



## The end of a chapter

### *Rev Colin Megaw*

#### **Former chaplain at Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre**

**T**he process to become the Presbyterian chaplain to Juvenile Justice in February 1987 was quite formal, with a representative from the Northern Ireland Office accompanying the Ards Presbytery interview panel. The successful candidate was required to sign the Official Secrets Act. Since then, I have seen many changes within the Youth Justice system and readily testify that these reconfigurations have introduced many positive developments to the benefit of staff and children.

As lead chaplain for 35 years, I spanned six directorships within the Justice Centre in Bangor and during my tenure I met with countless children from throughout Northern Ireland and beyond. In my experience, chaplaincy ministry has always been esteemed and valued by the NIO and Department of Justice chiefly through the Youth Justice Agency.

I have very much appreciated the prayer support of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for all the denominational representatives that make up the chaplaincy team. As Rev Lesley-Ann Wilson succeeds me, our joint prayer is that the denominations will enthusiastically avail of the prayer cards and the Woodlands House of God model.

As the outgoing lead chaplain, I leave a legacy of a consistent

visitation ministry, special seasonal services and the writing and videoing of a Juvenile Justice 'Restore' course, which can be viewed by everyone via YouTube, titled 'Woodlands Juvenile Justice Restore Course'.

Please continue to uphold Lesley-Ann and her colleague chaplains for the next chapter of ministry to children and their

families, staff members and visitors to Woodlands Juvenile Justice Centre.

Pictured above are (left to right): Jill, Colin, Lesley-Ann and Gillian.

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#### **Please pray:**

- Give thanks for Colin's service over the past 35 years in Woodlands.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance for Lesley-Ann as she begins her role as chaplain at the centre.