

Precentor's Report March 2023

I have served in the Waiapu Cathedral, as Precentor since September 2021.

My role is to oversee worship and music, in collaboration with the Dean and the Director of music. I work .8 in this role. The other .2 of my time is spent as Vicar General. My stipend and allowances are fully funded by a grant from Standing Committee.

While from Advent to Lent I worked full time for the cathedral, the Gabrielle crisis and staff shortages has meant that since the beginning of Lent, I have worked one and two days a week as Vicar General, away from the cathedral. I sit on a number of committees, both provincial and national, which include General Synod Standing Committee; Chair of the Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand; deputy chair of the Australian Council of Christians and Jews. I'm the Regional Chaplain for St John.

My role entails the writing of the weekly service sheets, choosing the hymns in collaboration with the Dean and Director of music, and making suggestions on liturgies and liturgical practices, and conceiving of, and writing occasional services, for both the cathedral and the Diocese. Because of the changes brought about by COVID, and to a lesser extent the frequent changes of Administrator, this is a bigger job, than it might otherwise be.

I am the Mentoring Priest for Rev Sue Matthews who has been training as a non stipended deacon, with us for the past sixteen months. This means I am in charge of her training in the cathedral. I also work with Janine and Anthony with the Godly play and Young People's choir.

I have loved working with, being inspired and stimulated by, Elisabeth Paterson's house group. It is such a privilege to work with the dozen women who meet regularly at Elisabeth's house.

Some of the past years highlights have been the moving ordination in which members of the choir and the Director of music, Bishop Andrew, the Registrar, the Ministry Educator and I took part in three ordinations in 36 hours in various parts of the Diocese, to combat the COVID regulations of a maximum of 200 people at any gathering.

Another highlight was the service for Ukraine at which Ukrainian descendant Nik Krawchenko read the lessons and the choir sang John Rutter's 'Prayer for Ukraine' perhaps the first public performance in the world.

The Dean's installation brought together choir members from Wellington, the Air force band, our choir and strings, all to perform under Anthony's baton; and clergy from both the Diocese and the Hui Amorangi. It was a huge night. The Queen's memorial service with all the unfamiliar protocol, was another highlight; and the now familiar to me, Napier Earthquake service, planned in partnership with the Mayors staff.

It is a privilege to work with someone of the calibre of Anthony, and the choir members, and I count it a blessing. But without a congregation there would be no point at all. Thank you for faithfulness in worshipping our God.

Jenny Chalmers
Canon Precentor.