

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2012 - EDITION 12.1

WELCOME

This is the 7th edition of the UKBHC's Newsletter, the first 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 12.1. The next edition, No 12.2, will be due in August 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

UKBHC AGM 2012

Continuing our practice of holding the AGM of the Board in different parts of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, the 2012 AGM will be held in Birmingham on Wednesday 26th September at 2pm. Please put this date in your diaries. More detailed information will be available in the August Newsletter.

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2012

The Board will meet on 20th June in London; 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.

ANDREW GRAHAM

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Andrew Graham, President of SACH, on 19th January. Andrew died peacefully in the presence of his family at the age of 61.

A tribute

Anne Mulligan, Secretary of SACH, writes: *Andrew's Funeral Service on 27th January, conducted by Pastor Gordon Allan from the Elim Church in Clydebank and attended by many chaplains, members of the 'Clydebank Churches Together' and the town's Provost, was a real celebration of Andrew's life and service. We heard great stories of Andrew's work in the Clydebank churches involving many practical projects, such as laying floors and building shelves, as well as regular preaching. Andrew was raised in Broughty Ferry and served in various posts in Britain with the Elim Church before going to work in Honduras with Sheila, his wife.*

Love in action

They had a long tradition of caring for children and young people and managed an orphanage during their time in Honduras. On their return to Scotland Andrew became involved in hospital chaplaincy, first as a volunteer in Ayrshire, before being appointed to the whole-time post of Chaplain at the Golden Jubilee Hospital in 2006. Andrew quickly made his mark on Healthcare Chaplaincy in Scotland and beyond, serving as Treasurer and then President of SACH as well as playing an active role in the UKBHC. He was also very active in the Lead Chaplains' group. He gave very generously of his time and skills and we are in his debt. Andrew was a man of great faith which he put into practice in his daily life with warmth, compassion and commitment. He chose verses from John 15 to be read at his funeral – verses which speak of love in action. Andrew lived out those verses in his daily life. We give thanks to God for him and offer our prayers and support to Sheila and their daughter Bessy.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Board welcomed Mark Burleigh, recently appointed President of CHCC, to his first Board meeting in March, and looks forward to Mark's contribution to the Board's work. Following the death of Andrew Graham (*see p1*) a new President of SACH will also join the Board when an appointment is made.

Diverse representation

In addition, the Board is looking to widen its membership thus ensuring more diverse representation - of gender, faith communities, and the like - on the Board. This will reflect the changes in the constitution (out for consultation at present). The Board expects the revised constitution to be endorsed at the AGM.

WHAT DO I GET FOR MY MONEY?

The transitional arrangements for the UKBHC come to an end on 30th June and registration fees of £10 are now due for 2012. Until 30th June all chaplains in an existing post are able to join the register using the transitional criteria. After 30th June all new registrants will be required to meet the full registration criteria (see www.ukbhc.org.uk for full details of registration.)



Questions

Some people have been asking 'Why bother to register with the UKBHC?' and 'What do I get for my money?' While not offering a FAQ section, here is what we hope will begin to answer people's queries :

- Your fee supports the work the Board carries out on your behalf.
- Your name appears on a list of Board Registered chaplains which is accessible by employers and interview panels. Board registration is increasingly a requirement for applicants.
- You can demonstrate that you work to recognised Standards, Competences and a Professional Code of Conduct.

Further details are available on the **About the UKBHC** pages of the website.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DoH)

The Board was pleased to welcome Barry Mussenden from the DoH (England) to its March meeting. Mr Mussenden offered a helpful critique of the current circumstances of the NHS in general and Healthcare Chaplaincy in particular.

The current situation

Given that the new NHS Bill is now in place, the DoH is working through the setting up of the Commissioning Board. This Commissioning Board will, from April 2013, have overall responsibility for Healthcare Chaplaincy, though the operational details of this are still being worked through. Chaplaincy continues to be seen as a key part of patient care, and, for the next year, the DoH will continue to have the oversight of chaplaincy with Barry Mussenden as the lead. The UKBHC will make direct links with the lead person for chaplaincy in the Commissioning Board when the new structure is in place, to continue the strong and valuable links which have been established with Mr Mussenden and the DoH.

Collaboration

Building on the greater sense of cohesion and collaboration within chaplaincy, and the links that have been established through Mr Mussenden with the DoH, it was clear from the discussions that this continued collaboration will be important when the Commissioning Board is established.

Introductory training for chaplains

There will be further explorations about funding for an on-line introductory training course for newly appointed chaplains so that there is both consistency throughout the UK and simplicity of access to appropriate course material at a local level.

CHARLIE'S CHAPLAINS

Interested in a 'creative ministry ... helping patients feel better through cheerful spirits, lightening hearts and brightening patients' days'? Have a look at 'Charlie's Chaplains Hospital Clown Creative Arts Ministry'. It's USA based, but it's worth while taking a moment to look at <http://charlieschaplains.blogspot.co.uk> and a clip <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSIJdeL2ceo>

THE WORK OF THE BOARD

The Board continues its work through the four strands of its purpose. The current issues are:

Professional Advisers

Malcolm Masterman, the lead for Professional Advisers, reported to the March meeting that the Reference Panel had met three times. There was soon to be a gathering of the old 'assessors' and the new 'advisers' to meet with Malcolm Brown. Malcolm indicated that the primary task at present is working to harmonise the process and ensure that the advisers become a more cohesive group. To date, the Reference Panel has had 14 requests for advisers for chaplaincy appointments, and this was seen to be a positive sign. There are now 26 advisers in place, with another 2 from Wales.

☉ The advisers need to become more widely known and utilised, and the panel of advisers needs to be widened further to ensure that there is faith diversity and appropriate specialist input. The Reference Panel is also looking at an audit process to ensure a consistency of approach and that chaplaincy appointment bodies are satisfied with the advisers' involvement.

☉ The Board also discussed issues relating to chaplaincy appointments – multi-faith issues; part-time appointments; band-six posts with no chaplaincy lead, the appointment process being in the hands of a non-chaplain. Malcolm is also arranging for professional indemnity for advisers.

☉ The document relating to chaplaincy appointments – aimed at appointing bodies – and the advisers' process needs revised, and Malcolm Masterman will be looking at this in the future.

Professional Conduct

Martin Bradley and Lyn MacIntyre presented a paper on 'Fitness to Practice', suggesting the Board models itself on the CHRE process. The Board agreed that it shouldn't create a structure which, for a small organisation, would potentially be unwieldy and unworkable and that our fitness to practice procedure should be proportionate. The Board discussed the issues in the paper and made appropriate changes. Martin will be invited to 'tidy up' the document. Thereafter it will be discussed further by the Board.

The Board will then consult appropriately with membership and other bodies, and present it to the AGM in September.

Academic Standards

The Board noted the 'Educational Consultation' on 17th January (see a detailed report, p4).

☉ The Board has invited David Mitchell to explore the development of the on-line introductory course for newly appointed chaplains (see 'Introductory training for chaplains', p2) so that it can be easily available to chaplains throughout the UK. The Board will commission the material for the course content; there will be discussion with Graham Mitchell, the Board's web adviser, in the near future (see 'Website changes', p4) and decisions will be made thereafter as to who will host the site.

☉ The structure for the training of chaplaincy volunteers is also being explored and this will be looked at again by the Board at a later date.

Professional Registration

Iain Macritchie reported to the Board that the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) continues its work towards becoming a regulatory authority (a professions' standards authority). They currently have oversight of 13 professional groups and are seeking to have oversight of further organisations involved in health and social care (some 40 bodies in total, including chaplaincy). This is all focussed on 'good outcomes' for patients and clients. It is clear that this would allow the UKBHC to have appropriate accreditation – which, as previous newsletters have indicated, will not be possible through the Health Professions Council.

☉ Cost factors are an issue, and it is clear that more discussion would be required on this. It is estimated that the figures will be £11,000 initially and £9,000 annually thereafter. The Board is keeping this under consideration.

☉ CHRE now has a 'model for accreditation' – which will be out for consultation soon - and the Board will continue to look at this through its Professional Registration strand.

EDUCATION CONSULTATION

A consultation took place in Edinburgh on 17th January between the UKBHC and various UK chaplaincy education providers. Discussions included advancing the agenda; becoming a healthcare chaplain; developing chaplains and the role of CPD; levels of professional practice; staff structures in chaplaincy; supervision issues; and introductory training for newly appointed chaplains'. This was a useful opportunity to explore the academic issues in chaplaincy with a view to promoting a coherent and consistent development. The theological foundations needed for people to proceed to a chaplaincy post was discussed and a one year theological diploma was seen as one route to address this deficit which often emerges from those seeking to enter chaplaincy from other disciplines.

Accreditation

It was agreed that there was a need to accredit a volunteer's course so that it equates to the NVQ or SVQ standard. This will be pursued based on the already published materials of the volunteers' resource course.

Reflective practice

It was agreed that there was a need for more work within the profession to develop reflective practice and a framework chaplains might use. A position paper or other materials were needed to encourage debate on the issue and promote its acceptance nationally. It was noted that a model of Reflective Practice is being piloted and rolled out in Scotland.

Education and training

The education and training of chaplains was discussed, in particular the need for a programme for newly appointed chaplains. It was agreed that an online resource lodged on something like *Flying Start* (an NHS resource) could be helpful, and pump-priming funding might be available. (See 'Academic Standards', p2)

Future plans

It was recognised that the opportunity to meet together and explore common agendas had been valuable and it was agreed to repeat the process later in the year. UKBHC agreed to coordinate that meeting as well as keep everyone informed of the debate.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) hosted an important international event on 13th and 14th March. This interactive conference brought together healthcare researchers, educationalists and practitioners with an interest in spiritual care, and there were excellent explorations of how the delivery of spiritual care can enhance patient outcomes and the wellbeing of patients, their carers, staff and organisations. There were opportunities to share ground-breaking research, inform spiritual care education and practice, promote relationships between researchers, educators and practitioners from all over the world, and promote spiritual care as an integral part of quality holistic, person-centred, safe and effective healthcare.



Published material

It is hoped that the major papers presented at the NES conference will be published in a subsequent edition of the Scottish Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy.



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.

Education

The UKBHC is aware that the education pages of the website need to be expanded so that they contain an inclusive list of courses offered. Any education institutions involved in chaplaincy and spiritual-care education who wish their course included should contact the newsletter editor.

Website changes

The Board is aware of the recent 'crash' which brought the website to a standstill for a time. This was due to problems with the Server and the time it took to transfer the website's material to another Server. Further changes are required in any event to update the site software to enable it to accommodate the different aspects of the Board's work. Graham Mitchell, the web-designer, is giving the Board detailed and helpful guidance, and the Board owes a large debt of gratitude to Graham for this.

AHPCC

The annual conference will take place in the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, from 23rd to 25th May. The theme will be 'Creative



Connections – the heart, mind and soul of spiritual care', and the conference will explore working with children and families; creative therapies; research; resources; rituals;

and bereavement. The contributors will include Susan Carr, Alister Bull and Paul Nash, and there will be a variety of workshops on the theme. The chaplain will be Tom Gordon. Further details and an application form are on the AHPCC website.

CHCC

The college continues to work to support chaplains and promote the Chaplaincy profession. Recent changes to the website (*see p1*) allow members to update their email addresses to receive periodic bulletins of website

updates and other information. The

annual study course is planned for 11th - 13th September at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The cost is much reduced this year, starting at only £275 (the early-bird price to 30th April). The theme will be on the theme of evidencing the value and effectiveness of chaplaincy.

NIHCA

News from our Northern Ireland colleagues includes:

Executive Council matters

The Officers recently met with Robert Stewart (Dept of Health NI) to discuss the possibility of a template for a Spiritual Care policy/protocol for DHSSPSNI/NI Health Trusts. The proposal was favourably received.



Further information about the above will follow in due course.

Bibles in hospitals

We have had discussions with the Gideons organisation and the Infection Prevention Society (NI Branch) in the hope of producing some guidelines. This is still under consideration.

NIHCA AGM

This is due to be held on Wed 16th May 2012 from 9.30am - 4.00pm in the Lecture Theatre, South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon. The special speaker for the two morning sessions will be Revd Debbie Hodge, Chief Officer of MFGHC and Secretary of the Churches Committee for Hospital Chaplaincy (England/Wales).

QUESTIONS

The Board will continue to make a newsletter available three times a year – April, August and December. Our purpose is to share current issues and information with interested parties – chaplains, managers, decision-makers, etc. We're keen to respond to the needs and interests of our constituency. So, if there's anything you'd like to see included, or if you have a contribution to make, we'd be pleased to hear from you. Contact the Newsletter Editor (*details below*) for any contributions or questions.



END NOTE

Some of Graham Ogilvie's cartoon drawings have appeared in our Newsletter before. Here's another one. (*You can see more of Graham's approach at www.ogilviedesign.co.uk*).



Given the extensive discussions in the Press recently about the Government's Health Bill, let's remember that the greatest resource in the Health Service are the staff, of all professions, including chaplains, who are committed to the health and wellbeing of the patients in their care.

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