August 2012

A warm welcome to our AHPCC website. Whether you are reading this as an AHPCC member or simply as someone who is interested in issues related to chaplaincy, spirituality and palliative care, I hope that you will find plenty on this website to inform and stimulate your thinking.

**If you are a member:**

Look out for the Members’ Forum that will be launched later this month - you’ll be getting an email soon with log on details. It will be up to us all as members to make the Forum work; but I’m hoping that it will become an important means of communication for us, where we can raise queries, share ideas and promote best practice.

Your Executive met in July, and will do so again in November. At the moment, we’re working on updating our Guidelines and Professional Standards, and making plans for our next AHPCC Conference in May 2013.

**If you are a chaplain/spiritual care provider but you are not a member:**

then I’d urge you to consider it! We have kept the membership fee at £30 this year. You will more than recoup this amount through the Members’ discount if you come to our annual Conference, and you will also have access to the new Members’ Forum and the support of a Regional group. There is also a category of Associate Member (e.g. for volunteers, or people for whom palliative care is a small part of their work) for £15. All the information you need about membership is on the website, under the heading “About us”.

**If you are not a chaplain/spiritual care provider but you are interested in palliative and spiritual care:**

I will be glad to hear from you! Chaplaincy in palliative care has always been rooted in multi-disciplinary teams, and we are well aware that the vital work of spiritual care does not “belong” to chaplains alone, but is exercised in many different ways by various disciplines. It was great to see people who work in Bereavement Services and paediatrics at our last Conference. My hope is that as an organisation we will always be looking for opportunities to network with and learn from like-minded people from different professional groups, and that you in your turn will benefit from contacts made and experience shared with members of the AHPCC.

Every good wish to you all in your work,

Judy Davies

AHPCC President