

Report from The Rev'd Sue Matthews

As many of you will know, I am Self-Supporting Deacon and therefore in the Cathedral parish on a Tuesday and a Sunday (working for Heretaunga Seniors in Hastings during the rest of the working week). My Supervisor – or training Incumbent - is Canon Jenny while the Rev'd Deborah Broome is responsible for my formational training.

You will all be familiar with what you have seen me do on a Sunday, but perhaps less so with how my time is taken up on a Tuesday. My day usually begins with the mid-week Eucharist in the Resurrection Chapel – I read the Gospel, lead or facilitate the prayers, serve for the Presider and give the dismissal. However, once a month, I lead the whole Service from the Reserved Sacrament. Fellowship with congregation and visitors over Morning Tea follows this, but then my day goes in any one of several directions. Perhaps visiting with Canon Jenny and there is usually a meeting. I may spend some time with Canon Jenny learning how to put together some of the Services, beginning with choosing the Liturgy as well as working with the Choir Director on the music to create a cohesive finished Service. Alternatively I may be working in my office on a sermon or on something for my formational training. Towards the end of last year, this involved a course entitled Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), combining knowledge of theology and spirituality, with knowledge of education and knowledge of how we behave. Both challenging and rewarding, I now have another certificate to my name.

In the last six months, I have been learning about the Occasional Offices, particularly baptisms and funerals: observing, taking part in, meeting the family and taking one myself. Then, of course, learning about follow up care.

Recently, of course, I have been leading one of our Lenten Study groups entitled 'The Nail'.

Thus is the snapshot of my time, so far, in the Cathedral. Can I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the support and encouragement you give me – and of course for your ongoing patience.

Rev Sue Matthews