

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS WEBBER – CHCC REGISTRAR (1998 – 2007)

College members past and present will be sad to hear of the death of our former Registrar, Chris Webber. To ensure his passing is not forgotten, several individuals have shared their memories of Chris below, and we hope to add any further reflections received in the next couple of weeks in order to pass on to his family - which you are welcome to send to our current Registrar William Sharpe.

I for one have some very fond memories of a great colleague who used to say to me (over a pint) that “I couldn’t do what you do as chaplains- but I can support you by doing what I do as well as I can”. I also recall someone who was able to organise meetings and conferences which remarkably *all* seemed to coincide with rugby fixtures.

Dr Simon Harrison (Vice President)

For those who did not know him, Chris Webber held the post of CHCC Registrar from September 1998, about 15 months after the College's merger with MSF, and was a great colleague and a good friend to many from the time of his appointment to his retirement in July 2007. Carol English speaks for many when she says that “CHCC/MSF did very well on the day they chose Chris from a good number of candidates for the job. He brought to the post his many years of experience and his knowledge of the health service. Chris was a great networker and CHCC benefitted from this and his tireless efforts to meet many CHCC groups and members around the UK as he could.” She also was keen to remind us that Chris's energy in this regard contributed to the considerable growth in membership of CHCC saw throughout those years.



Chris Swift presenting Chris a retiring gift for his work as CHCC Registrar

Below we have included some of the immediate responses by way of tribute...

“Oh how sad. As the Registrar he was very supportive of me as the President of the College, especially when ill-health forced me to take sick leave. I used to travel with him from Cirencester for meetings - a very early start if I was to get to him for 8! My love & best wishes to his wife & family”

Revd Canon Jane LLOYD (former CHCC President)

**Chris at his last CHCC Annual Conference in Edinburgh
2007**

"I had the pleasure of working with Chris on various College committees from the time of his appointment. He was a fantastic minute-taker and College organiser, and we owe a debt to him for the positive way in which CHCC has developed in recent years. Chris discharged his duties with characteristic wit, which transformed even the dullest meetings into entertaining occasions. When I was President Chris was a source of skilled advice and constant encouragement, which I appreciated enormously during some very difficult times. Once, in a hectic period when we were unable to find a slot to meet face-to-face, we identified a time when I was travelling from Leeds to Cardiff. We held the meeting on the train with Chris getting on in Cheltenham and travelling First Class (privileges of age!) while the conductor turned a blind eye and let me move up from Standard for an hour. Always creative, good humoured and passionately supportive of chaplaincy, Chris left a lasting legacy in the College and with those who knew and worked alongside him."



Revd Dr Chris Swift (CHCC President 2004 - 2007)

"Oh no. Very sad to hear of that news. I thought the world of him and he did us proud. The late evenings in the bar were always a pleasure – sharing a bottle of wine with really interesting stories from Chris. He was a real character who added depth to every meeting. He was a keen rugby fan and loved everything Welsh as he thought it was the seat of Rugby."

Revd Wynne Roberts (OPC member)

"This is very sad news, indeed. What a pity we didn't know before.

He was a man of great energy and commitment especially in his dealings with the College and Hospital Chaplaincy in general. He was also a tower of strength and support when the College was going through some difficult times."

Revd Nick Flood (CHCC Treasurer)

"I am stunned by the news of Chris Webber's death. I found out when I bumped into Jim Linthicum in Great Ormond Street the other day. I can't believe that I will not see Chris

again. He rang me earlier this year just to say "hello" and looking forward to meeting up when he was in London later this year.

Chris held the post of CHCC Registrar from September 1998, about 15 months after the College's merger with MSF, and was a great colleague and a good friend from the time of his appointment to his retirement in July 2007. CHCC/MSF did very well on the day they chose Chris from a good number of candidates for the job. He brought to the post his many years of experience and his knowledge of the health service. Chris was a great networker and CHCC benefitted from this and his tireless efforts to meet as many CHCC groups and members around the UK as he could. Chris's energy in this regard contributed to the considerable growth in membership of CHCC seen throughout those years.

My best memories of Chris are of enjoying perfectly organised (by Chris) CHCC functions, and at the end of the day, after Chris retired briefly to his room, his reappearance for chatter and gossip over a drink, sporting one of his wonderful rugby shirts.

So sad."

Carol English, (CHCC Professional Officer May 1997 -April 2012.)

"I first met Chris when I had to visit him during a handing over to my role as the new CHCC Registrar. I remember him in a green Rugby shirt which at that time took no notice till my first day at the OPC meeting at Wortley Hall (Sheffield) dressed in my shirt and tie the OPC members asked where my Rugby shirt was if I would like to follow the steps of my predecessor.

Much had been said about Chris and the tremendous work he had done for CHCC and like a little boy, I was shaking to think whether I could fill his role. However, his words of wisdom, tips and guidance were a great support as I grew into the role.

I want to thank Chris for the unbelievably high standard of energy, commitment and vision that he set in his superb stewardship of CHCC."

Revd William Sharpe, Registrar
