

## Presidents Diary 2009/10

Well my Presidential year is now started and I had a great evening on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September in Emmanuel Presbyterian Church. It was fantastic to see people who have shared my personal journey in CE in the past and the present and hopefully there were a few there who will share with my future CE experiences.

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September

Magheramorne Presbyterian

It did not take long for my first engagement as Irish President and no better place to start than in my home union and in a CE that I have grown close to over the past few years. It was so exciting to see 26 young people at Magheramorne Presbyterian CE and was delighted to meet their new minister who, like me, was in his first week in his new role. I continue to wish Elma, Maurice and all the other leaders Gods richest blessings as they continue their work for God through the CE. I also look forward to seeing all the young people as they continue to support their local union events.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September

East Antrim Executive

On behalf of the Irish CE I was very pleased to bring their blessings and prayers to the East Antrim Executive. Our first executive meeting was held in 1<sup>st</sup> Carrickfergus Presbyterian and was very well supported.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Carnmoney Presbyterian

This night was very special to me as it was a chance to go back to the CE where my journey all started some 30+ years ago. I was delighted to see the CE still going in the very hall where I first became a Christian.

I enjoyed seeing three sections meeting with many dedicated leaders and even more boys and girls have fun and getting the opportunity to learn more about gods love. I especially enjoyed speaking to the young people in the intermediate section where I conducted my first ever CE talk many years ago.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Planning Board

My first planning board went fairly smoothly with no major hiccups and although not a full attendance there was plenty of items to discuss and many plans agreed.

#### East Antrim Fun Day

Double header today with a planning board this morning and now the East Antrim Fun day in the afternoon. This event was very enjoyable as I was able to sit back and watch everything instead of organising this event as I have done in previous years during my role as junior convenor. With over 50 children present from 7 societies the event was a great success and my appreciation goes out to Lynda and everyone involved in making the day happen. I enjoyed the opportunity to address the boys and girls and they were indeed well addressed having the East Antrim Present (Gillian) also present. A wide variety of activities and parachute games were enjoyed by all, even some of the leaders seemed to be enjoying themselves (see photos in the photo gallery on the website).

#### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October

##### Gardenmore Presbyterian

It has been a few years since I last visited Gardenmore Presbyterian Juniors and it was refreshing to see so many young boys and girls enjoying a very busy meeting with lots of activities being well managed. I even got juice and biscuits, although the chocolate ones were all gone before I got to them.

It was also good to visit the young peoples CE and I had the opportunity to share my theme with them before they started into a closed envelope meeting where everyone had a chance to take part.

#### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October

##### Belfast Union Comrades

I must admit I did not expect to be attending a Comrades event at only 38 but I just could not turn down the kind invitation from Leslie Scott to attend the Belfast Union meeting in Ravenhill Presbyterian Church. It was great to see so many comrades meeting together for fellowship and of course tea and biscuits; well it was a Presbyterian church. It was a new experience to attend a comrades event and one that I will cherish and remember for some time. I wish them all the best and want to encourage them as the prayer back bone of the Christian Endeavour.

#### Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Carrickfergus Presbyterian

It is so great to see children taking part in the weekly meetings and 1<sup>st</sup> Carrick certainly get lots of people involved; bible reading, chairperson, leading songs and of course opening and closing prayers were all led by the members. I have been a regular visitor here for a few years and was very pleased with the reception I was given, even though they were not happy when I did not have a quiz with me, SORRY, I must try to remember one for my next visit if they will have me back. I do wish them all the best in the future and look forward to seeing them at the local and Irish union events throughout the year.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Irish Executive

First executive meeting tonight as President and I felt it went very well. There was some important business to be discussed but all went well and we even managed to have a bit of a laugh in the midst of it.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

Kilbride Presbyterian Church

Kilbride have been a great strength to me over the years and a heart felt thanks goes out to the leaders especially Jayne who has always been there for me.

I enjoyed listening and taking part in the singing with the juniors, they are very energetic and felt like I had completed an aerobics session when I had finished. As always they were very attentive and participated well with my short talk and I hope they continue to shine for Jesus in all they do.

I then called in to see the YPs and was very excited as what I had to say worked in so well with what they were doing regarding peer pressure. The leaders had prepared a very participative and informative meeting and I was glad to have been a part of it. The young people had obviously understood the pressures they come up against and I hope they continue to trust that God will indeed always be there for them whenever they might need him.

Keep up the good work everyone.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Ballyhenry Presbyterian Church

It has been a few years since I was last at Ballyhenry, which is actually the closest CE to mine in Glengormley. They have a very energetic group of young people and it was great to see them all taking part, especially in the chain prayer under the lead of Pearl. It was also exciting to hear

them learning the song which is my theme for the year "Shine, from the inside out", although I did get myself tied up in knots a bit when I tried to help them with the actions.

All the best for you service next year.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Enniskillen YP Christmas Dinner

I made my longest trip to date travelling to Kesh to meet with all the young people in the Enniskillen Union. The weather was not great and the fog meant that I did not get to enjoy the scenery on my way there. However my wife and I stayed over and things were much clearer on our way home on Sunday.

We enjoyed a fantastic meal in the Lough Erne Hotel and then I did have a laugh watching the young people playing some games and the line dancing was great.

Thanks for a lovely night and it was great to see so many young people enjoying themselves on a night out.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010

Priesthill Methodist YP's

After a quite Christmas as president I was delighted to visit a newly formed young peoples society and equally as delighted to see our ex-president Carole. The young people were very enthusiastic and it was great to see everyone take part in a time of chain prayer.

They seemed to enjoy my talk and participated very willingly and were generally very attentive and it was a real pleasure to visit them.

I wish them all the best and would encourage the leaders to keep up the good work, I think they were all encouraged when two new members arrived and I will continue to pray for them all in the future.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Carnmoney Presbyterian CE Service

Had a lovely morning back at the church where my journey in CE began. Saw a lot of old faces and could not believe it was 18 years since I left to start up a CE in Glengormley Methodist. The kids and young people were excellent and the use of the projection system made for a very affective and interactive service. It is great to see CE still very strong in Carnmoney Presbyterian.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Spring Council

Was not as nervous for this meeting and was encouraged by the prayers and support from my fellow council members. Numbers were down slightly but this did not stop us discussing some important business. I left quite exhausted and with some issues to follow up and I will trust that my Lord will guide me through them.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010

Westbourne Presbyterian

This was my first visit of a busy week on my tour round three Presbyterian Church's. It was also the first time I have visited this CE and was very excited to see a willing band of leaders and some enthusiastic young people. As always I was pleased to see so many taking part and speaking out at the front of the meeting. It was also nice to hear the boys and girls repeating the consecration promises.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010

1<sup>st</sup> Newtownards Presbyterian

This was not my first visit to this church however it was my first visit to their CE meeting and I was not disappointed. Promises were again enthusiastically repeated and lots of participation. I was especially encouraged by everyone joining in the chain prayer and praying for lots of people from their own church and also for the people in Haiti and Chile. The singing was great and I enjoyed sitting in on their group work activities as they planned their upcoming meetings.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Kilbride Presbyterian CE Service

My second visit to Kilbride this year was not disappointing and I enjoyed bringing my family the relatively short distance to share in their annual CE service. The young people were fantastic and so confident standing up in front of a busy church. The drama by the intermediate section was very entertaining but also told a strong story about temptation and how we must resist and trust in Jesus to help us at all times. Saw a few old faces and was given a very warm welcome by Rev Moore who I remembered from Carnmoney Presbyterian more years ago that either of us wanted to admit.