

Dear Member,

Newsletter No. 13 is a larger issue than usual, because it additionally contains the lectures given at the College Annual Meeting in July at Edinburgh under the heading 'Spirituality in Psychiatry – Broadening our Horizons'. We are grateful to the three speakers, Professor Andrew Sims, Dr. Peter Fenwick and Dr. Robert Lawrence for permission to reproduce the texts of their talks.

The Special Interest Group Annual Business Meeting was also held at Edinburgh, with the formal election of Professor Andrew Sims to the chair. Other officers now serving on the Executive are Dr. Julian Candy, Honorary Secretary, Dr. Gillian Broster, Treasurer, Dr. Larry Culliford, Membership Secretary, Dr. Andrew Powell, Editor and Dr. Cherrie Coghlan, Programme Co-ordinator.

In this issue, a paper is included by E. Paul Chapple on Mental Health and Religion: A Guide for Service Providers. It takes its place alongside the contributions in Newsletter No. 11 on NHS Chaplaincy, Spiritual Care in NHS Scotland and the project report by NIMHE as one of a number of initiatives exploring the relationship of spirituality and mental health care with implications for service planning and resource.

The SIG joined with the Scientific and Medical Network and the British Psychological Society to host a three-day residential conference in August on 'Healing, Prayer and Forgiveness: Frontiers in Consciousness Research and Applied Spirituality'. The conference was deemed to have been very successful and a report is included by Dr. Julian Candy. Recordings can be obtained from Conference Cassettes, email confcass@lineone.net, Tel: 01453 766411

Lastly, we have the talks given at the most recent meeting of the SIG, on October the 10th on Spiritual Issues in Child Psychiatry. Our thanks to the speakers, Dr. John Edmondson, Dr. Kedar Dwivedi, Dr. Valerie Clark and Margaret Kennedy for their texts, and for their contributions to what was a most informative and enjoyable programme.

Please note that if you have articles you would like to submit, either for the Newsletter or for the Publications Archive, they should be emailed as Word or rtf files to rcpsych@rcpsych.ac.uk

With best wishes,
Andrew Powell (editor)