

SPIRITUALITY AND PSYCHIATRY SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Newsletter No. 28, December 2009



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Dear Member,

Welcome to this latest edition of the Spirituality and Psychiatry Newsletter, No. 28, December 2009. In this issue we have three papers given at the last SIG meeting on the 20th November 2009 on 'Spirituality and Religion – Friends or Foes?' held at 15 Belgrave Square. Our warm thanks go to Professors Kate Loewenthal, Patricia Casey and Douglas Davies for making their texts available to us.

The meeting was well subscribed and there was a lively debate, all managed with good humour by our distinguished speakers. It is refreshing that these days we can so readily discuss topics that even 10 years ago would have been felt to be treading on thin ice.

Following the programme, a reception was held in the College to mark the launching of 'Spirituality and Psychiatry', which we are told is selling well. (You will find a flyer in the Newsletter with purchasing details). In the meantime, progress on the PMETB front has been lamentably slow and, once again, the Executive is putting forward proposed amendments to the College curriculum. We hope, therefore, that the book will help to remedy what we see as an important deficit in the psychiatric literature in the UK.

Prof. Chris Cook, Dr. Simon Dein and Dr. Larry Culliford represented the SIG at the College conference 'Evolving Services, Evolving Treatments' held in Cardiff on 15th/16th October by the Faculty of General and Community Psychiatry, and a synopsis of their presentations is included. The Executive is very glad to contribute to all conference programmes being run by the College

Our next SIG programme will be on April 16th 2010, again at the SCI, on '**Spiritual and Religious Healing: Implications for Mental Healthcare**'. Further details can be found in this Newsletter and in the December issue of News and Notes mailed to SIG members. This is a controversial subject and we look forward to a very interesting programme. Please book early to ensure your place, along with guests you may wish to bring.

As always, please let me have any articles you have written that you would like to offer for publication on our Website, in rtf. or Word, to sduncan@rcpsych.ac.uk and headed 'for the attention of Dr. Andrew Powell'.

With best wishes,

Dr. Andrew Powell