

PASTORAL CARE REPORT 2025.

As I write this report I am conscious of the people who have been part of the group over many years and who have died. I think especially of Gloria Robertshawe, a very involved pastoral care person, but also of Robin Marriage, Audrey Densham, Jon Williams and others who gave me good advice around people they knew better than I did.

I thank my small group for all they continue to do, making sure that people who are less able and less visible are cared for.

As we move into a new year the small committee will continue to offer visits and help, as we connect frequently by phone and meet quarterly to share concerns as well as other needs.

Pastoral Care is about reaching out and touching people in some ways, perhaps just a quiet chat, a quick embrace, a helping hand, a time to pray and to let those who feel isolated they are not alone.

Recently I have changed from holding an Associate Priest licence to a Permission to Officiate. This allows me to be a little more flexible with what I need to attend, eg Synod, however it will not change my commitment to offering ministry.

I will continue to offer my support to those who do so much and at the same time to welcome others who may wish to join this small and dedicated group.

May I share these words of wisdom. They come from Francis of Assisi and as I live out my Franciscan life, I hope they speak to you as well.

"Do few things but do them well, simple joys are holy." "A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.

"The only thing ever achieved in life without effort is failure."

Recently I received an unexpected but very generous gift.

'A gift from someone unknown is precious for the one who receives it.'
When one receives an unexpected gift such as I have there are no words that seem adequate.

A mere thank you does not seem enough.

All I can say is that I will honour this gift and also honour the one who gifted it, by using it through ministry, and especially Pastoral Care, and to give daily thanks and aroha at prayer.

nga manaakitanga he mihi.

Dorothy Brooker tssf