

REPORT FOR DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK 2012

Chaplaincy: NZ Police

It has been a busy and fulfilling year in my role as Chaplain for the Bay of Plenty District with particular responsibility for the stations in Tauranga, Te Puke, Papamoa and Katikati, in addition to District Headquarters in Rotorua.

Aligned to the above local areas is my role as Chair of the Police Chaplains' Advisory Council based out of Police National Headquarters in Wellington. Significantly, during the past year the Council has been responsible for the selection of a new Co-ordinating Chaplain based at National Headquarters.

Apart from the usual ministry of pastoral care, weddings and funerals there has been the added focus on personnel (mostly non-sworn) affected by the changes brought about by restructuring some areas of work. For those working out of Tauranga Central station there has been the upheaval of shifting to new, temporary premises – if a period of about 18 months can be said to be temporary! – while the old station has been demolished and a new purpose built station is being erected on the site.

There have been the usual number of Civic Services and formal police events to attend, including a ceremony honouring the contribution of those who volunteered to go to Christchurch in Operation Earthquake. I also organised, for the fifth year, a choir trip for year 5 students at Bethlehem Junior School. We take them to various elder care facilities in the Tauranga/Mt Maunganui area. A local coach company provide a coach and driver for the day at no charge.

Chaplaincy: NZ Fire Service

Serving as the official Fire Service Chaplain in the Bay of Plenty Coast Area with responsibility for the stations in Tauranga, Greerton, Mount Maunganui and Kawerau has continued to provide interest and challenges.

This year I have also been asked to help with work related incidents in Rotorua and Matamata – technically not in my area and, fortunately, isolated incidents.

As in Police Chaplaincy, the ministry is closely aligned to parish ministry as far as pastoral care, funerals, baptisms and weddings are concerned. I was also involved, together with Archdeacon Joe Huta, in the blessing of the new Regional Headquarters building in Tauranga.

As with the NZ Police, the NZ Fire Service has implemented changes in its managerial structure which have impacted across all segments of the service.

I ended my Report last year with these words “the over-arching feeling for me is that the ministry I offer to Fire and Police personnel is given back by them to me a hundred fold”. The truth of these words was demonstrated tangibly by the response to my health issue in April this year. Support of all kinds – practical and emotional - was both overwhelming and humbling.

**Wendy Showan
August 2012**