

## **SYNOD 2013 REPORT FROM BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN FOR HAWKE'S BAY**

Having been in the role of Bishop's Chaplain for Hawke's Bay for about 18 months, I am now much feeling at home amongst the places and people of the Region. Since just before I came there have been changes in all the stipended clergy positions and in ministry models (so in the Region there are now just three Vicars and one Dean plus a variety of other expressions of church and ministry). It is an exciting patch to be in. Two unique interim appointments are underway at St Augustine's South Napier and in Flaxmere, as future options for both are explored around the primary question "What is God doing here?" We can expect other new approaches to ministry, while affirming the good habits of faith.

With the staff changes (and two more later in the year), orientation processes have become very important, including more attention being paid to how newcomers can properly follow diocesan processes so I have an involvement with the canon revision group that has been set up by Standing Committee. It is vital that all our leadership people, and others, can see clearly what is expected - and what works to ensure catholicity in the twenty-first century.

The Ruahine has celebrated well, firstly one year in December 2012 and then recently, the ordinations of Rosalie McCullough and Deb Sutherland. The different parishes of the Ruahine are moving forward into new models at varying paces, but deepening commitment is shown in the high level of participation in missional home groups. The Ruahine Missional Ministry Developers Team members are now called respectively Leadership Developer, Mission Developer, and Pastoral Developer, which focusses more clearly the kind of professional support they bring. Along with my role with the Team, I have been leading two "Spiritual Conversations" groups with clergy and laity in the southern area. The Ruahine Mission Council has become clearer in its leadership role and is becoming the lynchpin. We have been involved in wider planning for an international symposium in 2015 in the US, and I was a guest there for the annual Living Stones event. Waiapu will be hosting the Tikanga Pakeha Local Shared Ministry conference this year.

Through the whole Region, Gift Discernment and Missional Mapping have had a very mixed response. In general terms, the smaller parishes seem to have found both helpful although there seem to be no other tools being used widely for discernment and visioning. The dream of a "Napier Missioner" led to the formation of Ahuriri Anglicans along the lines of HATS (Hastings Anglicans Together, which has been going for a decade and has spawned a youth group, Hard Hats). Building a clergy team in the Region has included a regular Happy Hour together. We experimented, after a survey, with Clergy Days not always held in the same place or on the same day, which will be reviewed. At the beginning of 2013, drought was the big concern around central and southern Hawkes Bay, so the newly formed Ecumenical Rural Ministry Group has responded with some reflective meetings and a growing network.

The life and role of Anglican Social Services is still in transition after the challenging restructuring process but it is hoped that there will be a closer relationship with parishes as we share in missional life together. The senior staff team, across Diocese and ASS, now has fortnightly conference calls to share aspects of work.

Agency (so that all people and communities are confident to act in the name of Christ), access (to all that's needed in support), and accountability (to each other and God) remain the key words in my personal ministry, and I am delighted to be serving God in this place.

**The Reverend Dr Jenny Dawson**