

Tauranga Hospital Chaplaincy Service Report

I am pleased to present my first report to Synod on the Tauranga Hospital Chaplaincy Service. The Reverend Sam Held resigned from his ecumenical chaplaincy position at Tauranga almost ten months ago, and we wish to acknowledge the very effective ministry he provided to patients, staff and families in his time here.

Reverend Matiu Best was appointed to the vacancy created by Sam's resignation and his commissioning was held at St George's church in Gate Pa on Thursday 27th September. It was a lovely service with approximately 50 people in attendance.

We continue to hold a service in the chapel every Sunday which has been greatly supported by the local churches who assist with collecting patients, sitting with them, and taking them back to their rooms after service. We also provide bedside communion and sacramental services as required.

Last Christmas the Chaplaincy Department, together with members from the community, enjoyed an evening of carolling with patients. There were around 50 people in attendance. We also initiated the ward decorating competition which promotes a friendly rivalry around the hospital staff and enables the chaplaincy to ensure the spirit of Christmas is kept alive and well. Both of these are annual events.

There are two paid ecumenical chaplains (Shelley Gilmore and Matiu Best) and one part time Roman Catholic Chaplain, Leanne Brooks. We also have a lot of support from our fourteen volunteer chaplaincy assistants. There is a wonderful spirit of community amongst the team, which is evident when we meet monthly for our team meetings, which consist of lunch and ongoing professional development.

Over the past year our team has made 12,104 patient and family visits, 2433 staff visits, had opportunities to pray individually for 2190 persons along with 279 opportunities for providing sacraments or chapel services.

Local clergy also support their parishioners and the team continue to be supported by our Local Support Group chaired by the Reverend Doctor John Douglas.

The Inter-church Council for Hospital Chaplaincy (IHC), based in Wellington administers and manages hospital chaplaincy on behalf of the member churches in a contractual relationship with the Ministry of Health and is the employing body for ecumenical chaplains.

We are happy to receive referrals from Parish teams for parishioners in hospital, meet with any church visitors/ministers when visiting in the hospital, and speak or preach locally to spread the word about hospital chaplaincy.

I would like to thank Bishop Andrew Hedge (Waiapu Diocese) and Bishop Pihopa Ngarahu Katene (Te Hui Amorangi o te Manawa o te Wheke) for their ongoing financial and spiritual support for God's work through chaplaincy in Tauranga.

God bless you all

**The Reverend Matiu Best
Ecumenical Chaplain
Tauranga Hospital**