

9. Methodist Homes (MHA)

Contact name and details	The Revd Dr Chris Swift Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality chris.swift@mha.org.uk
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1. General report

- 1.1 MHA provides high quality care, accommodation and support to over 18,200 residents and scheme members across England, Scotland and Wales through its care homes, retirement living schemes and community-based Live at Home schemes. Through its charitable work, it provides chaplains in all homes and retirement living schemes, music therapy for people living with dementia in its specialist care homes and many of the services provided through Live at Home.
- 1.2 At the 2018 Conference MHA's CEO Sam Monaghan spoke to representatives and engaged with members of the Methodist Church during a lunch marking the 75th anniversary of MHA's founding by the Methodist Conference. Those present also heard a presentation from the chaplaincy team about our award-winning end-of-life care programme called 'Final Lap'.
- 1.3 MHA marked its 75th Anniversary with the Service of Thanksgiving at Derby Cathedral in October. The President of the Conference gave the address and the Vice-President (who is also a MHA Trustee) and the Secretary of the Conference took part. A piece of music commissioned for the occasion, *Fanfare for the Older Person*, was composed by renowned organist Nigel Ogden for the opening of the service and a new hymn by a regional chaplain was sung by the choir to a tune composed by an MHA resident. Everyone arriving at the service was invited to place a bloom into a unique floral creation which became a vibrant '75' as the focal point for the service. People using MHA's services took part in the occasion, representing every aspect of MHA's work with those in later life.
- 1.4 In April 2019 MHA continued its commitment to pay all staff at least the real Living Wage.
- 1.5 Other notable successes for the year include:
 - Fitzwarren House care home in Swindon became the latest MHA service to be rated as 'outstanding' by inspectors. Overall, 89% of inspected care services are rated as 'good' or 'outstanding';
 - In September the official opening was held for Montpellier Manor in Stainton, Middlesbrough. Guest of honour at the event was actor John Middleton who portrayed someone living with dementia in the ITV drama *Emmerdale*. MHA advised on the storyline to ensure its accuracy, and the show – and John – went on to win a number of awards. MHA's first Live at Home scheme in Lichfield turned 30 with a celebration for members;
 - Residents moved into new retirement living facilities at Nethanvale in Auchlochan and at Maidment Court in Poole, helping create new communities;
 - Work to restore a historical and horticulturally important seven-acre garden at the rear of Hall Grange care home in Croydon has started. Thanks to grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Garfield Weston Foundation, the garden will be opened up for residents to enjoy and take part in green activities as well as the local community;
 - Live at Home schemes have been able to expand their services in areas thanks to Lottery grants, including a joint project at Stoke North with the Father Hudson's charity and at Bradford.
- 1.6 During the year MHA increased its support for chaplains serving in our homes and schemes with the appointment of three 'Heads of Chaplaincy'. Based in North, Central and South, the

Heads of Chaplaincy lead on development work in spiritual and religious care as well as having a role of engagement for church leaders and local faith communities.

- 1.7 Since 2016 the number of Music Therapists working with MHA has increased by 20% and their work continues to grow. Their work with people living with dementia was featured in a BBC One documentary on how music can benefit people living with the condition. In addition, our Chief Music Therapist, Ming Hung Hsu, was awarded his PhD during the year based on research into the therapeutic impact of the service.
- 1.8 Methodist Homes Sunday in 2018 raised £193,014, for which we offer grateful thanks. This year the official date for the Sunday is **9 June** although it can be moved to suit local needs. Our theme for worship is **'One Sunday'** and a range of materials is available to download from our website (www.mha.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/mha-sunday).
- 1.9 In addition to its 7,000 members of staff, MHA benefits from the contribution of over 5,000 volunteers. These volunteers add a vital dimension to the work of MHA supporting all elements of our operation, including Chaplaincy. Many volunteers come from Methodist congregations and help us retain our links with the Church.
- 1.10 We believe that MHA has a unique approach to care and that this can make a valuable contribution to the debate about social care in the UK. Addressing the needs of the whole person; enabling the expression of spirituality, and providing pastoral care to older people, relatives and staff as a community, are at the core of this approach. Communicating this more widely is an important priority for the Board and MHA shares aspects of its work across a range of media platforms. During the year we have worked with a number of media, both on a local and national level.
- 1.11 MHA held a number of events in Methodist churches to provide supporters with direct updates about our work, including Music Therapy and Chaplaincy. One of the key priorities of our CEO, Sam Monaghan, is to establish a stronger partnership with the Church and this is reflected in the strategic review approved by the Board in January 2019.
- 1.12 The latest audited accounts are available on request from our website. Our latest Annual Impact Statement, which tells the story of MHA's activities, is also available on the website or from Epworth House.
- 1.13 During the year we said farewell to the directors of Marketing and Retirement Living. Following the strategic review we have appointed a new Director of Operations and a Director of Property. These roles reflect a commitment to give our services greater coordination and maximise the benefit of offering a range of MHA in a locality.
- 1.14 The Trustees who oversee the work of the Charity continue to offer excellent advice and guidance, sharing between them considerable expertise across the range of MHA's activities. The focus of MHA's holistic approach to care is at the root of their willingness to serve as Board members and they bring a range of spiritual and belief commitments to the role.
- 1.15 During the year the decision was made to inaugurate a series of 'Walter Hall Lectures'. Named in honour of our founder, the first annual lecture will be given by Lord Willetts at Westminster Central Hall on 23 October 2019.
- 1.16 We believe that good leadership is key to the quality of services and the performance of staff in providing care for older people. In 2019 we launched a new leadership training programme entitled 'Engaging Leadership' which is being provided for every manager and leader across MHA.

2. Church appointment to the Boards of MHA

- 2.1 Through our Governance Committee we continue to strengthen the Charity's Board with new members bringing wide experience, particularly around marketing and social care. Dr David Hall has come to the end of his term as the Church's nominated Board member. David was first appointed to this role in 2015 and we are very grateful for all that David has contributed to MHA, especially in maintaining and deepening our links with the Methodist Church.
- 2.2 In accordance with SO 241, the Conference is invited to nominate the Revd Ruth Gee as the Church's nominated Board member. As a former President of the Conference, she will ensure MHA's continuing links with the Methodist Church and bring a strong ecumenical focus to the wider engagement of the Charity with churches across the UK.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 9/1. The Conference received the Report.**
- 9/2. The Conference, in exercising its power under SO 241, nominated the Revd Ruth M Gee to the Board of MHA.**