



SACH

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# Soundings

## Jean is the New Convener



**R**ev Jean Gallacher replaces the Rev Stewart McGregor as convener of the 'Hospitals, Healthcare and Universities Sub-Committee'. So who is this mysterious person and what attributes does she bring to the sub-committee? The first thing that you notice about Jean is her warm, welcoming smile and her open, friendly demeanor. Jean is currently minister at Dunipace Parish Church and has

faithfully served as minister there since she was ordained and inducted in 1989. She is a well known face within Falkirk presbytery, and is presently completing her year as Moderator.

In addition to her parish and presbytery commitments, Jean has a long standing interest in health issues eg she has served in previous years as a part-time hospital chaplain and as a member of the Local Health Council, before her current appointment as a Non-Executive Director on Forth Valley NHS Board (1995). Responsibilities arising from her current post include chairing the Audit Committee and the Forth Valley Ethics of Research Committee as well as participating in

Communications, Clinical Governance and Remuneration Committees.

Jean's interest in health matters had further evolved through her on-going commitment to personal and professional development. Her current studies include completion of a Diploma in Counselling, with the National Counselling Service at Wallace House, Edinburgh and the Doctor of Ministry Program at Princeton (where she is focusing upon chaplaincy as her area of specialisation).

What does Jean do to relax? Well, she can be seen hillwalking, or on the dance floor enjoying ballroom and Latin dancing .... if she is too tired to do this, then she simply enjoys entertaining.

## Anyone for Gardening?

**W**atch out for Orkney's Balfour Hospital Chapel garden on the BBC Scotland programme, The Beechgrove Garden. Presenters Jim McColl and Carole Baxter are discussing the plans for the hospital chaplaincy garden makeover with the chaplains, Mike Ward and Christine Laird, and hospital staff, in preparation for the mini-makeover of the garden in early August 2002.

Mike and Christine say they were delighted to hear the news

about the garden. 'At the moment the small garden is very uninspiring and it is rarely used,' said Christine. 'We want to put in French windows to make the garden and the chapel corridor accessible for patients to enjoy. When it is finished, the garden should be a very sheltered, peaceful and reflective place for patients and staff.'

The garden designers are aware that the final phase of a £10 million building programme is due to start at the hospital in the

next couple of years. One of the design briefs will be to make the garden transportable if the chapel gets a new home.

Volunteers from the hospital staff will be used to do some of the preparatory work, which will form half of one programme when it is transmitted in mid August.

The Chapel garden was chosen from over 60 entries submitted for consideration.

## Writing for Publication

Last August, the editors of our parish magazine were appealing for contributions. As people are always asking me about my work as Chaplain at Roxburghe House, I thought it would be good to write an article. My aim was to inform readers about the kind of place it is and the type of work I do, because people often have the wrong ideas about both. Needless to say, one article did not suffice. Nine months later, I'm still writing a monthly article, and the minister of another local church has also requested them for his parish magazine. The level of interest I've received has been tremendous.

This encouraged me to broaden my horizons, and so in October last year, I embarked on a course run by Dundee University entitled 'Writing for Publication'. It was to take place over four sessions between October 2001 and April 2002, and was advertised as being for anybody who wanted to write, no matter the reason - for the in-house rag, for a major publication, to publish research etc. The aim was to work on an article over the six months of the course, and submit it at the end.

There were three teacher/tutors on the course, all of whom had experience of writing and being published many times - and who, as they kept reminding us, had

received just as many rejections! The teaching sessions covered such topics as 'Strategies for Successful Writing', 'Referencing Techniques', 'Structuring a Paper', 'Different Articles for Different Readership', 'Writing Styles', 'The Role of Reviewers', 'The Rules of Submission', 'Reshaping an Article', and 'Maintaining Motivation'. Between sessions, we worked on our articles. There was a 'buddy' system for mutual support, we were each allowed two one-to-one tutorials, and had e-mail access to our tutor throughout. The cost was £50, which my manager was happy to fund.

To be fair, as can be seen from the topics involved, the course did lean heavily towards more formal writing, and was perhaps encouraging us to go further than the in-house rag (or parish magazine!). Most of the students were nurses who wished to publish research. I was the first Chaplain to do the course, and the leaders had never seen a chaplaincy publication. My tutor initially said that I couldn't write in the first person, until I proved to her that most people writing on chaplaincy do exactly that! The Editors of 'The Scottish Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy' were kind enough to accept my article in January, making me the first student to complete, submit, and have an article

accepted! However, my subject matter was not as weighty as others.



I find that the course has helped me to be a lot more disciplined in my writing. The last few submissions to the parish magazine certainly flowed better than the first. I've also now written for the last edition of 'Soundings' and NHS Tayside's Staff Newsletter. All of this is good for the profile of chaplaincy, as was the fact that I did a course along with other professions in the first place. I would encourage all chaplains to take up their pens and write - or keyboards and type (!) - as we have something worthwhile to say. That was certainly the opinion of both my tutors and fellow students on the course, who felt they would view the chaplains in their places of work in a different light, after reading my article. Even doing as I did at first, and writing for your own parish or church magazine, would be invaluable in spreading understanding of our task. I believe that other universities run the kind of course that I undertook, so why not give it a try?

**Yvonne Hendrie**  
Chaplain, Roxburghe House  
Dundee

## Study Days

There are full reports on the Training Website of two Study Days for Chaplains held recently. Alister Bull, the chaplain at Yorkhill has written about the **Maternity Day** held in Paisley in March. [[www.chaplains.co.uk/matty.htm](http://www.chaplains.co.uk/matty.htm)]

Euan Macleod of Allanbank Wellcare Home in Dumfries has written about the day held in Perth in May entitled, "When I'm 64" - about caring for older people. [[www.chaplains.co.uk/older2002\\_report.htm](http://www.chaplains.co.uk/older2002_report.htm)]  
If you don't have access to the Internet you can get copies of these reports from Chris Levison, the Training and Development Officer.

# JOURNAL

Since its first issue in November 1998, the Scottish Journal of Healthcare Chaplaincy has continued to develop in the breadth and depth of its contributions, and to increase its reputation as an important and worthwhile publication in the field of healthcare chaplaincy and beyond. It has tackled a wide range of topical issues, from advance directives to the theological considerations surrounding asylum seekers, as well as reflecting upon the meaning of spirituality and the nature of pain. The current issue (Vol 5 No 1) has generated interest far beyond the ranks of chaplains, featuring as it does a series of reports from the recent conference 'Spirituality in Health and Community Care'.

The Editorial Board is seeking to generate articles from as wide a cross-section as possible

of those involved in health care, who are interested in the ethical, cultural, pastoral and theological implications of development in that field. We wish to hear from both practitioners and academics; from those undertaking study leave or academic study, and from those reflecting on their day to day practice. We are looking for responses to published articles, in the form of letters to the editor. We invite the poets among you to share your work with us. This is your Journal, and will become what you make it. So take courage and contribute.

**David Mitchell**

(journal@sach.org.uk)

**Georgina Nelson**

(hospitalchaplain@wlt.scot.nhs.uk)

## Welcome to Wishaw



It is now almost a year since we moved from Law Hospital to Wishaw General and things are starting to settle down. There were the expected upsets amongst the staff when new working practices were introduced, but it seems that these teething troubles are in the past.

As far as chaplaincy goes, it has been quite a hectic time. Wishaw

General is in fact an amalgamation of hospitals, mainly Law and Bellshill Maternity. The chaplaincy team from Law Hospital, Revs David Young,

David Collins, Graeme McKay and Jim Allardyce along with Father Charlie O'Farrell and Sister Margaret Forde, formed the new team at WGH along with the chaplain from Bellshill, Rev Sharon Colvin. Deciding who was to do what was the biggest headache. At Law Hospital the Protestant chaplains had responsibility for a block each, four blocks, four chaplains. One other chaplain acted as secretary. Here at WGH we had everything under one roof, though along several corridors! Things were sorted out to everyone's

satisfaction and all went well until Graeme resigned to take up a charge in Toowoomba, Australia. We were fortunate that Rev Jim Hastie had some time to offer to us and he is now helping out. We hope that this is a temporary state of affairs as we have been pressing for a whole time post to be set up.

For the chaplaincy centre itself we could not have been better treated. The church has been described as 'A beautiful place.' 'Such a restful place, the colour is so peaceful'. and 'So peaceful, a joy to just sit in'. And it is all of these and more. We have been showered with gifts. The Gideons International presented us with a complete set of Pew Bibles as well as a presentation Bible for the chaplains. The Hospital Art Strategy Group commissioned a Lectern Fall and Table Runner to compliment the stained glass window which was brought from the church in Law Hospital. The Hospital Endowment Fund bought us a Digital Piano, so we don't have to worry whether we have an organist or not. We hold Services on Sundays, Protestant in the

morning, Catholic in the afternoon. Soon we hope to go 'On the Air' with Radio Law and broadcast the services to those who cannot get to the church.

We also have a Quiet Room as part of the chaplaincy centre. This is available for all to use at any time, and it is used. SANDS have their meetings there on one

Monday evening per month and there have been other users. But the big attraction is the church. It is not unusual for any of us to go into the church and find someone sitting in one of the seats, perhaps reading a Bible or just admiring the window. The church is situated almost on the main crossroads of the hospital and is so easy to access that many

people who might otherwise just have walked by come in to see it. Perhaps this is the way we are to minister to the people in WGH, just by being there.

**Jim Allardyce**  
Chaplain,  
Wishaw General Hospital

## Notes from the Hospitals Healthcare and Universities Sub-Committee

**Laura Vermeulen**, Communications Officer for National Mission attended the meeting and is keen to highlight the work and interests of chaplains in the National Mission newspaper. Chaplains are encouraged to share with her any news-worthy work or activity in which they are involved.

The **Spirituality Guidelines** have still to be issued to Trusts. It is understood that the delay may have something to do with Data Protection and chaplains' access to patient information. It's good to note that in some areas - chaplains in conjunction with their own Trusts are taking the initiative to launch study days and conferences to highlight Spiritual Care in their local NHS areas. NHS Orkney may have been the first to do so, following the Health Minister's address at the Stirling Conference in November, when the guidelines were made public. Let's hope Chaplains everywhere will take the opportunity which these guidelines have given us to put Spiritual Care on their local Trust agenda.

**Study Leave Scheme.** In conversation with Angus Matheson at Ministry, John Thomson affirmed that the National Mission scheme mirrors Ministry but there are issues and disparities. One such issue is the cost of *locum* cover for chaplains where there is only one chaplain in post of a small team of two.

The Sub-committee plan to build an element of support into the scheme for future applications from chaplaincies where there is only one or two post holders.

Various **reviews** have taken place this spring and a number of **study leave applications/reports** were also dealt with. It's good for all of us when study leave reports are made available for printing in *SACH Soundings* - keep them coming!

At the close of the meeting it was clear that the highlight was, in fact, the opening devotions! Stewart McGregor read an extract from a dissertation by Michael Wilson: "Hospital Chaplaincy, a place of truth", 1971, reflecting on the role of the chaplain. I thought I'd end this report with an extract! *"....at ease with all men and women, young and old, consultant or domestic, because at ease with ...self. Friend of all but concerned for the greatest good of each even to wounding. a peace-maker, but not through escape.."*

**Ian McDonald**  
Chaplain at Kirkcaldy, represents SACH on HHU Sub-committee

### Comings and Goings

**T**wo new Whole-time chaplains have been appointed to Greater Glasgow Primary Care NHS Trust from 13 May 2002. They are: **Rev Gordon Armstrong**, Minister of the United Free Church of Scotland and part-time chaplain at Southern General Hospital, Mental Health wards and **Anne MacDonald**, Deaconess of the Church of Scotland and part time chaplain, GGPC NHS Trust. The whole-time post at Inverclyde Royal in Greenock, vacated by Liz Crumlish, has been re-advertised with a closing date of 10 May.

## Andrew is Policy Development Co-ordinator



**A**ndrew Moore lives in Ayrshire and has a background in general nursing. Qualifying as an RGN in 1993, Andrew has held several nursing posts within Ayrshire &

Arran. He has a Degree in Health Studies and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Nursing (Management) at the University of Glasgow.

Prior to his secondment as Policy Development Co-ordinator, he has been employed as a Clinical Effectiveness Facilitator for the last three years with the Acute Trust in Ayrshire.

His duties included facilitating projects covering all aspects of clinical effectiveness activity, which has included policy development. Also part of Andrew's remit was the project

management of several accreditation projects, some of which were UK firsts. In particular achievement of Health Services Accreditation for Care of the Dying sparked his interest in spiritual care.

Andrew is married with one son and in his spare time enjoys a round of golf and attempting to restore classic cars.

Andrew is looking forward to the challenges his new position will bring and is keen to promote spiritual care as an integral part of a holistic approach to delivering care within the NHS in Scotland.

## Scratchings from the TDO

**N**ow we are three - no it's not the next adventure of Christopher Robin or Winnie the Whats'is name. It is rather to say that Roey and myself have been joined in the Chaplaincy Training / Policy Development/Spiritual Care Co-ordinating Office by **Andrew Moore**. Andrew has a nursing and clinical effectiveness background, having worked, among other things, on Chaplaincy Assessment in Ayrshire and Arran Acute Trust. He brings his own skills and experience and will be a valuable asset and resource for us all as we prepare and implement the new Spiritual Care Policies. His job title is Policy Development Officer. He can be contacted either through the office phone or e-mail at: [andrew.moore@spiritualcare.co.uk](mailto:andrew.moore@spiritualcare.co.uk)

Unfortunately there has been a delay in the final 'Guidelines' going out to Trusts and Boards but I hope by the time you read this it will no longer need to be said.

Chaplaincy research has been a bit in the news recently with one or two people being quoted as saying how important is **good spiritual care**. One research grant which will be used specifically to examine chaplaincy has recently been awarded and along with the research supervisors I will be meeting potential researchers shortly. Doubtless many chaplains will be asked to take part at some level. There does seem to be a growing number of people who are doing research of a high standard and this is welcome.

The possible **Registration of chaplaincy** as a Healthcare Profession has been addressed by a couple of meetings. The two main chaplaincy

associations, along with hospice, church and committee reps met in April and decided that a submission should go to the "Spirituality in the NHS in Scotland" group which was sponsored by the Health Department. It will be interesting to see what the response is to this and how it might best be set in motion if that is the way forward. Already work has been done by SACH and the College in this line. It would encourage continued professional development, increase the possibilities of multi professional team work, serve to protect patients and give confidence in the service which chaplains provide.

Educational concerns/opportunities continue to take up time. A small **pilot scheme of CPE** will, I hope, be fully utilised and work done with chaplains and training officers down south may help produce a syllabus for future use. If you want to find out more about the CPE just get in touch.

Meanwhile Fred and I will be representing Scottish Chaplaincy in Finland so feel free either to be jealous of exotic locations or sympathise with either at the company we are forced to keep!

### Chris Levison

Chaplaincy Training and Development Officer  
Queens Park House, Victoria Infirmary,  
Langside Road, Glasgow G42 9TT

Tel: 0141 201 5392 Fax: 0141 201 5614

Mobile: 07768 023385

E-mail: [chris.levison@chaplains.co.uk](mailto:chris.levison@chaplains.co.uk)

## A Visit to Israel/Palestine

I recently returned from Palestine and Israel where I was part of a fact-finding mission for the Church of Scotland. We were meeting with a wide range of people in that part of the world to discuss with them what they believed with regard to Land and Covenant. It was a fascinating time to be there in order to explore these issues.

We visited Bethlehem shortly after the Israeli tanks had withdrawn, and shortly before they returned again, in force. We found an empty Church of the Nativity, just a few days before it became the centre of world attention. We visited an Israeli settlement in the West Bank, and saw the extent of Israeli settlement activity. We drove on 'Settlers' Roads', and saw how these effectively destroy Palestinian infrastructure. By sheer contrast, we visited an unrecognised Arab village in Israeli Galilee, where Israeli Arabs are denied basic services such as water, healthcare, electricity, postal deliveries and education. We saw the bombed out remains of a café in West Jerusalem, and the bombed out remains of a child's bedroom in Ebolin refugee camp.

The scale of the injustice that we saw in the oppression of the

Palestinian people is staggering. That is not a justification of the appalling evil of suicide bombings or terrorist atrocities, but one begins to understand why these people are so angry. Indeed I often found it hard to be clear in my own mind exactly who is terrorising whom. But of one thing I was convinced, that this conflict is utterly degrading and dehumanising for Israelis and Palestinians alike, and the longer it goes on the worse it gets.

Some of the views we listened to were more than worrying. On a number of occasions we were told that these are the last days, and that God is going to in-gather the Jews from all over the world in order to convert one third of them to Christianity, and destroy the remainder. Anywhere else in the world, this would have sounded crazy. In Jerusalem, it sounded as if it could easily be made to happen, and the Almighty would not get that much of a say!

In my own mind, I tried to be as impartial as I could. I am also aware of the very real danger of anti-semitism growing again in our world. I believe that we must be careful in distinguishing between criticism of a government or political regime (which criticism the prophets themselves engaged in) and

generalisations about the Jews, many of whom are appalled at human rights abuses in Israel/Palestine.

As a Christian, I hear Christ saying something almost unthinkable in this situation. He says, 'I tell you, love your enemies, and do good to those who hate you'. This is something so subversive and radical and difficult, that I wonder how it might be possible in Israel/Palestine, and yet, the situation Christ was addressing in his day was also one full of violence.

So what might it mean to love your enemies, when these people treat you in such an appalling way? I do not believe for a moment that it means forgetting issues of justice and basic human rights. But as long as we see our strength only in terms of our enemies' weakness, then all we can do is contribute to the degree of hatred and conflict in our world.

Maybe love and goodness in this situation begin with the recognition that, rather than weak enemies, what we need are strong neighbours.

**Iain Macritchie**

Chaplain, Raigmore, Inverness

## Paediatric Chaplains' Network UK: Is it possible? Is it necessary?

The title, in one sense, is self-explanatory. It is a statement of hope, as such a defined group does not presently exist. It is my hope, along with others, to formalise a network, so that those who are involved heavily in paediatric chaplaincy can identify fellow colleagues who understand and experience the issues and dynamics that are specific to the paediatric context, and so provide support and resources. As a consequence this will hopefully develop good practice, a better self-awareness and a clear portrayal of the speciality to other hospital chaplains and professionals. An interesting model already in place in the States is the Paediatric

Chaplains Network.

(Website <http://www.pediatricchaplains.org>)

Why UK wide? In the Scottish health context we have many hospital chaplains who are involved in paediatrics but it serves as just one facet of their work. This is likely to limit the pace and breadth of experience. Some of us have a fairly high percentage involvement and one or two of us have a 100% allocation. This limited pool of people explains why I feel it would be helpful to broaden this to a UK wide network. Even then there are only a few who serve as whole-time chaplains to paediatrics. However, a small but significant group of whole-

time chaplains may be enough to be a stimulus to all who are involved in paediatrics, to whatever degree. Is it necessary? In the context of the Health Service it would be a good step to promote the presence of chaplaincy in this area, and so the answer would be 'Yes'. It would be an assertive step, on our part, to articulate our specialist profession amongst other professionals, not just within chaplaincy. In regards to self-confidence and good practice I have discovered a felt need to gain from each other's experience through e-mails received and phonecalls made. Some may still ask, 'Could we not be served by the existing professional bodies?' We could, but to what extent? I do not envisage this network as a professional body that would substitute or duplicate but rather as a practical step to be a focused personal group to enjoy and then do better in our roles. Thankfully, we have a helpful Scottish based annual study leave day organised by our Training & Development Officer, Rev Chris Levison. A network is not meant to replace that, but if anything to strengthen these events by the friendships and contacts made through out the year. It would also intelligently contribute into the day. Yes, I believe it still to be necessary.

Is it possible? This depends partly upon the internal resolve of those who work in this specialty to see the importance of networking. It also depends upon the funding and economically creative ways to network. Whole time paediatric chaplains are a scattered group and so it will involve effort and determination to see this through. I can see the potential for paediatric chaplains using e-mail groups more, study leave days being a stimulus in the paediatric agenda of other bigger professional bodies. Yorkhill NHS Trust are interested in hosting a UK wide paediatric chaplains study leave day with invited speakers for the morning, and the afternoon allocated to approving a framework and action plan for introducing a workable and sustainable UK network. A network that would bring support and insight that is not bound by geography or professional bodies but helps to improve our specific discipline within the NHS UK-wide.

If you are interested in such a network I would greatly appreciate your views and direct contact.

**Rev Alister Bull**

Hospital Chaplain, Yorkhill NHS Trust  
Glasgow G3 8SJ Tel. 0141 201 -0595  
E-mail: [alister.bull@yorkhill.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:alister.bull@yorkhill.scot.nhs.uk)

## Healthcare Chaplaincy Training & Development Group

The new convener of the Healthcare Chaplaincy Training and Development Group, replacing Stewart McGregor, is Fr Kenneth Owens.

Although not yet a year in post Chris has a new job title! - ***Healthcare Chaplaincy Training and Development Officer and Spiritual Care Co-ordinator for Scotland.***

The group noted the following additions to the job remit -

- 1 to co-ordinate the work of the team including the Policy Development Officer and the Secretary
- 2 to work with the Policy Development Officer in advising and resourcing the Trust teams in each Health Board area in the consultation, the preparation, the writing and implementation of the new Spiritual Care Policies based on the 'Guidelines on Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care

in the NHS in Scotland' to have an overview and an advisory and co-ordinating role in all aspects of Spiritual Care within the NHS in Scotland and the Scottish faith communities

The Group has now approved a paper on strategic planning for the Training & Development Officer and Spiritual Care Co-ordinator prepared by Kenneth Owens.

There has been some discussion on the subject of Data Protection. It was confirmed by Roy Sturrock, representing the Scottish Executive Health Department, that Data Protection issues are being dealt with by SEHD in conjunction with the Data Protection Office prior to issuing of ***Guidelines for Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy*** and that a statement about Data Protection will be included. This follows discussions between SEHD and Data Protection at which it was agreed that chaplains should be seen as part of the

Medical Core Team, entitled to appropriate patient information. This is in line with the tenor of the new Guidelines and the expressed intention of the Executive to place the provision of spiritual care at the centre of healthcare.

The Group has been represented along with SACH and other chaplaincy organisations at meetings to discuss Registration of Healthcare Chaplains and Spiritual Caregivers. The main purpose of registration being

- to regularise chaplaincy as a profession alongside others in the NHS
- to ensure adequate and appropriate training and ongoing professional development of chaplains
- the protection of patients

**Iain Telfer**

Chaplain, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh represents SACH on HCTDG

## From the Executive

The next SACH AGM is to be held at 10.30 am on **Thursday 10 October** 2002 at Stirling Royal Infirmary. Speakers are still to be confirmed. Anne Harper, has now served three years as President and has indicated that she would like to stand down. We are also creating a new Membership Secretary post (see below)

Good news on the issue of **Data Protection**. It looks as if chaplains are to be considered part of the clinical care team. This means that we should continue to have access to admission lists etc.

Anne Harper and Keith Saunders represented SACH at a meeting (organised by the Department of National Mission) of those interested in **Professional Registration** of chaplains. A small group was set up and asked to produce a paper which will be presented to the Working Group on Spirituality.

We are looking into **locum cover** for chaplains attending the General Assembly. There seems to be inadequate provision of cover where there are only one or two post holders.

**Subscriptions** for SACH are to go up (for the first time since SACH came into being). The new rates will be:

Whole-time	£66
Whole-time assistant	£44
Part-time	£20
Associate	£15

Looking forward to seeing you all at the AGM in October.

**Monica Stewart**  
Secretary

## Looking for:- **A Membership Secretary**

The Executive has agreed that it would be significantly helpful to have someone who could act in the capacity of Membership Secretary, being responsible for the smooth and efficient handling of the Membership Register. This would greatly assist the Secretary and the Treasurer in their work.

We are looking for someone who could:-

- ◆ process new applications
- ◆ send out Subscription Renewals when due
- ◆ keep the Membership List up to date by means of regular amendments
- ◆ liaise with the Secretary and Treasurer as required
- ◆ promote the work of SACH by the handling of information/communication

Computer access and skills would be an integral part of this. Does anyone have the time and availability to take up this important work?

Contact the SACH Secretary:

**Monica Stewart**

Chaplains' Office, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB25 2ZN

Telephone: 01224 554907 Fax: 01224 554551

E-mail: [monica.stewart@sach.org.uk](mailto:monica.stewart@sach.org.uk)

**The next edition of *SACH Soundings* will be published in September 2002. Send news, articles, stories, pictures and ideas by the end of August to:**

Rev Fred Coutts

Chaplains' Office, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB25 2ZN

Telephone: 01224 553316 Fax: 01224 554551

[Fred.Coutts@btinternet.com](mailto:Fred.Coutts@btinternet.com)