

## REGIONAL DEAN IN EASTLAND - REPORT TO SYNOD 2014

Eastland continues to be a challenging region for Anglican mission and ministry, and this has become even more evident this year that we work within a structure which does not allow us easily and quickly to adapt to the rapidly changing situation we find ourselves in. We in the Church often become trapped within our boundaries and limitations while the world around us moves towards a more inclusive society.

Much of my work this year has been strengthening the fundamentals required by parish leaders and vestries / parish councils to fulfil the canonical requirements. There is a danger in a loss of focus on wider missional work of the Church and thereby missing the opportunities present in our communities to extend the love of God.

With only three stipendiary diocesan clergy in the region (two vicars and a regional dean), much of the ministry of Eastland is reliant upon non-stipendiary, local shared or retired clergy, and, notably in East Coast and Wairoa parishes, close co-operation with Tikanga Māori, to enable regular Sunday services and pastoral ministry to be carried out. Increasingly we will need to find new ways of 'being Church' so as to be the body of Christ where our more traditional models fail us.

Despite these difficulties, opportunities for mission and ministry abound across the region, including, but not limited to, Ministry to Seafarers (Port Gisborne has over 100 cargo ships and 3000 crew visit per year), and social justice and environmental mission (the recent initiation of child poverty discussions and actions for example)

The review of diocesan social services which resulted in the reorganisation into Anglican Care Waiapu has, despite some teething problems, has now started to bed in the new structure. My hope is that from this stronger base new services can be developed which meet the needs of our communities into the future. As chair of Friends of Te Hapara, who give support and advice to the Whanua Aroha Centre, Growing through Grief and related services, I see this at first had on a regular basis.

Since Bishop David Rice left the diocese in February 2014, I have appreciated the support of the Vicar General, Rev'd Brian Hamilton, and my fellow regional deans, plus the wise counsel and practical assistance of Archbishop Brown Turei as Pihopa o Te Tairāwhiti. I look forward to welcoming Bishop-elect Andrew Hedge into Eastland region following his ordination and installation in October, and trust that together we can help in the building up the body of Christ in Eastland in these challenging times.

Ma te Atua tātou e manaaki



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