

Chaplains have been providing pastoral care to the residents and staff of Village Baxter since its earliest days. Their contribution is one of the reasons Village Baxter is such a unique place.

The chaplains are employed by and paid for by the Village Baxter Church and their services are offered beyond the church for the benefit of the entire Village. The Chaplaincy Support Group also do an excellent job in fundraising to support the work of the chaplains.

The primary focus of the work of the chaplains is the pastoral care of all the people in Village Baxter, both residents and staff. We are here to provide a listening ear for those times when you are feeling a little pressured or stressed by the inevitable challenges that life brings to each of us from time to time. We are available to anyone whether or not they have any church association.

We do our best to visit everyone who is admitted to hospital for whatever reason. A visit can break the boredom that can occur in hospital and helps to lift your outlook.

## Location

The chaplains' offices are adjacent to the foyer and receptionist in the **Grant Centre**. You will see them as you walk through the main entry doors.

## Contact Details

### Rev. Rod Draper

available Monday to Thursday.

Office **5971 6333**

Mobile **0418 381 498**

### Mrs. Liz Taylor

available Monday to Wednesday

Office **5971 6383**

Mobile **0422 775 933**

### Miss Heather Dunning

Alternate Mondays in the Lodge and the Manor

Office **5971 6334**

Mobile **0400 920 011**

The email address for all chaplains is  
**[chaplains@villagebaxter.com](mailto:chaplains@villagebaxter.com)**

# Introducing the Village Chaplains



**Village Baxter  
Church**





## Rod Draper

Rod commenced at Village Baxter early in 2014 as leader of the chaplaincy team and is here from Monday to Thursday each week, Rod was a primary school teacher and principal for thirty years and served as a funeral director for three years before entering pastoral ministry. Having been a Baptist all his life, he has served as a pastor at Diamond Valley and Melton Baptist churches and also at Wallan Gateway Church, a joint plant by the Baptist Union and Churches of Christ. Rod was ordained in 2010 and has also since qualified as a spiritual director through Wellspring. Rod and Joy, married for over forty years, have two children and seven grandchildren and love spending quality time with the family. Rod's interests include walking, watching the local footy, some gardening, and trains. Rod contributes to the Sunday preaching in the Village Chapel.



## Liz Taylor

Liz worked as the chaplain at the Baptcare Peninsula View community for three years before commencing at Village Baxter in October 2016. Her chaplaincy training included an internship at Austin Health in 2012, in which she completed three units of Clinical Pastoral Education, and a Graduate Diploma in Theology.

Initially Liz trained as a secondary teacher in maths and science and taught for three years in country Victoria. She married Steve in 1980 and they spent 10 years in Papua New Guinea, serving with Asia Pacific Christian Mission in support roles.

On returning home, Liz gained a position with North Balwyn Baptist Church as the office receptionist. Later she worked as a pastoral associate at Kew Baptist for 4 years, before beginning her chaplaincy journey.

Liz and Steve have three adult children and one granddaughter and very much enjoy spending time with family. Liz's interests include having coffee with friends, gardening, walking, and following the AFL.



## Heather Dunning

Heather has worked as a hospital chaplain since 2007. In her previous career she spent 30 years working as a Food Technologist in the confectionery industry where she held positions mainly in Product Development and Production. In 2001 and 2002 she studied and obtained a diploma in Christian Counselling. Sensing a call to pastoral ministry she left her Food Technology career in 2004 and commenced theological training, completing a MA in Pastoral Theology in 2008.

In her spare time she enjoys walking, gardening, reading, music and is a keen tennis player.

Heather is with us one day per fortnight concentrating her attention on folk in the Lodge and the Manor. She will be occasionally present at selected Village Baxter Church functions.