

TOGETHER



KĀPITI UNITING PARISH

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

NOVEMBER 2025



*Daphne Forster, married for over 60 years,
bringing her great-grandson his wedding ring
during his marriage ceremony*

From the Minister's Desk

I attended the Presbyterian General Assembly in Christchurch last week. Although, like many others, I was a small cog in a big machine there were times when our parish was visible. It touched and charmed me when it happened. We were all assigned to 'Dialogue Groups' which met a few times to discuss questions which different Committees thought everyone should discuss. One of the best moments in my group was when a Christchurch minister told me, enthusiastically, how impressed he and his wife were by our Thrifty Place. They were on holiday in Kapiti recently, going for a walk, when they stopped to admire the signage for our Op Shop. They thought that it was superior to the signage for their own church shop. Lured by the excellent signs, they went into Thrifty Place and he couldn't stop talking about it! What a beautiful Op Shop...what wonderful people worked there...what a great mix of people shopped there...what an amazing experience it was for both of them 😊

And, as I mentioned at the Raumati Service, I was touched to hear of the Rev Dr Graeme Ferguson honoured for his life's work in the Church during the opening worship. Graeme was Isabel Robertson's brother, recently deceased and greatly missed by all who knew him.

I was also happy to be present when we voted for the Rev Dr Murray Rae, Jan Rae's nephew, as Moderator Designate. That means he will be the Moderator of the PCANZ in two years' time. His acceptance speech was warm, inclusive, intelligent and inspiring.

There was a lot of talk at this Assembly about Whanaungatanga, which is described in Te Aka Maori Dictionary as 'a sense of family connection'. It is easier for church bodies to talk about this than it is for them to practice it. As the minister of a Uniting Church it wasn't often that I saw our experiences and our perspectives reflected in the business of Assembly. Fortunately we've had several Bible readings recently reminding us that God loves those who are humble and raises up those who practice their faith with integrity and loving kindness. We are visible to God and that's all that matters.

When I returned to Kapiti someone sent me the accompanying picture. I warmed to its message personally and it also illuminated an aspect of my Assembly experience which was very positive. Everyone there, whatever their church culture, however small or large their faith community, was doing their best to embody Christ in their community. We, too, are doing our best and that's our calling here in Kapiti.



Rev Anna Gilkison

News from Waikanae

Our life together



We gathered in our little church with the family and friends of the late **Monica Olsson** in a service of remembrance for her on 7 October. The service, on Monica's 103rd birthday, was a time of thankfulness for all that she had shared with us.

Worship Group

Looking back: The group has enriched our worship with a lively Simple Service focussing on animals, on 28 September. The moving and informative "World of Refugees" service on 19 October was prepared and presented by Mike and Paula Binkhorst, Ute Michel, Desmond, Fiona Duckworth and Evan. Worship Group now involves many members of the

congregation, embodying the idea of “Every member a minister”.

Soup Group met on 21 October to respond to the question: “What is love?” Our discussion engaged us deeply, enlarging our faith understanding.

Looking forward: Desmond is preparing November worship looking at disability – an area in which he has international experience. On 23 November our **Church Anniversary** service will celebrate 46 years of the Women’s Fellowship in Waikanae.



The **50th anniversary of ordination** for John Roberts will be acknowledged on 2 November.

Women’s Fellowship

Marie Smith recently attended the National Convention of the Methodist Women’s Fellowship (MWF). At that gathering Marie stepped down from the convenorship of the Friendship Scholarship Fund, a position she held for 35 years. The fund started in 1990 when Lynley Whitton was the National President of MWF.

With the MWF we give thanks for Marie’s many years of faithful service and her generous sharing of her gifts.



Diana Roberts

Advent Study 2025

Waikanae Lounge 2pm

A FEAST OF STORIES

From Heavenly Hosts to heavenly food,



MENU

Week One - 25th November

A Chorus of Angels

With Rev Anna Gilkison

Week Two - 2nd December

The Gifts

With Desmond Corrigan

Week Three - 9th December

The Manger

With Diana Roberts

Week Four - 16th December

A Caravan of Camels

With Rev Anna Gilkison

*Everyone is welcome to attend –
you can come to just one (or more) of the studies*

About People

To everyone celebrating Birthdays in November we say A Very Happy Birthday to you and we hope you enjoy your special day.

To those celebrating an Anniversary our congratulations and our very best wishes go to you.

We were sorry to say farewell to Jennie Dickens who has recently moved to Crofton Downs to be closer to her family. Jennie has been a very long time member of our Raumati Congregation and in the past served on the pastoral Committee for many years including being the coordinator.

We say thank you Jennie for all that you have contributed to our Parish life and we wish you well for the future.

Our thoughts are with those who are unwell at present and we hope you will soon be feeling better again.

Our Greetings to everyone.

The Pastoral Care Team:

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

E-Prayer Requests

A group from our Parish receives requests for prayer every week. You can ring, text, or email to ask for the request to be passed on:

Merrill Baker 04 902 4134 or text 0273 532 307 or
amkram.nz@gmail.com

Maureen Calhaem 04 299 1903 or text 0278 568 611 or
maureen.calhaem@xtra.co.nz

The requests will remain confidential and names will not be used without your permission.

Maureen and Merrill

Novel experience for Great-Grandmother Daphne

Most of us are aware that Daphne Forster has had a difficult time in recent years caring for George whose health was deteriorating in distressing ways that made him dependent on his wife. I am pleased to



be able to share a happy occasion experienced by my neighbour Daphne, shortly after being widowed.

Last month Daphne was able to travel with her daughter Valerie and son-in-law Evan to the wedding of Daphne's great-grandson near Brisbane.



Like many modern weddings today the venue was a scenic area, and the ceremony took place outside. The bride Kaitlyn, and groom Aaron, looked fabulous in their traditional wedding attire of a beautiful white wedding gown, and a smart suit in this romantic setting. They were not accompanied by wedding attendants, the scenery was sufficient.

Imagine the surprise for those present at the marriage ceremony when two great-grandmothers came forward each carrying a wedding ring that they presented to their own great-grandchild, who then placed the ring on the finger of their beloved. It was also a surprise to the great-grandmothers!

Rosalie Sugrue

Persons Unique to Luke's Gospel

Draw a line to connect each person with their story
by Rosalie Sugrue

Theophilus (1:3)	son raised from death
Gabriel (1:19)	bandaged wounds
Zechariah (1:21)	female disciple
Elizabeth (1:24)	lost a coin
Quirinius (2:2)	felt he wasn't valued
Shepherds (2:8)	hosted a traveller
Anna (2:36-37)	patron of Luke
Simeon (2:28)	irritated a judge
Susanna (8:3)	couldn't stand tall
Widow of Nain (7:11)	appeared to a priest
A caring man (10:23-24)	Governor of Syria
Crippled Woman (13:11)	took spices to tomb
A sweeper (15:8)	speechless for months
Unhappy brother (15:30)	conceived unexpectedly
Persistent widow (18:3)	climbed a tree
Zacchaeus (19:5)	saw baby Jesus
Joanna (24:1 & 10)	spent nights outside
Wife of Cleopas (24:18)	held baby Jesus

Answers on page 14

Aching and Baking

November again – already time to buy fireworks; definitely time to start thinking about Christmas; time for the Methodist Church Conference. For as long as I can remember, parishes have sent their delegates, and clergy have been summoned to attend. Why?

Is it an old-boys and old-girls reunion? Is it a sort of parliament which regulates the life of the Church: Is it a forum for learning about new developments and ideas: Is it a great big religious rally?

Not long ago, I shared in a gathering called Aching and Baking, a combined meeting of the Auckland Councils of Christians and Jews, and Christians and Muslims. Three women talked about celebrations that are a special part of their religious traditions. The Jewish focus was on the Passover or Seder meal, and the Muslim on Eid, which marks the end of the Ramadan fasting. When I spoke for Christians, I looked briefly at the Christmas and Easter festivals, but my focus was the Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion or the Mass, a regular celebration for nearly all Christians. All three women spoke of the work involved in preparing for the feasts: the search for the ingredients dictated by recipes handed down through generations; the physical labour; the stress of planning; the financial burden; the pressure of

balancing the needs of a busy household. This is part of the 'Aching', and so are all the memories, stories and prayers that shape and sustain the festivals.

There is 'Aching' in the remembered suffering within all three meals: the Egyptian slavery of the Children of Israel remembered in the Passover; the forty days of Ramadan fasting, when the reading of the whole of the Quran recalls the history of Islam; and the suffering and death of Jesus re-enacted in the breaking of bread and the pouring of wine. There is sorrow too in the memory of those we love who can no longer sit around the table with us and there is a heightened awareness of the needs and suffering of the world.

There is energy and joy in the 'Baking' – the nourishment and abundance of the food, and the strength and life-giving values at the heart of the religious traditions. These faith festivals foster human flourishing and respond to human suffering with generous sharing of the richness of life.

This is the reason for the church's annual conference; to come face to face with aching suffering and injustice, and to work at baking bread that satisfies and strengthens.

Diana Roberts

*From Methodist Touchstone
November 2007*



The Methodist Church of New Zealand Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

Support for the Recognition of a Palestinian State

In acknowledgement and response to a statement made on the 27th of September 2025, by our Foreign Minister Winston Peters who said that New Zealand will not recognise a Palestinian state at this time, pointing to ongoing conflict, uncertainty over future governance, and a Hamas presence in Gaza.

Recognition of statehood is not just a symbolic act, it is a recognition of the rights of a people under occupation. Delaying recognition suggests the government is prioritising strategic caution over universal human rights. Aotearoa New Zealand has historically positioned itself in foreign affairs with a degree of moral diplomacy—nuclear-free status, advocating human rights, supporting international law. Delaying or refusing recognition of a Palestinian state in the current global context should be seen as diverging from that tradition.

The government argues that recognition now might “reward” or embolden Hamas, complicating peace efforts. But there is counter-argument that recognition could instead increase pressure on all parties towards negotiation, and lend weight to international law standards.

Within Aotearoa, public sentiment (especially among younger or marginalised people) tends toward seeing recognition of Palestinian statehood as a moral imperative and long overdue. The government’s reluctance in this matter continues to breed

disillusionment and/or accusations of moral cowardice. If the government truly believes in the principle of self-determination and in a two-state solution, it needs to show that through action—as well as words. Recognition of a Palestinian state is not simply emblematic—it is an important piece in the architecture of peace; the government’s current stance may miss an important opportunity to contribute meaningfully towards that architecture.

For us, as Methodist Christians, the delay in recognising Palestine as a state is a failure to embody the prophetic witness the Church is called to bear—standing with the marginalised and affirming the God-given humanity of all peoples. Recognition is not a reward for power structures, but a statement of faith in peace through justice. Aotearoa’s moral legacy calls for bold compassion, not pragmatic silence.

We must not wait for the perfect conditions to affirm what is right. Let us hear the prophetic words of a Christian Palestinian Children’s Prayer for Gaza, which sings of freedom that must be proclaimed—even amid darkness. *“The sun of freedom will rise even if there were a hundred Herods. Tell them the sun of freedom will rise. Our land will return to us.”*

Ngā manaakitanga,

Te Aroha Rountree President - Methodist Church of New Zealand |
Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

These things I have spoken to you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

Poetry with Robin List: Eleanor Farjeon

We are very familiar with Eleanor Farjeon's hymn 'Morning has broken' and may well be aware that she was a famous children's writer (she won the inaugural Hans Christian Andersen award amongst other prizes.) She also wrote plays, sonnets and other adult poetry and books.



Eleanor Farjeon

She lived from 1881 - 1965; not bad for someone who started life with poor health. The Farjeon family were all very talented in various arts. Her early life would have been considered scandalous (she openly lived with two different men) but I do plead for her that the living was done consecutively. She enjoyed friendships with other writers including DH Lawrence and the poet Edward Thomas, with whom she had a brief affair and comforted his wife after he was killed in World War I.

The poem which follows has the subtitle In Memoriam E.T. Note the contrasts of the peace and promise of the orchard and garden and the hope of the Easter egg with Thomas's situation. Finally the ripe bud is set against the three letters that will never be received. Compulsory reading for war-like politicians.

Easter Monday

In the last letter that I had from France
You thanked me for the silver Easter egg
Which I had hidden in the box of apples
You like to munch beyond all other fruit.

You found the egg the Monday before Easter,
And said 'I will praise Easter Monday now -
It was such a lovely morning'. Then you spoke
Of the coming battle and said, 'This is the eve.
'Good-bye. And may I have a letter soon'.

That Easter Monday was a day for praise,
It was such a lovely morning. In our garden
We sowed our earliest seeds, and in the orchard
The apple-bud was ripe. It was the eve,
There are three letters that you will not get.

Eleanor Farjeon



*Battle of Arras April 1917
during which Edward Thomas and 300,000 other men were killed*

Raumati Women's Fellowship

This group will meet on Thursday 13 November in the Upper Meeting Room at 10am. Our Speaker will be Marie Smith who will be sharing highlights of the recent National Methodist Women's Fellowship Convention which was held recently in Auckland.



All women are welcome to join us.

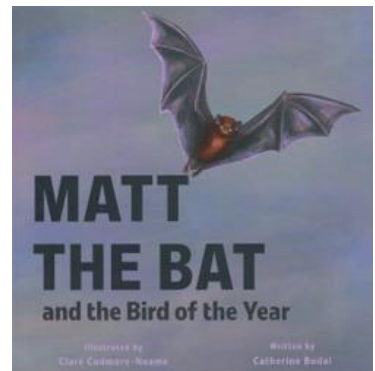
Contacts : Lyn Martin: 04 904 8361 022 165 7523

Answers to 'Connect Person with Story' quiz:

Theophilus - patron of Luke, Gabriel - appeared to a priest, Zechariah - speechless for 9 months, Elizabeth - conceived unexpectedly, Quirinius - Governor of Syria, Shepherds - spent nights outside, Anna - saw baby Jesus, Simeon - held baby Jesus, Susanna - Female disciple - Widow of Nain - son raised from death, A caring man - bandaged wounds, Crippled Woman - couldn't stand tall, A sweeper - lost a coin, Unhappy brother - felt he wasn't valued, Persistent widow - irritated a judge, Zacchaeus - climbed a tree, Joanna - took spices to tomb, Wife of Cleopas - hosted a traveller

Inspired by the Long-tailed Bat's memorable entry into the Bird of the Year contest in 2021, this timeless tale of the classic Kiwi underdog is about courage, inclusion and celebrating our differences.

Anyone interested in seeing a sample copy should contact Heather List, MOA (mother of author).

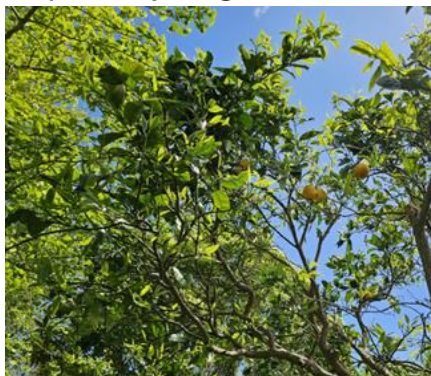


Raumati Village Community Garden

Calm After the Storms

With all the bad weather recently, we are pleased to share that the Community Garden survived very well with just some twigs blown down but no significant damage. We hope that your gardens, too, were preserved from harm.

The last few grapefruit are keeping a tight hold on their tree - you are welcome to harvest them if you can reach them



As spring progresses the herb garden is sprouting up

Our citrus trees have been mulched by Diana Harding, a Thrifty Place volunteer - thank you. We have bought Zoo Doo with our grant from the Horticultural Society. We are grateful to have so many willing helpers and generous sponsors.



Strawberry blossoms - protected from the birds and promising a delicious summer harvest

Why Is Singing Important In Christian Worship?

Extract from Wesley Tidings

The Christian life is meant to be a joyous experience. No matter how old or young we are, one of the most effective ways to show our inner joy is to carry a song upon our lips throughout our daily life. Singing is a ministry that belongs to the people of God. The congregation is always the primary choir in every church while musicians aid the people of God during worship.

♪ When we sing, we obey the word of God

Colossians 3:16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Ephesians 5:18-19: “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart...”

♪ When we sing, we dig deep roots in The Word

As we sing songs together, we are promised that the Word of Christ will dwell in us richly – which is what we should crave as believers. Colossians 3:16 clearly lays out for us that: Singing stands alongside of preaching as one of the two great ways that God has ordained for His Word to dwell RICHLY in each one of us!

♪ When we sing, we build up others

When we sing together as a church family, we have the opportunity of hearing many testimonies of faith around us. We hear people sing and proclaim together, “My hope is found”, “Christ Liveth In Me”, “Praise Him”.

Besides that, as we sing together as a church family, we are also helping unbelievers hear hundreds of testimonies. In Psalm 105:1-2, the Lord is calling the Israelites to be a light unto the nations, and to do this He tells them: “Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all his wondrous works!”

♪ When we sing, we walk a God-designed pathway to joy

Some references from the book of Psalms about singing:

Psalms 9:2: “I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.”

Psalms 63:7: “For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.”

Scripture, joy and singing are bound together. In God’s perfect design he has bound joy and singing together for His people. Through singing as a family of God, people learn how to speak with God. Songs of worship help shape faith. It is, therefore, very important that a congregation have a rich “vocabulary of praise.”

In conclusion, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs helps us glorify God in a special way. Singing has such a special way of bringing our heart, soul, mind, and strength together to focus completely on God. Therefore, we should be determined to live a singing spirit and be a truly “praising Christian”.

Edna Kandiah and C Smith, Kuala Lumpur Methodist Church



Music in Our Worship at KUP

We are fortunate to have a group of talented musicians who enrich our church services with their playing and their accompaniment.

We give thanks for the skills and dedication of:

Marie Smith, Janet Milne, Noeline Cuzens, Elizabeth Kerr, Kevin Boyce,
Merle Stevenson, Ellen Barrett, Erice Carley .

*Do you have a talent for music and would like to play at our services?
Please let the parish office know.*



Raumati Playgroup

We made the tough decision to close Playgroup last Thursday because of the bad weather warning. But today we have lots of lovely bright sunshine which we hope the kids will enjoy letting off some steam out on the deck.



The car garage and track are really popular.

Its great for learning role play and practicing sharing with each other

I am making sure everyone follows the road rules!



Here is the Tiny Tunes timetable for the rest of the term. If there is an activity you would enjoy doing with the kids then please come along, we would be very happy to see you.

Tiny Tunes Playgroup Term 4 schedule	
30/10/25	Mask Making (dress-up)
6/11/25	Jewellery Making
13/11/25	Colouring In
20/11/25	Frozen Animals (water play)
27/11/25	Fairy Potions (water play)
4/12/25	Christmas Craft (dress-up)
11/12/25	Christmas Craft (dress-up)



Maureen has a smile and a cuppa for everyone!

Monica Simpson

BEACHSIDE HARMONY
EST. 2023



We are made up of wide-ranging ages, backgrounds and choral experience, with the shared goal of achieving excellence in singing at a community and national level - while having fun at the same time.





Performing at 2024 – SING! Wellington

We have a strong sense of belonging as a group, while developing our own individual skills as singers in this style of acapella (music performed by a singer or a singing group without instrumental accompaniment).

*If you would like to find out more, you are welcome to come along to one of our practices – email: hello@beachsideharmony.com
You can also explore www.facebook.com/beachsideharmony
or our webpage www.beachsideharmony.com/*

We accept all people, welcoming freedom of expression and social connection through creating music together.



May 2025 - Concert at Raumati Church for Friends and Family



Children's Christmas Service Wednesday 3rd December from 3pm



CALLING ALL BUDDING ACTORS

No age limit and no acting experience necessary!

I have a script of a Christmas Play I'd like us to include in the service.

We will need quite a few actors! And we will need to practise!!!

This is our yearly gift to the children in our community and it's important we do it with enthusiasm, generosity and love.

**I know I will be overwhelmed with offers (!) so get your name in early.
You can let me know or contact the parish office.**



Lost Causes *by Keith Lang*

I believe most houses in the land
Keep a Bible close at hand,
Some as close as a table by the bed
But despite such proximity it's seldom read.

For centuries men have clashed and fought
For the right to print and read this book,
But today most protests have come to naught
And the bible can be read by all.
But for many readers it doesn't enthrall.

But this strife mirrors the struggle to vote.
To oppose the dictators who govern by gun
Those killers who aim to enslave everyone
But in stable countries like ours
Where democracy smiles from each booth
Despite the sacrifice made for each vote,
Producing the ultimate measure of freedom

Why do so many people fail to use it?
Do our unread Bibles, our neglected votes
Suggest a malaise that's infesting us?
Does the uneasy alliance between Church and State
Affect our psyches more that we can extricate?

Parish Directory

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

Parish Council:

Secretary: Jan Rae 021 1127739
janiserae47@gmail.com

Treasurer: Cathy Drummond 04 902 5809
kuptreasurer@gmail.com

Envelope Secretary: Dorothy Woods 04 905 9099
barrie.woods22@gmail.com

Office Admin. and Together Editor: Fiona Bell 04 902 5809
kapitiuniting@outlook.com

November: for your diary

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5 | 11am | Parkwood Lodge Church Service |
| 9 | 12pm | After Service Lunch, Infinite Cafe |
| 11 | 10am-12pm | Pastoral Care Group, Raumati |
| 12 | 10-11.30am | Property and Finance Group, Raumati |
| | 11am | Church Service at Sevenoaks |
| 13 | 10am-12pm | Raumati Women's Fellowship |
| 18 | 10.30am | Waikanae Soup Group |
| 20 | 10.30 – 11.15am | Coastal Villas Church Service |
| 21 | 10am-12pm | Parish Council, Raumati |
| 26 | 10am – 12pm | Music and Worship Group, Raumati |
| 28 | 10am-12pm | Folding November Together |

**Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others
with God's own love and concern.**

Mother Theresa:

November: Regular Events

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

November Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
2	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	Maureen Calhaem	Heather List
9	Desmond Corrigan	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	
16	Rev Anna Gilkison	Rev Roger Wiig	
23	Worship Group Church Anniversary	Rev Robin List	Kevin Boyce
30 Advent Sunday	Maureen Calhaem	Rev Anna Gilkison	

WWW.kup.org.nz

email: kapitiuniting@outlook.com Phone: 04 902 5809