

# Shirley Anne Darbyshire (nee Fergusson) 1943-2011

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*Shirley Fergusson has been our Secretary since 2003. How can I say in a few brief words and express adequately what Shirley has meant to us all in this national association, 8 years as our Secretary & Treasurer, a role she performed with superb skill and efficiency.*

Shirley lived ecumenism and groundedness in her own tradition offers us a tangible example of a way forward for the future of the Church. Shirley has been passionate about the ministry this association stands for. We have just heard Brian (Shirley's son) conclude the Family eulogy with these words, 'Shirley was a great listener, who knew when to give advice but mostly knew how to just be.' This is a pretty good description of what this association is about, that is, accompanying others in their spiritual journey and their lives, no matter what their tradition or life experience from a place of unconditional acceptance.

Shirley has also been a skilled supervisor of many in the association who came to her to help deepen their effectiveness and skill in this ministry. At the heart of this association is a contemplative stance, which simply put means 'resting in God.' Shirley you have been an example to me and many others of this contemplative stance, you have been a rock to this association for so long. The example of your acceptance, openness and grounded faith we will draw on in days to come.

Thank you for all you have given to us, an Association that has with your skill grown in membership, developed a sound incorporated structure, and enriched the lives and ministry of its now 170 members. Thank you.

We are grateful to you, Bill and your family for sharing Shirley with us.

**Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, may she rest in Peace.**

*The Eulogy given on behalf of ACSD by Kevin Gallagher at Shirley's funeral on May 17, 2011*