



From the President's Kitchen Table Connected to God, connected to each other and connected to CDF – Patterns



Life is full of patterns. Patterns of day and night, tasks and rest, times and seasons. Patterns of habit and patterns of unscheduled activity. I plan, then discuss with patients and their parents or carers, possible orthodontic treatment options within generally accepted limits and patterns using the best evidence I have. I love a day when there is space for spontaneity within the order of my week!

As many of you will know I closed my orthodontic practice at the end of March. Finally, with the doors closed and building vacated, where was I to find the pattern for my life?

At home perhaps? But home was filled with the remnants of an orthodontic practice. Clutter. When I hung up my washing I fell over an autoclave; if I tried to go upstairs, “useful” cupboards, far

too good to throw out, barred my way. There were boxes of hand instruments, folders and files, shredders and leaflet racks in the hallway and cartons of sterile water in the corridor! My working pattern had been completely disrupted. All that remained constant was my hospital work on Fridays.

Nearly three months have passed and thankfully there is now some order to the chaos. Bills are paid and accounts submitted, the tasks are reducing and I can look up and out searching for my “next thing”. What are my next steps with God?

At times it can seem that we have lost our life or work pattern. We feel tossed about by whatever is being throwing at us. Dental and national politics impact us with their uncertainty. Our NHS contract may be coming to an end with

discussions, negotiations and agreements to be signed. There will be new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor and targets to be met. We must replace our aging computer system to remain compliant. The thought of learning a whole new system, setting up new favourites and layouts feels almost too much. Perhaps we have to change our bank account or find a new electricity supplier.

The mouth has patterns to be discovered. The beautiful histology of the circumvallate papillae or the sequence of incisors, canines, premolars and molars to give a perfect occlusion. When we follow an occlusal sequence, we give our patients a functioning and aesthetic occlusion. We wouldn't consider restoring a molar implant with a canine, or placing a premolar in a prosthetic anterior set-up! Finding and following patterns is good.

The Bible has patterns for us to find too. A closer look at the creation story in Genesis is revealing. (Genesis 1:1-31) Taking the days in pairs, there are patterns to be discovered. On Day One, God creates light and on Day Four, the sun, moon and stars. On Day Two God creates sky, oceans and rivers and on Day Five God creates birds and fish. On Day Three God creates dry land and plants and on Day Six God creates animals and in his final act of creation, people; people whom He created in His own image.

In John's gospel, chapter 13, Jesus speaks of giving His followers a pattern to copy. Here He is with His disciples; the evening

continued over...

meal is in progress and He knows His time is close. When they are about to eat, much to the disciples' surprise and consternation He begins to wash their feet. When He has finished, He says; "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." A pattern for their living and for our living has been set.

We can have an impact on the people

round us and influence for good. God calls us to be *salt and light* just where we are, (Matthew 5:13). When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He looked away from Himself and out at the world He was serving. Jesus laid down His life in the service of God and the world He came to save. His desire is that we engage ourselves fully with Him in our

preordained role, which may be public or private, seen or unseen, and follow Jesus all the way to the cross.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10)

CDF Eastern Regional Day - 22nd June 2019



On a glorious, sunny day in June a small group of dentists and spouses were privileged to share in food and

fellowship at the beautiful home and garden of Vicky and Jonathan Graham in rural Norfolk.

The hours flew by as we shared our concerns (health, churches, NHS), causes for celebration (grandchildren, anniversaries) and our hopes and plans for the future (within and without dentistry). It was good to sing and pray together, to offer all these things up to the Lord and to encourage one another, knowing that, as we go our separate

ways, we can continue to do this, though separated by many miles. It does take some effort to find time to meet, but if anyone is debating whether or not to attend a regional day, please do give it serious consideration.

We're looking forward to seeing how God answers our prayers in the months to come. Maybe we shall meet up at the National Conference in November?

Barbara Taylor

East Midlands CDF Regional Get Together Saturday 18th May 2019 at Rufford Country Park



The East Midlands CDF Regional get together was held at Rufford Country Park on Saturday 18th May. Despite the damp start, where we sheltered in the coffee shop of course, we had a wonderful day exploring the grounds and gardens of Rufford Country Park. Thankfully the weather dried up for a picnic by lunchtime.

It was great to be able to chat, share and fellowship as we strolled through the park with fellow believers, about all manner of things, dental and non-dental. It is great to have brothers and sisters, each on their

own journeys and at different stages of life and careers, but all striving to work out what it means to be a Christian and follow our Lord on their journey. I personally find it a great encouragement and opportunity to encourage others - we are stronger together than we are on our own.

I had a non-Christian friend say to me that "You don't need to go to church to meet God". And indeed you don't. However, the devotion and enjoyment of a football fan, is all the greater for going to a football match and meeting with other fans, rather than watching on your own on the TV, or when you follow your favourite band, it's great to go to a concert to watch them and adore them in person, rather than to listen to them on your own. That shared adoration and everyone chanting the same song, whatever that

song may be or to whom or what it is directed at, is a very powerful and affirming thing.

That's why we meet together as Christians, whether it is in our own churches, at a CDF regional group or at Conference. When we are together, we are so much more than the sum of our parts.

So, if you need encouragement or feel able to give any encouragement, then conference is a great way to come and meet fellow Christian dental nurses, practice managers, dentists and hygienists. Alternatively, if you want to dip your toe in first, then a regional meeting is held in most areas in April or May every year and is advertised in Three-in-One.

Karen Paterson

CDF Regional Representative - East Midlands

CDF Annual Conference

Hothorpe Hall - 1st – 3rd November 2019



Our main speaker is Peter Chilvers. Peter trained at UMDS (Guy's & St Thomas').

Having graduated and completed VT, I spent six

months working in Zambia with Andy Patching, using the dental unit alongside his colleague Chonde. After returning, I changed tack and worked with UCCF based in London assisting the Christian unions at Imperial, King's and St George's Hospital, amongst others. During that time, I worked part time at a mixed but predominately NHS practice in Gillingham, Kent.

After five years with UCCF, during which I married Esther, we moved to Sunderland where I took up the post of Associate Minister in a church plant, Bethany City Church, that at the time met in the Stadium of Light, again whilst working at a mixed dental practice, this time in Washington.

After five years in the North East the Lord

moved us back down South to serve in a Baptist church in Bedfordshire. Hockliffe Street Baptist Church is a large church family with real breadth of backgrounds and ages and experience. It also happens to be the home church of Tony and Anne Giles!

In Leighton Buzzard I also work for one morning a week in a predominantly private practice in the town which is great. We have two boys and at the time of writing are in the process of adopting a little girl.

Spare time is spent with friends and family. I wish I could run more, play more sport, read more and play music more!



Our Clinical speaker is Liz Roebuck.

Liz qualified in Newcastle in 1987 and worked there for two years in hospital roles, before moving north

to Edinburgh. With the exception of a stint commuting to Glasgow to complete her training in Paediatric Dentistry, she has

worked there since. She currently holds a Consultant post with NHS Lothian, is on the Board of Trustees of the British Society of Paediatric Dentistry and is also involved with the BMA, representing dentistry on the Local Negotiating Committee. Building on her enjoyment of Nordic Walking, Liz recently completed her Diploma in Fitness and Nordic Walking, qualifying as an instructor in 2017.

Liz was co-founder of the CDF Scotland group with Kenny McLay many years ago. She worships at a local Episcopal church where she has the privilege of helping in one of the children's teams.

On the family front, she is married to Stuart and is mum to a 17-year-old. In her list of hobbies is walking, talking and paper cutting – the 'surgeon's craft'. She loves a real good laugh, and spending time with family and friends, and is beginning to consider her 'trosième âge', whenever that might be...

"In summary, I'm enthusiastic, take too much on to the point of disorganisation, the house is a tip, the grass is a foot high and, despite Myers Briggs telling me I'm an introvert, I love being with people and having a laugh!"

Conference-onomics

CDF Council meetings can be quite fun - you get to meet up with your CDF friends at a time other than conference- and eat sumptuous amounts of nice food, including (in my case essential fodder) lots of cake! What's not to like? Well, occasionally, there's some tough stuff to thrash out.

Over my time as Conference Secretary - this is my 8th year – the subject of conference fees has come up on several occasions. It's a tricky topic, as we try to keep fees as low as we can for delegates. At the same time, we want to make it affordable for those with children, and to continue subsidising places for our Mission Partners, students, FDs plus anyone else who needs it and requests financial help to attend. Along with increasing costs of conference venues, it feels like we are called on to perform some intricate financial juggling act - Conference-onomics!

Over the last eight years, we have managed to keep conference sustainable. Four years ago, I negotiated a deal with Hothorpe Hall (13

years in Africa had not been wasted after all!) and they generously agreed to discount our venue cost over the next three years. This has helped to keep conference viable. This is now coming to an end, and as you may know, Hothorpe Hall is no longer an independent concern, but was acquired last year by The Christian Guild. My bartering skills may be rendered redundant...

So, what can you do?

Please come!

One of the lovely things we like about conference is that we have the whole of Hothorpe to ourselves. Which means we pay for it ALL! The more of us that come, the more we cover our costs and keep conference fees low.

And please continue to give generously.

The Bursary Fund is the way in which we can offer places at conference for people who would otherwise not be able to afford it. We all want to see many children attending

conference, be able to meet up with Mission Partners and encourage students and young dentists to come. To be able to offer help to those whose finances may be temporarily stretched, is something we are committed to. Through the generous giving of many individuals, we can continue to subsidise these places, and still break even on the accounts (and I always try to keep our accountant happy!). It is one of the most important ways in which we keep conference going in its present form.

So please:

- think about coming to conference if you haven't already booked
- invite a friend or colleague
- consider donating to the bursary fund. It doesn't have to be a large sum – we get donations from £10 to £200 – every pound given helps in some way.

I look forward to receiving your booking!

Frances Vose - Conference Secretary

Mission Partner Update

Yet another year has passed and it has been my privilege to keep in touch with our mission partners on your behalf.

This report contains articles written by Simon Stretton Downes and Lynne Smith, and includes news of happenings in Liberia, Zambia and with Mercy Ships. For those working in more sensitive parts of the world, updates will be available at conference, when there will also be an opportunity to meet a number of our partners in person.

Many of our partners welcome correspondence from CDF friends or can send reports directly to interested CDF members. Please contact me through Karen Silcox, our CDF administrator (christiandentalpartnership@gmail.com) to put you in touch.

Jonathan Longhurst

Mission Partner Secretary

Jackie Knowles (Mercy Ships)



We left Guinea at the beginning of June 2019. Leaving a country and field service is always a painful time. We get so close to those we work

with; the day crew particularly that it breaks my heart as we sail away.

The plan is for the clinic we were able to set up in the dental school to continue after we have left. We are leaving much of the equipment; dental chairs, autoclaves, instruments, bracket tables that hold the drills, air compressors, etc. We have even ordered some simulation dental equipment, enabling students to work on 'dummies' as it were, before treating real people! All things a Western teaching dental school would have, but here, until now, has been unheard of.



There has been much thought put into this and Mercy Ships is planning on still having some sort of presence here to keep it running well. The concern is if we leave it completely to those currently in

charge of the dental school here, things won't continue well.

It has been a great encouragement to be able to continue to do devotions with the crew and our Guinean translators each Friday. We sang together and then someone shared a passage from the Bible and prayed. We covered such things as 'What true love is', following on from



Valentine's Day which is also celebrated here; 'Why is Good Friday good?' over Easter; a talk on friendship and what the Bible says

about friendship and who is the best and most faithful friend to have; and how far God has removed our sins from us. It is so good that our Muslim day crew stay for these times and they are often the ones most heartily singing!

The hospital chaplaincy onboard have offered all our Guinean translators (we call them Day Crew), a French Bible. It is so encouraging that all thirteen of my day crew said they wanted one. We had a dentist here over Easter who really challenged them to read the Bible when they get it and to really seek God and to find out for themselves who He really is. He also offered them an English Bible too, of which ten asked for one. So there is real potential that they will be reading God's Word and He will have the



opportunity to open up their hearts and minds to see the truth. Please pray along with me for this.

Meanwhile we are also preparing for the next field service which will be in Dakar, Senegal. The dental team will be living off the ship in Senegal (about 1 hour 15 mins away) to have more easy access to those who need dental care as the city of Dakar actually isn't too badly off for dentists.



This will bring its own challenges, but is also a great opportunity to live and work so much more in the community we are serving, which will hopefully have a spiritual as well as physical impact.

Please pray for all the details, as a house and clinic are found for us and preparations done.

Jacqui Knowles

Simon & Grace Stretton Downes (Liberia)



On Saturday 18th May Trinity Dental Clinic was 'officially' opened by Vice President Her Excellency Jewel Howard Taylor. There are only six fully qualified dentists in Liberia (population 4.8 million); we like to think we offer the best dental care in the country! It certainly makes a massive difference to many peoples' lives. We seek to serve in Jesus' name.

There were speeches in the ELWA hospital chapel and then the ribbon was cut! Simon had the honour of giving the Vice President, the Minister for Health and other officials a short guided tour of the clinic. They all appeared to be very impressed and there was a great atmosphere. It was very crowded but relaxed, with plenty of photo opportunities before the Vice President moved on to open the hospital's new CT scanner which is only the second in Liberia!



The whole team were in the Chapel early, looking their best. We are so thankful for a great bunch of people to work with. Plants had been planted the afternoon before the opening so the Clinic was looking its best too.

Meanwhile, Grace has been busy teaching. At present it is student nurses from the six establishments who send them on placement to ELWA Hospital. She had a couple of weeks of sewing curtains for the guest house and overseeing its facelift but there are still cushion covers to finish. She is going to be a part of dedicated training providing critical nursing care led by some of our doctors. This is to empower a dozen nurses to thrive in emergency settings in Paediatrics and Obstetrics especially. This is an exciting development, and opportunity for our team at the hospital.

Simon has been fitting all the new equipment. There were eight operating lights (and seven suction units) to install, newly arrived from their long journey (made in Italy, sent to South Africa then forwarded by ship to Liberia via Germany!).

We thank God for their safe arrival. It has been amazing, all our practical skills have been able to be used here, and with a couple of exceptions, everything's gone together well! What a blessing, when it is such an effort getting things here in the first place! At last. The main four items of kit are present and installed. Dental chair, drill cart, suction unit and operating light. So quick and easy to write the sentence; honestly, it just doesn't convey the months of preparation and planning or the energy involved to make it a reality!

In the midst of all the busyness we have sometimes felt overwhelmed with people's needs and vulnerable, as we clearly cannot meet the needs of everyone who asks. We have tried to point people to Jesus, keeping our focus on Him and bring our anxious thoughts to God. Only by trusting Him are we enabled to be, and do all He requires of us.

"What does the Lord require of us? To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God." Micah 6:8.

In April we had a wonderful visit to Johannesburg, to see our daughter Alison and her husband Charles whom we last

saw at their wedding in 2016. Whilst in South Africa it was also special to meet up with Grace's brother, Paul and his wife, Sylvia.



On our long return journey, we stayed overnight in Nairobi in order to meet up with our dear friend Eddie. It has been a tough year for him and he has his end of first year dental exams in mid-July.

It is nearly two years since we came to live in Liberia. Our first term will end in the summer. We are thinking ahead to our period of Home Assignment. We plan to be in the UK for three months, from the end of August. There will be time for rest, reconnecting with family and friends, but also reporting back and sharing what we've been up to, in God's strength. We are already planning speaking and sharing engagements. If you would like us to share at your group please let us know.

If you are able, please pray for:

- For us to complete our first term here well. Particularly, that the clinic would be fully operational with most hiccups ironed out!
- Successful critical nurse training, to save lives in the hospital.
- For the smooth running of the clinic. Melvina will be away for two months, returning just before we leave in August.
- For wisdom for the Government in dealing with the economic challenges.
- Eddie to finish his year and pass his exams.

Simon & Grace Stretton-Downes

Lynne & Keith Smith (Burkina Faso)

Thanks to everyone at CDF for your ongoing support and prayers which we so appreciate. Your partnership is bringing healing and salvation to the lives of the poor and neglected. Here is our update....



1. Insecurity: The Jihadist threat is increasing in both severity and geographic spread. Over 1,000 schools have had to close and 80,000 people have had to flee their homes. Mission organisations and NGOs have been withdrawing their personnel from the country and the Assemblies of God have recalled five Burkinabé Pastors we had been working with from the north. The security services are stretched thin, and this has resulted in an upsurge of lawlessness. There are also inter-ethnic tensions as the security services have been targeting Fulani villages. Subsequently our dental teams have had to restrict their movements, with most of the work in Oudalan now being done in the town of Gorom-Gorom, and the Kaya team liaise with the security services before travelling out to villages. Despite all of these limitations the work has actually increased (2017-18 755 patients treated; 2018-19 1,186 patients treated) with people walking miles, even coming across the desert from Niger for dental treatment.

Please pray for the safety of the dental teams, for wisdom and boldness in preaching Christ. Pray for believers in the North who now have no Pastor.

2. Openness to the gospel: In the midst of suffering people are turning to Christ. Recently in a Muslim Fulani village that had been targeted by terrorists 56 people gave their lives to Christ. Gorom dental team travelled to a Fulani village on the border of Niger, and experienced an unprecedented openness to the gospel. Last week 120 Fulani believers gathered in Kaya to be

strengthened by God's Word and six were baptised.

Give thanks to God for the work he is doing in the hearts of the Fulani, and pray that many will give their lives to Christ.

3. Unity: At a time when inter-ethnic rivalries between the Fulani and Mossy tribal groups are being exploited by terrorists, our dental workers who are from both tribes are working together for the sake of the gospel and this also is having an impact. The Kaya team has decided to focus their work specifically on reaching neglected Fulani villages, working with Pastor Boureima, a Fulani evangelist.

Pray for our co-workers: Pastor Boureima, Pastor Pierre, Pastor Pascal and Seydou in bringing reconciliation.

4. Leaders: As the missionaries and Pastors leave we have been encouraged to see local believers step up. Instead of being silenced by fear, they seem to be becoming bolder in standing for Jesus.

Both dental teams have formed their own Burkina Associations and my role has become mainly advisory (although I am still training Grace who will re-sit her practical exam in July). Sambo has really grown in confidence since our mission trip to northern Kenya last year.



Pray for emerging leaders as they take the work forward.

5. Provision: Last week we received a grant from the Christian Motorcycle Association to provide the Kaya team with a three wheeled motorcycle for the work. I also fund-raised and purchased three ultra-portable dental chairs from ITEC-USA to help the teams when they travel long distances. Dentaaid provided us with some new instruments to help with the increase in workload. Presently most patients

contribute 200cfa to their treatment (around 35p). We have resisted increasing this as we want the work to be accessible to the poorest of the poor.



Thank God for His provision, and pray that Christians will be generous so that the unreached will continue to receive dental care and the good news of Jesus.

6. Smiths: This has not been an easy season for us. We arrived in Burkina and almost immediately had to pack up and move to the capital city because of the terror threat. This has also limited our movements with most personal ministry happening in and around Ouagadougou as we bring down pastors and leaders for training. Keith has been ill most of the time. His heart medications provoked gout and then he had to have two emergency appendectomies (because the surgeon had left a bit the first time). Two people very dear to us were murdered. But we have also been really encouraged by the growth of the church and our personal walk with Jesus has deepened. We have been back in the UK for a month and have been mostly recuperating and settling into family life. We intend to return to Burkina but for several shorter trips each year, the first of these will be in July. Meanwhile we continue to encourage our friends on the field daily by WhatsApp calls, visit supporting churches, work on raising funds for various ongoing projects and create discipleship materials for the emerging Fulani church.

Please pray for our family as we seek to encourage and enable God's people in Burkina.

Lynne & Keith Smith

Andy & Eira Patching (Zambia)



We receive irregular reports as there is now a forty mile round trip to send emails as the local mobile tower has broken.

Andy has spent most of his career working in Northern Zambia, initially based in Ndola in the Copperbelt where in the late 80s/early 90s he married Eira, a white Zambian widow complete with four step-daughters who are now grown up and some have children of their own.

For many years Andy serviced remote

mission stations and schools with a dedicated dental caravan based on a Ford 350 truck and fully equipped trailer. He was able to carry out a full range of dental treatments including routine dentistry, prosthetics and orthodontics for missionaries, their children and Zambians alike. When I went out to stay in July 1999 they were developing the Isubilo project which they ran for over ten years ministering to the HIV AIDS victims of Ndola, recently handing over to Operation Mobilisation. Now in the North West province, supposedly of retirement age and dependant on the Lord for funds, they have resurrected the mission maternity hospital and provide a basic albeit unregistered weekly dental service providing mostly extraction with the help of Kangelu, an assistant in training. They also run a retreat and welcome visitors seeking rest, in the remote lakeside beauty that is Sach.

For many years Andy was assisted by Elastus Chonde; however after Andy moved to Sachibondu in 2013 Chonde stayed on in Ndola with his family and for a while worked for Global Child Dental Fund (GCDF) under Raman Bedi. He was able to put his daughter Eira into a nursing school in Zambia and sent his son Andy to China to study medicine, but is currently not receiving any funding other than what he makes using the mobile unit which is now static on the Isubilo site, needing repairs and upgrades particularly to the A-dec unit and is finding life tough financially.

Since breaking his leg and wrist coming off his motor bike last summer, Andy has taken a while to recover and has had a couple of other health issues. He hopes to join us at the Conference later this year.

Tony and Ann Giles

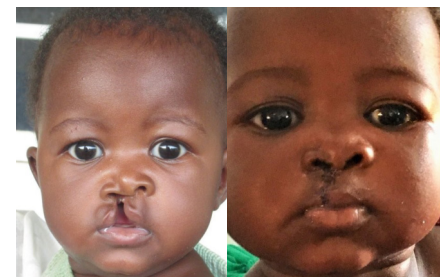


As usual we have been bringing in teams of volunteer doctors, dentists, nurses and ancillary workers to treat oral and maxillofacial conditions and to train local staff.

We are now concentrating on Mission Hospitals in Guinea and Kenya. In Guinea we continue to be amazed at the skills of the local surgeon, Dr Jean Faya Yaradouno, who is now able to carry out a large range of procedures. We have been excited to have several CDF members join us again. Desmond Tham and Karen Paterson in Kenya, and Stan Parikh in Guinea. Another highlight has been working alongside

Simon and Grace Stretton-Downes for a few days in Monrovia, with continued "telemedicine" (or is it "teledental"?) contact most weeks discussing cases on WhatsApp, using photos and x-rays. We have been treating cleft lip and palate patients in partnership with The Smile Train.

Attached are before and after photos of three girls who travelled to Hope Medical Centre in Guinea for surgery with Jean Faya and Stan after I saw them with Simon in Monrovia with maxillary tumours. Also photos of clefts treated at Dreamland Mission Hospital in Kenya, by Desmond and Karen.



Introducing our New Administrator – Karen Silcox



As many of you will know, Sarah Felton our previous CDF administrator stepped down recently. We are delighted to introduce our new administrator, Karen Silcox. Here she introduces herself.

I am writing this in June, having taken on the role of CDF administrator in May. I am very much still finding my feet and all the

Council members have been very welcoming.

I live in Devon with my husband Colin and my two children aged 10 and 5. Colin is a dentist and works in a practice in South Devon. He has been a member of CDF since his student days in Sheffield.

I was at university in Exeter and we moved back to Exeter in 2003 when Colin was doing his vocational training. He commutes by train each day along the glorious Exe Estuary and we all enjoy being so close to the sea and also to Dartmoor. It is not surprising we have never left! We worship as a family in an Evangelical Anglican Church situated on a new housing estate in the East of Exeter very near junction 29 of the M5 and Ikea.

Professionally I have always been interested in how organisations are run

and spent most of my years before children working in various finance roles within local government. During this time, I also became the treasurer trustee of a small Christian charity in Devon. This then led to me taking on the role of treasurer at my church, and subsequently allowed me to take on a small finance role in another small charity in Exeter. This means that I was in a good position to apply for the administrator role at CDF. God is good in how He has provided for me.

What I hope to do is bring my experience of working within the charity sector to CDF to make our processes the best they can be. That they can be as cost effective as possible but also tell the story of CDF in the best way possible.

I will be at conference in November so I look forward to meeting many of you then.

Conference Secretary – Job Vacancy!

Nine years ago, I attended a CDF conference after returning from Malawi where I had lived with my family for ten years. I came to conference alone, but met a whole new group of people who I immediately connected with, mainly over our dubious rule interpretation at the quiz; who says a wheelchair is not a piece of sporting equipment? Needless to say, Tracey (our Three-in-One editor) and I have had to stick together ever since!

That year, I expressed a vague interest in helping to organise the conference, and became Conference Secretary overnight. Tracey joined me on council as Three-in-One editor, as the persuasive skills required for the job had been so ably demonstrated at the quiz. (Was I not going to mention that again?) We have been on CDF Council ever since and enjoy meeting up during the year with the rest of the committee.

Like the Queen and all her Prime Ministers (although slightly less in my case), next year I

will be on my 4th President of CDF, and it will be my 9th year of running conference; so after the 2020 conference, I plan to stand down. This will give me two years of working alongside Karen our new administrator to ease her into this part of her job. (Though I doubt she needs it judging by the way we are working already!)

Running conference has been great! I do enjoy the role, especially when it all starts to come together at the weekend. And so many people seem to enjoy it and get so much from it; it is a privilege and honour to do something like this. It's a rewarding job and I have learnt so much from it. However, I think it is important that fresh and new ideas and initiatives are brought to conference. A new Conference Secretary can do those things and bring his or her own style to conference, just as I have done. Over the past couple of years, I also seem to be less able to manage all my volunteering, and stepping down from a few of my commitments would be a service to my family and church!

If you wish to know more about the role, please email me via the website, or chat to me at conference - if you can catch me!

Frances Vose
CDF Conference Secretary



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