

Dear Member,

Welcome to this latest edition of the Spirituality and Psychiatry Newsletter, No. 16, November 2004.

We are grateful to Dr. David Hope, Archbishop of York for permission to reproduce the text of his talk 'Spiritual Aspects of Caring', given at the College Annual Meeting in Harrogate. We also include in this issue the texts of talks given at the last one-day meeting of the Spirituality and Psychiatry Group at the College on 22nd of October, entitled 'A Fatal Wound? Who and what does suicide destroy? Our thanks to Dr. Mike Shooter, Dr. Cherrie Coghlan and Dr. Sally O'Brien for their sensitive and searching contributions to the programme, and for permission to reproduce their texts.

In this Newsletter advance notice is given of an open joint programme with the RSM, to be held on May 9th next on 'Healing from Within and Beyond – the Therapeutic Use of Altered States'. Our last programme held with the RSM, in May 2002 on 'The Place of Spirituality in Psychiatry' was very successful and we hope our next will be every bit as good. So put it in your diary now - full details will be given in Newsletter No. 17, in February 2005.

Our next one-day meeting, to be held at the College on January 28th 2005 is to be 'What inspires the psychiatrist? Personal beliefs, attitudes and values'. There will be a morning of talks and discussion and in the afternoon a workshop, based on the 'Values in Healthcare' initiative (see Newsletter No. 15 and the SIG homepage). Many psychiatrists begin their trainings fired by enthusiasm and a sense of vocation - not so easily maintained in the face of what can come to feel like an impossible job. The programme is intended to explore what we personally can offer at our best in the service of helping others, while at the same time finding ways to replenish our inner reserves.

We hope the day will be informative, enjoyable and refreshing. To apply, either return the printed application form in your copy of News and Notes, or contact Sue Duncan direct at the College.

Our membership continues to grow – at the last count nearly 850. Please let me have any articles you have written that you would like to see published on our Website, as Word or rtf files to rcpsych@rcpsych.ac.uk and headed 'for the attention of Dr. Andrew Powell'.

With best wishes,

Andrew Powell (editor)