

Region 1 Report for DRAE 2016

Northern Ireland.... Presbyterian Deaconesses

Deaconesses are called to Christian service by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Council for Mission in Ireland. In churches, hospitals, the prison service and the community, deaconesses bring authentic faith in Christ to everyone they meet. As women with a specific calling they are a dedicated group, some trained with specific skills in counselling or caring, others passionate about reaching people beyond the normal circle of the church. A list of where Deaconesses are placed and further detail is on the web page www.missionireland.org/deaconesses.asp.

At present we have 22 active deaconesses and 2 in training. We meet together as a group monthly for fellowship, prayer and training.

Hilary McDowell died on 27th December after a long illness. She was a remarkable person, having written 7 books and served many years in our Church in the areas of reconciliation and healing.

Jenny Robinson and Muriel Cromie retired this year.

Christine Kyle (Secretary)

Diaconate in the Church of Scotland (DCS)

The Diaconate Council meet twice during the year, a residential in the Summer in Dundee and a day conference in the winter. Last year's president, Pat Munro has recently retired from ministry, and Marion Stewart has been appointed as the next President to take up her duties at the end of the Council meeting in June.

The June meeting was, as always, a very enjoyable meeting and received visitors from the other ecumenical diaconal groups. Ann Wren attended representing DRAE. 5 deacons attended Norway and gave the invitation for the DRAE Assembly 2019 to be in Scotland.

We had an excellent day conference in January in Rosyth Parish Church which has been recently renovated. Morag Crawford has worked in this parish for some time and has been involved in fund raising for a new project. She introduced the project, how it was funded and its aims and purpose, and these include foodbank, Hub café each week plus other community activities

Our second speaker was David Bradwell who is Refugee Co-ordinator for the Church of Scotland.

We are looking forward to hosting CRAE conference in 2019. A working group are presently looking at venues and costing. John Bell (Iona) has agreed to join us at the Assembly.

Pat Munro, President

Diaconal Association of the Church of England (DACE)

This year we held our annual training residential in the North of England at Wyredale Conference Centre. We looked at the document from the Norwegian Lutheran Church, **Diakonia in Action** and took from the paper, 3 themes to focus our own purpose and thinking;

Envisioning transformation, reconciliation and Empowerment,

Mission, and

Spirituality,

We also held our AGM, funds are diminishing and numbers of members (Full 40 associates 20) but the overall numbers of Deacons in the Church of England remain steady currently 125. DACE is the only organisation monitoring or supporting vocations and ministries. Pat Wright the Vice President has retired and is currently on an extended stay in S. Africa visiting projects she enabled whilst in ministry there. New Vice Chair is Corrine Smith

Kommentar [CW1]:

DACE has continued to work on its web page and has regular enquiries about diaconate vocation. We are in Dialogue with the new central vocations team in London and have begun discussions with the other Anglican Deacon in the UK. There are no deacons in Ireland but the Archbishops of Scotland and Wales have identified representatives to begin the dialogue and Ann Wren will meet with these in the coming year.

We also continue our ecumenical dialogue when we meet at the DSC or MDO meetings.

Methodist Diaconal Order (MDO)

The move from the Centre in Birmingham to offices in Methodist House in Central London is now complete. Convocation for MOD members was held in Swanick in May for 3 days with ecumenical representatives. The meeting was tempered by the fact the Warden was absent due to family illness and bereavement and has recently resigned having held the office for her two terms. Karen McBride is Acting Warden and has overseen the transition to London. A new Warden will be elected at this year's Convocation. Please keep the Order in your prayers at this time of change.

All new deacons have been placed and a full number were ordained at Conference in the summer. There were more potential places for deacons than people.

A huge piece of work on the theology of ministry is being done by the Faith and Order Committee. This group is considering all ministries and their nature, role and function and how ministries work together.