

CARTER HOUSE AGED CARE FACILITY REPORT

SYNOD 2012

Carter House this year celebrates 35 years since being opened by the Right Rev Paul Reeves in 1977. It continues to offer the same high standard of care which was part of the vision in 1977.

Our rate of occupancy in the Rest Home, dementia and hospital wings are very high, and beds rarely stay empty for long. Carter House has 18 resthome beds, 17 dementia beds, and 27 hospital beds, as well as 24 units for people who are independent. However, the downturn of the economy in the Te Puke region, due to Psa, has meant that our units are not selling, and many remain empty. This means that regular income from the units has slowed, having a flow-on effect on Carter House income.

I continue to offer communion services in the dementia wing and in the main lounge. I am grateful for the help given by members of the St John the Baptist parish who gather people for services and share their music skills, and to the Rev Brian Hamilton who takes a service once a month. In my day to day work I visit our residents focussing on those who are unwell, and catching up with others as time permits. My contract is for 9 hours per week, so sometimes I need to prioritise the needs of the residents.

My role as chaplain is missional. Our diocesan mission statement, "Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known" becomes a challenge in an environment where many have no knowledge of Jesus. I am not there to proselytise but to show the love of God to all with whom I have contact. However, I continue to find my work fulfilling and interesting.

Reverend Joan Minchin
CHAPLAIN