

Hilary McClay lives in Belfast, where her husband David is both the Rector of Willowfield Church and also Archdeacon of Down. They have been living and ministering in the inner city for almost 18 years, and before that were in a small fishing port on the south-east coast of Northern Ireland. In both contexts they have seen God work powerfully, seeing people come to faith, healed, set free and the church grow. They have 3 grown-up children, their two daughters are both married and one little granddaughter born in December 2018.

Hilary was born in London, and is also the daughter of a clergy family – her parents were involved in the Church of England and she was brought up living in various Vicarages across England. Choosing to give her life to the Lord as a young child, she says that it was in her late teens when she was first filled with the Holy Spirit that her faith became more significant and serving Christ and his church and introducing others to Christ became her priority and passion. After university she spent one year working for a church in London before spending a couple of years working with the author and bible teacher, the late Canon David Watson. Working with him on his last two books would later lead Hilary into a career in Christian journalism, followed by a few years working for an interdenominational Christian ministry and Conference organisation, Spring Harvest – during which time she met an Irish clergyman, David McClay who “rescued her” and took her to live in Northern Ireland.

Currently she is the Development Manager for the Community Association set up as the outreach arm of the church, and also the Northern Ireland Advisor for the Cinnamon Network, a Christian organisation which supports and equips churches to reach to and care for those in greatest need in their local community. David and Hilary also lead an interdenominational ministry across Ireland called New Wine Ireland, which has a vision that in our generation we will see churches across Ireland renewed and restored in passion for the Word and Works of God.