

Spring 2017

Dear Friends

It's hard to believe that conference time is only a couple of months away again. The theme and programme has evolved from the issues chaplains are feeling challenged by currently, alongside feedback received from last year. There are some quality speakers coming to share their experience as well as a wide variety of workshops to sample. I sincerely hope as many of our members as possible can attend and enjoy this time of being together. Although our membership changes every year, the atmosphere and kindness of the conference is always outstanding.

A few other things to think about in relation to the conference:

- there will be some vacancies for executive members coming up , so please think about whether you are interested in joining this group.
- Please complete the conference form with an indication about which workshops you would like to attend
- We welcome posters or presentations to display about some aspect of your work so let us know if you are bringing anything along

As many of you are aware, Bob Whorton and myself have co-edited a book called 'Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplaincy' for Jessica Kingsley Press. It will be available from July 21st but we hope to have pre-order forms available at the conference. Many people have contributed to the book and hopefully it will be a useful resource for current and new chaplains, as well as anyone with an interest in what we do.

At last year's European Network of Healthcare Chaplaincy conference in Hungary, the initiative for a research institute for chaplaincy and spiritual care was agreed. Since then, a lot of hard work and time has taken this forward. The institute is being launched in Leuven, Belgium on June 6th. It is hoped that the research projects undertaken by the institute will enable chaplaincy and spiritual care to maintain good practice and develop services to patients.

Please take some time to keep up to date with events and news on the website. Gary WIndon is doing a sterling job to keep things up-to-date but we need your information to be sent through to keep things current. Our sincere thanks go to Mike Rattenbury who has been our webmaster for recent years and is now retired from chaplaincy. Mike, we wish you well for the future and the plans that you have for new ventures.

On a sad note, finally, I heard this morning that Abbas Khalifa, the Muslim chaplain at Myton Hospice and a colleague of Stig Graham, died after being taken ill last week. Abbas has been to conference and shared his insights with us on several occasions. He will be greatly missed by the team and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

With best wishes

Karen