

# ERICH NEWS



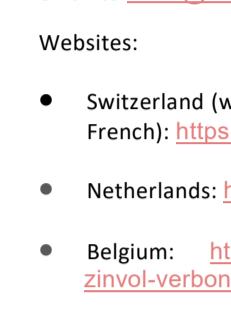
Enhancing spiritual care through chaplaincy research

APRIL 2020

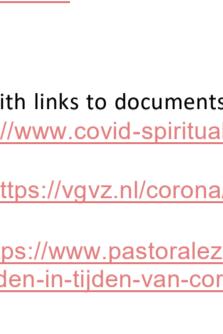
## Top stories in this newsletter



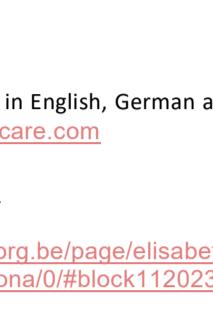
Interview with  
Eva Buelens & Lindsy



Interview with  
Nico van der Leer

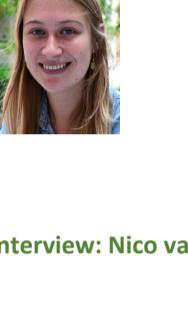


Books



Covid-19 & chaplaincy

## Covid-19 & Chaplaincy



The Covid-19 pandemic affects the lives of all of us. This also applies to the world of spiritual care. The effects, problems, initiatives, opportunities offered by this situation have been brought together on websites in various countries. In this newsletter we mention three. If you know any more websites, report it to us. Then we place the links on our website. You can email to [erich@enhcc.eu](mailto:erich@enhcc.eu)

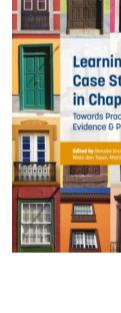
Websites:

- Switzerland (with links to documents in English, German and French): <https://www.covid-spiritualcare.com>
- Netherlands: <https://vgvz.nl/corona/>
- Belgium: <https://www.pastoralezorg.be/page/elisabeth-zinvol-verbonden-in-tijden-van-corona/0/#block1120231>

## Interview: Eva Buelens & Lindsy Desmet



Eva Buelens and Lindsy Desmet are **doctoral researchers** in Belgium at KU Leuven. They both have been chaplains for a couple of years and are very familiar with researching spiritual care. Lindsy worked for two years in a **nursing home** for older adults and was former coordinator of ERICH. Eva worked for four years at the **University Hospitals** of Leuven and was also former coordinator of ERICH. Their research projects focus on the impact of spiritual care and are strongly connected to each other. Both are passionate researchers with a warm heart for patients and spiritual care. [Read the interview here](#)



## Interview: Nico van der Leer



Nico van der Leer hopes to defend his **PhD thesis** on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 at the University for Humanistic Studies in Utrecht. But in these corona times nothing is certain. Meantime he is willing to share some results of his research with us. Central question is: **What is the connection between care practices and the perception of meaning in the context of the nursing home, and what role could the chaplain play to reinforce this connection?** Nico wrote his thesis while working as a chaplain and researcher in PZC Dordrecht, an institution for rehabilitation and elderly care. A challenging combination that bore fruit. [Read the interview here](#).

## New Staff Member



Since February of this year Joost Verhoef works for ERICH as the new PROM coordinator and administrative coordinator. Joost works also as chaplain in OLVG Hospital Amsterdam. He succeeds Lindsy Desmet. You can read about her current activities in this newsletter.

## New books



**Chaplaincy and the Soul of Health and Social Care: Fostering Spiritual Wellbeing in Emerging Paradigms of Care.** Ewan Kelly, John Swinton, 2019.

Gathering together thoughts and visions of experienced practitioners, academics, educators and strategic leaders from around the world, this edited volume sheds light on the nature of chaplaincy and its role and significance within ever-changing contemporary healthcare systems. A wide range of issues central to spiritual care delivery are covered, including reflections on what it feels like to be cared for by a chaplain through illness; the nature of chaplaincy as a profession; and how chaplains can engage with healthcare institutions in ways that have integrity yet are also deeply spiritual. The focus throughout is that chaplaincy should not only be guidance for people in distress, as a form of crisis intervention, but is rather about helping to promote wellbeing and enhance people's quality of life. Where specialisms tend to fragment systems and individuals, this book seeks to show that true health and wellbeing can only be found through a holistic approach, and shows how chaplaincy can bring this to the table. This book is for anyone who recognises the centrality of spirituality for wellbeing, and wishes to see what that might look like in practice.



**Learning from Case Studies in Chaplaincy. Towards Practice Based Evidence & Professionalism.** Renske Kruizinga, Jacques Körver, Niels den Toom, Martin Walton, Martijn Stoutjesdijk (eds.), 2020.

The recent production of case studies in chaplaincy combines the narrative nature of chaplaincy with the rigors of research demanded in contemporary care settings. The contributions in this volume from both practitioners and academic researchers join reflections on the challenges and promises of case study research in chaplaincy care with the results of specific case studies. Based on reflections on methodology and professionalization in chaplaincy, the volume hopes to contribute to answering the question of how and why chaplaincy works. As such, the book aims for a wide readership of scholars, chaplains and policy makers. Learning from Case Studies originated from the first international conference on case study research in chaplaincy care that was held in Amsterdam in 2019.

Prof. dr. Anne Vandenhoeck, Director of ERICH, KU Leuven, Belgium, states: "This book is a valuable Western European contribution to the international emerging field of chaplaincy research."

Rev. Dr. Andrew Todd, Director of the Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology, Anglia Ruskin University, England, states: "This significant book represents a step-change in research into effective chaplaincy practice. Building on previous work, led by Fitchett and Nolan, chaplains and academics offer new case studies, but also develop this critically reflective approach together. Chapters on methodology show how case studies, especially when analysed comparatively, provide important evidence for how and why chaplaincy

## New date for 16th Consultation of the ENHCC

works."

Cheryl Holmes, OAM, CEO Spiritual Health Association, Australia, says: "At the heart of chaplaincy are stories, and this collection combines reverence for the stories themselves alongside a critical exploration of how these cases engage with the important issues of our times: what it means to be a profession and to have a professional identity and the need for research that recognises the integral relationship between practice and evidence. This book provides a significant contribution to the current conversations in the spiritual care field."

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