

REPORT FROM BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN FOR HAWKES BAY 2012

I began as Bishop's Chaplain for Hawkes Bay at the end of November 2011 after Bill Bennett had very helpfully and wisely served in an acting capacity since Noel Hendery's retirement in April. I am grateful for the help of both as I have settled into the Diocese.

The role is already turning out to be significantly different to what it was previously, specifically after the commissioning in December of the Ruahine Missional Ministry Developers Team. The Ruahine Team (2.5 full-time equivalent positions) provide oversight and training throughout the seven parishes, meeting weekly together and monthly with me. They are already offering creative and effective support across the Ruahine, and we have worked together on the dovetailing of our distinctive responsibilities.

The Ruahine Mission Council has been formed, from parish representatives elected at AGMs plus two Bishop's nominees, and from July will begin its work including policy and goal-setting.

This is a very satisfying and large area of the Bishop's Chaplain's work and clearly is the fruit of a long period of consultation, exploration and negotiation. The future seems full of opportunity, with clergy and laity working together - across what are still separate parishes but sharing in mission activities and exchanging ideas - and ultimately ministry leadership teams will be developed for the whole region.

The Ruahine parishes are not all LSM, so work has been done at diocesan level to develop appropriate systems for parishes which while not vicar-led and not LSM yet are committed to both the ministry of all the baptised and missional endeavour. All parishes each year are now expected to offer a calling process, which encourages openness and participation, using a diocesan series of sessions on gifting then leading into Missional Mapping. It is hoped that the use of this process during 2012 will lead to the healthy formation of ministry support teams in Waipukurau and Dannevirke.

The other LSM parishes in the region still require enabling support. Mahora has begun an exciting new phase of ministry, working with the Revd Tim Barker being appointed as Priest-Missioner there, in partnership with Riverslea. Clive and Westshore seem to be developing as faithful and outward looking praying communities.

Puketapu with its several worshipping centres and large parish area needs more support than I have been able to give so far, although I have developed good links with the congregation at Kereru.

HATS continues to link the Hastings churches in fun, ministry and planning. The Hard Hats youth programme has been an exciting innovation this year. Significant clergy movements, with the resignations of Revds Graeme Pilgrim and Brian Dawson, will make a big difference to both St Matthew's and St Luke's, and to the wider diocese as they have both made major contributions.

St Clare's at Flaxmere was closed in 2011 and the way is not clear yet for future ministry there. I meet weekly for prayer with a small group before the food bank opens, and we continue to seek God's guidance

I have found a place to belong at the Cathedral and occasionally take services there.

Shared life with St Augustine's is being gently developed by Dean Helen and the Reverend Dorothy Brooker, with a combined Missional mapping event planned.

Since I arrived Anglican Social Services has been in state of flux, with a new Board and Acting-CEO. I value the instigation of the Kete course at the Anglican Centre.

Another area of this role that has developed unexpectedly for me is with youth. Top Parish was an memorable experience. I am enjoying supporting intern Hayden Simmiss, being involved in Hawkes Bay AYM and supporting the Regional Youth Ministry Facilitator (whose appraisal I am undertaking, along with that of the Eastland RYMF). I have been appointed to the Board of Proprietors of Woodford School.

I am enjoying discovering many of the treasures of Waiapu. My work here began with participating in "The Liturgy to End the Pastoral Relationship" when the Revd Leo Te Kira left the Parish of Waipukurau. The clergy retreat (with then Bishop-Elect Justin) and the tikanga rua Clergy Conference were both formative events for which I am grateful.

I serve on the Cooperating Ventures committee which continues the work that used to be done by the JRC.

It was a privilege to attend the Trans-Tasman Rural Ministry Conference in Atherland, Queensland in July, with 5 others from this Diocese. The theme was Resilience from which we all learned much, I was elected to the Leadership Group of International Rural Churches Association – Oceania, which will

For the wider church, I continue to serve as a moderator for two EIDTS papers and was involved in re-vamping another which is now called "Christian Leadership" and will be available in the new form from next year.

I am particularly grateful to the Diocesan office staff and the Rev'ds Adrienne Bruce and Oenone Woodhams for their support over my first months in Waiapu. A key part of this role is meeting monthly with Bishop David and Adrienne, and also with Oenone, and it is always valuable time.

The Revd Dr Jenny Dawson, July 2012.