

Social Work Christian Fellowship

For Christians in Social Work, Care, Action and Welfare



November 2011

Dear SWCF members

Please find enclosed details of the **2012 annual conference** and booking form. We very much hope that you may value the opportunity to fellowship with other Christian social workers as well as be inspired by and enjoy an exciting programme. **Hinsley Hall is a beautiful Catholic retreat and conference centre with spacious grounds, chapel, library and bookshop to explore and find peace.**

The theme of this year's conference, **'Faith in Social Work?'** is deliberately meant as a double edged question. We see a profession that is under great scrutiny and change, at a cross roads with, not least, the Social Work Reform Board. Do we see opportunities or threats? Equally, how do we relate our faith to our social work practice? Is it at the centre or the periphery?

We will be helped in these questions at conference. We are delighted to have **Cliff Turner** as speaker this year, a Christian in senior management as a Director of Children's Services who will be speaking about faith in the workplace and considering social work from different Christian traditions.

We have introduced **workshops** for us all to get involved with this year, looking at different topical themes (austerity and international conflict) as well the Social Work Christian Fellowship itself. Should we have a political voice for example? How do we sustain and develop the fellowship? The workshops are in addition to our usual **worship, AGM, morning devotions AND evening entertainment and fun in the licensed bar.**

The food and accommodation at Hinsley Hall are of a very good standard. We hope that you will appreciate the **excellent value of the early bird booking fee.** We have cut the conference fee from last year's price. As always, we do not wish anyone to be excluded because of cost. Details of the bursary fund are included on the form. Please encourage and invite other Christian social workers to join us, they don't have to be members. You have been sent a couple of booking forms with this in mind.

Also, see our improved website **www.swcf.org.uk** with pictures from previous conferences and where you can download more forms.

We hope to see you in March and for now encourage you with the following scriptures:

I can do everything through him who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us (Romans 8:37)

Matthew Gough
On Behalf of the Conference Planning Committee

