

Edgehill Christian Education Centre

Existing courses in ECEC have continued during the past year with some new ideas in the developmental stage.

1. Courses in the College

Fifteen students enrolled on the Local Preachers' course, 'Faith & Worship'. Monday mornings in the college have been very busy with three groups meeting: 'Faith in the Frame', exploring art and faith, 'Write from the Heart', creative writing, and 'Walk in the Word', Bible Study. The sessions started with students from all three groups joining together in worship, then moving to the session for which they had enrolled. The annual 'Faith in the Frame' exhibition was extended to encompass presentations from all three groups, and incorporated the launch of the fourth 'Write from the Heart' booklet, a collection of prose and poetry written by members of the class.

2. Distance Learning

The existing Correspondence Courses continue to attract people of many denominations from throughout Ireland and the United Kingdom. Introduction of the new CD-Rom course was delayed because of difficulties in obtaining suitable software, but work continues to develop this new venture.

3. Training Events

District training events for Children's workers were jointly organised with the Department of Children's work. In October 'Bright Ideas for Christmas' was offered in Omagh for North West and Enniskillen and Sligo Districts; and in Edgehill for Belfast, North East and Down Districts. In March a similar event took place in Portadown offering suggestions for Easter and Children's Days.

4. Lay Workers

At the direction of Conference, an individualised training programme for Lay Workers has been running as a pilot scheme. In this first year it has been run solely in the Greater Belfast area, but it is hoped to extend this next year. The course is competency-based and work-related and so does not involve attendance at a set venue, but rather, the building of a portfolio of evidence.

5. Teaching

None of these ventures would be possible without the assistance of many people, and the ECEC Executive and the College Governors are grateful to the following who have assisted the full-time staff of the College by taking lectures, tutoring a Correspondence Course, leading seminars or tutorials: Revd. Tim Boocock; Mrs. Sally Campton; Revd. Donald Ker; Revd. Rosemary Lindsay, Mrs. Hazel Loney; Revd. Dr. Johnston McMaster; Mrs. Lynda Neilands; Mrs. Judith Rainey; Miss Rosemary Rainey; Mrs. Helen Sanlon; Mr. Ken Stewart; Revd. Ken Thompson and Mr. Tom Wilson.

6. Resource Centre

The No.9 Resource Centre stocks a good selection of Bibles, worship material, books on Christian living and church leadership, CDs, study material and resources for youth and children's workers. In its first full year of operation over £40,000 worth of such resources was sold. Orders can be placed, and paid for by credit card, over the telephone and from the website. Work is continuing to place the full catalogue on to the website, so that No.9 can really be a Resource Centre for the whole Connexion, not just those in the Greater Belfast area. Much of this would not be possible without the help of volunteers working in the shop and the ECEC Executive and the Edgehill Board of Governors are grateful to the following who have helped in this way: Mr. Cohn Milligan, Mrs. Liz Murray, Mr. Ken Stewart, Mrs. Helen Sweeney and Miss Blake Williams.

7. Finance

The ongoing work of ECEC and any further development of workshops, seminars and resources available for Districts are heavily reliant upon grants made available through the Home Mission Department and the Comprehensive Assessment Fund. This continued support is much needed and appreciated.

AGENDA

1. The Conference receives the report.
2. The Conference appoints the Rev. Richard Clutterbuck, M.A., Ph.D., as Principal of the College and Director of Christian Education.
3. The Conference appoints the Rev. Heather M.E. Morris, B.Sc., B.D., Ph.D., as Director of Ministry.
4. The Conference re-appoints the Rev. Heather Robb as Ministerial Treasurer of the Ministerial Training Fund.
5. The Conference re-appoints Mr. Stewart J. Wilson as Lay Treasurer of the Ministerial Training Fund.