

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 2012 - MINISTRY EDUCATOR

2012 saw an exciting upsurge in engagement with education throughout the Diocese; in numbers of clergy and lay people choosing to study, in library book, audiovisual and resources loans, and in the parishes as several really focused on developing their home groups and other study opportunities.

I remain deeply humbled by the stories of those I work with as they seek to discern God's call on their life. One person was invited to attend the May Discernment weekend in Napier and seven people attended the Exploration weekend at Titoki in August 2012. The exploration weekend is open to anyone who is searching, it is limited only by the accommodation available, and entry to the weekend is as simple as sending me an email.

In November I was delighted to be present at the ordination service in the Cathedral, as the Rev'd Susan Cooper was ordained priest and the Rev'd Gaye Barkla was ordained deacon. I'd like to thank the Rev'd Erice Fairbrother and the Rev'd Brian Hamilton who mentored Susan and Gaye prior to ordination. Also during 2012 Deb Sutherland from Waipukurau and Rosalie McCullough from Waipawa were accepted for ordination in 2013, Deb as a transitional deacon and Rosalie as a vocational deacon.

Fiona Bell continued her studies at St John's Theological College in Auckland during 2012, and Julie Guest from Tauranga was granted a residential scholarship to St John's in 2013.

All transitional deacons participate in a two year spiritual and ministry formation programme, Deacon2Priest, facilitated by the Rev'd Erice Fairbrother and me. We had a year's abeyance in 2012 as no new transitional deacons were ordained, but the programme is ready to go again in 2013.

The 2012 regional post ordination training days included a very well received Baptism workshop led by the Rev'd Jenny Dawson. Eight of the post-ordination group met for yet another wonderful week at Kopua. The hospitality and kindness shown to us by the Kopua community is refreshing and heart-warming. We are very fortunate to be welcomed to such a blessed place.

The Rev'd Erice Fairbrother and I continue to offer Ethics workshops based on Title D to all licensed laity and clergy. The Bishop requires all those holding a licence to attend 2 years out of three. We endeavour to keep the material fresh and interesting, and the workshop short! Contact people are available to all who experience unacceptable behaviour and details of these contact people should be displayed in all parishes. Posters are available if yours has been misplaced.

I have continued as the Diocesan Review group co-ordinator. We have met for training, and usually undertake reviews in pairs, although Holy Trinity Tauranga needed 4 reviewers. In 2012 Rotorua, Te Puke, Holy Trinity Tauranga and Waikohu parishes were reviewed. My sincere thanks to the 2012 members of the Diocesan Review Group for their hard work on behalf of us all. Rev'ds Frank Fillary, Joan Edmundson, Noel Hendery, Mr Dick Wivell, Ms Susanna Shelton and Mrs Jo Shoebridge.

One of my joys is visiting parishes, to preach, preside, run 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 for the future of the church when I see the commitment and generosity of spirit that is evident. I am always keen to respond to invitations, so if I haven't been to your place for a while – I'd love to hear from you.

Thank you to all of you who have donated books to the Diocesan Library. Often books just appear in my office and I don't know who they come from, so please accept this general thanks. If I can't use the books in the library I give many away to other clergy and lay people, I contribute to parish libraries, and the remainder go to school book fairs and the like.

Finally I'd like to thank Belinda Barnhill for her assistance with all sorts of details, Bishop David for his guidance and support, Rev'd Erice Fairbrother my knowledgeable teaching partner, and Colleen Kaye, Registrar, but Finance Manager during 2012, for her effortless sorting of all financial issues.

Shalom

Rev'd Oenone Woodhams