

June 2012
Volume 2, Issue 5

Hospital Chaplaincy an Exciting Missional Ministry

By Revd Barbara Walker QSO & Revd Pelly Pirikahu

You may be surprised at the heading of this article, but the ministry of the Chaplaincy Service at Hawke's Bay Hospital is very much missional. As Hospital Chaplains we encourage our fellow Anglican Priests to pray for Hospital Chaplains as this is a growing missional outreach. We are at the coal face of mission, seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ, for patients, families and staff. As more and more people walk away from churches, or have no connections with churches at all, often the reality of being admitted to hospital, provides, an opportunity for them to stop and think **what is life all about, why am I here, where am I going when I leave this earth.** Often the hospital chaplain is the first person who is available to listen, to be with them. Not to talk about reli-

We may hold a very important role in our communities, or our families, but when we enter hospital, often our confidence is left at the main entrance

gion, but to listen and focus on spirituality, their spirituality. We are often called to spend time with patients who's life journey has sud-

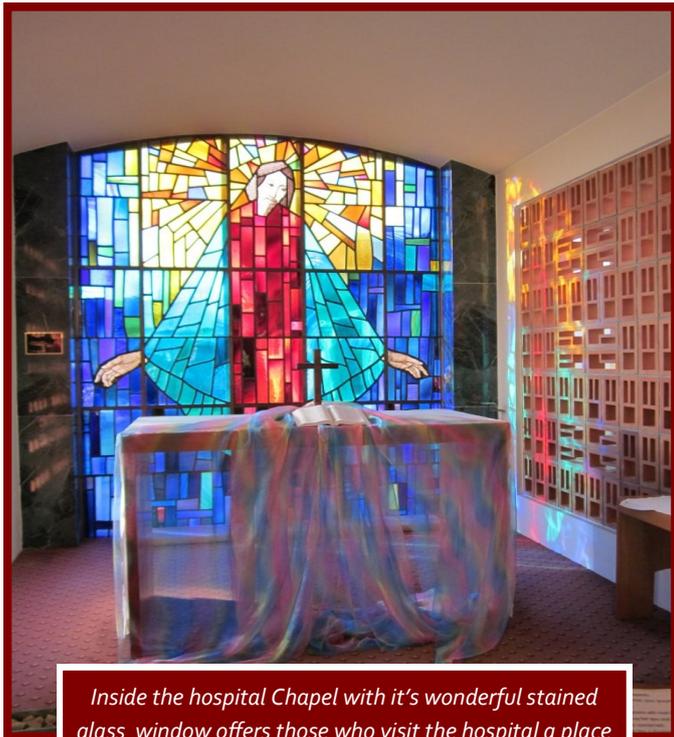
denly taken a turn in a direction which they are not able to control.



Soldiers Memorial Chapel at Hawke's Bay Soldiers Memorial Hospital

Something happens to us human beings when we enter a hospital. We may hold a very important role in our communities, or our families, but when we enter hospital, often our confidence is left at the main entrance. We are shown to the bed, often into a four bedded room, given the *wonderful hospital gown* to put on and we climb into bed or we are helped into bed. We lie there waiting wondering what is going to happen. We have time to think, time to worry. We have time. Various health professionals come along, ask questions, often so many of them, that we feel exhausted. Family and friends may visit and it can be very busy. "Why has this happened to me,why? This is often the dominate question on patient's minds.

In our experiences as hospital chaplains in what is a busy regional hospital, coming into hospital as a patient is not something that one volunteers to do, but at some stage in our lives we will all have to enter this often very strange



Inside the hospital Chapel with its wonderful stained glass window offers those who visit the hospital a place of respite for reflection

As Aotearoa New Zealand becomes more multi cultural and multi faith, our Chapel accommodates the needs of those with a faith or of no faith.

The Chaplains provide regular ecumenical Sunday worship service held at 10.30am with Holy Communion being offered to those who wish to receive the sacraments. This can be a very special time for patients as they have the opportunity to sit quietly with their God. It is not unusual to see healing tears flow freely as the hand of God rests quietly on a patients shoulder. Patients who are not able to come to the service are invited to receive bedside communion or a prayer. For many, this too can be a very moving experience and tears often flow as God's ministers to patients and their families in their time of uncertainty.

When a loved one is very ill or has died, the Chapel is offered for a time of prayer for whanau (family). This is especially important for Maori whanau, (but not excluded to) where the traditions and values for Maori are upheld. This allows Maori an opportunity to honor their loved one's life. Karakia is often at seven pm, with the chaplains ministering alongside, the whanau's minister. The wairua felt within the Chapel through Karakia and himene brings all those present to a special place and it is an honour and privilege to be part of such an encounter.

As the devastation of the Pike River Mine and the Christchurch Earthquake rippled through the country our Chapel became the focus for staff, wishing to pay their respect. The lighting of a candle, a quiet time of personal reflection, listening to reflective music and having the opportunity to write in our chapel prayer book helped to bring some closure to sudden tragedies.

Now it is wonderful to see staff often having a time of quiet or prayer as they prepare or finish their busy schedule and Barbara's skill, which include thinking outside the square, has ena-

world. I wonder how we would cope; I wonder how I would cope?

The Chaplaincy Service at Hawke's Bay Hospital seeks to make the entrance into this strange world a little easier, because as chaplains we offer to journey with patients, families and friends, in this often very different world of hospital. Whether it is within day light hours, weekends, late at night or early in the morning, the chaplains are available "to be" with people.' We are not here to convert people, but to journey with them wherever their journey will take them.

Over the last three and half years the chaplains at Hawke's Bay Hospital, have sought to and have achieved their vision of raising the profile of the chaplaincy service within the hospital. Yearly around 13,000 people, including patients, families and staff are supported during their hospital journey. A team of three Chaplains and ten trained Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants who assist the chaplains, have caught this vision which the Revd Barbara Walker brought when she was appointed to the role of Coordinating Chaplain in February 2009.

The other Ecumenical Chaplain is the Revd Pelly Pirikahu, who is also an ordained Anglican minister. She has a great understanding of Maori spiritual beliefs and speaks te reo, which is a real asset in the chaplaincy team. The third chaplain in the team Margaret Harding, is the Catholic Chaplain.

We are very fortunate that the Chapel for Hawke's Bay Soldiers' Memorial Hospital is situated near the main entrance to the hospital. Visitors and staff alike can't miss the chapel as you drive into the main entrance of the hospital. For those needing a quiet space this beautiful chapel is just the place, opened from 8am to 6pm daily for all who need a quiet space.



Revd Barbara Walker with a member of staff

bled her to inspire members of the chaplaincy team to do the same with truly amazing results which are now very much part of the hospital culture.

Every ANZAC day, because the Hawke's Bay Regional Hospital was originally built as a Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, the hospi-

tal hosts an ANZAC service for patients, staff and the community at large. The Chaplains are very involved in planning this service working alongside hospital staff. For the past two years we have had two outstanding students from local high schools who have been finalist in the RSA national speech competition. Both years the quality of the speeches by these young people has been truly outstanding, and regularly patients comment to us about the ANZAC service they attended at the hospital and the amazing speeches from this younger generation who will ensure that ANZAC Day and the sacrifices made will never be forgotten.

Remembrance Tree

Over the past three years, during the month of December a large tree is placed in the main foyer of the hospital. Patients, family, friends and staff are encouraged to take a dove which is provided and write on it the name of their loved one who has died during the year, or at some other time and then place the dove on the tree. Each year the number of doves placed on the tree has been increasing with over 1,800 placed last year.

Many people have been moved to tears as they take part in this very simple, yet very profound act. A number of families having said goodbye to their loved ones on the wards have found being involved in this very small yet hugely significant act has assisted them on their journey of grief. The doves are taken down from the tree and are included in the Annual Hospital Remembrance Service which is held at the hospital each year just before Christmas. After the service the doves are taken away and burnt. The ashes are placed in containers and put into the Rose Garden at the main entrance to the hospital. *(We are grateful to the Chaplains at Auckland City Hospital who shared this idea with us sometime ago)*



Remembrance Service

For the past three years, just before Christmas the chaplaincy service working in partnership with staff from the hospital, organize a remembrance service in the court yard behind the chapel. This provides staff, patients and families an opportunity to stop in their busyness and reflect on those loved ones who have died during the year or in previous years. For many this service has been of great help in their grieving journey.

Teddies for Tragedies

When Barbara was appointed as chaplain to the Hawke's Bay Hospital she brought with her the **Teddies for Tragedies project** that she has become aware of while in Auckland. Since

her arrival here Barbara has had many opportunities to promote this project as she has been invited to share her life journey with many different groups in Hawke's Bay. Her life journey includes sharing some of her experiences working as a nurse and midwife for many years in some of the most challenging places in the world, her call to ordination as a Anglican Priest and now Hospital Chaplaincy. Barbara's challenging talks have resulted in people taking up the challenge of helping children through the **Teddies for Tragedies** project. This has resulted in over 1,800 teddies arriving at the chaplain's



offices for distribution to children within the hospital and the clinics. Teddies were also sent to Greymouth following the mine disaster and to Christchurch fol-

lowing the Earthquakes. Letters of appreciation have been received from communities and children who have received these teddies.

Cupcakes

Hospital Chaplaincy Services are partly funded by the Ministry Health while the rest of the funding is provided various denominational groups including Waiapu Diocese, trust funds, local churches and the public. One of the main fund raising activities the chaplaincy team has been encouraging, staff members and the community at large is to bake cup cakes which are



brought into the hospital during the Annual National Hospital Chaplaincy Week Appeal. Hundreds of cupcakes have arrived over the last few years, and over \$7,000 dollars has been raised. The standard of cup cakes and especially the decorations are worthy of master chef standard. This

year the National Hospital Chaplaincy Appeal Week will run from **23 September until the 30 September** if you wish to support to this worthy cause.

Other Initiatives

Building stronger relationship with Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) is ensuring that the new graduate nurses are aware of the role of hospital chaplains and their place in the holistic care of patients entering our hospital. Barbara is now working with one of the EIT tutors to provide some orientation for the International Nursing Students as they enter the hospital so that they are aware of the support that chaplains can

provide their patients, families and them.

Chaplains members of the Multi Disciplinary Health Care Team

Everyday Chaplains meet with other members of the multi-disciplinary health care teams to ensure that holistic care is provided to patients coming through the hospital doors. These meetings have also strengthened relationships with chaplains and staff, the former often being used as a listening ear.

Maori Health

Working in partnership with Maori Health the Chaplaincy Service provides input during the cultural awareness day which Maori Health Team run for staff. This provides staff with another opportunity to hear about the role of chaplains and the support available.

Other partnerships

The Chaplains also seek to strengthen relationship with local churches and are often asked to speak about their ministry at Sunday Services. The local churches and secondary schools are encouraged to support the chaplaincy service by providing people who will assist the team in bringing chaplains to the Sunday Service.

Local Hospital Chaplaincy Support Committee

This committee is made up from representatives from the main line churches who meet on a monthly basis along with a representative from the Hawke's Bay District Health Board staff and some members of the chaplaincy team. This meeting enables the committee members to hear first hand what the chaplaincy ministry team has been involved in during the past month. Currently this committee is chaired by Dr John Kerr who is the Anglican Representative on the committee.

It has been said that **without a vision the people perish** and as Chaplains both Pelly and Barbara working in partnership with chaplaincy team members, hospital staff the local churches and the community at large seek to ensure that holistic care is available for all who enter our hospital.

As individuals and the community at large confronts the "**who am I /where am I going, what is life all about,**" questions, which are not being addressed in this secular New Zealand, the Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry will come to play an even great role as we all face our mortality.

In conclusion the role of a hospital chaplain starts with a definite call from God, it is not a job but a ministry, which provides wonderful daily opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ to all who enter into our hospital.

This is a glimpse through the 'window' of our Chaplaincy service just as our beautiful chapel window invites all through the door to experience the uniqueness and dignity our Chapel has to offer.

*Revd Pelly Pirikahu &
Revd Barbara Walker
(Coordinating
Chaplain for the
Hawke's Bay Soldiers
Memorial Hospital)*



**Please pray for those attending the
TREASURING WOMEN IN MINISTRY HUI this month**

**Beside the waters of stillness Lord lead me should I stray,
Beyond the quiet pastures,
each hour of every day,
I need a hand to guide me,
to save and bring me back.**

Good shepherd walk beside me and nothing shall I lack.

**Alone I limp and stumble,
The world ensures the mind-until I turn exhausted,
my peace in thee to find.**

**From the brooks of sweet refreshment,
I drink and am restored,
Safe within the fold of faith,
Resting in the Lord
(anon)**

The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies

Karena de Pont, Administrator

Email: anglicanwomenstudies@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 027 631-3083

Home Office Phone: + 64 9 630-1131 Synod Office Phone: + 64 9 521-4439

Postal c/- General Synod Office,

P O Box 87-188, Meadowbank, Auckland 1742, New Zealand



The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **Women's Studies Centre** was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.

The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.

The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this church to fulfill their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like website publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.

**TREASURING WOMEN IN
MINISTRY PROVINCIAL HUI
27th–29th JUNE 2012**



Women's Studies Centre Council Members — 2010/2012

TIKANGA MAORI -

- Dr Jenny Plane Te Paa
jenzat@xtra.co.nz
- Revd Mere Wallace
mere.wallace@westcoastdhd.org.nz

TIKANGA POLYNESIA -

- Revd C. Amy Chambers
mumsy@connect.com.fj
- Revd Tai Tuatagaloa
t.tuatagaloa@gmail.com

TIKANGA PAKEHA

- Revd Erice Fairbrother
ecfairbrother@xtra.co.nz
- Revd Carole Hughes (Convenor)
carolesunrise@xtra.co.nz

Women's Studies Centre Diocesan & Hui Amorangi Link Representatives

Diocese of Auckland -

- Revd Cate Thorn
catethorn@slingshot.co.nz

Diocese of Christchurch -

- Revd Annette Cater
revannette@gmail.com

Diocese of Dunedin

- Jenny Campbell
jennycam@xtra.co.nz

Diocese of Nelson

- Revd Dr Sue Patterson
registrar@bishopdale.ac.nz

Diocese of Waipapu

- Revd Oenone Woodhams
oenone@waiapu.com

Diocese of Waikato & Taranaki

- The Ven Patricia Carter
revtrish@ihug.co.nz

Diocese of Wellington

- Revd Jenny Chalmers
jenny@clear.net.nz

Diocese of Polynesia

- Refer to Tikanga Polynesia Councilors
(see above)

Hui Amorangi o te Tairawhiti

- Revd Numia Tomoana
numia_5@hotmail.com

Hui Amorangi o te Tai Tokerau

- Revd Jenny Quince
quincemail@xtra.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Manawa o te Wheke

- Rahera Biddle
RaheraB@tepunahauorabop.co.nz

Hui Amorangi o te Upoko o te Ika

- *No current appointment—Contact the Hui Amorangi administrator*

Hui Amorangi o te Waipounamu

- *No current appointment—Contact Mere Wallace (see above)*

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: *The Women's Studies Centre is committed to encouraging and enabling women's voices and perspectives from across the diversity of the Church to be shared more widely. We acknowledge that women's experiences of church differ considerably and that resultant theological perspectives also differ considerably. In general the WSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.*