

## 14. Methodist Homes (MHA)

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### 1. General Report

- 1.1 Last year's celebrations of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Methodist Homes was a great opportunity to share the remarkable story of how one man's vision, coupled with the faith of the Methodist people and the dedication of staff and volunteers has grown into one of the largest not for profit providers of housing, care and support for older people, serving over 16,000 individuals. Those celebrations have given way in 2014 to marking the silver jubilee of MHA's first dementia care home (Westbury in Newport Pagnell) and the first nursing home (Trembaths in Letchworth). Such developments laid the foundations of MHA's ability to meet the higher care needs of older people in a way that recognises each person as a unique personality whose spirit is undimmed.
- 1.2 When Methodist Homes presented its report to the Conference of 2013, it was announced that the Chief Executive, Mr Roger Davies, was to step down after serving MHA for almost 15 years, the last 12½ years of which as Chief Executive. We give thanks for all that Methodist Homes was able to achieve under Roger's leadership and wish him every success in the future. Following an open recruitment process, the Board appointed Mr Adrian Bagg as the new Chief Executive, and he joined MHA on 1 March 2014. For the past seven years he led the Papworth Trust, a leading disability charity, and prior to that he worked for over twenty years in the corporate sector as a senior executive driving global business change. He is a trustee of The Children's Society and is a local preacher, as well as being an accredited Baptist and United Reformed Church lay preacher.
- 1.3 MHA continues to develop staff members and encourage everyone to be involved in enabling residents to experience stimulation and enjoyment from personal care and daily routines in residential settings. Supporting the spiritual needs of older people remains at the heart of MHA's work, and the contribution of our chaplains continues to grow and develop. During 2013 we commissioned a piece of independent research into the place of chaplains within MHA, carried out by Dr Harriet Mowat. The research endorsed the role played by chaplains in helping older people, with or without a faith, to deal with some of the key challenges that present themselves in old age, ranging from increasing frailty, to issues with daily life, family and relationships. The study also suggested that chaplains not only provide a listening presence to share the worries, fears and concerns of residents, but that they also act as catalysts in community-building, bringing the outside world into care homes and forging close links with residents, families, staff and volunteers.
- 1.4 MHA's commitment to honouring the role of spirituality in better understanding and supporting the needs of older people lies at the heart of a significant book published in 2013. *God, Me and Being Very Old: Stories and Spirituality in Later Life* (SCM, 2013) was edited by our Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality, Keith Albans, and one of our Board members, Professor Malcolm Johnson. It is built around the faith stories of 15 MHA residents and reflects the important contribution that listening to and learning from those stories can make to older people themselves and to the wider Church.
- 1.5 The past year has seen a succession of statistical reports based on the results of the 2011 UK census, all of which highlight the ever growing numbers of older people living in Britain today. MHA continues to look to serve more older people by both increasing the number of

communities of care and support and by ensuring that our existing homes are both appropriate to the needs of today's older people and fit for the future. We have begun the redevelopment of Hall Grange at Shirley, Croydon, which will in addition to a new care home also provide 22 apartments offering independent living with care. Similarly, plans have been approved for the redevelopment of Maidment Court at Poole, where the present care home will be replaced by 87 apartments. Sadly, whereas these two developments can take place while the current home is operating, no such solution to the need to redevelop Woodbank in Woking could be found, and so the home closed in late 2013 prior to a new development of 40 apartments being built. We were also sad to lose the registration of St Andrews in Basford, Nottingham, but the freehold of the site has been acquired and plans for its future are being drawn up. In Southport, we have opened Hatherlow House, new retirement housing with care service for couples where one is living with dementia, and assisted living schemes are being developed in Peterborough, Swindon and South Lanarkshire. Our partnership with Gladman, wherein MHA operates retirement living with care schemes which they have developed, continues and the next two developments in Wolstanton, Staffordshire and Portishead near Bristol are under construction. Retirement housing continues to be a significant part of our work, albeit that without significant fundraising or grant aid, it is hard to develop new services. We have recently begun to operate Carter House near St Helens in cooperation with Villages Housing Association, and we have also transferred Gowan Park, Arbroath to Trust Housing Association where it will benefit from more locally based oversight.

- 1.6 It is now five years since MHA acquired our first retirement community, Auchlochan Garden Village in Lanarkshire, Scotland. In that time there has been a significant reconfiguration of the services offered, with the completion of the Retreat and the Village Centre as well as the reordering of the care homes. We are now in the process of being involved in the development of two new retirement communities in Pickering and Corsham, while the completion of the first phase of apartments in Chippenham, next to our care home, Fairways, and the addition of 37 apartments next to Fitzwarren House and Stanton Lodge in Swindon are also creating two further significant retirement communities, offering a range of services on a single site.
- 1.7 Just over half of those older people served by MHA do not live in one of our residential services, but are members of our Live at Home schemes. We have continued to explore various models for extending our Live at Home provision and developing ways of using our residential facilities as the base for new forms of community outreach.
- 1.8 We are also grateful for the charitable income which we receive and which is vital to the continuation of our work. Every gift helps us to improve the quality of life for older people. Legacy donations make up the majority of our charitable income and we have also continued to benefit from an increase in regular, monthly giving by many of our supporters.
- 1.9 Methodist Homes Sunday in 2013 raised in excess of £230,000, for which we offer grateful thanks. The date of MHA Sunday 2015 has been fixed for **Sunday 14 June**, although as always it can be moved to suit local circumstances. Worship materials will once again be produced and distributed with the spring edition of *Heart and Soul* and through Circuit Local Preachers' Secretaries and will be available on our website.
- 1.10 The latest audited accounts are available on request from Head Office or from our website. The indications from the unaudited accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 are that MHA's finances are in a satisfactory position, which, with good stewardship, enables us to plan for the future with confidence.
- 1.11 It is sometimes said that the effects of the Francis Report into the Stafford hospital scandal, and the Neuberger report into the misuse of the Liverpool Care Pathway have been

devastating for both professional morale and public confidence in the health and social care sector. It has also had an effect on the regulatory climate within which an organisation such as MHA operates and on the local authorities who commission some services from us. Nevertheless, we remain confident that the direction of travel to care for the most frail and vulnerable older people, which began with the opening of Westbury and Trembaths in 1989, is the right one. We have much for which to give thanks to God, and MHA will continue to pursue its calling in partnership with the Methodist people, and others, to fulfil the mission of improving the lives of older people, inspired by Christian concern.

## **2. Conference appointment to the Boards of MHA**

- 2.1 Having served on the Boards of Methodist Homes for much of the past 13 years, and having been Chair of the Charity Board since 2008, Keith Salsbury is stepping down on the completion of his term of office. We record our thanks to Keith for his distinguished and dedicated contribution to the work of MHA.
- 2.2 In accordance with SO 241, the Conference is asked to appoint David Hobbs as the Conference's nominated Board member. David is a member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, a local preacher in the London (Forest) Circuit and a coach and athletics official with Loughton Athletic Club.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

- 14/1. The Conference received the General Report of Methodist Homes.**
- 14/2. The Conference, under Standing Order 241, appointed David Hobbs as the Conference's nominee to the Board of Methodist Homes.**