

## **CARTER HOUSE AGED CARE FACILITY : REPORT FOR SYNOD 2015**

This is my first report to Synod as I complete my first year as a chaplain to Carter House in Te Puke. Taking on the role as Chaplain was an easy decision as I was a regular visitor to the complex with a my mother being a resident in the Rest Home.

I am very much a part time chaplain only doing 4 hours a week. However, this allows me the opportunity to be available to staff and residents on a Thursday for a short while in the morning, and for a longer period in the afternoon.

Carter House has a family feel to the place especially with those residents who are dependent on care. The staff know all the residents and certainly the residents seem to know what is happening in other areas of the home.

One of the challenges I face is making the Liturgy of the Eucharist not only relevant but meaningful for those in the Dementia Wing. They are a delight to get to know and the prayers and hymns of their past are one connection into their world. One of my joys in this ministry are the conversations I have with residents as I wander around the complex each week. The afternoon Eucharist in the Rest Home is another joy as we gather residents from the hospital wing and wheel them in their chairs to join in the service. The lounge is usually full and the praise of God in song is wholehearted as is their care of each other in helping find page numbers.

Apart from taking the services each week, I make contact with as many resident as I can, bless rooms and units following death or the resident moving to another room. I am available for the staff should they wish to talk with me, and I attend staff meetings and other Carter House functions.

I am grateful to the parishioners from the Te Puke Parish that assist in gathering residents or provide musical accompaniment to the services.

Carter House has a special new resident in a very small young puppy called Carter, who is finding that there are lots of knees he can sit on. He has a big voice for such a little dog and will no doubt cement his place in the life of the complex over the next few months.

Rev'd Ruth Dewdney, Chaplain.