Dear Friends

This is a busy time of year for us all but hopefully you can take a moment to catch up with a few messages from myself and the executive committee which met in November.

We are well n the way to planning next year’s conference, our theme being the value and importance of communication. This is a buzz word within our organisations so we’re hoping that it will appeal to those funding your attendance. We have some excellent speakers and workshops, and we will be trying some new ideas in response to this year’s feedback. You should be able to attend more workshops and benefit from a wide range of groups on offer. One of the groups will look at funerals, as requested, so please bring resources to share.  
We are also looking for chaplains who have introduced, or work with, communication in an innovative way. Would you be willing to share this in a ‘snapshot session’ at conference?  
Please ensure that your payment is received by March 31st as Margery needs to pay the bill in advance. This may mean that you have to nag your finance team but it will really help if payments are received in this financial year.

A few other matters to bring to your attention are as follows:

###### Hospice UK conference

We were offered a stand to promote the association this year. The stand was more spacious than I imagined, so we’ll know for next year, but there was some interest and books were sold. There was not a lot of spiritual care material on the posters so it would be good to have contributions next year.

###### Executive committee

There will be vacancies to fill after the conference. Please get in touch if you are interested.

###### Student placements and on call arrangements

Many of us offer placements to students in various ways. It would be good to have more information about how these are organised and managed. It would also be helpful to gather information about how hospice chaplains organise on call in the light of some guidelines produced by CHCC. We will allow time for this discussion at conference.

I think that’s all for now and enough to take in at the moment. The executive committee and I are always pleased to hear from you, so please get in touch if you have a query, problem or just for a chat. We are in difficult times after December 12th and who knows what lies ahead. We can only try to reflect the well-worn words of St Francis: ‘Where there is despair, let me bring hope’.

Very best wishes to everyone for Christmas and the New Year

Karen

###### Karen Murphy

##### AHPCC President