

Summer 2017

Dear Friends

Following our recent conference at The Hayes, I am writing to thank everyone for coming and making the event so successful and helpful. While we are awaiting the feedback forms that those attending were asked to complete, the general feedback already is very positive and appreciative. Our theme of working with diversity provoked some lively discussion and we are grateful to our speakers and workshop leaders for engaging in these conversations so willingly. The word 'challenge' occurred many times as we took a realistic look at the state of healthcare chaplaincy across the board, not just within our own area of palliative care. It is necessary for us to look at the bigger picture that we are part of and that we have information our managers may need to answer questions about our role, purpose and efficacy in the team. As ever people brought a mixed bag of experiences to share and valued the space to talk these through. We were generously and ably nourished spiritually through the care of our chaplain to conference, Rehannah Sadiq. Her thoughtful insights and perceptions were deeply moving and refreshing.

Last year we discussed the possibility of having a research project in place with the input of Jacki Thomas, a previous AHPCC member and chaplain. Our remit for Jacki was too big and she has suggested that we address one statement for your responses, 'We chaplains are worth having because'. Many people attending conference have already submitted a response but we would be grateful for a much wider response from our membership. Please email myself or Nigel Mason (secretary@ahpcc.org.uk) with your statements as soon as possible please. The urgency is due to Margery Collin and I attending the launch of the new European Research Institute for Healthcare Chaplaincy in Leuven, Belgium on June 6th. The idea for the institute was launched at the ENHCC conference last year and has quickly come to fruition. There will be more about our potential involvement with some research soon but please have a look at the ENHCC website for more information. In the meantime, please think about what this statement means to you and share your thoughts with us.

The new executive will meet in July to review conference evaluation and begin looking at the year ahead. Some themes for next year were identified at the conference but we are open to your ideas. We say a huge thank you to Mike Ratternbury and Bob Whorton who have completed their time on the executive, wishing them well for the future. We welcome onto the executive Chris Cheeseman and Stuart Murdoch and look forward to working with them.

Finally, a shameless plug for the book Bob and I have co-edited that will be published in July. 'Chaplaincy in Hospice and Palliative Care' is published by Jessica Kingsley Press and will hopefully be a useful resource to you. We are hoping to hold a small launch in Weston super Mare and will update you with details should you wish to come along. Weston is a good place to be!

Many thanks for the kind and supportive emails following the conference. Please don't hesitate to be in touch if a chat is helpful, especially when the pressure is on.

With very best wishes

Karen