

CSNA(UK)

Christian Science Nursing Association (UK)

Winter Newsletter 2021

Dear friends

We are so grateful to everyone who was able to attend our recent CSNA(UK) Zoom conference in October. It was wonderful to have it so well attended, and we have received a lot of feedback and useful ideas for us to take forward. If you have not completed the survey, there is still time to do so. Please click one of the links below, either for the Christian Science Nurses' Conference or the Supporters' Conference surveys.

[Christian Science Nurses' Conference Survey](#)

[Supporters' Conference survey](#)

The Christian Science Nurses' conference was spread over two days and took place twice to ensure that all Christian Science nurses in the UK could attend. We were also blessed to have Christian Science nurses joining us from around the world, including France, Germany, Portugal, Switzerland, South Africa, Canada, Brazil, Cameroon, DR Congo, and USA.

The theme of the conference was 'A Fearless Wing and a Firm Foundation' from Mary Baker Eddy's Miscellaneous Writings (Misc. 213:19-20). We explored the firm foundation of Christian Science nursing, the Church Manual bylaw for the Christian Science Nurse, focusing on four key aspects, 'representing oneself as a Christian Science nurse', 'having a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice', 'understanding the practical wisdom necessary in a sickroom' and 'taking proper care of the sick'.

We also had inspirational talks discussing both aspects of the theme, the fearless wing and the firm foundation of Christian Science nursing. We heard reports from the Acting Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church, The Commission for the Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc., the Christian Science Committees on Publication UK and Ireland and the Christian Science Nurses Fund in the UK.

At the Supporters' Conference, we continued the theme and provided inspiring talks, and workshops on vision for Christian Science nursing in the UK, the Church Manual Bylaw for the Christian Science Nurse, and the Christian Science Nurse Scope of Services. We also heard reports from the Christian Science nursing organisations in the UK and Switzerland, The Commission for the Accreditation of

Christian Science Nursing Organizations/Facilities, Inc., the Christian Science Committees on Publication UK and Ireland, the funding organisations, and the Acting Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church and a very interesting talk about local authority support and residential care for Christian Scientists.

In our next few newsletters, we will be sharing summaries of some of the reports and workshops given at the conferences. We will shortly be sending out links to recordings of some of the talks and reports.

Special thanks go to Eddie Cox for his technical expertise and wonderful support throughout the conference, working through the night from his home in St Louis, bringing everything together so seamlessly.

And we are immensely grateful to Hannah Sentinella for her hard work behind the scenes project managing the whole conference and communicating with presenters and participants.

New Committee members

Thank you to all the Christian Science nurses who attended our AGM on 11th October 2021. We are so grateful to Sally Lessiter for her stalwart work as Chair of the CSNA(UK) committee for so many years. She stepped down before the conference and we are pleased to have welcomed two new members to our committee at the AGM, Annabel Bound and Courtenay Rule.

We also want to thank Elizabeth Richards for her commitment to the CSNA(UK) and her dedicated work serving as Secretary to the committee.

Jo Gray has graciously stepped into the position of Chair and Courtenay Rule has taken on the job of Secretary. We are so grateful to them both.

SUMMARY of Report of the Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities, The First Church of Christ, Scientist. (Linda Kohler) CSNAUK Conference October 2021

Thinking about a firm foundation, two images come to mind:

1) digging deeply to reach bedrock

The Mother Church edifice in Boston was built on landfill -- piles had to be driven twelve feet until they reached solid ground, deep below.

Each day, as metaphysicians, we dig deep -- establishing our faith and confidence on a firm foundation. It takes

discipline, effort, patience. It gives our lives a firm foundation.

2) the house built on the rock.

Jesus said that if anyone would listen to his words AND DO THEM, that man would be like a house built on the rock. "Only a firm foundation in Truth can give a fearless wing and a sure reward." ('01 p. 2:25) That fearless wing enables us to rise above the waves and storms that Jesus told us would come.

Mrs. Eddy's wrote: "At a time of contagious disease, Christian Scientists endeavor to rise in consciousness to the true sense of the omnipotence of Life, Truth, and Love, and this great fact in Christian Science realized will stop a contagion." (My. 116:2. Emphasis added)

Christian Science nursing facilities have been demonstrating this. For most, if there have been positive tests, they have been isolated, and almost always staff and not patients. They "...endeavor[ed] to rise in consciousness [with fearless wing] to the true sense of the omnipotence of Life, Truth, and Love, and this great fact in Christian Science, realized, [stopped the] contagion." That's something to be grateful for. We may not have wiped contagion off the face of the earth - yet - but we have seen instances where it has been stopped.

"So long as Christian Scientists obey the laws, I do not suppose their mental reservations will be thought to matter much. But every thought tells, and Christian Science will overthrow false knowledge in the end." (My. 345:3) We should have "mental reservations" about practices and protocols that are based on fear. Mental reservations can be a form of prayer. When we deepen our foundation, we also rise in thought above fear and fear-based solutions.

Christian Science nursing has a firm foundation -- the By-law in our Church Manual.

Mrs. Eddy speaks of our By-laws as having a "simple scientific basis" -- there's the bedrock -- and "detail so requisite as to demonstrate genuine Christian Science" -- there's the house built on the rock -- the "doing."

When the pilings for The Mother Church Extension were driven into the foundation, in places, these 4000 plus piles were driven so closely together that they formed almost a solid mass. (The Building of The Mother Church p. 114) As we stand together and plant our understanding deep onto the bedrock of divine Truth and Love, our collective demonstration of Church, including Christian Science nursing, will be secure. "Only a firm foundation can give a fearless wing..."

Wings enable a bird to soar high into the sky. Wings also embrace and enfold. True nursing involves nourishing, nurturing, cherishing, comforting, supporting, encouraging, promoting (growth and progress), treating with tenderness and affection, holding as dear. It is important that we nourish, nurture, treat one another with tenderness and affection.

Everlasting arms of Love

Are beneath, around, above;
God it is who bears us on,
His the arm we lean upon.
(Christian Science Hymnal, No. 53:1)

We are in the world, but not of it. But sometimes it is wise to offer the world the assurance it needs of the purity and innocence of our individual and collective practice. That can be a helpful way of thinking about the requirement that's been recently adopted of conducting background checks for Christian Science nurses who are listed in the Journal. Completing the background check offers evidence to the world, in language the world can understand, that we are as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves. (Mt. 10:16)

Another "best practice" that Journal-listed Christian Science nurses have been asked to embrace is "continuing education." The standard in the By-law is not just a standard to attain, but also a standard to maintain. These webinars are for Journal-listed Christian Science nurses. They are meant to build upon, but not replace a basic course of study. You can find the current offerings on the website <https://csnnetwork.org>

Continuing education was one of many projects Bonnie Castroman initiated and shepherded during her tenure as Manager of Christian Science Nursing Activities at The Mother Church. She was always eager to explore new frontiers. She advocated tirelessly and joyfully for the very highest standards in this ministry and she led by example.

"When angels visit us, we do not hear the rustle of wings, nor feel the feathery touch of the breast of a dove; but we know their presence by the love they create in our hearts. Oh, may you feel this touch, — it is not the clasping of hands, nor a loved person present; it is more than this: it is a spiritual idea that lights your path!" (Mis. 306:23-28)

A loved person present could take the form of a colleague, manager or mentor, a spiritually minded Christian Scientist ready to embark on a new career as a Christian Science nurse, an experienced Christian Science nurse who God has been preparing to step into a leadership position. A spiritual idea is everywhere it needs to be. It rests on a firm foundation. A spiritual idea, understood, gives a fearless wing.

Whitehaven Trust Ltd is seeking an interim
Registered Manager
for the Visiting Christian Science Nursing Service
for an initial period of 2-3 months.

The role requires an experienced Christian Science nurse listed in
The Christian Science Journal, with good managerial and
communication skills, and a willingness to travel throughout England.

See our website for further details –
<http://www.whitehaventrust.co.uk/about-us/recruitment/>



CSNA(UK) Committee

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Wendy de la Harpe
Courtenay Rule
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