

HODGSON HOUSE CHAPLAINCY REPORT FOR THE SYNOD 2012

Hodgson House provides care (Resthome, Long Term Hospital and Palliative) to 63 residents in the Home as well as to the residents of the 28 units in Hodgson Village. Hodgson House also has a stand-alone villa where 6 older folk have boarding arrangements. Hodgson House currently has 77 employees.

Chaplain of a Resthome/hospital facility is a demanding position as well as a rewarding one. It is a privilege to be available to all staff, residents and their family for spiritual and pastoral care.

Most of the time is spent in the Rest home and Hospital wings. Occasionally I like to be in the hospital wings at lunchtime by helping out residents with their meals as we see this as a special 'communication time' with some of the residents who have difficulties conversing otherwise.

I also visit our residents who have been admitted to the Public Hospital. We are fortunate that the Public Hospital is a walking distance away.

Hodgson House is blessed with two Church Services per week. On Sunday we have an Anglican Service and on Friday we have an Interdenominational Service. All are covered by the Chaplain, volunteer guest speakers and musicians.

A real issue has been and is to have ordained priests available to serve communion at the Sunday service.

Regarding these weekly Church Services, we often need to have a pair of extra hands in order to assist some of the residents in handling the songbooks and other personal needs and also to support the guest speakers. We are ever so grateful for those people who are willingly available and committed to go the extra mile in order to fill a need for our Residents.

Every other month we enjoy a weekly series of Bible Studies attended by an average of 15 Residents.

The fifth Friday of the month we usually prepare a Hymn singing Service with input from the Residents. They choose their favourite Hymn and I 'Google' some of the facts of the 'Who, Where and Why' of the Hymns. All of us enjoy singing our praises to God.

Attending the Room Blessing of Residents who have who passed on, is very much appreciated by the staff and family alike, because it gives us all some closure. We all feel that we belong together.

In June we farewelled Judy Gray, our Deputy Manager who served 25 years at Hodgson House and what a farewell this has been!

The 25th of April we enjoyed a meaningful and moving ANZAC Service, attended by 33 people. Jocelyn, our Diversional Therapist did a wonderful job decorating the room appropriately and put white paper crosses on a large board where we attached our poppies on each individual cross. Very much appreciated by all those who attended.

We are very grateful for the opportunity to serve God, the Residents and their families and the Staff of Hodgson House and I wish the new incoming Chaplain well in his service at Hodgson House.

Frieda Wieringa-Hoogsteen
Interim Chaplain