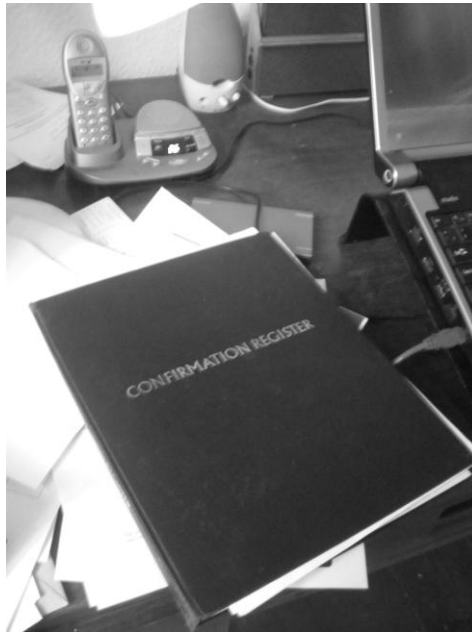


A Trip Down Confirmation Memory Lane



The Confirmation on 17th July last was the end of the current Confirmation Register and in effect, the end of an era lasting 35 years. I decided to glance at the names in the book which was started on 31st March, 1976 and at that Confirmation, held at All Hallows, North Greenford, 39 candidates from Holy Cross were confirmed by the Bishop of Willesden, The Right Reverend Hewlett Thompson.

All in all, the registers shows that during the past 35 years, 598 candidates from Holy Cross have been presented for Confirmation. Quite a lot!

There are some well-known and well-loved names in the book. On the opening page, we find people like Beth Morris, Jean Poole and Neil Pollard. On the 2nd page and on 8th December, 1976 we find Charlotte Ede, Malcolm's mother and at the same Confirmation, this time at Holy Cross, there is the name of David Bennison.

In those days, the Confirmation service would revolve around, with Holy Cross, All Hallows and Christ the Redeemer taking turns.

In December, 1978 we see the name of Barbara Grummitt, who retired from the Greenford branch of Sherry's the funeral director in July 2011. In December 1979 we see Jacky Kingshott. . In December 1980, we see Ray Quick and Alan King. The following sees Patricia Ramsey in the list, now known to us as Kath Kingsbury!

All of a sudden, at Confirmation number 107, my name appears in the book but I have to say that of the 10 candidates I presented, only 3 of the names are still ringing bells in my memory, and all have disappeared from Greenford! The next 29 years provides a mixed bag of candidates. many are the children, then grandchildren of Holy Cross regulars and there are some which bring sad thoughts, like Catherine Cullum whose father died in New Zealand and the O'Lalobo family who have now returned, well some of them, to Uganda. My own daughter Hannah arrives on 13th December, 1992 along with Alan Winter who sadly died after an accident at home.

I can't believe that I have prepared and presented 491 candidates for Confirmation! It seems such a lot, but I always enjoy the preparation, especially the adult groups, and I am already looking forward to 2012.

Neil Richardson