

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2012 - EDITION 12.3

WELCOME

This is the 9th edition of the UKBHC's Newsletter - edition 12.3 - the third and final communication for 2012. For the benefit of chaplains and the wider healthcare constituency, the Newsletter continues to highlight news of and insights into chaplaincy issues. Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for future editions.



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

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. Acknowledging some problems which had been encountered during 2012, the Board is currently up-dating the website with the expectation that it will be easier to use, offer better communication opportunities and be more regularly updated with both current and archived material.

Photographs

In order to keep the website current, the Board is keen to have any current photographs of 'healthcare chaplains in action'. Suitable material should be sent to the Newsletter editor in the first instance. [Ed's note: 'Suitability' will, of course, be a matter of editorial judgement!!!]

BOARD MEETINGS FOR 2013

The Board will meet in London on 20th March, 20th June and 28th November 2013. In addition, it will meet in Glasgow on the morning of the AGM on 18th September. (Please note the AGM date.)

UKBHC AGM 2012

The Board's AGM for 2012 was held in Birmingham on Wednesday 26th September in the Faith and Community Centre Meeting Room of the New Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Those present were warmly welcomed by the hospital chaplaincy team and there was an opportunity to see round the excellent multi-faith facilities in this new setting.

The AGM business

Derek Fraser, chair of the Board, guided us through the business, and among the issues explored were the Constitution, the governance of the Board and the Advisers' panel (all of which are reported on in more detail later).

Finance

The financial report was presented by the UKBHC treasurer, David Mitchell.



David Mitchell, with the concentrated efforts of Derek Fraser in the chair and Mark Stobert taking the minutes, gives the AGM his financial report.

The accounts were accepted and are on the website. The AGM agreed that the registration fee remain at £10 for 2013, and that the CPD fees should remain at £15 per CPD point, up to a maximum of £250.

CHARITABLE STATUS

With its Constitution finalised at the AGM (see the item on the 'Constitution' later) the Board has agreed to explore whether it can gain Charitable Status, as is the case for other similar boards. David Mitchell, the Board's treasurer, has been charged with taking this forward.



Does an AGM need such concentration?

FITNESS TO PRACTICE

Martin Bradley, one of the Board's lay members, presented a revised paper to the AGM on a 'Fitness to Practice' process, which is an essential prerequisite to further discussions with CHRE as we look to the lodging of a Voluntary Register with them. The Board made some changes to and comments on Martin's draft paper and, once these are written in appropriately, the paper will be checked out with CHRE to ensure that the Board is still on the right lines.

Hot news!

While this Newsletter was being compiled, we had news that this has been agreed and that the UKBHC is now seeking to follow PSA guidance on the issue. The Board plans to publish this procedure along with other relevant pieces on the website in a clearly designated place.

[Ed's note: For further news on CHRE and PSA, see later in this Newsletter.]

Consultation

Thereafter this will be made available in a consultation exercise with our constituent members and interested faith communities and belief groups. In this regard, under the guidance of Iain Macritchie, a registrant member of the Board, there is now in place an 'Action Plan for CHRE Accredited Regulation' which the Board will be following in forthcoming months.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The Board is pleased with the progress on the creation of an on-line induction programme for newly appointed chaplains. The core elements of the syllabus were agreed in 2010 and details of this can be found on the website. In summary they are:

- an awareness of the nature of reality, health and spirituality
- an understanding of chaplaincy models, both current and historical
- an awareness of chaplaincy standards
- a familiarity with chaplaincy competences – specifically for a band 6 post
- an awareness of DoH directives throughout the UK, and the various ways governments implement chaplaincy provision
- an understanding of the professional Code of Conduct, including ethical dilemmas, pastoral and ethical decision-making and the place of boundaries
- an awareness of issues relating to career progression in chaplaincy, including such issues as Agenda for Change, KSF, CPD, reflective practice, etc
- a familiarity with evidence-based chaplaincy, including such issues as reflective practice, audit, research, etc
- an awareness of chaplaincy resources
- the place of the different responsibilities of the employer, accrediting group, regulators.

Developing the programme

These have been set into five sections, the materials for which are being developed and which the Board has agreed. The course will be hosted on the UKBHC website utilising the 'Moodle' programme, familiar in universities. (The update of the website required to accommodate this is almost finished.)

Certificate of Completion

This will not be an education programme and will not carry marked assessments. It is a self-assessment process and the participant will be awarded a 'Certificate of Completion' when the course is finished, along with appropriate CPD points. Participants will be encouraged to notify their managers that they have completed the course. There will be no cost to the participant or the employing body for accessing this course.

CONSTITUTION

The draft of the Board's revised Constitution had been presented to the AGM of 2011 where it was agreed that it should be offered for consultation and comment to our wider membership. Over the year comments had been looked at and changes made. Some minor final amendments were made at the AGM, and the finalised Constitution was agreed by the meeting. The Constitution is accessible on the website.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

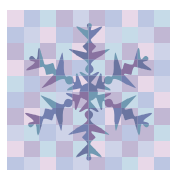
Malcolm Masterman, the Board's lead in this area, reported to a recent Board meeting – and subsequently to the AGM – some encouraging aspects of the role of the Advisers' Panel. A full report on the 2012 activities is available on the website following its publication in October. Malcolm highlighted the move towards greater consistency in chaplaincy appointments, the value of the advisers becoming better known and the useful feedback from advisers which is being built into further training and review. There are plans to change the website to include a range of aspects relating to jobs - KSF outlines and job descriptions (JDs) for all the range of posts available. The board would be keen to publicise any JDs from which others might learn.

Training

A training / refreshment day has taken place in November, and new members for the advisers group are being explored. In addition, the Board plans to pull together levels of chaplaincy, career progression in chaplaincy and formats for interviews and suggested question areas so that everything in this dimension can be found in the one place.

GOVERNANCE

Details of the current make-up of the Board were reported on at length in issue 12.2. Conscious of the revised Constitution presented to the AGM, the need for the Board to be transparent in its governance processes and responding to comments from its constituency that there should be openness and clarity regarding Board members, the Board sought the agreement of the AGM on several matters of governance.



Getting it right

The full presentation is on the website, but the decisions made can be summarised as follows:

1. The current registrant and lay members of the Board will be asked if they wish to continue to serve on the Board, at least for a further year.
2. Registered members of the UKBHC are invited to offer suggestions as to:
 - a) Who might be invited onto the Board to fill the fourth lay-member place;
 - b) who might be co-opted, eg to fill the 'newsletter' place vacated by Tom Gordon and to be involved with 'task specific' roles as the Board sees the need;
 - c) whether the gender/faith balance needs to be addressed.



[Ed's note: *The Board is keen to get the membership involved with this issue, so any suggestions should be passed to Derek Fraser, the chair of the Board, as soon as possible. This can be done via the Newsletter editor.*]

3. The AGM agreed with the Board's recommendation that a 'rolling retirement and election' process be created (see presentation for details) so that the Board is seen to be finding new blood, adhering to its Constitution, following good practice of review and appraisal of its members and remaining open and transparent.
4. The Board should always adhere to that part of the Constitution which refers to 'length of service' on the Board, viz that no member will serve for more than two terms of four years.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Following the endorsement of the Multi Faith Group on Healthcare Chaplaincy (MFGHC), the UKBHC is happy to report that the Code of Conduct has been revised so there is now only one code for the whole of chaplaincy in the UK.

CHAPLAINCY JOURNAL

The Board has noted that explorations are taking place for the creation of a unified journal for UK healthcare chaplaincy and looks forward to the outcome of these discussions. It is gratifying that, as a 'sign of the times', this is another example of closer co-operation enhancing the cohesion of healthcare chaplaincy throughout the UK.

ACCREDITED VOLUNTARY REGISTERS

The UKBHC continues to have communication with appropriate bodies regarding voluntary registration. (See 'Consultation' above.) In this area we have recently had two pieces of news.

CHRE

CHRE (The Council for Health and Voluntary Excellence) inform us that its most recent update on the Accredited Voluntary Registers scheme can be accessed on the CHRE website at www.chre.org.uk/media/18/505.

A change of name, and the launch of the PSA

CHRE's name is changing to the 'Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care' (PSA) – hence the new logo illustrated here. They write: *Over the next few weeks you will increasingly see our new name being used on publications in relation to our new functions of accrediting voluntary occupational registers and advising the Privy Council on appointments to the councils of the regulators. Our contact with the new body informs us that: From 1st December all activities will be under our new name. Our new web address is www.professionalstandards.org*



SACH

The AGM of SACH took place at Carberry Towers, East Lothian, on 25th September. *SACH Soundings*, the regular newsletter for SACH members, says in its pre-conference edition: *Chaplaincy is facing a time of change and challenges. In early August the Executive met in the Nursing Education for Scotland (NES) office with members of the College of Healthcare Chaplains, including Obi Omadi, Unite Professional Officer, and William Sharpe, the CHCC Registrar.*

Challenges

The newsletter continues: *In the face of [many] challenges we have to examine again the role of our professional bodies. It is a time of change ... We need people with commitment and fresh vision to move forward with this process.*

A new President for SACH

SACH are delighted with the news that a new President has been appointed. He is Paul Graham, chaplain at the Inverclyde Hospital Greenock. The UKBHC joins with the other constituent professional bodies in welcoming Paul to his new role, and looks forward to on-going co-operation with him and the SACH executive.



CHCC

Mark Burleigh, CHCC President, reports that: *The annual Study Conference, entitled "Can We Make Compassion Reliable?" was a great success. There was a wide range of stimulating speakers in the mental health and generic meetings.*



CHCC AGM

The conference also hosted the CHCC AGM, which was attended by 82 members. The main topics for discussion were:

- Proposals from the CHCC union partners, Unite, for changes in the election process for the national committee of the CHCC (the Organising Professional Committee or OPC). Members were of one mind that the identity and democratic processes of the CHCC must be preserved. In succeeding negotiations with Unite, these have both been secured.
- Proposals to merge the CHCC's *Journal of Health Care Chaplaincy* and the *Scottish Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy* to become one journal with the proposed name, *Health and Social Care Chaplaincy*. There is strong support for this from the CHCC membership and it is hoped to complete the merger in the near future. [See 'Chaplaincy Journal' above.]

A new professional officer

In addition, the CHCC welcomed a development of their relationship with Unite. Mark writes: *Jane Beach was welcomed to her first meeting of the OPC in November. Jane is the new Professional Officer in Unite who will be supporting the CHCC (replacing Carol English). Her special responsibility in the Heath Sector is Regulation, so her expertise will support the CHCC's work with the UKBHC.*



NIHCA

From Northern Ireland, NIHCA reports on a recent two-day training event in Omagh exploring the overall topic of "End of life care." Approx 25 chaplains attended each day. Three sessions were lead by Paul Salter, Co-ordinating Chaplain, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT, looking at meeting



the spiritual and pastoral needs of patients and their families at the end of life; one session by Martina Conlon, Specialist Nurse for organ donation, on organ donation; two

sessions by Dr Noel Scott on mental capacity and a humanist approach to end of life care; and one session by Dr Jayne McAuley on ethical issues in palliative care. Participants have reported that both days were excellent and very stimulating.

ENHCC Conference

Jennifer McWhirter, Gerard Fox and Derek Johnston had the privilege of attending the European Network of Health Care Chaplains (ENHCC) conference held in the Netherlands in June. Derek Johnston writes: *It was good to meet up with approximately 50 chaplains from over 20 other countries. It was a learning experience for us to hear about chaplaincy in different contexts. We were also able to share about chaplaincy in Northern Ireland. It was noted by several participants that, even given Northern Ireland's divided past, we only have one organisation for chaplains! In normal European style a statement was agreed by the conference.*

CPE

Congratulations to the six chaplains who completed the most recent CPE unit and received their certificates at a special graduation service on 7th December. This is the seventh unit facilitated by NIHCA.



A happy group at Ballyclare.

AHPCC

Judy Davies reports: *The AHPCC Executive met in Belfast in November. One of the major items on the Agenda was further planning for the Association's annual Conference, to be held in May 2013 at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. Details of the Conference, entitled "Sharing Spaces: exploring common ground in spiritual care", can be found on our website.*



A new forum

Judy continues: *An exciting new development for the AHPCC website has been the creation of a Members' Forum. We are hoping that in time this will become a widely used means of communication, where members can raise queries, share ideas and promote best practice.*

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE REVISITED

In this summer's edition of *SACH Soundings*, Michael Paterson writes on the importance of reflective practice in chaplaincy. *Reflective practice represents significant shifts in teaching and learning ... [It] matches ontology (those who inhabit the being of a profession) with epistemology (how they arrive at 'knowing' what to do) ... Nowhere are [these] more clearly wedded together than in the life of healthcare chaplains whose tools of the trade are nothing less than the intentional use of the self.*

Key questions

He continues: *In Scotland the national programme of reflective practice [in chaplaincy] has two commitments - expressive of the Quality Strategy for Scotland, and the promotion of values-based practice across the wider workforce. ... When you think of what chaplains do as part of a normal working day ... reflective practice offers [them] an invaluable support ... to look after their own professional and personal health ... and accompany patients from isolation to community, diminishment to strength.*

Further reading

Michael's piece is an abbreviated form of a longer article to be published in the near future. **[Ed's note: The piece summarised here can be found in 'SACH Soundings' at www.sach.org.uk/ss48.pdf**

FIRST STUDENT COMPLETES MSc

In November the healthcare chaplaincy programme at the University of Glasgow celebrated the graduation of the first student to achieve the MSc. in Healthcare (Chaplaincy). Mark Evans, Lead Chaplain for NHS Fife, was one of the first cohort of students on the Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Chaplaincy programme initiated in 2009. He continued his studies to complete a research project entitled *Exploring midwives' understanding of Spiritual Care and the role of the Healthcare Chaplain within a maternity unit*. Mark has been encouraged to publish his research results.



Mark (right) is pictured with David Mitchell at the graduation ceremony.

The healthcare chaplaincy programme is taught by distance (blended) learning and is accredited by the UKBHC for CPD. David Mitchell, Programme Leader, writes: *This is an important day for the healthcare chaplaincy programme. But, even more, it's a credit to Mark for his commitment to his own professional development and what he has gained through his MSc. studies. The whole chaplaincy community would want to say 'well done' for this excellent achievement.*

NEWSLETTER

Tom Gordon writes: *As readers will be aware, I stepped down from the Board at the AGM and thus came to the end of my time as Newsletter editor. The Board will be considering how to move forward with this matter and news of a future Newsletter editor will be communicated in due course. In the meantime, please continue to forward any material to the e-mail address below and I shall ensure items are passed on appropriately.*



AND FINALLY ...

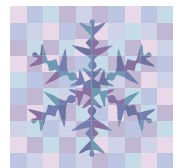
One of our colleagues reports that she was walking through her local garden centre in early November and was astonished to see the shelves and floor-space already filled with all the trappings of Christmas. Struggling to make sense of it all, she found herself passing through the section where all the artificial Christmas trees



were on display. Lost in her own thoughts, she nearly jumped out of her skin when a loud, American voice proclaimed: *Hello! I'm Douglas, Douglas Fir. Merry Christmas to you. Ho! Ho! Ho!* Startled, she looked around, but there was no one to be seen – no passing shopper; nobody hiding among the Christmas trees; no one at all. She retraced her steps, and there it was again: *Hello! I'm Douglas, Douglas Fir. Merry Christmas to you. Ho! Ho! Ho!* She took a step back, and once more the booming voice announced: *Hello! I'm Douglas. Merry Christmas to you. Ho! Ho! Ho!* And then she realised ... It was the tree! Some sensor in an artificial tree had been triggered as she walked past. Even a tree was wishing her a Merry Christmas – and at the beginning of November as well!

Messages

Christmas messages will come to you in lots of different ways. Some will mean little or nothing; others will take us by surprise; and a few may even touch you in a deeply meaningful way. Let's hope that these messages – with patients and colleagues, with families and friends, in busyness and reflection, in ritual and newness – bring you hope and meaning, and renew in you a sense of purpose, worth and value this Christmas season.



Merry Christmas

So, I'm with the talking Christmas tree. *Hello! I'm Tom. Merry Christmas to you. Ho! Ho! Ho!* May you and yours continue to be surprised by messages of love this Christmas and into 2013.

*Tom Gordon - Newsletter Compiler
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