

WELCOME

This is the 6th edition of the UKBHC's Newsletter – number 11.3 - and our Christmas communication for 2011. We continue to make three newsletters available each year, and we'll now number these with the year and the edition number. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for future editions. The next edition – 12.1 – will be due in March 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
- NI Healthcare Chaplains' Association (NIHCA): www.nihca.co.uk
- Scottish Association of Chaplains in Healthcare (SACH): www.sach.org.uk

WEBSITE

The main vehicle for keeping up-to-date with the UKBHC is the website - www.ukbhc.org.uk. Please access the website as often as you are able as it is updated regularly with important information for chaplains and others.

UKBHC AGM 2011

The 2011 AGM took place on 28th September in Grosvenor House, Belfast. There was a good attendance and the Board appreciated the hospitality of the NIHCA. As well as receiving a report on the Board's work during the year, the following were some of the issues explored:

Website

Thanks were expressed by the Board to Mark Newitt who has agreed to maintain the website, and to the administrator at Addenbrookes Hospital for important support.

Annual report

A copy of the annual report for the Board's work is available on the website.

Appointment Advisers

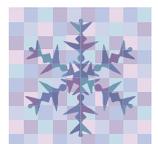
Malcolm Masterman described the process for the development of the role of the advisers' panel through the amalgamation of the HCC Assessors and the Professional Advisers of the professional bodies. An 'Appointment Advisers' Reference Group' chaired by Malcolm Brown at Church House has been set up. The Department of Health (DoH) (England) will publish and promote the new arrangements via a Chief Executive's letter. The aim is to ensure a UK-wide approach that will be responsive to national issues and appointments. In a Q&A session, the following matters were raised (with particular reference to NI, but relating, also, to UK issues):

- There are only a few full-time health care chaplains in NI;
- most appointments were on a denominational basis and required faith-group advice;
- the need to separate professional advice from denominational/faith group advice;
- Schedule 9 of The Equality Act 2010 presents challenges to denominational issues.

Finance

David Mitchell, the Board's treasurer, presented the financial statement and made the following points:

- this was the first year that the finances of the Board had been independent following initial donations from the professional bodies;
- expenses had been refunded for travel booked for the December 2010 meeting which had been cancelled due to adverse weather;
- expenses had been incurred for Data Protection registration.



The 2010/11 accounts are available on the website.

Annual registration fee

The Board meeting of 28th September had set an annual fee for registration of £10 to be due from 1st January 2012.

Revised Constitution

Tom Gordon presented revisions to the Constitution which he and Martin Bradley had been working on. Building on the experiences and working patterns of the Board since it was set up, the Constitution required a complete rewrite.

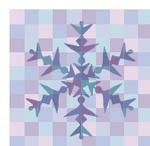
Among the points highlighted were:

- the revised Constitution had been agreed by the UKBHC Board on 28th September 2011;
- the Constitution presented was being tabled at the AGM in Sept 2011 so that it could be openly discussed and any amendments made and agreed before being adopted finally at AGM in September 2012;
- the revised Constitution was built on a review of the Memorandum of Agreement which had been adopted at the launch of UKBHC in June 2008 and sought to anticipate future patterns of the Board's work;
- attention was drawn to the inclusion of items addressing the developing dialogue with other bodies as well as potential conflicts of interest for Board members.

The Constitution will be posted on the website for consultation and the Board will review comments and feedback during 2012 and in advance of the AGM. Tom and Martin were thanked for their extensive work on this issue.

Q & A

Among the issues highlighted in a discussion session, it was suggested that there was need for a publication to answer these questions - What are the benefits of being on the register held by



UKBHC? What are the benefits to a Trust of chaplains being on the register of UKBHC? The Board affirmed its belief that regulation gives the framework for raising the level of awareness of spiritual care beyond it being just about 'nice, well-meaning church people'. Registration is a challenge to the chaplaincy profession, but it is the language that enables multi/inter-disciplinary practice and working.

Newsletter

Tom Gordon was thanked for his work in editing and producing the UKBHC Newsletter. Tom made a request that chaplains and others send him items for inclusion in the newsletter, particularly ones which highlight good practice, so that these might be disseminated more widely.

NIHCA NEWS

Recent news from Northern Ireland includes:

NIHCA Executive Council Away-Day, Nov 2011

Derek Johnston writes: 'We spent a very restful and inspiring time at Drumalis, facilitated by Rev Stephen Bushell. The two areas for consideration were a) models of chaplaincy; and b) chaplaincy support and supervision. The members of the Executive will be piloting a scheme of pastoral reflection between now and May 2012. We also hope to initiate some pilot schemes of different models of chaplaincy practice. A report will then be brought to the AGM on 16th May 2012 for consideration by our members.'



Other Executive Council matters

'Over the next few months we will be considering:

- what it means to be a Member (cost, eligibility, expectation of attending training, etc ...);
- proposing some changes to the Constitution (all ideas are welcome asap);
- seeking nominations for the position of Secretary as Jennifer's term of office comes to an end;
- meeting with the DoH to help draw up a Spiritual Care policy / protocol for DHSSPSNI.'

CPE Group

'Warm congratulations go to those who have recently completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) under the supervision of Sister Mary Jo Corcoran (Andrew, Angela, Brendan, Elaine, Graham & Patrick). Congratulations also to the eight participants who completed the Lay Hospital Visitors' Course run by the NIHCA. These are two very valuable training programmes.'

CURRENT WORK OF UKBHC

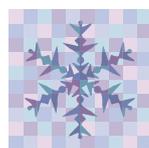
The current issues for the Board are:

Fees

In addition to the financial report presented to the AGM (see above), the Board has agreed that: a) registration fees will begin in January 2012; b) they will be set at £10 per year; c) they will be collected through Paypal. There is now a 'fee page' on the website.

Other financial matters

The Board has agreed to pursue the issue of indemnity insurance for advisers with Malcolm Masterman and David Mitchell liaising on this matter. The Board's application to the Charity



Commission requires that the Constitution be agreed before charitable status can be finalised.

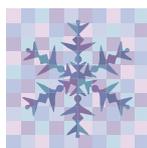
Consequently, the Board has agreed that, once the Constitution is in place (September 2012, see above) the application could be made - with English charitable registration being the most effective proposal.

Academic matters

The Board recognises that, out of the discussion with MFGHC, and because of its own concern for consistency in chaplaincy training and education, it would be valuable if the UKBHC hosted a consultation on education matters, inviting key players from throughout the UK to attend, in order that aspects of training and education can be developed in a cohesive manner. This consultation will take place in Edinburgh on 17th January 2012. Further details are on the website, and a report on the outcomes from this consultation will be disseminated in the future.

Professional conduct

The Board has agreed that it needs to develop a fitness to practice process. Martin Bradley had drafted some material on this aspect for discussion, and the matter was explored at the Board meeting in December 2011. This issue will be a focus for the next few meetings of the Board. It was also recognised that a consultation on this theme with the faith groups and the MFGHC would be beneficial so that the Board can discern what the key issues are and how they might be responded to.

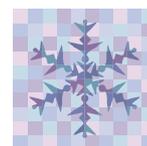


Professional Registration

Ewan Kelly is stepping down from his role as lead in this aspect of the Board's work. Iain Macritchie has agreed to take on this role. This matter continues to form a major part of the Board's work. More will be reported on as things unfold.

Advisers

In addition to the aspects of this reported to the AGM (see above) the Board is aware that the setting up of the panel of advisers had proceeded, with funding from the Department of Health (DoH) with agreement to use the DoH logo on materials. It had been hoped that the structure would be in place by 1st October. This has not been the case, but it is expected very soon. A reference panel is in place with Malcolm Masterman, the Board's lead on this issue, as coordinator and Malcolm Brown as Chair for the first year. The following should also be noted:



- It was hoped that advisers to the new panel would be registered chaplains with a senior position of at least 5 years. Malcolm has agreed to check names of current advisers against the register.
- It has been important to harmonise the list and provide catch-up for everyone. But the Board is clear, in line with other initiatives nationally, that registration is a key factor.
- A designated email will be used and a form placed on the website for use by employers.
- It is hoped that a day will be set aside for advisors to meet together in March. A training day will be organised for later in 2012.

Shape and form of chaplaincy services

The Board spent time at its recent meeting exploring how it sees the shape and form of a chaplaincy service into 2012 and beyond. One of the main areas is the 'shape of accountability'. This issue will continue to be a focus for the Board's thinking throughout the next year.

Terms and definitions

With the plethora of titles, concepts and ideas around chaplaincy, there are many who are confused about terms and definitions. The Board, therefore, will be working on a 'jargon-buster' paper as a clarification for everyone. Look out for this on the website at sometime next year.

MULTI-FAITH GROUP ON HEALTHCARE CHAPLAINCY (MFGHC)

The Board was grateful to Debbie Hodge from the MFGHC for her input into the December Board meeting, at which she highlighted:

- The MFGHC sees as one of its important tasks that of helping Faith Communities to recognise the nature of chaplaincy; being aware that they cannot 'train' people for chaplaincy; that infra-structures of Faith Communities need to be developed appropriately to move things forward.
- The MFGHC continues to work, therefore, on authorisation structures.
- Collaboration is the key, and the MFGHC valued the recent round-table meeting with representatives of UKBHC, CHCC and MFGHC.
- There is a 'pause' on the 'Authorisation and Regulation Reference Group' project.
- Faith Authorisation has been acknowledged as intrinsic to all aspects of registration.
- The MFGHC has clarified its role as being to promote healthcare chaplaincy within faith groups and support them in developing faith groups and individuals from faith groups to participate in healthcare chaplaincy in NHS and other healthcare institutions. Joint working to bring issues into alignment will begin. Initially this will be with: a) Code of Conduct; b) Fitness to Practice.
- The MFGHC has a new constitution. Members are from those groups who have the 'authority responsibility' and must also include a chaplain.
- The MFGHC has a new administrator. She is Edith Steele, and she can be contacted at edith.steele@cte.org.uk

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2012

The Board will meet on 22nd March and 20th June 2012 in London; on the morning of 26th September 2012 in Birmingham prior to the AGM (the venue for this will be announced later); and in London on 6th December 2012. If anyone wishes any information on the work of the Board, please use the website for access purposes, or contact the Newsletter Editor who will ensure that your enquiry is passed on to the appropriate person.

BIGGER ROLE FOR CHAPLAINS

Readers of our Newsletter might be interested in a useful article which was published recently in the USA which relates to hospital chaplains seeking – and finding – a bigger role in patient medical teams. Written by Laura Landro, it states that 'studies indicate that as many as 40% of patients with serious illnesses like cancer struggle with spiritual concerns' and, encouragingly, reports that 'medical schools are adding courses on spirituality and health and training residents to consider patients' spiritual needs.' As a consequence, the profile of spiritual well-being and the need for the involvement of skilled and properly equipped professionals, including chaplains, in patient care is highlighted. The article is accessible online at <http://online.wjs.com>



AND SO TO CHRISTMAS . . .

There are many who feel, especially at Christmas time, that things are slightly 'out of control', with issues of busyness, emotional encounters and the balance between work, family and faith community bringing additional stresses. And, if the weather deteriorates, we all suffer!



So, if you feel you're travelling too fast on a downhill run, or you're in danger of slamming into a snow-drift, or you're wearily trudging up-hill to begin again, we hope you will have some space to find peace and reflection, rest and renewal over this festive time, so that the benefit of this season, with all its spiritual depth, will be available to you and those for whom you care.

We wish you every blessing for Christmas, and peace and health for 2012.

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