

## REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2012 - MINISTRY EDUCATOR

This last year has indeed been a year of blessing but also of challenge as new directions are forged and Waiapu explores what it means to be truly missional.

I remain deeply humbled by the stories of those I work with as they seek to discern God's call on their life. Three people were involved in the May 2011 Discernment weekend in Napier and eight people attended the Exploration weekend at Titoki in August 2011.

We have one student currently in her second year at St John's College, and another is working in parishes in preparation for entering St John's in 2013. Three further candidates are training within the Diocese for possible ordination as vocational deacon, in one case, and transitional deacons. The Rev'd Ruth Dewdney was ordained Priest at the Cathedral in December 2011 and is still serving at St Luke's, Havelock North. Ruth's pre-ordination retreat was at Vaughan Park, Auckland – a very special place.

All transitional deacons participate in a two year spiritual and ministry formation programme, Deacon2Priest, facilitated by the Rev'd Erice Fairbrother and me. The first three to complete the programme 'graduated' in November 2011. We do not have any deacons attending at present, but expect to run the programme again in 2013. It is anticipated that vocational deacons will join transitional deacons.

Post Ordination training takes the form of regional training days in addition to the 4 day annual retreat at Kopua. The 2011 regional days included an inspiring Preaching workshop led by the Very Rev'd Helen Jacobi. Ten of the post-ordination group met for a wonderful week at Kopua, where relationships were deepened and combined wisdom was shared.

The Rev'd Erice Fairbrother and I offered workshops on Ethics to all licensed laity and clergy last year, in five venues. Attendance was good, if not quite matching the 76% of all licensed lay people who participated in 2010. We started a new cycle of attendance in 2011 to match the 3 year licensing cycle. All who hold licences, whether lay or ordained, are expected to attend 2 Ethics workshops in each 3 year cycle. Workshops are only 2 hours long, 10am – 12pm on a Saturday morning.

I have continued as the Diocesan Review group co-ordinator. We meet for training, and to subject the process itself to robust review. In 2011 Flaxmere, West Rotorua, Westshore and Woodville parishes were reviewed.

Alan Roxburgh was the keynote speaker at clergy conference 2011. Alan has written many books on Missional Church and runs the Missional Network – based in Canada but working ecumenically in Australia and NZ as well. A significant result of his visit is the establishment of a 6 member clergy cohort who have begun working together to develop their leadership for the missional church of the future, under Alan's guidance.

I love visiting parishes; to preach, preside, facilitate workshops or just to have a chat over morning tea. My heartfelt thanks to the wonderful people who make me so welcome. I am enormously encouraged by the awareness of new realities and the sense of mission that is evident throughout the Diocese. I am always keen to respond to invitations – I'd love to hear from you.

The Diocesan Library has been an ongoing work. Every book is now catalogued on the Kinder Library website under ANGLICAT. We celebrated the completion of the cataloguing in September, with an official blessing, and lunch for all those who had donated books or helped in the process. The library is extremely well used, and now includes CDs and DVDs, as well as resources for small groups. I am willing to post books on request.

Finally I'd like to thank Belinda Barnhill for her willing assistance, Bishop David for his guidance and support, Rev'd Erice Fairbrother my knowledgeable teaching partner, and Rev'd Brian Dawson for his wisdom and practical help. My prayers are with Brian as he takes a new role in the Wellington Diocese.

Blessings, Oenone Woodhams