

TOGETHER



KĀPITI UNITING PARISH

ChristianChurchesNZ – Methodist – Presbyterian
10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach, Paraparaumu 5032

FEBRUARY 2026



*A Passion Flower growing in our Community Garden –
the story of its name is on page 12*

From the Minister's Desk

2026! our first 'Together' of the year.

As the year unfolds may you have a sense of God's unfailing love, whatever your challenges, whatever your hopes for the coming year.

Already your Church is beginning its preparations for the Seasons of Lent and Easter. We are also preparing for a special event on 18th April when we will host a gathering of Uniting Churches from across the Lower North Island. We will be responsible for the programme, which has a theme of 'Whanaungatanga' – kinship, family.

This is an opportunity to find strength together in the coming year as a Joint Commission of our Partner Churches – Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican – reviews UCANZ Churches and makes decisions about our future.

As far as I can see, there is no-one on the Commission who is currently a member of a Uniting Church. My hope is that, by supporting each other, we will have a stronger voice in the process.

This year, as in every year, we will live our calling to be a Church which reaches out to the community, a Church which provides a net of concern and care for our most vulnerable members, a Church which loves God 'with all its heart, all its soul, and all its strength' through worship, study, strong leadership, and responsible management. And let's not forget that a happy church is an inviting church.

Laughter, enjoyment, hospitality are just as much a part of our call to service as attention towards, and empathy with, those who suffer in our world as well as in our church family.

May God keep you and bless you as we begin the adventure of another year as Kapiti Uniting Church.

Rev Anna Gilkison

***Whanaungatanga isn't 'just a Māori word'
- it's a Gospel truth.***

It's about family connection through shared experience. It's about belonging. It's about mutual responsibility. And, maybe most significantly, it's about being a Church that shows up—not just to meet, but to truly be together.

This name is understood to identify those who serve God by developing strong relationships through sharing life together and working alongside one another.

We are called to be a community gathered around and finding our identity in Christ, not divided by societal barriers, prejudices or expectations.

'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.'

Galatians 3:28-29 -

This is an extract from the description of Whanaungatanga by Anglican Schools of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia. It was sent to all parishes by PCANZ as part of the GA25 follow-up document; the full text is on our website kup.org.nz

News from Waikanae



New Year, new look

The exterior of our church was being repainted late last year. All the scaffolding was removed before Christmas and now our little church is

looking quite refreshed since its 'facelift'.

People

Honor Moss died on 14 December and her memorial service was held in the Waikanae Church on 18 December, conducted by Rev Pamela Tankersley and Rev Anna. Honor joined our congregation when she moved from the Te Horo Church, following many years with the Karori Uniting Parish. We valued her commitment, experience and compassion.



Keith Lang celebrated his 99th birthday on 29th January and we honoured him with cake – and verse!

Don and Marie Smith have moved to Summerset Waikanae. We wish them well in their new home.

Worship

On **Christmas Day** our church was filled with visitors who shared with us in joyful worship led by Rev Anna.

The **Combined Parish Services**, at Raumati on 28 December, and Waikanae on 4 January, brought us together as a church family. We treasure these times that renew and strengthen the bonds of faith and caring.



Worship in the Lounge:

We look forward to these less formal services which have become a regular part of summer holidays. On 11 January **Tina and Evan Ireland** engaged us in a **pilgrimage** of the Holy Land. They focussed on the places they had visited which were significant in the life of Jesus. Their photos alternated with Scripture readings, prayers and singing. **The Binkhorst family**, Paula, Mike and Anneke, helped us look deeply into the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, and examine our responses to it. Their innovative approach involved us in reflection and conversations.

Looking forward

The **season of Lent** starts with Ash Wednesday on 18 February, when we begin our faith journey of forty days, accompanying Jesus on his walk to Jerusalem. Waikanae members appreciate the Lenten Studies series held at Raumati.

Soup Group will meet at 10.30 on Tuesday 17 February to start our year with a look at *The Next Chapter*, thinking about how we might live with the challenges 2026 may bring us. John and Diana Roberts will host the group at their home, 5/8 St Vincent Way. It's Shrove Tuesday so there'll be pancakes at lunchtime.

World Day of Prayer, Friday 6 March. An ecumenical group of women from Nigeria prepared this service to be shared around the globe. The Waikanae Presbyterian women are our hosts this year for the service at the Presbyterian Centre, Ngaio Road, at 1.30pm.

Remember that this is *not* a *women's* Day of Prayer – it's for the World; that's *everybody*!



Diana Roberts

World Day of Prayer - I Will Give You Rest: Come



"Rest for the Weary" By Gift Amarachi Ottah, Nigeria

About People

New Year Greetings to you all
and we offer our very best wishes for the coming year.

We give a very warm welcome to **Pete Strang** who has recently joined our Raumati Congregation, having moved from Dunedin to live on the Kapiti Coast in Coastal Villas.

Sadly, since mid December there have been three Parishioners who have passed away:

Honor Moss of the Waikanae Congregation on 14th December.

Heather Hopkirk of the Raumati Congregation on 15th December
and

Gordon Solloway of Coastal Villas and Raumati Congregations on the 9th January.

We will continue to keep all their families in our prayers.

For those who celebrated Birthdays and Anniversaries in January we hope you had a very happy day.

To those who will celebrate in February we hope your day will be special and one for you to remember with happiness.

To those who are unwell at this time we uphold you in our prayers.

The Pastoral care team.

Lyn, Diane, Erice, Diana, Bastiana, Dianne, Carole and Merrill.

What's Cooking in 2009?

It's been a busy break. December 2008 was filled with family visits. Lots of festivities and food, laughing, talking, outings...and washing.

The house emptied out early in the new year. Then it was time to cope with the sudden echoing quiet by getting on with the annual cull of books and belongings, weeding and feeding the garden, and turning the kitchen upside down and inside out. And time at last to read one of my Christmas presents: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver.

I had hinted that I wanted this book, as I admire the author's novels. They include *The Poisonwood Bible*, a strong, uncomfortable account of a missionary family in Africa; and *Prodigal Summer*, a celebration of fruitfulness. I find her latest book so challenging and rewarding that I want to share it.

It is not another foodie book, not another self-sufficiency story, not another account of a 'A Year in...'. It is the story of an American family who set out to find themselves a real culture of

food. They define a genuine food culture as an affinity between people and the land that feeds them.

Barbara and her husband Steven (a biology professor) were concerned about the how modern food production, distribution and consumption is affecting the health and well-being of Americans and the planet earth.

Together with their two daughters they made a commitment to a year of eating locally, mostly from their own garden, the way NZers did a few decades ago. Barbara's chronicle of the year is accompanied by comments from Steven on political, scientific and sociological concerns and daughter Camille offers recipes and reflections.

It was a year of balance, with a holiday fitted in; a year of learning, responding, caring, and working. It was not a straightforward or easy time but it was productive and nourishing. It's the kind of year we could be considering in our parishes as we meet to plan the months ahead.

The focus of the book is on relationships: food and people, people and the land, families, communities and nations.

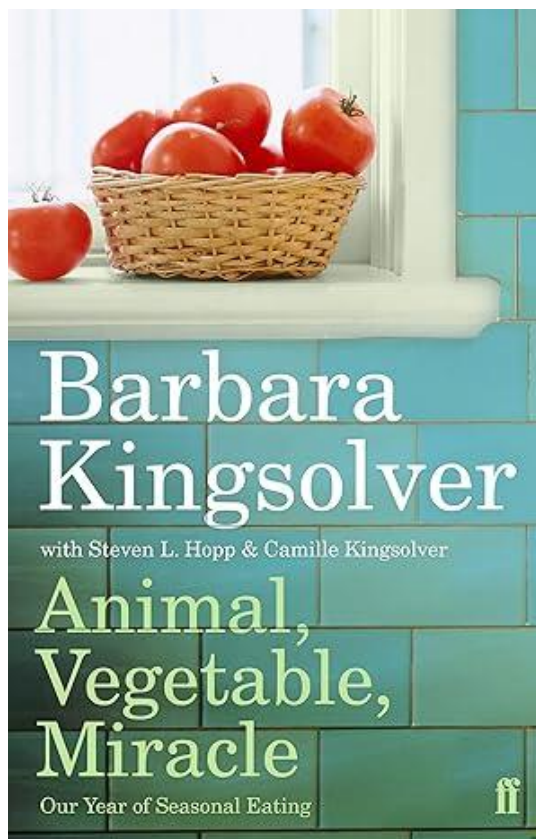
Our Methodist year begins with a focus on relationships too, as we reaffirm in the Covenant Service the relationship between God the sustaining Creator and us, God's people. The Scriptures tell the story of that relationship

expressed in God's covenants with the Children of Israel and the New Covenant of Jesus.

Our task for the year is to faithfully honour these covenants - season by season, month by month

Diana Roberts

*From Methodist Touchstone
February 2009*



More information is available on: <http://www.animalvegetablemiracle.com>.
The book (and the updated 10 year anniversary edition) is available both new and second hand from online booksellers, and Amazon has a Kindle version

Poetry with Robin List:
February's Poet: R.A.K. Mason
10 January 1905 – 13 July 1971



(Ronald Allison Kells, in case you were wondering)

There's this quote from Allen Curnow, and he may have grown sorry he wrote it because it's so well thrashed, that Ron Mason was this country's "first wholly original, unmistakably gifted poet". Which was good of Curnow, because he set out in roughly the same era and he was no slouch as a poet himself. Mason was definitely ahead of

Fairburn for my liking, though they were friends and Mason wrote his friend's biography.

He achieved success early, writing in a spare style that communicates clearly, helped by his strong grasp of grammar and a call to Christian life in action. There is a story set in the late 1920s, recorded for us by Rachel Barrowman, that in disgust or despair (or both?) Mason threw 200 copies of his first book 'The Beggar' into Auckland harbour. NZ society was just too provincial and puritanical to read its own poetry. This may be another type of story; myth.

Other events were in play to shape Ron Mason's views and work. With the coming of the Great Depression and World War II his output changed to mainly journalism and plays with a strongly left wing stance.

'On the Swag', written in the early 1930s, is his most famous poem today. It has been set to music three times, including Colin Gibson amongst the composers. It sits perhaps in the transition time of Mason's life and work.

On the Swag

His body doubled
under the pack
that sprawls untidily
on his old back,
the cold wet dead-beat
plods up the track.

The cook peers out:
oh, curse that old lag —
here again
with his clumsy swag
made of a dirty old
turnip-bag.

Bring him in, cook,
from the cold level sleet:
put silk on his body,
slippers on his feet;
give him fire
and bread and meat.

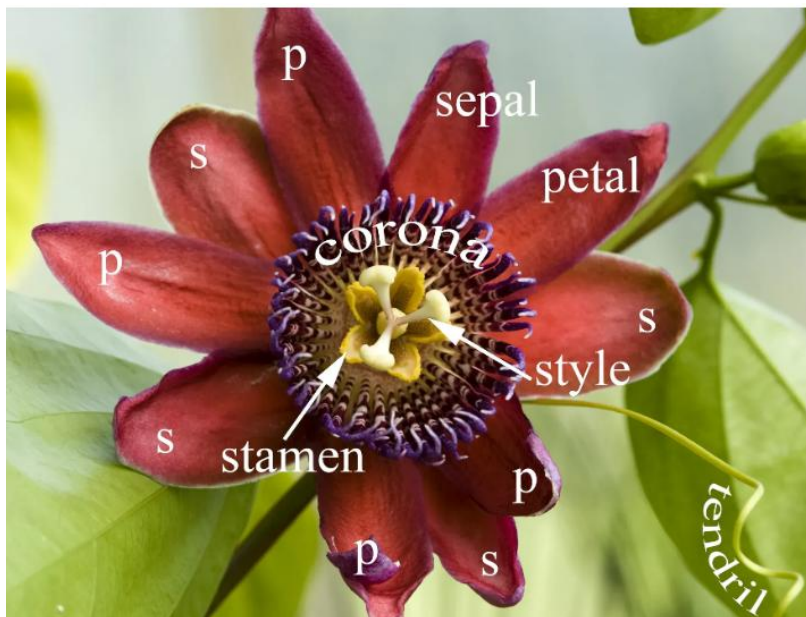
Let the fruit be plucked
and the cake be iced,
the bed be snug
and the wine be spiced
for the old cove's night-cap —
for this is Christ.

Raumati Village Community Garden

Symbolism of the Passion Flower

The naming of the passion flower dates back to 1620 when Mexican Augustinian friar, Emmanuel de Villegas, came across a beautiful plant in Peru.

That night, he said he experienced a vision in his sleep that revealed the symbolism of this beautiful plant representing the suffering of Jesus Christ during his crucifixion, which is referred to as the "Passion of Christ." In his vision, the various parts of the plant could be used to help teach about the Passion, providing a visual means of teaching the Gospel story in an era where there were no printed catechisms.



- the five petals and five sepals taken together represent the ten faithful apostles (excluding St Peter the denier and Judas the betrayer)
- the flower's radial filaments or corona represent the crown of thorns

- the three stigmas represent the three nails; and the five anthers represent the five wounds (four by nails and one by the lance)
- the tendrils represent the whips used in the flagellation of Christ
- the almost perfectly spherical fruit represent the world that Jesus saved



Our passionfruit vine in the Community garden currently has a good crop of unripe fruits which are still green and smooth. They will be ready to eat when they have turned dark purple, wrinkly, and soft.



Unfortunately, the efforts of computer and phone scammers are increasing

Evan Ireland of our Waikanae Congregation has come up with this checklist for you to refer to when you receive phone calls, emails, text or whatsapp messages:

STOP if you are asked to:

- **Buy gift cards or vouchers**
(Apple, Google Play, Steam, supermarket cards) and send the codes.
- **Send money in unusual ways**
Wire transfers, cryptocurrency, prepaid cards, cash in the mail.
- **Move your money “to keep it safe”**
Transfer funds to a so-called safe, holding, or secure account.
- **Share security information**
Passwords, PINs, one-time codes, recovery phrases, or ID photos.
- **Click unsolicited links or open unsolicited attachments**
Especially for “account problems,” invoices, or deliveries you weren’t expecting.
- **Allow remote access to your device**
Installing software so someone can “fix” your computer or phone.
- **Pay a fee to receive money**
Taxes, processing fees, release charges, or verification payments.
- **Confirm personal details urgently**
Date of birth, address, bank details, or login information.
- **Keep the transaction secret**
Being told not to talk to family, bank staff, or church members.
- **Act immediately without checking**
Being rushed before you can seek advice or pray.

These requests are scams.

You should ignore and delete the messages - never reply to them

Printed copies of this checklist are available from the parish office.

Maintenance Work at Raumati



Our very big THANKS to **Diane Boyce** for all the time and hard work she has put into maintaining the Raumati Church and meeting rooms.

Diane has many talents. She has been hanging and repairing curtains, clearing out and cleaning shelves and cupboards, pulling up weeds, and many other tasks.

Here she is sanding down the wall in the Minister's office prior to painting it.

Our hall floor at Raumati is looking like new again!

Thank you to Kate Foley for organising the work and to Aaron Searle from Finer Floor Services, a local company based in Waikanae.

Aaron has done an excellent job and was great to deal with.

Thank you too to our hirers who missed their usual bookings during the week the varnish was curing.



Raumati Playgroup

Tiny Tunes Playgroup Term One Schedule

5/2/26	Balloon Sensory Toy
12/2/26	Heart Craft
19/2/26	Water Play (Weather dependant) Bring change of clothes
26/2/26	Water Play (Weather dependant) Bring change of clothes
5/3/26	Fairy Potions
12/3/26	Bouncing Bubbles
19/3/26	Flower Craft
26/3/26	Golf Ball Painting (Wear old clothes)
2/4/26	Easter Activity

Runs every Thursday during school term
from 10am - 11:30am. Kapiti Uniting Parish
Hall, 10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach.
Tea and coffee provided for parents.
Gold coin donation appreciated.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Happy new year everyone! We had a lovely end of the year at playgroup with the number of kids attending being quite high. We of course got into the Christmas spirit and decorated the hall with lots of Christmas decorations (quite a few were supplied from Thrifty Place).



We of course had to do some special Christmas keepsake crafts. One of the weeks we made some very special snowman Christmas decorations. We used some yarn to measure the height of each child and wrapped it around the snowman's neck to look like a scarf, so that each parent could have a keepsake of how tall their child was for Christmas 2025.

For our last playgroup we put on a morning tea for everyone and the kids decorated wooden Christmas decorations to take home and decorate their tree.

We are now getting ready for the first playgroup for 2026 next week (5th February). We can't wait to see what 2026 brings and we look forward to updating you all on what we get up to.



Monica Simpson

Raumati Women's Fellowship

This group will meet on Thursday 12 February at 11am in the upper meeting room. Please note the change of time. After discussing any business we will follow this with a social time together including a shared lunch.

All women are very welcome.

Contacts: Lyn Martin. 04 904 8361

Merrill Baker 04 902 4134 027 353 2307

BIBLE WOMEN with stories

J	X	M	A	R	Y	N	H	T	U	R
A	H	A	K	E	B	E	R	B	T	E
E	L	R	D	E	L	I	L	A	H	N
L	L	Y	H	E	R	E	H	T	S	E
X	E	B	D	Q	E	V	E	H	H	L
A	H	B	U	I	E	B	N	S	A	A
H	C	E	E	S	A	R	A	H	N	D
T	A	N	O	Z	F	S	O	E	N	G
R	R	H	I	E	E	B	M	B	A	A
A	X	L	E	A	H	J	I	A	H	M
M	E	M	A	I	R	I	M	A	R	Y

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FIND: Anna, Bathsheba, Delilah, Elizabeth, Esther, Eve, Hannah, Jael, Jezebel, Leah, Lydia, Martha, Mary-B, Mary-N, Mary-Magdalene, Miriam, Naomi, Rachel, Rahab, Rebekah, Ruth, Sarah,

Words may cross each other, read horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards. Hyphens indicate 3 different Marys (Mary-N for 'of Nazareth; Mary-B for 'of Bethany')

Answer question below with unused letters, answer on page 22

What wealthy woman visited King Solomon?

_____ (1 Kgs 10:10)

Lent Study 2026

Our study this year will focus on: Luke 24.32

‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us.’



The Study will be held at:

Raumati Church Meeting Room, 10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach
on Tuesday afternoons

on: 3 March, 10 March, 17 March, 24 March from 2-3pm

All are welcome to attend – come along to the whole Study or only some of the dates.

Over the course of the study, we will seek to discover the Bible with our ‘hearts’, as well as our minds and souls and strength

Our Hirers



Local Kāpiti artist and art tutor John Cornish says the Waikanae Church lounge is the perfect space for the Art Classes he runs.

From his own experience of arriving relatively late to art making, John came to realise how important it is to acknowledge everything that has helped inform us as to who we are and to bring that with us when we come to creating whatever it is we choose to create.



John's teaching approach therefore is all about the individual, helping his students discover what is relevant to them, and building from there, offering technical support and a broad knowledge gained from working and teaching in both representation and abstraction.



The classes at Waikanae Lounge are during school term time on:

Thursday 9.30 – 12.30 which is very popular (and often fully booked).

Wednesday evenings 6.30 – 9 (dependent on student numbers).

John uses his 20 years of involvement in tertiary and private arts education to help his students discover and extend their artistic and creative selves.

“I encourage my students to be curious, to ask ‘what if’. This can be slightly problematic for the risk averse, but I guarantee a safe and supportive environment to let that happen !”



If this might be something of interest, please contact John directly:
johnhcornish@gmail.com or phone on 021 238 6656

Our Congratulations to Roger and Carole Wiig



Who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 8th with a lunch with their family at 'Prefab' cafe in Jessie street, Wellington. 'Prefab' has been 'looking after' the family since their son Olaf's captivity in Gaza, in the days when Helen Clarke was the Prime Minister.



Bible Quotes for St Valentine's Day

- ♥ *Jeremiah 31:3-I have loved thee with an everlasting love:*
- ♥ *1 John 4:8-God is love.*
- ♥ *1 John 4:11-Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*
- ♥ *John 13:34-Love one another; as I have loved you.*
- ♥ *Proverbs 10:12-Love covereth all sins.*
- ♥ *1 John 4:19-We love him, because He first loved us.*
- ♥ *1 John 4:11-Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*
- ♥ *Matthew 22:39-Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Word-search: Bible Women with Stories: THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

Parish Directory

Parish Minister: Rev. Anna Gilkison 04 902 5809
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Together Editor: kapitiuniting@outlook.com

February: for your diary

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 6 | | Waitangi Day, parish office closed |
| 10 | 10am-12pm | Pastoral Care Group, Raumati |
| 11 | 11am | Church Service at Sevenoaks |
| | 10-11.30am | Property and Finance Group, Raumati |
| 12 | 11am-1pm | Raumati Women's Fellowship |
| 17 | 10.30am | Waikanae Soup Group |
| | | Shrove Tuesday |
| 19 | 10.30 – 11.15am | Coastal Villas Church Service |
| 20 | 10am-12pm | Parish Council, Raumati |
| 27 | 10am-12pm | Folding March Together |

Wellington District Methodist Women's Fellowship

Saturday 28 February at 10.30am - 2.30pm

A District gathering will be held at the Stokes Valley Uniting Church Main Road Stokes Valley. Women from Masterton will be there. Come and share the occasion.

Bring your own lunch. All welcome

February: Regular Events

Tuesdays	10am -12pm 10.30am – 4pm	Craft group, Raumati Thrifty Place
Thursdays	10am -12pm 10.30am – 4pm	Raumati Playgroup Thrifty Place
Saturdays	10.30am – 1pm	Thrifty Place

February Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
1	Barrie Woods	Evan and Tina Ireland	
8	Maureen Calhaem HC	Rev Robin List HC	Rev Roger Wiig HC
15	Worship Group	Kevin Boyce	
22	Rev Anna Gilkison	Rev Anna Gilkison	Heather List

*“As long as you are proud you cannot know God.
A proud man is always looking down on things and people:
and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot
see something that is above you.”*

— C.S. Lewis

WWW.kup.org.nz

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