

***PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE!***

**REV CHRIS WILSON MOVING TO NEW PARISH**

7 December 2009

**One of Cambridge Regional College's best loved figures, Rev Chris Wilson, leaves this week after 16 years of teaching, nurturing and negotiating.**



Chris came to the College as a lecturer in Humanities but is leaving for pastures new, after changing the course of his life six years ago when he trained for the Unitarian and Free Christian ministry.

He admits his decision to take a second degree in Pastoral Theology through the Cambridge Theological Federation and Westminster College in Cambridge while he was still working at CRC raised eyebrows among his friends.

“It was a gamble. Some friends thought I had lost my senses, but I was able to stay here at the College and set up the multi-faith chaplaincy. I was asked to take on the role for a year, but the job has now lasted for three years, and will carry on with my successor, the Rev Robin Giles.”

Now Chris, who is married with three sons – 16 year-old Joseph is a music student at Cambridge Regional College – is moving to a quiet village in Northern Ireland to take up a new ministry in a rural setting, with the liberal Non-Subscribing Presbyterian church.

“I’ve been very happy here at Cambridge Regional College, but these opportunities don’t come along every day and I wanted to take it while I could,” he said. “I have every confidence the chaplaincy is in good hands. We have got it up and running, and now it needs to be taken to the next level.”

During his time at the College, Chris also had a high profile role as union negotiator for the ATL, the Education Union, and says he’s very pleased to be leaving behind a strong Branch, the largest in the College, with a good reputation.

“I did a lot of trade union work here over the years; it’s something which I viewed as being part of my ministry; and working for fairness is an important expression of my faith.”

Other parts of his ministry have included opening his door to all: he has helped Muslim students set out Eid stalls, supported Sikhs in marking Versaiki, and worked with Hindu students on Diwali, as well as marking the traditional Christian occasions such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

“I hope some part of the work we have done here to promote understanding and respect, to break down barriers, has made a difference. I have made fantastic friends, working with people of all faiths and none, and I can honestly say I have learned something from all of them.”

Chris’s work in the multi-faith chaplaincy has brought recognition for CRC as a flagship College in the field - last year it was shortlisted for a Beacon Award.

Chris, who lives in Swaffham Prior with wife Sandra and family, says he is looking forward to taking on a completely different role.

“The people that I have met in Northern Ireland have been tremendously warm and hospitable and I’m looking forward to working with them, serving God and each other, in a traditional village setting,” he said. “I wish all at Cambridge Regional College the very best.”

**- ENDS -**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)