

## Koru Ministry Leader Report

It has been an exciting year in the Koru Ministry role, and I would like to thank all those who work so hard in ministry with children, youth, family and with all ages in so many ways in our Diocese.

**Messy Church:** There are now 13 Messy Churches around the Diocese and one Messy Vintage (for older people) run by Rev Ruth Dewdney in Te Puke. It is hoped a new Messy Church will be starting soon in Eastland. My role includes supporting Messy Church teams, running Messy Church Cluster meetings for ongoing training and support and helping to inspire new Messy Church initiatives. Cluster meetings are held in both Hawkes Bay and Bay of Plenty at least 4 times a year in each area and in Eastland when possible. This is an opportunity for Messy Church teams to come together, share ideas and support each other.

Challenges: Sustainability of Messy Church teams and financial resources

Things to Celebrate: New people of all ages attending an intergenerational service and growing new disciples. Fellowship, friendship and finding God together.

**Messy Church International Conference:** I attended the Messy Church International Conference in England in May this year along with Bishop Andrew and my husband Rev Alex Czerwonka. Three other New Zealanders also attended: Richard and Diane Stevens from Lower Hutt and Mary Addison from Putaruru in Waikato. Richard is the Chairperson for the National Messy Church Team in New Zealand, of which I am a member. Over 200 people attended representing countries from all around the world. The benefits were learning so much more about Messy Church, the successes and the challenges. Messy Church is the fastest growing church movement in the UK and has spread to nearly 40 different countries and various denominations around the world, growing and nurturing new disciples and bringing new energy and life into churches and communities. In return for receiving some funding from St Johns Theological College to attend this I will be doing a presentation at St Johns College and running a Messy Church session there in September.

**National Messy Church Team and National MC Conference:** I am one of 4 members on the National Messy Church Team which meets at least 4 times a year to help resource and support the Messy Churches around New Zealand and plan training days and conferences. In 2020 there will be 2 conferences, one in Rotorua 14-15 February and another in Christchurch 21-22 February. The conference will cater to those already involved in running Messy Churches and those who would like to learn how. It is a wonderful opportunity for Waiapu people from all our parishes to attend and learn more about this effective way of being church in our communities. We hope to confirm overseas speakers shortly.

**Godly Play:** About 20 people attended the Godly Play workshop in Hawkes Bay in November last year with trainer Elke Keeling. One person has since attended the 3-day training in Auckland in July this year. Another workshop will be held in August in the Bay of Plenty. Godly Play helps children explore their faith through story, wonder and play. It is based on Montessori principles and is an imaginative approach to exploring the Christian faith. Godly Play is also used effectively in rest homes for the elderly.

**Leadership Training for Youth – Faith Project:** The Faith Project which started in Waiapu in 2011 as Leadership Training for Youth (LT4Youth) is being launched around New Zealand. It is now accessible on the Anglican Youth National website called Resourced. In July this year a videographer visited Waiapu to film youth,

mentors and clergy who have been involved in LT4Youth. The intention is to have a promotional video that will be shown at The Abbey –(the National Anglican Youth Leaders Conference) and also available online. Congratulations to the Parish of All Saint’s Taradale who have supported young people on their LT4Youth faith journey over the last few years. A presentation of Bishop of Waiapu Awards will be held on 13 September to celebrate both the achievements of their young people plus the support of their mentors and leaders. Another young person is doing LT4Youth in Kawerau and we are looking for more young people around the diocese to join her. This is an opportunity to mentor and support young people from 13-18 years of age on their journey of faith.

**Top Parish – Celebrating 40 Years:** There was great excitement at Top Parish this year as we celebrated ‘A Blast from the Past’ and 40 years since its beginnings in Waiapu. Some of the early founders attended and some even joined the Golden Oldies Team. There were also video messages from both Bishop David Rice and Archbishop David Moxon who said: ‘I am not surprised it has lasted this long because it (Top Parish) is full of good things.’ It was exciting this year to welcome Messy Church teams at Top Parish. Top Parish will continue but we are always looking for new support and helpers to ensure this happens. The next Top Parish is 13-15th March 2020.

### **StraNdZ – Intergenerational Scope**

StraNdZ (National Anglican Children’s and Families) coordinator Diana Langdon invited me to join a team from around New Zealand on a fortnightly Scope programme exploring Intergenerational Ministry. Studies have been done around the world on the necessity of embracing Intergenerational Ministry for churches to continue to be effective places of worship in today’s world. One way we see this happening in Waiapu is through Messy Church, however in all our church happenings we should think and plan intergenerationally – all ages doing church together.

**Safe Here:** We have been without a Diocesan Safe Here Coordinator for 2 years now and I am finding it is not sustainable for this to be part of the Koru Ministry Role. Ideally it requires an input of 10 hours a week to ensure all our churches are effectively trained and supported as Safe Here churches. This is part of the review discussions currently taking place.

**Events Coordinator:** Jaina Vallab was employed in January 2018 to assist the Koru Ministry Role as Events Coordinator with a focus on running Top Parish and other events. Jaina resigned at the end of March 2019 to pursue another avenue of work and her position has not yet been filled.

### **Koru Ministry Role**

The Koru Ministry Role is being reviewed to establish what extra support is required. There are 2 specific areas identified:

- Events coordinator with a focus on Top Parish and other intergenerational events
- Safe Here training and administration

**Jocelyn Czerwonka**  
**Koru Ministry Leader**