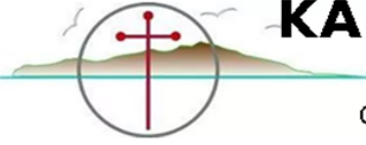


TOGETHER

KAPITI UNITING PARISH



ChristianChurchesNZ – Methodist – Presbyterian

July 2025



*Young members of the Kapiti Fijian Congregation
at the shared lunch following the Parish Anniversary Service*

From the Minister's Desk

Breakfast With God

Last week Christine, one of our hirers, gave me this Leunig cartoon. It reminded me how good Leunig is at expressing deep truths with charm and simplicity. It may seem that he is saying God is a duck! But, really, he is showing us how to see God in anything at any moment. He is saying that the world is infused with the presence of God.

I was not brought up to have breakfast with God in a park. I was brought up to see God in church, in the bible, in theology and, perhaps, in people. Last week I was shown over a new Catholic school in South Auckland and attended a mass with the children. I was touched by the way they were taught habits of reverence which will go with them into adulthood.

Leunig, too, is reminding us to cultivate habits of reverence which can transform any moment into an encounter with God.

Rev Anna Gilkison



News from Waikanae

Worship is the centre of our life together. Our June services focussed on significant issues for us:

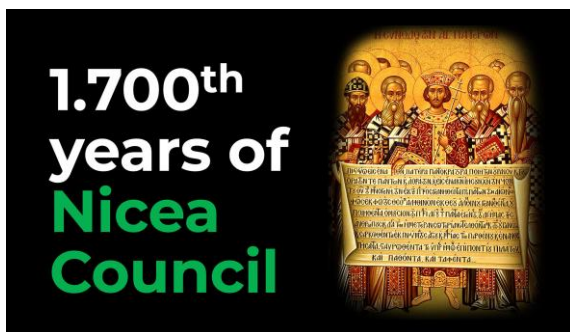
World's children at risk. On 1 June the Worship Group led the congregation in highlighting the situation of the children of the world who, more than ever, are suffering from violence and neglect. We heard how Jesus valued children, and we learned about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which NZ is a signatory. Mike Binkhorst read from a



special version of the UN document illustrated by well-known children's book artists. Fiona Duckworth spoke about her work with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in Pakistan.

Pentecost Sunday. Rev Anna celebrated Pentecost with us on 8 June, when we marked 1700 years since the Council of Nicea brought the different streams of the early Church

together to formulate one set of beliefs for them all: the Nicene Creed. A great moment for the unity of all believers.





Parish Anniversary Service.

This service on 15 June was filled with hope and joy as Waikanae joined with the Raumati congregation to give thanks for our forty-one years as a Uniting Parish. Diana Roberts from Waikanae was invited to share her reflection on Pilgrims of Hope.

Matariki was a special time for us, and we honoured the rising of the stars that signal the beginning of the Maori New Year. In our 22 June Simple Service in the church lounge, seated in small groups around tables, we praised God for the gifts of creation, and committed ourselves to sharing these gifts. Our theme was “Feed the People”, centred on the Maori proverb:

“with your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive.” Each table shared prayers, and worked on the ingredients for a ‘Boil-up’ feast, preparing root vegetables,



watercress and puha, bread and butter and cake. The 'Boil-up' was delicious and nourished us all. Our Scripture readings told of the Manna in the desert and the Feeding of the five thousand. The warmth and depth of spirit and sharing were a true expression of the Matariki festival.

About people. In this winter time, numbers of our senior members are facing major health challenges. We visit them regularly, keep them up-to-date with parish news and hold them in our public and private prayers.

We give thanks to all those throughout the whole Parish who maintain the services and structures that uphold the work, life and mission of the parish.

Diana Roberts

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

About People

At our 41st Anniversary Service it was lovely to welcome the newcomers to our parish during this past year.

To the Waikanae congregation: Fiona Duckworth and Beth Manning.

To the Raumati Congregation: Dilys Jones, Irene Strand, Heidi List, Bev and Jako Smith, and Sherry King.



Jako and Bev Smith, Irene Strand, Rev Anna Gilkison, Dilys Jones

A very Happy Birthday to all who are celebrating Birthdays in July.
May it be a special day for you.

To those celebrating Anniversaries we hope you enjoy your special occasion.

To those who are unwell whether at home or in hospital our thoughts are with you and we hope you will soon be feeling better.
If the sun is shining it certainly helps us to feel better in these colder winter weeks.

We send our very best wishes to you all.

The Pastoral Care Team:

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

Raumati Women's Fellowship

We have enjoyed our monthly gatherings of fellowship and friendship which culminated in our AGM on 12 June.

We were lucky to have very interesting speakers at our meetings during the last 12 months who have covered topics as varied as:

Life in Papua New Guinea in the 1970s (Erica Carley)

The work and workings of the Kapiti CAB (Mary Manderson)

Women's Centre and Refuge in Kapiti (Louise Waterworth)

What Diversional Therapy work involves (Judy Binnings)

Charities Blind Low Vision and the Deaf and Blind (Cathy and Ange)

Travellers' tales from France, Scotland, England and Ireland

(Kay McIntosh and also Dianne Boyce)

Our Special Projects Service was on May 18 and was well attended by the Raumati congregations.

This year the overseas project was from CWS supporting the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees. Slides and commentary were shown.

For the New Zealand project, Gemma Sando from Ronald McDonald House Charities, spoke of her involvement with the organisation.

Thank you to those of you who provided plates for the morning tea, which raised \$387.

We will be holding our annual lunch at:

Infinite Cafe at Raumati Beach at 12pm on Thursday 10 July.

If you would like to come and have not already put your name down, please contact Merrill Baker 04 9024 134 or 027 353 2307 by 7 July.

We are very welcoming to new members

If you would like more information about our Women's Fellowship group, please contact Merrill Baker or Lyn Martin 04 904 9361

Parish 41st Anniversary Service

10am Sunday 15 June



The singers of the Kapiti Fijian Congregation



Ken Milne and Kevin Boyce sharing their faith journeys



Diana Roberts inspired us with her reflection on 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

For the intercessory prayer Diana chose the following prayer of Pope Francis to complement her talk.

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in Christ, our brother,
and the flame of love enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.
May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May your grace
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
Throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen*



We shared lunch in the hall after the service





Our thanks to everyone who brought the delicious food, served the drinks, washed up, ate the food, and enjoyed themselves.

The worst Story in the Bible and its consequences??

First thoughts from Roger Wiig

The story of the Exodus is the foundational story for our Jewish brothers and sisters. It has shaped their identity. It reminds them that they are a people of God. And it is remembered every day as they enter their houses and touch their mezuzah which contains the Shema, the prayer found in Deuteronomy 6:4.

The journey to the 'Promised Land' under the leadership of Moses outlines the way their relationship with God and their relationships with one another was shaped. They are good stories. But then in Deuteronomy 7 is a dreadful story that has some things to say about occupation of foreign lands and leaders who stay around too long making dreadful, racist decisions.

The chapter begins: 'Moses said: "People of Israel, the Lord your God will help you take the land of the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites' When you attack them, the Lord will force them out of the land then you must destroy them without mercy. Don't make peace treaties with them.... don't let your sons or daughters marry any of them....'

War, slaughter, condemnation and the belief in keeping the 'purity of the nation' are all destructive of respect and love and those actions that are humane. They are clearly a rejection of the Commandments that we gratefully accept from the ancient nation of Israel. And that's why I call the story: the worst story in the Bible.

Not only is the slaughter of a people who were and had been living in the land for a long time shocking, but we should note that the story-teller leaves Moses out of the mayhem that follows his instructions. He never enters the Promised Land.

Now, move onto the 20th century. The nation of Israel, formed following the end of the Second World War in reaction to the horrors of the Holocaust, was imposed on the Palestinian people. Their land became, by international agreement, the land of the Israelites and what

has happened has a striking (excuse the pun) resemblance to the story in Deuteronomy.

Like Moses, Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered terrible slaughter of the people in Gaza. Like Moses he has stayed around too long, holding onto power when other potential leaders might have made wiser and more compassionate decisions.

Before I am called Anti-Semitic, let me share my background. In London, Carole and I had the great privilege of being invited to share the Sabbath meal with Jewish friends. It was a very moving experience to see, hear, and enjoy the traditional prayers and the Friday evening meal. I was also on the Executive of the Three Faiths Forum that encouraged dialogue between Jews, Christians and Muslims.

I am also grateful for the intervention of the then Prime Minister Helen Clark and one of the staff from the New Zealand Embassy in Jerusalem, for negotiating my son Olaf's release from captivity in Gaza. He and a colleague were working as a foreign correspondent team for an American television company. On his release Olaf went to the head of Hamas to say thank you. So, I think I can claim a lack of bias in my opinions on the current terrible situation in Gaza and the Occupied Territories.

It is time for peace in the area and for a new Prime Minister in Israel.



Name the character in the Bible

by Rosalie Sugrue

WHO WAS...

- 1) the best actor ? _____
he brought the house down. (Jdg 16:30)
- 2) the fastest man ? _____
he came first in the human race (Gen 5:1)
- 3) the shortest man? _____
the Shuhite [shoe-height] (Job 2:11)
- 4) a drug addict? _____
was on grass for seven years. (Dan 4:32-33)
- 5) the most precocious infant? _____
cursed the day he was born (Job 3:1)
- 6) the most flagrant law breaker? _____
broke all 10 commandments on same day (Ex 32:19)
- 7) played tennis? _____
he served in the courts of Pharaoh (Gen 41)
- 8) played cricket? _____
stood up with the 11 and was bold [bowled] (Act 2:14)
- 9) the leader who didn't have parents? _____
the son of _____ (Deut 31:23)

Answers on page 17

Raumati Village Community Garden



We would like to say a very big thank you to the Kapiti Horticultural Society, who have made a very generous donation to the community garden. The funds will be used to purchase Zoo Doo to top up the beds, and seedlings if required.

The Kapiti Horticultural Society meet in our Raumati Hall on the first Friday of each month at 7pm.

Pictured: Kapiti Horticultural Society member, Dianne Boyce and community garden volunteer, Kate Foley

Update from Christian World Service that the funds received for their Christmas Appeal, which KUP supported, have now exceeded \$300,000.

GOOD NEWS FOR TONGA

Our very own Rob Wayne (CWS International Partnerships Lead) has been rewarded for undertaking months of preparations and negotiation with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade on a funding package for Strengthening Community Resilience in Tonga. It has been granted resulting in an allocation of approximately \$450,000 for this work distributed over the next three years.

Well done Rob.

This represents another move towards increasing our focus on providing aid to the most vulnerable of our neighbours in Oceania.

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM OUR MRS MAFI CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We are delighted to report that our Christmas Appeal 2024 has raised just over \$300,000! This is an immense contribution

in support of our mission to aid people caught in poverty and injustice in our world. Thank you for your generosity.

We will be reporting here and on our website about how that funding has been put to work.

Raumati Playgroup

We have had yet another really good month at playgroup. As it is now officially Winter, we have been trying our best to come up with fun indoor activities to keep the little ones busy.

We of course needed to pull out paint, as this is a fun and messy indoor activity. Instead of using paintbrushes we used sponges and shape stamps. Paint is always a favourite activity for the kids.

The week after that we did what is probably the most popular activity yet -temporary tattoos. We managed to track down some tattoos that were glow in the dark, glittery and metallic. Some of the kids left almost head to toe covered in tattoos.



We of course also celebrated Matariki by making star wands. I made the wands by cutting out cardboard stars and putting them on sturdy sticks that I found outside. The kids then decorated the stars by covering them in glue and sprinkling on glitter. This is by far the messiest activity we have done to date but it was so worth it as the wands all looked so beautiful.

We have been very fortunate to have a new volunteer come and help - Bev. I always appreciate the help that we get from all our volunteers as we couldn't do playgroup without them. A big thank you to our volunteers Maureen, Kate, Marie, Nicole and Bev.

This week we will have the last playgroup for the term and the kids will be using glue sticks to piece together pizzas. I have also made some "pizza ovens" and I'm hoping that we might be able to play pizza shops.



Lastly, please feel free to pop in and see us if you would like the company of little ones. We would love to see you there!

Monica

Answers to Name the Character in the Bible:

(1) Samson, (2) Adam, (3) Bildad, (4) Nebuchadnezzar, (5) Job, (6) Moses, (7) Joseph, (8) Peter, (9) Joshua, son of Nun

Note from the minister:

Faith Journeys

At our Anniversary Service, Ken Milne and Kevin Boyce shared their faith journeys with us. For those who couldn't attend the service, this is Ken's journey to where he and Janet are now on the path of faith. It is included in the newsletter as an encouragement to others to take some time to think about the story of their lives of faithfulness. Kevin's journey will be featured in next month's Together.

In my experience congregations enjoy hearing about the road our members have travelled in their commitment to Christ. It would be good to hear from more of you, either during a service or in our newsletter from time to time. If you feel moved to reflect on your experience in this way I would very much like to hear about it.

Anna Gilkison

‘My Faith Journey’ by Ken Milne At KUP 41st Anniversary Service 15 June 2025

The Rev Anna Gilkison invited me to speak of my life's Faith Journey today.

Although I was born in Te Kuiti, I was Christened as a baby in a Presbyterian Church in Hastings. Back in Te Kuiti, I attended the Presbyterian Church Sunday School. At Feilding Agricultural High School, we had a 'Church Parade' every Sunday and again, I attended the Presbyterian Church.

After I met Janet, I became involved in the Associated Churches of Christ congregation in Palmerston North in the early 1960s while studying at Massey University. My 'Believers Baptism' was at that Church in Palmerston North. Our minister Geoff Benjamin, Joe and Clarice Hollows and family, and Janet's mother, Greta, all encouraged and supported the growth of my Christian Faith.

After receiving a Fulbright Award in 1964 to study for a Doctorate at University of California, Davis, Janet and I flew to Hawaii, where we were welcomed and hosted by Disciples of Christ Church members in Honolulu.

When we arrived in San Francisco, again the Disciples of Christ Church had been contacted and had arranged for us to be hosted overnight before we continued the final leg of our journey to Davis the next day.

While living in Davis, Janet and I drove each Sunday to a nearby town to attend a Disciples of Christ Church. Again, we were welcomed by the Minister, and also two families who treated us as extended family and who regularly invited us to their homes after the Sunday services.

We were also allocated a local Davis Family – the Hendersons - who were part of a Family Friendship group organised through the University

International Students office. In 1968, when we were about to leave to return to New Zealand with our two-and-a-half year old, daughter, Toni, we were saying goodbye to that family we said to Frances Henderson –“

how can we ever thank you for your loving care of us in Davis?”. Her reply was “You don’t need to thank us – just pay it forward”.

Back in Palmerston North, we rejoined the Church of Christ in Botanical Road. Our outreach to International Students began when one of the members of the congregation told us about a forthcoming meeting of a group he was involved with - The Society for International Fellowship in Palmerston North known as INTERFEL. The main annual event was an official Welcome held at Massey University, and members then invited students and visiting professional people to their homes for an evening meal. This followed up on the Family Friendship idea that we had been benefitted from in California. Many international students called our home THEIR home! When our own family became an international one, with the addition of a Tunisian Son-in-law, and Japanese Daughter-in-law, our children said to us – *You shouldn’t be surprised – you introduced us to the world!*

A particular faith memory of mine is when I was attending a Professional Conference in Israel, I was at the banks of the River Jordan, where an African-American pastor was baptising members of his US congregation.

I also visited the Jerusalem Wailing Wall along with people of many Faiths, reminding me that we are all God's People regardless of colour or creed.

After 40 years of involvement at the Associated Churches of Christ in Palmerston North we moved to Raumati in 2010. Long-time friends, Joy and Syd Mephram, encouraged us to worship at KUP where we have both continued our faith journeys including our involvement in Groups, Committees, Boards and Services and music. Significant people here have included Cornelia and Stuart Grant, Don and Barbara Niccol, and Joy and Syd Mephram.

And so, our Faith Journey continues.



May all your past be **treasured**.
May you anticipate your future with **hope**.
May the present moment bring you **light**
And give you **direction**
For the days ahead

Amen

Poetry with Robin List

Poet of the Month:

George Herbert 1593 - 1633

With One Voice has four hymns by George Herbert. They are spiritually profound, often beautiful. So, who was he? Well, he wasn't a hymn writer. Other people turned his poetry into hymns, but that's not unusual. He was a member of the rich, artistic, aristocratic, and politically influential Herbert family who proved to be real survivors through the English Civil War.

Having spent time as a rising academic star at Cambridge he became the MP for the Welsh seat of Montgomery, gaining favour with James I. James died, however, but even by then, George Herbert was quietly arranging his acceptance into Holy Orders. Keeping it simple, he became the rector of St Andrew's at Bemerton, not far from Salisbury. He was a much loved success, but only lived to the age of thirty-nine.

In literary terms he is associated with the metaphysical poets. With John Donne as his god-father and actively responsible for much of his upbringing what else would you expect? Before he took on the life of rural ministry he wrote *A Priest to the Temple or, The Country Parson His Character and Rule of Holy Life*, as he said "that I may have a Mark to aim at." It has stood the test of time very well.

Number 457 in With One Voice is "Come, my way, my truth, my life,"
The first line of each verse is unpacked by those that follow.

Come, my way, my truth my life,	Come, my light, my feast, my strength,
Such a way as gives us breath,	Such a light as shows a feast,
Such a truth as ends all strife,	Such a feast as mends in length,
Such a life as kill - - eth death.	Such a strength as ma - - kes his guest.

Come, my joy, my love, my heart,
Such a joy as none can move,
Such a love as none can part,
Such a heart as joy - - s in love.



Flossie Boyce regularly attends the Raumati 10am service - where she is so well-behaved that many parishioners don't even know that they are entertaining an angel unaware.

Parish Directory

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

Parish Council:

Secretary: Jan Rae 021 1127739
janiserae47@gmail.com
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kuptreasurer@gmail.com
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Together Editor: kapitiuniting@outlook.com

July: for your diary

2	11am – 12pm	Parkwood Lodge Service
8	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
9	10-11.30am	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
10	10am-12pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
14		School term begins
15	10.30am	Waikanae Women's Fellowship
16	10am – 12pm	Music and Worship Group, Raumati
17	10.30 – 11.15am	Coastal Villas Church Service
18	10am-12pm	Parish Council, Raumati
25	10am-12pm	Folding August Together

images are from Freepik.com

July: Regular Events

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

July Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
6	Desmond Corrigan	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	
13	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	Barrie Woods	Heather List
20	Maureen Calhaem	Rev Roger Wiig	
27	Worship Group ‘Me and the Bible’	Rev Robin List	Paula and Mike Binkhorst with Rev Anna Gilkison

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams.
Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled
potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and
failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.

Pope John XXIII, 1881 - 1963

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