

Reviews

When reviewing this book, I imagined it to be just another book on healthcare chaplaincy. However, I was pleasantly surprised as I was instantly struck by the personable tone that Michael writes in and the wisdom contained in the text is clearly borne of many years' experience of frontline chaplaincy.

The reflections and stories Michael uses in the book resonated deeply with my own experiences as a chaplain and certainly reminded me of the highs and lows that travelling alongside patients and reiterates the absolute privilege it is to share in their journey.

I also appreciated the devotional and prayerful style that Michael employs in the book too. Using scripture, poems and prayers I can see this book being a useful resource for those involved in chaplaincy and pastoral ministry and as a valuable insight into the chaplain's ministry for those exploring a vocation in this field... I am confident it will connect with all those involved in this work whatever their position or experience. I would wholeheartedly recommend this book for anyone interested in healthcare ministry.

Rev'd Lance Sharpe, Registrar, College of Health Care Chaplains.

This is an extremely fine account from a long and personal experience of the role of a hospital chaplain, a vocation with a need, as the author points out, 'to look, to listen and to learn', and a calling which he stresses is not second best to parochial ministry.

Hospital chaplaincy is not an easy path to follow, but as the author has shown, it does from time to time bring a feeling of accomplishment and of spiritual satisfaction. A variety of themes are covered in this fine and well-resourced volume, written with feeling from the author's long experience in the field. The book is a must for all who aspire to follow this noble vocation.

Sister Josephine Egan, Daughters of the Holy Spirit.

Physical and spiritual health are indelibly intertwined. Nevill Hall Hospital is fortunate to have been blessed with such a dynamic and compassionate chaplain. I am truly grateful to Michael for all his pastoral support and practical help.

Dr. John Huish, FRCP. Consultant Cardiologist. Royal Glamorgan Hospital, Cwm Taf University Health Board.

Every single one of us is vulnerable and our vulnerability is sometimes at its most acute when we are in hospital.

This book by the Rev. Michael Marsden made me laugh and cry as it illustrates the role of a hospital chaplain. Hospital chaplains see people at their happiest, such as celebrating the birth of a child, but also there when people are struggling with illness and indeed when they meet their maker.

This book in my view illustrates Christianity working on the “pavement” and in the hospital corridor, where Christ is needed most by those who are in hospital and of course by our wonderful health workers who need pastoral support.

This demonstrates Christian Outreach at its best – Fantastic!

Pam Kelly, Chief Constable of Gwent Police.