

Dear Member,

Welcome to this latest edition of the Spirituality and Psychiatry Newsletter, No. 17, February 2005.

We 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 28th January 2005, entitled 'What Inspires the Psychiatrist? Personal beliefs, attitudes and Values'. Our thanks to the speakers, Professor Chris Cook, Dr. Iqbal Singh and Dr. Shauki Mahomed for their enlivening contributions, and to Dr. Sarah Eagger and Dr. Nicki Crowley for the excellent workshop held in the afternoon on 'How Values in Healthcare can Inspire'. Summary texts and a report on the workshop are contained within.

In this Newsletter full details are given of a forthcoming open joint programme with the Royal Society of Medicine, to be held on May 9th next on 'Healing from Within and Beyond – the Therapeutic Power of Altered States'. Our last programme held jointly with the RSM, in May 2002 on 'The Place of Spirituality in Psychiatry' was very successful and we hope this will be as interesting and enjoyable. Space at the RSM is limited so please book early to make sure of a place.

We are also looking forward to the SIG programme 'What is the relation of Spirituality to Psychiatry today?' at the College Annual Meeting in Edinburgh on Wednesday 22nd June, 10.45 – 12.00. We have two distinguished speakers, Professor John Swinton speaking on 'Why psychiatry needs spirituality' and Professor Peter Gilbert on 'Give me strength – infusing spirit into organisations: feedback from the NIMHE spirituality project'.

For your diaries, you may like to note now that our autumn one-day programme for SIG members will be at the College on 21st October, on the topic of Learning Disability.

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)