHCC; Derek Johnston, NIHCA; and they will be joined by the President of SACH when one is appointed.
- The four registrant members currently are Derek Fraser, Ewan Kelly, Iain Macritchie and Malcolm Masterman.
- At present there are three lay members: Professor Martin Bradley, formerly Chief Nursing Officer in Northern Ireland's Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety, who came onto the Board at the AGM in 2010; Lyn McIntyre, Head of Clinical Quality and Patient Safety for NHS East of England, who also joined the Board in 2010; and Stephen Thornton, Chief Executive of the Health Foundation, an independent healthcare charitable foundation, who has been on the Board from the beginning of 2011. There is a fourth lay-member 'space' available.
- In addition the Board can co-opt up to four members for specific purposes. In this category we currently have Tom Gordon as Newsletter Compiler, David Mitchell as Treasurer and Mark Stobert as Secretary.

WIDENING THE BASE

The Board continues to look at aspects of governance such that the Board's work, membership and structures remain clear and effective. With this in mind, the Board is examining its membership balance, informed by the parameters of finding new blood, following its constitution and being open and transparent, and intends to offer some conclusions to this process at the AGM in September. Given the current membership of the Board outlined elsewhere in this Newsletter, the Board will benefit from additional membership. For example, as indicated above, there is space for a fourth lay-member.

New blood?

In addition, Newsletter Compiler – a co-opted position – will require to be filled as Tom Gordon is stepping down from Board membership at the AGM. The Board will be ratifying its revised constitution at the AGM and this will include details of the Board membership structure. Consequently, if there are appropriate suggestions as to who might be approached regarding membership of the Board, please make these known to the Board prior to the AGM.

REGISTRATION

David Mitchell, Board treasurer, informs us that over 300 registrants have paid their fees for 2012.

David writes: *'David Writes: 'All the details regarding registration are on the Board's website. Currently registrants can pay their fees using PayPal, by cheque or by bank transfer and I hope that this will be a reminder to those who have not yet paid to do so promptly. We are working with the web designers to generate individual reminders for 2013. Thank you all for your patience and support.'*

Further information

As was highlighted in the April Newsletter, the transitional arrangements for the UKBHC came to an end on 30th June and registration fees of £10 are due for 2012. Until 30th June all chaplains in an existing post were able to join the register using the transitional criteria. Now that 30th June is past, all new registrants are required to meet the full registration criteria and potential applicants should see the website for full details of registration.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In response to some queries raised in recent times, the Board feels it would be helpful to clarify where we are with our work at present. There is a natural sense 'in the field' of not being absolutely clear about the way forward. Some see faith-authorisation as primary, but it should be clear that the Multi-faith Group for Healthcare Chaplaincy and the UK Board are travelling in the same direction.



A joint statement

The following statement from Debbie Hodge and Derek Fraser, agreed on 9th August, reads:

Debbie and Derek continue to have ongoing conversations which have led to greater cooperation and collaboration between the two groups. There is an acceptance that faith authorisation is crucial in the context of professional registration and regulation. The necessity to work together is vital for the development of the profession as a whole.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Malcolm Masterman reports that the Department of Health Newsletter to Chief Executives in December 2011 announced new arrangements for the provision of Health Care Chaplains Appointment Advisers. This brought about the creation of a Reference Panel chaired by Malcolm Brown and with five members: Yunus Dudhwala, Emma Louis, Jeremy Howard, Steve Henderson and Chris Swift. Malcolm Masterman was named as Co-ordinator of the Advisers Panel.

Panel of advisers

Existing UKBHC Advisers/NHS Assessors were invited to be part of the new panel. Almost all accepted the invitation and the new panel has now been in existence for more than seven months. The Reference Panel which oversees the work of the advisers has met four times and an Advisers' Day was held in March at Churches Together in England. Eighteen advisers attended with six apologies and the six who make up the Reference Panel plus the Co-ordinator were also in attendance. A further meeting is planned for November when it is hoped potential new advisers will attend for training along with the existing advisers.

Requests for advisers

Since the implementation of the new arrangements, more than thirty requests for advisers have been made and a request for a Chaplaincy Review. Nineteen of the advisers have been used. Each adviser is asked to complete a Post Interview Report about the selection process. No details of named individuals are recorded but information about the number of applicants, the numbers interviewed and the situation in relation to on call payments and RRP is collated in order to have an overview of the situation in relation to chaplaincy appointments.

A positive start

Malcolm Masterman writes:

'I have met with the Roman Catholic Bishop's Advisers to explain the new arrangements and I am to meet with Muslim chaplains in September. The first few months have been very successful and all have worked hard to provide a united approach in chaplaincy. Thank you to all advisers for all their hard work.'

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The Board continues its work relating to academic standards and reports the following:

Training

Funding for online introductory training has been secured, thus allowing this initiative to be pursued with some vigour towards completion. The basic outline has been planned based on the agreed syllabus and the first introductory section is almost complete. It is hoped that the development of materials might be completed by the end of September when they can be reviewed and piloted, then uploaded on to the web as a blended-learning programme. The end of the year would be a realistic timescale.

Changes

The plan is that every chaplain within three months of appointment should be expected by their employer to complete this course. It is recognised that this will ensure a better take up on introductory training and chaplaincy departments will not bear any costs for this. Educational providers are aware of these changes so should be changing the nature of current residential training for chaplains in the New Year.

DATA PROTECTION ACT (DPA)

The issue of DPA is being pursued within the DHE and it is hoped to have a meeting organised with interested parties to explore this more fully soon.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

There have been discussions between the Multi Faith Group on Healthcare Chaplaincy (MFGHC) and UKBHC in recent months over the Code of Conduct. It is recognised that there are minor aspects of the current UKBHC code which are not compatible with MFGHC's concerns in this area. It has been agreed to amend the footnotes in certain places to aid that process so that there is one Code of Conduct for the chaplaincy profession within the UK.

CHAPLIN?

I was on the top deck of a bus the other day (writes Ed) which stopped outside a *Gents' Hairdressers* - it said so on a sign in the window and I was delighted that they'd got the apostrophe in the correct place. If they hadn't, the Salon would have been available only to one gent. Then I read further down the sign ... where it proclaimed, *Haircut's at reasonable price's*. Despair! That's why I was delighted to hear this story from a chaplain colleague. He writes:

A signage story

The lift in our hospice had been refurbished and new sign in the corridor indicated that the Social Workers, Counsellors and Chaplains were located on the second floor. However, inside the lift, beside the second floor button, it announced that this was the where 'Social Workers, Councillors and Chaplins' could be found. The Counsellors can fight their own battles over spelling, but I wasn't going to have chaplaincy to be downgraded in such a fashion. 'But what to do,' I pondered. Then, following the seed of an idea from a colleague, I hit on a plan. I got a big picture of Charlie Chaplin and hung it in the lift with a sign that suggested:



IF YOU WANT TO FIND CHARLIE CHAPLIN THERE'S NO POINT IN GOING TO THE SECOND FLOOR. YOU'D BE BETTER GOING TO THE MOVIES.

IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU'D LIKE TO SEE A CHAPLAIN WHO'LL OFFER YOU MORE THAN A SILLY WALK AND AN EMBARRASSED SMILE, KEEP GOING TO THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE.

I got an e-mail from the Chief Executive this morning asking me to come to see her as a matter of urgency. I wonder what it's about? I think I'll ask around to find out if she's got a sense of humour ...

END NOTE

Over the years since the Board decided to launch a regular Newsletter, I have had the responsibility of being the Newsletter Compiler. I did so when I served on the Board as President of the AHPCC, and continued when I was kindly invited to remain on the Board as a co-opted member. This Newsletter will be the ninth I have compiled, and, I am sorry to say it will have to be the penultimate one.



Stepping down

I have informed the Board that I will be stepping down from membership at the AGM in September. I will help deliver the final edition of the Newsletter for 2012, but from then it will be 'Goodnight from him.' I have enjoyed serving on the Board very much, and have been delighted to see the content and style of the Newsletter

improve since its humble beginnings. My main regret is not having been able to encourage much input to the Newsletter from our wider constituency. I hope my successor will have more success.



A successor?

Someone tells me that a former editor, one Rebecca Brooks, is out of work at present. Might she be recruited to take on this role? No? Well, then, it's over to you, because someone has to do it ...

Tom Gordon - Newsletter Compiler
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