

St. Luke's

HEALTHCARE FOR THE CLERGY

Caring for those who care for others

October 2010

Dear Friends and Supporters

Over the last 12 months there has been considerable activity behind the scenes at St Luke's (Hospital for the Clergy) in its new guise of 'St Luke's Healthcare for the Clergy', and I write to share with you the progress we have made and to outline the Trustees' current thinking for the future of the Charity.

The activity has been on two fronts, supported by a very small but effective team based in a single room at Church House, keeping our overheads to the bare minimum.

First, we have continued to act as an interface between individual members of the Clergy and our team of Honorary Consultants, who have worked tirelessly and selflessly throughout. We have had 243 requests from the Clergy for help over the last twelve months, and have been able to meet those requests in 228 cases. We are proud of this 94 % 'success' rate in arranging consultations, and expect to at least match, it in the coming year. We hope that the Clergy will continue to contact us if they need help; even without a hospital, the advice and support of the Honorary Consultants seem to be much appreciated.

Secondly, we commissioned research into how best the Charity could continue to fulfil its objects within its available resources. An interim Report indicating the outcome of this research has now been received by the Trustees, and it indicates a clear unmet need in the area of occupational health of the Clergy - stress, anxiety and more serious mental illness such as depression.

The Charity was formed by Canon Henry Cooper in 1892 to deal with just such problems, but it is an aspect of healthcare which, in recent times, we have not covered as fully as we should have liked. The Trustees are, however, keen to take up the challenge of deeper involvement in this area - if it is found to be practicable and financially feasible for them to do so. This is now being investigated.

It is expected that the final Report will contain an analysis of the practical consequences of pursuing a twin-track approach. That would be to continue our longstanding and effective referral arrangements with our team of Honorary Consultants, which we aim to expand; and to seek to improve access by the Clergy on a wholly confidential basis to mental health professionals and to facilities for mental health treatment. This would be outside any formal employment offerings that may or may not (which is sadly the case in too many instances) be available. Any comments on this proposal would be much appreciated.

The Trustees hope that the final Report will be available in the New Year, and that its recommendations will be felt to form the basis for a flourishing and very worthwhile future for the Charity.

Despite not making any appeal for funds whilst the future of the Charity has been uncertain, we have been heartened by the continuing financial support shown to us even without the hospital - some £122,000 in donations in the last twelve months. The Trustees would now greatly appreciate further donations to help us in our continuing endeavours.

Yours sincerely



Patrick Mitford-Slade

Chairman

A Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England & Wales –No. 06511046

Registered Charity No. 1123195

Registered Office

Room 201 CHURCH HOUSE, GREAT SMITH STREET LONDON SW1P 3AZ. TELEPHONE: 020 7898 1700

Website: www.stlukeshealthcare.org.uk E-mail: admin@stlukeshealthcare.org.uk