

## EDITORIAL

The new editorial team of the Scottish Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy have had the content of Volumes 10.1 and 10.2 of the journal determined in advance, as these issues contain the papers submitted to the journal's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference held in Crieff earlier this year.

Those of us who were able to attend this conference remember a particularly helpful series of presentations on subjects ranging from the journal itself to changes and challenges in healthcare chaplaincy over the past ten years; from specific issues facing particular disciplines within chaplaincy to the global context of healthcare chaplaincy in a world which now contains acts of terrorism.

Feedback from the conference was almost entirely positive and delegates seem to have appreciated both the range and depth of the presentations and workshops.

The previous issue of the journal contained the conference contributions which examined changes and challenges within healthcare chaplaincy and which looked at the achievements of the journal itself over the past ten years. This was supplemented with papers from two of the workshops; one coming from Mental Healthcare Chaplaincy and the other making a plea for Gerontological Chaplaincy as a specialist discipline.

This issue contains Ann Belford Ulanov's excellent paper on chaplaincy and global terrorism. Many of the feedback forms identified this as one of the highlights of the conference and, speaking personally, I know that I found Professor Ulanov's presentation both exciting and challenging. She brought to the conference her particular knowledge and experience borne of her work in New York City at the time of the 9/11 attacks.

The concept of 'The Remnant' is one to which I have returned frequently since it was raised in such a helpful way at the conference. It has specific applications to the work of healthcare chaplaincy, which have been underlined by Professor Ulanov, but it also nourishes and helps at a personal level as

the chaplain deals personally and theologically with the issues faced on a daily basis. These issues can result directly from the work of chaplaincy, or simply arise from our being part and parcel of the world of the remnant to which Professor Ulanov refers.

The other articles in this edition of the journal are from the remaining four workshops at the Crieff conference and cover areas as diverse as healthcare chaplaincy in a renal unit, multi-disciplinary working in a hospice, chaplaincy support following *in-utero* death of a baby, and bereavement support for children.

Each one of these papers gives insight to the deep involvement of the chaplain in the particularities of individual suffering. The chaplain is clearly involved in diverse situations, but at depth and with intensity. This highlights Professor Ulanov's comments on working with, and as part of, the remnant community and the work of the chaplain being that of making connections so that the broken can have some sense of wholeness and meaning.

I am delighted that we now have, in print, a full record of the proceedings of a very successful conference. Time has a corrosive effect on the memory, and it will be good, as the years roll on, to look back on what was achieved to mark and celebrate 10 years of the journal.

The editors are well aware that volumes 10.1 and 10.2 of the journal are the result of much hard work on the part of many people.

In particular, we would like to thank Tom Gordon, the chair of the organising committee and chair of the conference itself, for the time, energy and generosity of spirit which he gave to this project. It was always greatly reassuring to know that someone of Tom's immense capability was at the helm.

We would also like to record our grateful thanks to our main sponsors, NHS Education Scotland and SACH who gave generously to the conference and

without whose significant financial backing the conference could not have taken place.

In closing, I would reiterate Noel Brown's appeal for research and for writing. The journal is only as good as its contributions, and needs to reflect accurately the work that is being done in the field of healthcare chaplaincy. For this to happen, we need more of the kind of articles Noel Brown high-

lighted, but particularly reporting of research and critical reflection on the clinical and systematic practice of chaplaincy.

It is my firm belief that every working chaplain has something to say about her or his work and that every working chaplain is engaged in action research. So be encouraged, and send us your articles.