

## Whakatane Hospital Chaplaincy

### Report to Anglican Diocese of Waiapu

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this, my first report to the Anglican Diocese of Waiapu.

At the outset, I would like to pay tribute to Rev Dianne Nielson and the ministry she offered at Whakatane Hospital.

I understand from Dianne that when asked by her Bishop to begin a Chaplaincy ministry at Whakatane Hospital, she agreed but said she would stay for two years only. Fifteen years later, Dianne felt she had fulfilled her Bishop's request and took a well-deserved retirement. I greatly appreciated Dianne's friendliness and her willingness to 'show me the ropes' as I prepared to make the transition from Parish to Chaplaincy ministry. I thank Dianne for her valuable and valued ministry and pray she will know the richness of God's blessing in her 'reassignment' (I don't believe there is such a thing as retirement especially when we have the God-factor in our lives).

I would also like to thank you, the Diocese of Waiapu for your support of this ministry. While your financial support is crucial and greatly appreciated, I would also boldly ask that both ministry and hospital continue to be prayerfully upheld through the Diocese.

Who is Anne Griffiths?

Married to Rob; five adult partnered children; eight grandchildren; denominational designation – PresAngloMeth; 'late-comer' to ordained ministry; Dip Counselling (BCNZ Hamilton); B.Theol (Auckland); three years ministry formation (Methodist Theological College, Meadowbank Auck); five years Parish ministry Hamilton East; passionate about and for people, especially those experiencing difficulties; passionate about caring for the carers whatever their role/context/ethnicity/religion etc.; enjoying Whakatane - town, people, choir, weather and growing into the role of Chaplain to the patients, staff and their families at its hospital.

Stepping out in a different direction is both scary and exciting and if we have the courage to respond to the 'divine nudge' (that means elbow between the shoulder blades), we are rewarded with an experience beyond our imagining. We discover ways in which we have already been equipped for the role to which we have been called.

I would like to invite you to visit our beautiful Chapel with its sun-enhanced amber glass windows, any time you are in town. There is a couch and two recliner chairs in which you may relax (or you might prefer a more upright chair) as you listen to soft music and enjoy viewing high-quality artworks placed on show by members of our staff.

Just as it has been encouraging to see staff, patients and their families making use of the Chapel as a place of quietness and safety, so too has it been a joy to hear staff who have never before set foot across the threshold, say how much they are enjoying the Chapel.

While at the beginning of each month more than 130 people from Whakatane and Tauranga hospitals and Whakatane community receive a one-page thought provoker which I call 'Chapchat', on the last Thursday I begin work at 4pm, take time out for choir practice then return to work from 9.30 pm to 2.30 am. This gives me the opportunity to make personal contact with afternoon and night staff, some of whom work only those shifts and therefore, may never meet the Chaplain.

Just as I care for the patients and their families, I also care for the staff and the hospital's size makes it possible over the course of a month, for me to make contact with staff in every department. Remembering everyone's name is a challenge.

Building on Dianne's ministry, this ministry is a 'constantly moving towards its becoming' work in progress and I am looking forward to seeing how that becoming unfolds.

Grace and peace.

**Reverend Anne Griffiths**