

Minutes of the Executive Meeting of the AHPCC held at 27 Tavistock Square London on Tuesday July 12th 2016

Present:

Sally Bedborough, David Buck, Margery Collin, Tom Duncanson, Carol Gully, Matthew Hagan, Nigel Mason, Keith Morrison, Karen Murphy, Mike Rattenbury, Liza Waller, Bob Whorton, Gary Windon

Apologies: There were none.

How are we? A sharing together (un-minuted!)

Thanks given to Tom who is leaving chaplaincy and therefore resigns his post on the executive – he shall be missed.

Simon O'Donaghue (of the Non-Religious Pastoral Support network) by invitation came to speak with us. He explained that arising out of a scoping project, with the British Humanist association, they had concluded that there was a need for such support so that people could be given a choice, that it was not to secularise chaplaincy (so the National Secular Society sat differently to the Network) and so a capacity to meet that need was found and established (after a trial at Guy's Hospital London) which revealed that some people of no faith were not likely to access religious or faith-based chaplaincy provided. A training programme (free and held over a weekend, involving role-play and reflective diaries) is delivered where pastoral support carers (currently 100) received authorisation for competency. The Network is distinct from the BHA in that it does not claim all non-religious "our congregation" and is a separate entity (with its own governance, training tools, written constitution, assurance and insurance) and the accreditation process has taken 2 years to develop (around competencies, person spec., recruitment and pastoral carer). Pastoral support is not from a humanist perspective but is to do with empathy and at the interview stage one question is How do you feel working with multi-faith chaplaincy? It is not a proselytising position. About a 10 per cent failure is recorded from the weekend training for it is about which talents and skills are deemed most appropriate.. CPD opportunities are being developed (ie with prisons) and there is a Code of Conduct – all details may be found on www.nrpsn.co.uk Membership with the healthcare Chaplaincy faith and Belief group has been agreed on a trial period and the network requested a change of name of the group which has yet to be finalised but might become the Pastoral Spiritual and Religious care in health group. The future will be further development of training and accreditation (for example: Masters' degree)

Questions from the executive were concerned over matters which included questioning "spiritual advisory" and terminology challenges ("secular" is a provocative term), that the BHA and NRPSN are non-compatible, the use of the word "pastoral," a chaplaincy team is all-inclusive and can be non-religious, that prayer by a non-religious pastoral carer if they

are comfortable with that request themselves, the distinction between rational and emotional responses from chaplains to non-religious support carers and the equality issue.

Thanks were expressed to Simon for his presentation and openness.

The Minutes of the executive meeting 15th May 2106 were accepted and signed.

Conference 2016 The evaluation summary was presented by Tom and the very helpful format was acknowledged with thanks to Judith Drury (a cheque for £50 has been sent by way of gratitude) for her work in compiling it. Overall comments from delegates were positive, although questions were raised concerning holy communion and it was felt that this might not be appropriate to be offered at the next conference. 5 outstanding fees had been followed up by Margery. A question arose regarding payment for CPD points? We noted that we had not been invoiced and Margery agreed to contact David Mitchell.

Conference 2017: Swanwick May 15-17. Liza volunteered to convene with Sally. The booking system is now changed and shall be via Margery. A request for a female chaplain (and Rehannah will be approached by Liza). Speakers to be asked for their availability are Linda Woodhead, academic sociology of philosophy and religion (Sally and Liza to ask), Mark Burleigh – President of the College of Healthcare chaplains (by Karen), John Swinton (by Margery) and Simon O’Donaghue (by Karen). It was noted that a request in the evaluation return on this year’s conference sought workshops which dealt with practical aspects and creative refreshment workshops (in music, art, poetry, meditation) could be offered. Volunteers in chaplaincy can be invited to join (at reduced rate).

Potential title of next conference: the place of faith and belief in spiritual care: working in/with diversity

ACTION: LIZA, SALLY, MARGERY, KAREN

Web-site: Gary to take over the work from Mike and this was about to happen. All correspondence for web-site should be addressed editor@ahpcc.org.uk

Richard has suggested a refreshing of the current web-site to make it more aesthetically pleasing.

Membership: Membership: 160 members. 17 *more* have not renewed and some will be “followed up” by Exec. Members. *Mike noted that a significant proportion of members were opting out of involvement in research when joining or renewing membership.* Karen said that following the scoping project it would be good to include a questionnaire with questions appertaining to hours, title etc. *Mike suggested including one or two of these as basic information on the 2017 membership form.*

Treasurer’s report: Margery reported that the deposit account stood at £9000.00; the current account at £24,000 (£4500 received in membership fees, conference book sales =£79.53; conference expenses £10,000, exec expenses £447 in 2015, £1912 for current year to date (because of bi-annual European trip to Budapest)

Group reports: SW regional meeting overnight on 1st/2nd November; East Anglia meet 14th July with bring and share quiet day; NW met in Carlisle (with pro Stephen Wright's workshop on burnout and sacred space cf www.sacredspace.org.uk); Yorkshire met 4 times a year: in April 11 were present and 10 apologies at St Leonards hospice and meet next 21st July; South central meet in September; Oxon. meet at Nettlebeds hospice in September with a Jungian therapist chaplain; Scotland meet 3 times a year (June at St Columbas and September in Glasgow) and there was meeting in collaboration with the Scottish government concerning well-being, faith with the elderly; AHPCC NI & Donegal Regional Group

The member of the AHPCC Northern Ireland and Donegal Regional Group continue to meet on a regular basis. Our March meeting this year was held in Letterkenny Hospice where we were welcomed very warmly and had a tour of the hospice facilities. Due to the number of apologies received our May meeting was cancelled and was due to be held in Marie Curie Hospice, Belfast. Our next meeting will be held in October in the Southern Area Hospice, Newry. The meetings are always well attended and it is a wonderful opportunity for hospice chaplains to meet together for friendship and fellowship. One of our members Mrs Caroline McAfee retired recently as Senior Chaplain at the Northern Ireland Hospice, Belfast and we wish Caroline every blessing for the future.

The CLF met in June (with Simon O'Donoghue) – and Karen shall circulate details when she receives. **ACTION: KAREN**

HCFBG (Health Care Faith and Belief Group) received the application from the NRPSN and as part of their discussions with NRPSN looked at terminology, 5 marks of chaplaincy. Also impact of cuts in NHS funding to the group discussed'.

ENHCC Karen and Margery attended the conference in Budapest Hungary (23 countries represented, 67 delegates) and its focus was on research and spiritual care (findings and summary to be placed on our web-site in due course). Margery commented upon apparent youthfulness of some European chaplains and questioned "formation"

EAPC - do we wish Andrew Woodhead from St Christopher's? Yes and inviting him to our February meeting **ACTION: GARY**

APSE (association for pastoral supervision and education) – a 2 day conference planned in Birmingham with Jane Lead as main speaker

The Book! Bob reported progress as a "patchwork quilt" but is on target for getting the material through to the publishers by 1st January 2017 **ACTION: BOB and KAREN**

There was no correspondence

A.O.B.: Next meetings: Thursday 6th/Friday 7th October Etrop Hotel Manchester

Thursday 2nd February 2017 Churches Together, 27 Tavistock Square London

Meeting closed 3.30pm with prayers lead by Karen.