

*The Right Reverend Andrew Hedge
Anglican Bishop of Waiapu*

Members of the Cathedral Parish

Sunday 23 February 2025

E te whanau a te Karaiti, tēnā koutou,

Greetings and peace to you all. I'm writing to you today to share the news that I have received notice of the resignation of The Very Rev'd Di Woods.

Di has served the Diocese and this Parish as Dean of Waiapu Cathedral over the past three years. During the past three years we have been blessed with Di's commitment to build the church by encouraging the faithful, recalling those who have fallen away and proclaiming the love of God in word, sacrament and action.

I am grateful for the many attributes of Di's ministry in the parish which have reflected God's gifts in Di's life particularly as the parish has faced significant challenges with the Cathedral building. Di has worked hard to encourage an openness of the Cathedral building and congregation to the wider community welcoming visitors, making space for those on the margins and encouraging those who are enquirers. Di has also nurtured the parish community building relationships across the congregation and helping develop God's gifts within each member of the parish. In all these aspects of ministry, and many more, we have seen reflected Di's deep love of God and desire to follow the way of Christ, hallmarks of the expression of our faith.

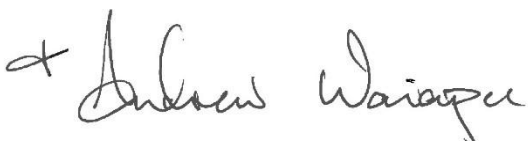
Di will conclude her ministry in the parish on Sunday 25 May 2025. I won't be able to be with you in May for Di's liturgical farewell as I will be away on sabbatical leave. I have arranged for my Vicar General, The Rev'd Robert Kereopa to be present with you to represent me at that service on Sunday 25 May.

Naturally as members of this parish you will have a concern for the planning of ordained ministry for the future. I am pleased to announce that I have appointed The Rev'd Alister Hendery to be Acting Dean to help support the parish in this transitional ministry for the next 12 months with the possibility of extension of this ministry after review. Alister will hold a 0.75FTE stipendiary role and will commence on Monday 12 May 2025. This will allow for Di to have two weeks to hand the care of the parish to Alister and help with the transition to this interim model of ministry. Alister comes to the role with many years of experiences in supporting parishes through transitional times of ministry and I have every confidence that the gifts and experience of his ministry will be a blessing for the Cathedral community.

In support of Alister's role I have also appointed our Diocesan Ministry Educator, The Rev'd Deborah Broome at 0.25FTE to contribute dedicated time to the Cathedral community. Deborah knows this parish community well and is a regular presence in the congregation and as part of the clergy team supporting ministry. Deborah's role as Priest Associate will commence on 25 May 2025.

I am sure that you will want to join me in recognising Di's commitment to this parish and to Waiapu and to wish Di well for the next phase of her life and ministry.

In Christ, and with assurance of my prayerful support,



The Rt Rev'd Andrew Hedge
Bishop of Waiapu

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