

## May Staff Newsletter

### 1. Upcoming celebrations

We will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles III at Holy Cross in a number of ways! Firstly on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May, when all patients and families are invited to a Coronation Tea in the Activities Lounge.

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May all staff are invited to lunch in the dining room – it will be a very traditional menu to mark the occasion, including pie and mash served with mushy peas!

Patients and families will be able to watch the event as it takes place in Westminster Abbey, in the Activities Lounge on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

We will also be taking great delight in celebrating International Nurses Day on 12<sup>th</sup> May! We have much to celebrate. An excellent nursing team from all over the world, our new Trainee Nursing Associates, the many student nurses who attend placements with us, our Health Care Assistants, and our Senior and Extended Role HCAs. All staff are invited to a BBQ on 11<sup>th</sup> May to mark this special day.

### 2. Building work – St Margaret's Project

Work began last week on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, the contractors are Flint Construction who completed both the refurbishment work in St Joseph's and also St Hugh's back in 2017. They will start on the ground floor of St Margaret's with fitting a lift and making some changes in the female changing room. It is inevitable that this work will cause some disruption, additional noise and dust. Next they will start on the first floor, where walls will be removed to open up the planned office space. The contractors have already installed scaffold and steps which they will use to bring in materials and remove waste via a first floor window to reduce the impact of this work on the ground floor. At the moment we do not have an estimate of when this work will be finished but we anticipate that the offices will be ready for us to use by summer 2024. The plan remains to provide a quiet rest area for use by all staff in St Margaret's.

### 3. Respiratory Lead

We are pleased to announce that following the completion of the Advanced Respiratory High Dependency course Daniel Pecheanu has become the Respiratory Lead for Holy Cross.

### 4. Seeking our new CEO

You may become aware of visitors being shown around the site in the coming months. The task of seeking a new, permanent Chief Executive is now under way. The timing and final selection of this key appointment is the responsibility of the Trustees. Thank you to all for the fantastic support and encouragement since my return on a temporary basis. I have greatly enjoyed working with everyone again but it was clear from the outset this was a strictly temporary arrangement. I will continue to do all I can to support managers until a new person takes up the post. Then it will be down to everyone to show the same support and encouragement to that person as you have given me.

#### 5. Nurse Associate apprenticeship programme attracts interest

We have invited applications for Health Care Assistants wishing to apply for the role of Trainee Nursing Associate to start in February 2024. We are delighted that despite the huge amount of work involved we have already received a good number of applications.

#### 6. Friends fund-raising

We need to replace our pool hoist. The Friends are currently fund raising to secure the purchase which will benefit both inpatients and outpatients. One of the fund raising opportunities is the Dragon Boat Race in Kingston on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

It looks like our boat is going to be full, good luck to the team! It's not too late to talk to Kristy if you are interested, just in case a place becomes available or if you would like to support the team: [k.hill@holycross.org.uk](mailto:k.hill@holycross.org.uk)

#### 7. Celebrating full occupancy of 40 beds and hoping to add 2 more soon

Keeping our beds full will always be important. The higher priority is ensuring that patients are safely supported by the appropriate number of staff. Without full occupancy our financial position quickly weakens so it is right to celebrate when we achieve it.

Our two additional rooms are ready for use except for one minor change. We have to secure approval of CQC moving patients into them and that has been requested. If we can achieve full occupancy of 42 beds we will certainly have reason to celebrate!

#### 8. Thank you to staff for extra help to keep HR services going

Many thanks to Sue, Lorraine, Miriam and Lisa for putting in much extra work to support the Human Resources (HR) work in Debbie's absence. Debbie may be off for a while (but we hope for her speediest return) so please bear this situation in mind when you need help and answers from HR. They are among our unsung heroes working away in the background to ensure that everyone gets a fair deal from working for Holy Cross. This message represents a big "thank you" from us all.

#### 9. How would you like to receive your newsletter?

We circulate the newsletter to all by 'all user email' and we also add the newsletter to the Holy Cross Hospital Intranet. Any member of staff that we know of who does not have an email address/computer access, will be given a printed copy.

If you have any suggestions for how you would like to receive your staff newsletter, please let me know!

Chris Hinton

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023