

Tribute to David Poultney:

It is an honour to say thank you to you David, but I'm not so happy to be saying farewell to you from our district for the time being.

David you have brought a wealth of experience, beyond your years in ministry. Part of the richness you bring is the breadth of religious experience you offer from your faith journey, which in turn enriches ours.

You have guided the Hamilton Parish well during complex and difficult times; they now look toward significant changes and new possibilities for their life as a parish. We thank you for the time and energy you have offer your parish and your ability to prove that we men can indeed multi task, sometime for you it has been to done to the extreme.

Your contribution in the area of liturgy has been significant. Your creation of liturgies is a precious gift not just to this synod but for the whole connexion. The new orders of Eucharist liturgy offered at last conference is the latest example of what you have created or helped to create. For me I value the carefully crafted liturgies and prayers you have shared at Synod events, at Refresh retreats and 10 minutes on Tuesday, which have been valuable resources for future use.

I would like to acknowledge and honour your academic work, the presentation you made at the Auckland conference, was thought provoking and stimulating – with a number in our parish appreciating your contribution greatly, when I shared that on the Sunday with them. I have eagerly awaited hearing about the paper you presented at Oxford this year.

One of those very precious moment was when you shared your faith journey with us when we came to Melville, your honesty and openness, the highs and lows of your journey touched and inspired many of us. I am deeply thankful that you persisted to respond to God's call, when it would have been so easy to give up in frustration or disillusionment.

David it's been a pleasure to serve with you on the Wintec Chaplaincy committee as the Synod. Wintec Chaplaincy is a ministry that is making a significant and growing contribution to the life at the Wintec campus and needs wise and careful leadership. I have been grateful for your contribution and particularly the wisdom you offer as you have asked the right question at the right time to stretch the chaplain, which has led to important growth in his ministry.

I also thank you for the friendship and collegiality you have offered to us all, gifts which have enriched our lives.

Darren it has been great to get to know you. I was part of the initial ministry review for David in the central parish and you had created a special place in the life of the parish and what you brought to them was valued by those present. Thank you for way you have supported David's ministry. For ministry is never done in isolation and the support and encouragement of one's partner is such an important gift.

We wish you David and Darren well for your upcoming move to Nelson and that God's richest blessing will be with you as you settle into a new place with new possibilities for your ministry.

You will always be a part of us here in the Waikato Waiariki Synod, and we offer our friendship and love as you leave and that the friendships created here will enrich you on the journey just as we have been enriched.