

For Synod -

Parish Tribute to Rev Maureen

Ten years ago our Te Awamutu/Pirongia/Otorohanga Parish went through the stationing process which left us, at the time of Conference, with the label "One Wanted".

When we heard that we were to have a face-to-face with an available person we were a little nervous on three counts -

- she was an Anglican
- her faith style was described as 'contemplative'
- it was to be a three quarter appointment.

No doubt Rev Maureen, as she has become affectionately known, felt some similar apprehension as she met us at that face-to-face. We realised that would be adjustments on both sides with some new learning and new ways of doing things.

How blessed we have been! Rev Maureen brought with her special gifts of pastoral caring and we soon appreciated her strengths in leading worship. She leads, teaches and challenges. She shares from the heart her experience, her faith and spirituality, her knowledge and her insight. We quickly came to appreciate her creativity, her wisdom, her encouragement of us to participate, her role-modelling and her personal connection with each of us as she lives out her faith in leadership and servant-hood.

Rev Maureen's ability to be inclusive of us all in our diversity has been an important influential example over the last ten years. We rejoice in the way this has enriched the life of our Church family.

Her ability to speak frankly, say what is needed, and to contact the 'right' people for help and advice stood her, and our Parish, in good stead when we went through the processes of closing down and selling two church buildings (Otorohanga and Pirongia) and the major re-development of our Te Awamutu church buildings during her time here. We are now facing the implications of the earthquake risk of our historic church and hall. No doubt she is feeling relieved that she is leaving that behind and we can forgive her for that! She has earned her freedom from such things.

The part-time appointment has created opportunities for Parish members to exercise their own skills and talents and Rev Maureen has encouraged us to do that. This has been another very positive aspect of our church life over the last 10 years.

Thank you Rev Maureen for sharing with and leading us over the past ten years. We have indeed been blessed.