

# CHCC ANNUAL REPORT 2010

**CHCC** COLLEGE OF  
HEALTH CARE  
CHAPLAINS



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*Karen Reay, Health Sector National Officer and Rev. Peter Tarleton, Healthcare Chaplain from Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust at the NHS Confederation Conference and Exhibition in Liverpool, June 2010*

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mark Stobert

My first NPC as president was for me a most uplifting experience. As is the democratic process of a professional body, there were new faces. But the speed at which representatives have taken up their role is remarkable. The new sub-committee structure of the college is now functioning well, and enables representatives to participate in the work of the college more fully and the NPC to be more effective. I commend the work of all the Regional Reps and Officers who continue to listen and respond to the concerns (and comments) from members. The path we take might sometimes seem to be developed by a few, but it has to be informed by the voice of the many.

The key issues that have dominated the last year are the obvious ones that are referred to below.

### The HCC Review

I confess to being a little nervous when I presented to the review panel. I guess this was a consequence of the climate of suspicion in the health care chaplaincy community. However this was misplaced. I have already commended the group for the spirit of openness and the manner in which they conducted the review and the insights that they have brought.

Though the review is primarily to guide the Anglican Communion, it inevitably and directly affects the whole of chaplaincy. The review process has provided a container that has been able to hold and contain the seeming divergent views of where and how chaplaincy sits in the institution that is the NHS.

### Relationships with other bodies

The relationships between CHCC and some of the other bodies in the chaplaincy community have blighted us for many years. When these tensions have been to the fore they have created anxiety for members. Nevertheless, I and many others continue to wrestle with the issues and contain those anxieties. Chief among those is the relationship with MFGHC. A great deal of energy is being put into conversations that already have been both healing and enlightening.

I know that this issue has generated anxiety within the healthcare chaplaincy community. This is understandable. Confrontation is not something that chaplains are comfortable with. It is clear to me that CHCC has acted as a professional body should, by maintaining its position over many years on issues that are at the heart of health-care chaplaincy. This has frequently meant that differences have had to be expressed. I think that we would not be at this strong point if that had not been the case.

It is my view that the spiritual care of patients, visitors and staff in the NHS is best served and empowered by a fully resourced chaplaincy profession that can demonstrate that it acts according to professional standards and models of practice. For this reason CHCC has pursued professional regulation and registration for chaplains as the means by which this happens.



*Keith Hutson, Unite Regional Officer, and Rev. Mark Stobert, CHCC President, at the NHS Confederation Conference and Exhibition in Liverpool, June 2010*

### Cuts

A CHCC/Unite press release earlier in the year warned NHS managers not to see chaplaincy as an easy, soft target when making efficiency savings because of financial restraint. This was followed by advice to members on good practice that demonstrates the vital part that chaplaincy plays in the clinical care of patients, the well being of staff, as well as the life of the hospital institution. The spiritual care that chaplaincy empowers is intrinsic to all aspects of healthcare.

### CHCC and Unite

All the above demonstrates how the College promotes the professional standing of healthcare chaplaincy and that of its members both nationally and within health and social care organisations. Sometimes it feels that the NPC might lack capacity because we are all doing demanding day jobs. I am particularly glad then that CHCC is part of Unite and is supported by our professional officer Carol English, who at times is holding a huge amount for us (for which we are all grateful.)

One notable success came when the Welsh Assembly Government received the Standards for Spiritual Care and for Chaplaincy that are now embedded in the NHS for Wales. These follow a similar pattern to those in Scotland and hard wire spiritual care and chaplaincy into clinical healthcare services. The College's position was only possible because Carol English acted with determination on CHCC's behalf.

Earlier in the year concerns were expressed by some members about the relationship the College has with Unite. One particular concern was been the influence that Unite may or may not have in College affairs and decisions.

The NPC discussed this at length and is emphatic that CHCC is a professionally autonomous body within Unite. All decisions reached have this fully in mind. The responsibility for managing aspects of this mutually creative relationship lies with the NPC. The NPC strives to continuously develop its capacity to fulfil this obligation.

I was invited to speak at the Roman Catholic Bishops advisors meeting back in May. When asked why Roman Catholic chaplains should belong to CHCC, I responded immediately by saying, "Because we need you!"

The pursuit of the College's aims can only be enhanced if we can hear and contain all the voices of healthcare chaplains. This is not just about an openly democratic process, but about the healthcare chaplaincy profession having a vital integrity.

The work continues...



*Participants at the CHCC multi-faith training day in Leicester, 3rd June 2010*





## HON TREASURER'S REPORT – YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2009

Nick Flood

### BRANCH FUNDS

#### Receipts

Proportion of Members' Subscriptions	2459.62
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#### Payments

Web Site Maintenance	924.12
Conference Fees/Expenses	300.00
ENHCC Participation Fee	112.34
Meeting Expenses	856.68
Sub-Branches	245.65
Funds withdrawn under rule 20	28.13

2466.92

#### Excess of Payments over Receipts

7.30

Cash & Bank Balances at 1st January 2009

45.21

#### Cash & Bank Balances at 31st December 2009

37.91

### BURSARY & TRAINING FUNDS

#### Funds generated by

Annual Study Course	3610.55
MHRG Conference	7192.75
Introductory Courses	1210.13
Faiths Day	580.00
Professional Levy	3780.00

16373.43

#### Payments

Journal Publication	1835.48
Bursaries	1400.00
Maintaining Registration Course	86.50
UKBHC - Grant	1564.00
Miscellaneous	313.59

5199.57

#### Net Receipts

11173.86

Cash & Bank Balances at 1st January 2009

8962.14

#### Cash & Bank Balances at 31st December 2009

20136.00

#### Notes

The accounts are prepared on a cash basis therefore income from Courses and Conference is only accounted for when actually paid.



## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

William Sharpe

### 1. Membership

Membership during the year experienced an initial decline; probably an effect of the ongoing staffing reductions and financial pressures in the NHS and a proportion of members getting to the age of retirement. However, for the past six months the figure has varied around 946 subscribing members. The actual paying membership of the College currently stands at 557.

New membership in the first six months of 2010 has seen a decline (18) compared to the previous year (28).

The following is the breakdown of members whose subscriptions are due:

SP1 (1 – 12 weeks arrears)	54
SP2 (13 – 26 wks arrears)	24
SP3 (over 26 weeks)	123

Members are encouraged to pay their membership subscription by direct debitmandate to avoid falling into arrears.

A further breakdown of total membership:

557 full time  
 325 part time  
 5 Associates  
 59 retired

### 2. National Professional Committee (NPC) Elections

The College Council endorsed the nomination of the President – Mark Stobert for 2010 – 2011 and Gareth Rowlands as Vice-President.

The College Council also agreed on a new Representative for the Oxford region (previously Wessex & Oxford). A ballot was held and Stephen Bushel was elected.

The following were also elected.

Gareth Rowlands	Eastern Region
Mark Burleigh	East Midlands
Simon Betteridge	West Midlands
John Glasspool	South East (Kent, Surrey & Sussex)
Chris Davis	South West
Trevor Williams	Wales

Elections will be held for the post of a Faiths Co-ordinator in July 2010, while elections for the following will be held towards the end of this year as their term of office ends:

London  
 North West  
 Scotland  
 North East

### 3. Communications with Members

I have continued to arrange and attend NPC, Executive, together with attending some Regional meetings and sub-groups as required. Contact with the President, NPC, and Executive members, and, of course, Carol English, has been regular and frequent.

Direct contact with individual members and prospective members by email and telephone, remains a large part of the Registrar's work as well as supporting all College study courses. I hope that my input has given some help to members, not only some help to members, not only in relieving some of their frustrations, but also helping in times of what are often situations of considerable personal pressure.

### 4. Website

The Council (NPC) proposed a new web designer to redesign the old College website, which has received good comments from members. I continue to support the new webmaster, Mark Burleigh, for his remarkable work done on the new site. The College web name (<http://www.healthcarechaplains.org>) will remain the same. Much of the College website is freely available to all visitors. However, there is restricted area to CHCC members only, if you are a member you can log in to this section with your **CHCC membership number** and your **surname in CAPITALS** as the password. This section is only available to paying members.

### 5. Conclusion

Looking back over the past years, I can see clearly how far CHCC and health care chaplaincy has advanced and developed to meet the challenges of a fast-changing environment. However, Chaplains are faced with some tests in the present climate under the NHS – cutbacks and uncertainty. I believe the larger acceptance of chaplaincy as a fundamental part of the professional health care team is due and I would like to acknowledge those who have taken on the responsibilities as Presidents, NPC members and the United Kingdom Board of Healthcare Chaplains (UKBHC) during this time, to promote the role and work of Health Care Chaplains. My appreciation goes to members of the College who have kept me busy and has enabled me to learn and explore new ideas in health care chaplaincy in my role as the College Registrar. I would like especially to thank Carol English, who has not only provided tremendous support to all CHCC chaplains, but also guided me through my role.

I continue to look forward to more years serving the membership of the College.



## PROFESSIONAL OFFICER REPORT

Carol English

### In General

The past 12 months have seen a tightening of budgets in the NHS with individual employers taking measures to meet budgetary targets. This situation has been compounded by the change of government and the wider financial crises.

The net result of these circumstances is that chaplaincy is, yet again, seen as an easy target. All departments including chaplaincy are being asked to make savings, vacant posts are being frozen, and those who had hoped to work on after 65 no longer have that opportunity. Those who are over 65 are being written to with a view to terminating their employment. CHCC membership is falling.

### Professional Regulation

UKBHC is working well and has progressed its agenda. It now has three big steps to make –

- Introduce a **registration fee**
- Establish a **Fitness to Practice structure**
- Let go of the **panel of professional advisers** and hand the function to the professional membership organisations

The revised Code of Conduct is ready for publication and appears on the UKBHC web site and also on the sites of the professional membership organisations.

We are grateful to the board members for the work they do to support the profession.

### Pay, terms and conditions

The new government has imposed a two year pay freeze. This means that salaries and allowances such as the RRP will not rise for the next two years (April 2011 and April 2012).

However, please be aware that annual progression through the pay spines will continue. **Do not let your NHS employer tell you otherwise.**

We continue to fight for the payment of the RRP in some NHS employers and as I write an Employment Tribunal is pending. Our lawyers had been reluctant to pursue these cases as they need to have at least a 51% chance of winning. I have recently provided extra evidence and we wait with interest to see the outcome of the case.

### Training and Development

The CHCC published its 2010 training schedule in good time last year but financial circumstances are against us and we are finding that training budgets are very tight and therefore our numbers are down. We hope that we do not have to cancel any courses but fear it might come to that. 2011 will see a less ambitious training programme that we hope will meet members' needs without being over ambitious.

### Wales

NHS Wales has published its guidance on the provision of chaplaincy and spiritual care. Much of the work was done by CHCC members and we and WAG are very grateful to Scotland for sharing their expertise and documents.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/health/publications/health/guidance/spiritualcaresstandards/>

A meeting took place on 7th July 2010 to discuss how raise awareness of the policy and roll it out in Wales. The outcome was that chaplains felt that in order to deliver the new strategy, NHS employers need to recognise the rights of chaplains to their contractual rights under Agenda for Change. A letter was to be sent raising concerns.

### Scotland

The Scottish group of CHCC has been inactive and this has concerned members. Therefore a seminar and AGM have been arranged for 19th October, to which all CHCC members and non-members in Scotland are invited.

### Meetings

I have attended all meetings of the NPC, Executive, and UKBHC over the past 12 months as well as visiting most of the CHCC training courses. In June 2010 we had another successful presence at the NHS Confed. exhibition at Liverpool, with a rota of CHCC members to promote CHCC on our stand.

### In conclusion

It seems to be a case of "batten down the hatches" for chaplaincy. We need to work together to protect services, support teams and individuals facing difficult times and promote the benefits of chaplaincy throughout all NHS employers as best we can. Membership of CHCC/Unite will become all the more important for health care chaplains as times become difficult. If any of you would like recruitment material please let William Sharpe or me know.

I recently prepared some advice for chaplaincy which may be found at [www.healthcarechaplains.org/members/defending\\_chaplaincy.php](http://www.healthcarechaplains.org/members/defending_chaplaincy.php)

## CHAIR OF EDUCATION & TRAINING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT



Tom Baron

In the current financial climate there are not so many people taking up places on training courses. It is proving difficult to fill places, especially where the various training bodies are running similar courses. It was proposed at the NPC that the College engages in dialogue with the other bodies to explore how to make

best use of all our resources, by ensuring that training programmes complement rather than duplicate each other. While the main aim would be efficiency gains, this would also help towards CHCC's objective of fostering closer working relations with the other bodies. The NPC has charged the Education and Training sub-committee to take forward this initiative.

## SUPPORT AND SUPERVISION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT



Chris Davies

During the past year the sub group met formally on two occasions. Any urgent matters were dealt with between meetings via e-mail or telephone conferences.

The key areas addressed during were as follows.

1. Practical guidance for healthcare chaplains was circulated regarding the Swine Flu epidemic.
2. Work was begun on guidance for chaplains regarding the minimum number of chaplains required to maintain a 24/7 on call service in line with the European Working Time Directive.
3. The Guidance for chaplains faced with cuts to their service in the light of the 'Worcester experience' was discussed and revisions made.
4. Support for individual chaplains regarding their working practices would continue to be offered in the first instance by Regional reps in conjunction with Carol English.
5. The importance of regular 'Clinical Supervision' was emphasised and will be part of the UKBHC agenda.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT



Mark Burleigh

Two major topics have occupied the Communications and Consultations Subgroup in the past year – the website and the journal. The redesign of the logo was also a part of the redesign of the website.

### The Website

The need to update the website has long been recognised and the subgroup made achieving this a priority. As a result the website has undergone a major overhaul and is now online. This overhaul was done with the help of Morse-Brown Design, a Birmingham based graphics design company.

The new site is designed to be more user-friendly with most information only be a few clicks from the "home page". There are also shortcut addresses to take you straight to a specific page, eg [www.healthcarechaplains.org/president](http://www.healthcarechaplains.org/president)

The password protected members' content is now accessed by using your membership number and your surname (in CAPITALS) as the password. This ensures that only those who are up to date with their CHCC subscriptions have access to the latest advice on terms and conditions, minutes of meetings and helpful information to defend Chaplaincy against threatened cuts.

A new feature of the site is the regional pages. Each region can upload its notices, meetings and other useful information. They can simply email the content they wish to be uploaded to: [web.admin@healthcarechaplains.org](mailto:web.admin@healthcarechaplains.org). To take a look for yourself go to [www.healthcarechaplains.org](http://www.healthcarechaplains.org)

The redesign of the website also means that the maintenance of the site is a different process. The new system enables the website to be updated more frequently. Mark Burleigh has been asked to take on the role of Website Administrator. Mark had been closely involved in the design process.

### The CHCC Logo

As a part of the redesign of the website the NPC agreed that the CHCC logo could be updated. The design brief was to "freshen" the logo, to make it easier to read, but to maintain continuity with the previous logo. Three options were produced free of charge by John Morse-Brown – the website designer, and of the three the new CHCC logo was selected by an email vote of the NPC. We hope you like it. The new logo is an integral part of the appearance of the website and is now appearing on any new CHCC literature.

### The Journal

It is a matter of regret that at the time of writing we have not been able to publish a journal since 2008. The subgroup has sought to address this by improving communication between the NPC and the Editorial Committee. In order to facilitate this the group has co-opted Meg Burton on to the subgroup, and both Meg and John Wood have attended meetings of the NPC.

As a result of these meetings there is a clearer understanding of the way forward, and it is planned to produce a journal later in 2010. Thanks are due to Meg, John, Chris Swift and Amar Hegedus for their work on behalf of the College.

The past three years of journal issues are on the College website.



## BURSARIES & GRANTS OFFICER REPORT



Tom Baron

The financial position of the College during 2009/10 means that we have been able to award a few small grants.

The NPC has decided that grants will only be made for external courses. Our own courses are the source of income for making grants and therefore we cannot subsidise them. Members are advised

that applications are aided by evidence of applicants having explored other sources of income.

## WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR REPORT



Mark Burleigh

Website Administrator  
website.admin@healthcarechaplains.org

At the end of April Wilf Beeson concluded his service as the website administrator. We have expressed our thanks to Wilf for all he has done to maintain the website over the past 10 years – a time during which the College website grew immensely.

During the redesign of the website, the technology used in the website authoring has moved on from the older system previously being used. This gives the opportunity for a modern feel and a clear systems of menus and sub menus. For the technically minded, the new site was created in Dreamweaver with editing permissions for Contribute CS5. The permissions allow for the addition of menus at the second level and below, which gives us the opportunity to add pages and menus without having to go back to the designer.

Since I took over the role of Website Administrator on 1 May, the site has had almost daily checks or updates – partly to add more information, but also to finalise some of the design issues.

I am constantly willing to receive relevant information for the site. I have recently added the CHCC annual reports, which were not previously available on the website. There is still a need to put more information on the Regional Pages, and I hope that it will be available soon.

If you spot a problem with the website, please do send me an email!

Please can I also thank the many people who have passed comment on the new website. I am glad that it has been well received and will work to ensure that it continues to serve the cause of Chaplaincy and the interests of the members of the College.

## NORTH WEST REGIONAL REPORT



Pat Harvey

CHCC members in the North West are very supportive of their Chaplaincy colleagues throughout the region. There is a good mix of both full-time and part-time chaplains as well as volunteers. They are drawn from various faith communities and a variety of healthcare contexts.

The annual study day and AGM was held in May. Another study day is being planned, which will be held in the autumn.

As a consequence of the financial pressures and constraints which are currently affecting the NHS, we are seeking to support to each other across the region.

The redesigned CHCC website is very welcome and it is our intention to display information on the regional page.

The North West Region is spread over a large geographical area. I am always encouraged that colleagues are willing to travel long distances, some times over 4 or 5 hours to attend meetings. I would, via this report, like to thank my colleagues for their continuing support.

The members of the region wish me to express to the CHCC Executive and to Carol English in particular their gratitude and appreciation for all the work that Carol undertakes for the benefit of healthcare chaplaincy.

## EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL REPORT



Mark Burleigh

The past year we have met together on three occasions:

In November 2009 9 members gathered in Kirkby in Ashfield and heard Alan Pringle, a University of Nottingham lecturer in Mental Health nursing, give a talk on Dementia.

It was both informative and moving.

In March 2010 7 members met in Mansfield and were led by Kalsan Gewang, an ordained Buddhist and honorary Chaplain at Burton-on-Trent. She led us in two short meditations – one that she would use for a bedside and the other designed as part of a course of meditation for staff.

In June 2010 15 members met in Derby for our AGM. Following the business we were led in discussions about Chaplaincy Supervision by Martin Kerry.

The minutes of our meetings are on the CHCC website. See [www.healthcarechaplains.org/EastMids](http://www.healthcarechaplains.org/EastMids)

A number of members have raised concerns at meetings about the financial state of the NHS and the risk that attempts will be made to reduce chaplaincy services from their already low base. The College has an important role of supporting members in such situations.

## WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL REPORT



Simon Betteridge

I became the new representative for the West Midlands in January 2010 replacing Mark Stobert following his election as national president. I attended my first NPC meeting in Sheffield as the representative in April.

We have held two meetings at the University Hospital in Coventry during 2010. At the first in March we used forms of 'liquid worship' for our opening reflection and as a stimulus for discussion. This provoked a fruitful time reflecting on the use of different forms of prayer and worship that can be useful in working with people in hospital who do not ordinarily connect with traditional forms of prayer that may be offered. This was followed by input from Mark Stobert who spoke about developments in Chaplaincy and the College, and a vision for the future.

In June Simon Moulton the co-ordinator of chaplaincy services for Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust gave a presentation on 'The challenge to try to prove that spiritual & religious healthcare makes a difference'. We have also been working with Revd Debbie Hodge, Sec. Health Care Chaplaincy Free Churches Group, on identifying what chaplains and how they do it.

I have also attended a meeting of chaplains in the Birmingham and Black Country area, offering support and updating on developments relating to chaplaincy and the college. The following is a report on their activity written by Keith Duckett.

*"The Birmingham & Black Country Healthcare Chaplains Collaborative has continued to meet every 2-3 months for mutual support and occasionally to chew over topics of mutual interest. We remain an un-constituted and informal body in terms of organisational matters. This has meant that the next meeting has usually been arranged by the forthcoming host sending out reminders, charring it on the day and making summary notes of the proceedings. Hosts have usually just contacted Lead Chaplains with reminders to be distributed more widely, so apologies to any who have somehow missed our communications.*

*"There are advantages and disadvantages to our approach, but with no-one in a position to take a more active organisational role, this has seemed the best way to keep going. Attendance has been hugely variable. We have also been open to the idea of using the same meeting date to 'add on' a CHCC meeting for those who want it; this possibility remains to be explored.*

*"A small sub-group of members got together last year to devise a trial/pilot project. The project has been as much about trialling working together on a formal project as about the project itself. We have been successfully running a training course for about 20 potential volunteers from all faiths and none. The course was open to people from all parts of our region, particularly aimed at the Black Country side, to complement the well-established course run by QE/Selly Oak for years. Course leaders have comprised chaplains from acute and mental health Trusts in the Black Country and West Birmingham; Rob Farman from Hospice Chaplaincy; plus speakers from six local faith communities. In the end we had to create a waiting list for a future course to cope with demand. We shall evaluate the whole process soon and, at this stage, expect to carry on in some form in the future."*

## SOUTH EAST (KENT SURREY & SUSSEX) REGION REPORT



John Glasspool

The Collaborative for the South East Coast is part of the SHA's Equality and Diversity Leads Group and is the network through which many of the chaplains in the region meet and exchange ideas. In the three meetings in the course of the year the group has informally adopted an assessment tool for defining capabilities

and competencies for healthcare chaplains (developed by Peter Richmond). The group has had guest speakers, including the Bishop of Guildford's Advisor for Inter-Faith Relations. Further events have included a multi-professional conference on Spiritual Care at the End of Life for the region with the Chair of the SHA End of Life Clinical Pathway Group.

Chaplains from a variety of faith and denominational backgrounds have regularly met together in local areas and occasionally met respective Bishop's Advisors in Surrey and in Sussex. This has been a useful way for me to introduce myself to the role of CHCC Representative since taking over from Peter Richmond at the beginning of the year, and also becoming aware of the particular stresses and demands made upon part time members and especially those working in isolation.

I look forward to representing the Region on the National Professional Committee and continuing the work of the Committee at the local level.

## SOUTH EAST (OXFORD REGION SUB BRANCH) REGION REPORT



Stephen Bushell

The branch has held two study days continuing to use the facilities at Ripon College Cuddesdon. The first day explored spiritual assessment where our main speaker was Dr Larry Culliford from the Royal College of Psychiatry who has promoted the importance of spiritual care and spiritual assessment in psychiatry.

During the day we continued to explore the possibility of a regional research project focussing on spiritual assessment, however we have had to conclude that no department in the region has the capacity to steer this project. Many in the branch agreed that we had learnt much through exploring the idea. But it does reveal just how difficult it is for chaplains to engage with meaningful research projects.

Our second study day focussed on 'Sustaining Hope' (making sure that we hadn't lost too much hope in conceding that we couldn't further the research project?). Our speakers were The Bishop of Oxford and a member of the L'Arche community. Both speakers enriched us as they wove together stories of hope with theological reflection.

At the branch AGM Stephen Bushell stepped down as chair and Tess Ward resigned as treasurer. The new committee was voted in:

Rev'd Jack Creagh, Chairperson  
Rev'd Louise Adey-Huish, Secretary  
Rev'd Rosie Morton, Treasurer  
Rev'd Stephen Bushell, NPC rep.



Clive Smith

I took over the role as regional representative for Yorkshire and the Humber in the late summer of 2009.

For a few years the representative of the North East Region had looked after the region. I would like to thank Jonathan Perry for his willingness to undertake this additional task with care and concern.

I have attended the two meetings of the National Professional Committee that have taken place since I took up this role. I have endeavoured to report to the membership the main points of these gatherings within a reasonable amount of time.

This is an important time for chaplaincy because of the very considerable financial constraints on Trusts and the NHS generally, pressures from those wishing to pursue a narrowly secularist agenda within public life and the possibility (at last!) of some better understanding and working relationships between the various Chaplaincy organisations.

I was very pleased to be able to support and endorse the response of the NPC to the recent review of the Hospitals Chaplaincies Council. The mood is certainly better and the opportunity must not be lost. When I was asked to consider taking on this task it was with the clear intention to seek to help overcome the problems of the past few years. I am cautiously optimistic that a way forward is emerging, but there is still quite a way to go.

I have cascaded information from CHCC and in particular its professional officer and registrar to members as soon as I can. I have had email or telephone conversations with a number of members about reviews of their service, the financial savings their teams are facing and some other matters. I am very happy to hear from any members in the region and support them in any way I can.

The region has not met for some time now and I have asked the membership if they wished for a gathering of some kind. So far, the enthusiasm for a meeting has not been strong but I am keeping the matter under review.

There are some members who attend various Chaplaincy gatherings (eg collaborative or faith based meetings such as those of a diocese) but others may be feeling a little more isolated. Their needs should not be overlooked.

I look forward to supporting members in whatever way is appropriate.



Stephen Bushell

The two main areas of work of the group this year was to host the Annual Mental Health Chaplains Conference at Hinsley Hall in Leeds in September 2009 and to produce the quarterly Mental Health Chaplains newsletter.

The group met four times in the course of the year.

The conference theme was recovery in mental health and the 50 plus delegates clearly felt this was a very relevant theme to explore. We engaged with a broad range of input and found there was great resonance with spiritual care as we heard about the need to foster hope, the importance of creative expression and the power of personal narrative. The conference also gave opportunity from chaplains from across the UK to meet, renew friendships and discuss work issues in a supportive environment. Special thanks are owing to Harry Smart and Michael Savage who took responsibility for coordinating the conference. At the Mental Health Group AGM it was agreed that the 2010 conference would be a joint conference and would see the Group collaborating with the wider college and Emma Louis agreed to represent the group on the conference planning team. It was also agreed that in 2011 we would have a conference for mental health chaplains.

The Resource group will be convening two study days for the College in 2011.

The Mental Health Chaplains newsletter has continued to be a huge success with the mailing list continuing to grow (now over 200). It is proving to be a productive way of sharing good practice and new ideas with colleagues.

Themes this year have included a write up of the conference on Recovery, different approaches to chaplaincy-spiritual care, psychosis, and work with children and young people. For the last three years, Emma Louis and Richard Allen have developed it into its current format and style. The editors are always looking for more people to contribute to the content of the newsletter and will continue to encourage a wide range of voices from within and external to the world of chaplaincy in mental health. Emma and Richard are stepping down from their roles as editors in September at the AGM and new people will be elected to continue this important work

The current members are:

Julia Head, chairperson  
Emma Louis  
Harry Smart  
Guy Harrison  
Qaisra Khan  
Michael Savage  
Stephen Bushell, NPC representative

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