

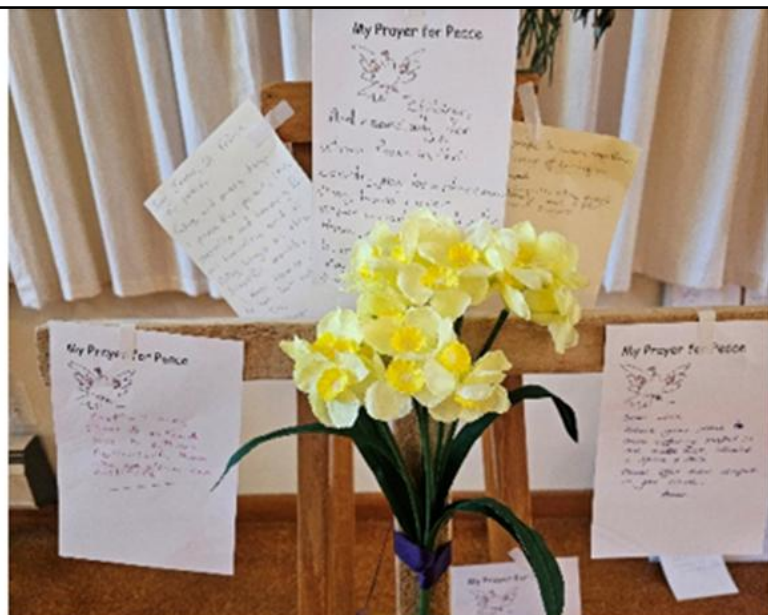
# TOGETHER

## KĀPITI UNITING PARISH



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

MAY 2026



### Prayer Vigil

On Sunday 29 March, our parish hosted a prayer vigil for peace which was attended by members of the church and the community.

We are continuing the prayers with a station at the entrance to Raumati church.

*We invite you to read through the prayers, pray them, and add a prayer of your own.*



# From the Minister's Desk

The month gone by has been full of activity and productivity in our parish. All of it has been made possible by the hard work of many people.

So well-attended were the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday that we were scrambling to produce enough orders of service on the day. I would like to thank Diana and Ute for creating a beautiful scene and a perfect supper on Maundy Thursday in the Waikanae Church. I am also indebted to the many people who contributed to the Good Friday Service and on Easter Sunday.

These are all very important worship occasions. They are widely advertised by Kate Foley and provide a celebration for the wider community beyond our own congregations. For those of you who couldn't join us in person, on Maundy Thursday we sat around a table (several tables joined together) and had a simple meal with song, talking together and prayers as Jesus did with his disciples in what we call Holy Week. We were privileged to have **Isabel Robertson** playing for us. She feels the time has come for her to retire. It gave us the opportunity to express our heart-felt thanks for her contribution to our worship as one of our valued musicians.

The Good Friday Service was based on the Trials which Jesus endured and which sentenced him, innocent though he was, to die by crucifixion.

Easter Sunday is, as always, a light-hearted and happy day in our church. Robin List led a much-appreciated Easter Service at Waikanae and at Raumati the highlight was an Easter hymn, sung to us as a blessing at the end of our service by the Fijian Congregation. Our thanks to them for the gift and the joy of their singing!

Two weeks later we hosted and led a gathering of people from all over the Lower North Island, representing Uniting Churches in this region. The attendance and support of our own church members was wonderful and made all the difference to the success of the event. It was a celebration of Uniting Churches in the face of criticism and pessimism amongst leaders in the Partner Churches.

The storm clouds gathered and the heavens opened, closing roads from Wellington and the Wairarapa. Within our walls, though, we were warm, well-fed and stimulated by the chance to meet others like ourselves and by the presentations we enjoyed. These included Desmond talking about the history of the Waikanae Church and Kate introducing our visitors to our many community-focused activities, past and present - with photos!

A big thank-you to Carole Rudings for organizing the catering and to Lyn Martin for her help with it.



*Rev. Les Solomona led a session on the multi-cultural Uniting Church*



*Kate Foley presenting her excellent powerpoint on our outreach ministry*



*Audrey Fleury attended the day with her friend Dorothy Hodge, travelling here from Masterton*

We planned to have a discussion about what we, the churches, might want to say about our Uniting Church experience to the Commission which has been put in place to review the Uniting Churches of Aotearoa NZ. The conversation never progressed beyond the point where we were told that the Commission was under no obligation to listen to what we had to say.



*Rosalie Sugrue in conversation with reps from Karori and Ngaio*

As a Uniting Church parish and, as an experienced and dedicated Uniting Church minister, we have grown used to road blocks along the path of our witness to the Gospel.

We will continue working on our contribution to the Commission's deliberations. Jesus was nothing if not an advocate for the voice of the marginalized and the silenced.

God be thanked for the blessing of Kapiti Uniting Parish and for the blessing of this beautiful coastal community.

*Rev Anna Gilkison*

### More photos of the Prayer Vigil



# News from Waikanae

Our **Easter services** were filled with deep meaning as they



drew us into the heart of our Christian faith. It was good to combine with the Raumati congregation in a beautiful

**Maundy Thursday** gathering in the Waikanae church lounge, a moving **Peace Vigil** and **Good Friday** Service at Raumati. Rev Robin List led us on **Easter Sunday**. We rejoice in the resurrection stories, knowing that the risen Christ calls us to share the fullness of life he brings. **Paula Binkhorst** celebrated the presence of Jesus with us in her debut service on 26 April.

We received a letter of warm appreciation from the **Kapiti Foodbank**, acknowledging our “consistent and ongoing support...we do not underestimate the thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity.” The food basket is always part of the gifts we offer in our worship. We thank Marylyn, Tina, and Pat Souness who have faithfully delivered our contributions to the Foodbank over the years.



**The Women's Fellowship** will lead worship on 17 May, with a focus on the National Fellowship's Special Projects for 2026: Starship Foundation and the Tongan Community Trust. A fundraising lunch will follow the service.



**People: Sean Russell** has been part of our church family for some time. He is a cheerful and friendly young man, and we helped him celebrate his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday recently, with a candle-lit carrot cake- his favourite!

There was a **wedding** on 26 April in our little church. The couple were attracted by the “special feeling” of the building, both inside and out. We enjoyed the wedding flowers at our service that day.

**Soup Group** met on Tuesday 21 April (that wet and miserable



day) to consider how to live our faith in these troubling times. We discovered a varied collection of good news stories collected from the *Post* newspaper throughout April, and we were encouraged by the many ways to enrich the lives of our community and work for a peaceful world. Our hearts were

warmed by our prayerful discussion, and our bodies were nourished by mugs of homemade soup. We are a resurrection people, led by the Spirit.

***Diana Roberts***

# About People

To all who are having Birthdays in May, we hope you enjoy your special day.

For those celebrating Anniversaries – Congratulations! and we wish you a very happy time.

It is with sadness we heard of the passing of Syd Mephram on the 30 March. Syd will be missed very much by his family, friends, and members of Kapiti Uniting Parish. He has given us much to remember and reflect upon through his many ways of participation and valuable contributions to the life of our Parish. *May you rest well now, Syd.*



## The Pastoral Care Team.

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

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*Let nothing disturb thee;  
Let nothing dismay thee:  
All things pass; God never changes.  
Patience attains all that it strives for.  
We who have God find we lack nothing:  
God alone suffices.  
St Theresa of Avila, 1515 - 1582*

## On Sunday 17 May the Raumati Women's Fellowship is holding their Annual Special Projects Service at 10am.

This will be led by the Rev Anna and Fellowship members.



This year the New Zealand Project is supporting **The Starship hospital** in Auckland which cares for critically ill children from all over New Zealand.

The international project is supporting the **Tonga Community Development Trust** with a goal centred around building community resilience and strengthening disaster preparedness in Tongan communities.

Its Village Women's Development project has been running since

1978 and aims to empower women, their families, and their communities to achieve equitable share and human rights in all aspects of national development.



*Following the service you are invited to a special fund-raising morning tea where donations for the two projects will be very gratefully received.*

# ‘My Morning Prayer’

## Roger Wiig

What follows is a prayer, originally in the handwriting of Carole Wiig’s grandfather: Stanley Carrington Baker (a loyal Methodist). ‘Da Baker’ kept the prayer in his father’s Bible. T Baker arrived in Auckland on the 10<sup>th</sup> or December 1885, 49 days after leaving Gravesend. He and his family eventually settled in Dannevirke.

Carole’s great grandfather was clearly a man who read and studied his Bible with diligence and scholarly perception. His notes and cross references recorded in very small handwriting in the margins show how thoroughly and regularly he read his Bible and how deeply important it was for him.

*“O God for another day, for another minute,  
for another chance to live and serve thee  
I am truly grateful.  
Do thou this day free me  
from all fear of the future  
from all anxiety about tomorrow  
from all bitterness towards anyone  
from all cowardice in the face of danger  
from all laziness in the face of work  
from all failure before opportunity  
from all weakness when thy power is at hand.  
With love that knows no barrier  
with courage that cannot be shaken  
with faith strong enough for the darkness  
with strength sufficient for my task  
with loyalty to thy kingdom’s goal  
with wisdom to meet life’s complexities  
with power to lift me to thee.  
Be though with me for another day  
and use me as thou wilt.  
For Christ’s sake I pray. Amen”*

# ***Helping ourselves to a slice of life***

**‘Early this year a minor upheaval shook the shelves of supermarket bread departments all over the country; Vogels decided to dump the traditional unsliced loaf from its range.**

A week or two later the manufacturing company, Goodman Fielder Wattie, announced that they had been flooded with letters, emails and phone calls protesting the decision. Responding to these expressions of interest, they organised an on-line vote, and assured consumers that if there was enough support they would bring back the loaf.

I sent off my vote, and soon after a letter arrived with the news that I’d be able to keep on slicing my own Vogel’s for a while longer; and they included a discount voucher!

I wonder why so many people made a fuss about the proposed change? When I recently declined the offer of a bakery to slice and plastic-bag a crusty loaf I had bought, the staff member commented: ‘You should have been here last week when the slicer broke down; our customers panicked!’.

Are we losing another life skill? Is sliced bread really the best thing since, well, sliced bread? Do we really want everything cut down to size, standard, regular and enclosed in a plastic bag?

As it is, we’ve already become distanced from the source of our bread, from the wheat crop and the flour mill. Even if we do make bread at home we probably use a breadmaking machine. Is this the kind of faith we think we need – remote from its origins, pre-sliced and ready wrapped?

I’m a bit bothered about internet sermons, cheerfully downloaded and presented like a supermarket loaf. Surely, preaching needs to address the situation of the hearers, and connect their faith to their here and now. A service of worship needs to include our daily bread – the bread of life.

Jesus, the Bread of Life, doesn’t come neatly uniform and conveniently packaged. The Bread of Life is broken into generous, crusty hunks to nourish the faith at the heart of our living. I know those little cubes of bread or the thin wafers we have at Holy Communion are convenient, but the lifting up and breaking of the whole loaf is a powerful symbol.

The Christian calling is to share the Bread of Life with all who hunger; not in a regulation slice, but in a good thick doorstep!

***Diana Roberts***

*From Methodist Touchstone  
July 2007*

## Easter Season at KUP

Our Easter services and events were very well attended this year. Starting with Palm Sunday and the Lent Study and passing through the sorrows of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to the celebration of Easter Sunday.



*Maundy Thursday evening meal and service at Waikanae lounge.  
Thank you to all who helped to make it such a atmospheric event.*



*Shared breakfast on Easter morning at Raumati, thank you to Kate Foley for arranging this and to everyone who attended.*



*Thank you to the Kapiti Fijian Congregation for sharing their musical talents with us at our Easter Sunday service at Raumati.*

# Raumati Playgroup

We've been having a lovely time at playgroup and have been getting really good numbers attending.

At the end of last term we used the golf balls that I had asked for to make "golf ball paintings". For this we put a piece of paper in a cardboard box and put some dots of paint around the paper. We then put the golf balls in the box and moved the box around so the golf ball moved the paint around the paper to reveal a cool pattern. This was



an activity that even the little ones could get involved in. Thank you to everyone who donated the golf balls.

For the last playgroup of the term we celebrated Easter. Since it was such a beautiful day we went down to Marine gardens and had our playgroup in the beautiful sunshine and the kids were able to have a play on the playground. Because it was Easter we hid Easter eggs around the playground and had a special morning tea.



We also did an Easter activity where we had an Easter egg template and put down coloured tissue paper and wet it. Once the tissue paper dries you can take it off and it leaves colour from the dye on the paper.

Last week was our first playgroup back and we did temporary tattoos. For a lot of the kids this was their first time getting a tattoo so the kids were very mesmerised by the tattoos on their arms. What is even cooler is the tattoos that we had were either metallic, glittery or glow in the dark.



**Thank you** to our volunteers Marie, Maureen, Bev and Pearl who play a big part in playgroup. We couldn't do it without you!

**Monica Simpson**

## Poetry with Robin List:

John Clare ‘The Northamptonshire Peasant Poet’ 1793 – 1864

Wikipedia has a good general outline of Poor John Clare’s life. And what a mixed turmoil of a life it was, ending despite great talent in confusion and insanity. Yet it was during his time in Northampton General Lunatic Asylum (now St Andrew’s Hospital) that John Clare wrote some of his greatest poems. Contrary to our Bedlamised images of those times he was treated kindly and gently encouraged in his art.



I would like us to think about a different aspect of his life and work. He was able to write in both his local dialect, especially for his crystal clear little “snapshots” of rural life, but also in the sophisticated literary language of the day as he took on social satire. Interestingly it is the work in vivid, but sometimes harder to grasp nature poems that readers enjoy today. I suppose our own objects of satire have trumped Poor John’s.

This raises the issue of what we lose when a language becomes standardised or squeezed into a straight-jacket by centralised media or the social pressure of what is “received” English or French for example. Listening to three generations of Devon

cattle farmers at a sale yard a few years ago I think there's hope; for accents at least.

Local language gives us all a depth of options, rhythms and fine-tuned meanings that we can draw on. It speaks to us of our past. Why does te reo Maori sometimes use the "l" sound for "r" in the south? How come I grew up stapling fence droppers while all these other people were hammering away at battens?

In the following poem John Clare uses the word "prog"; gain or profit in a bargain; booty. He could have poked, or prodded, with a bit of metrical adjustment; but his natural to himself word keeps everything sharply in the present. Apply that to the mouse fleeing with her brood attached. What words might you substitute; with what loss? Minor points of major importance.

### Field-Mouse's Nest

I found a ball of grass among the hay  
And proged it as I passed and went away  
And when I looked I fancied something stirred  
And turned agen and hoped to catch the bird  
When out an old mouse bolted in the wheat  
With all her young ones hanging at her teats  
She looked so odd and so grotesque to me  
I ran and wondered what the things could be  
And pushed the knapweed bunches where I stood  
When the mouse hurried from the crawling brood  
The young ones squeaked and when I went away  
She found her nest again among the hay  
The water oer the pebbles scarce could run  
And broad old cesspools glittered in the sun.



# Raumati Village Community Garden

We planted out over 100 seedlings on Friday 17th April! The garden is now full of broccolini, lettuce, pak choi, perpetual spinach, spring onions, rocket, rainbow beet, silverbeet and leeks!

Thank you to the Kapiti Horticultural Society for their donation last year which has enabled us to purchase these



Last month we entered a prize draw run by the Presbyterian Church. They were offering a free fruit tree to parishes that have the facility to plant the tree to share its fruit with the community. They were so impressed by how many parishes entered the prize draw and the enthusiasm of the entries that they decided to fund a tree for all the entrants. We will be receiving an apple tree later this year.



Sarah Webb has made some really cool signs and we look so professional!

There are cape gooseberries left to pick if you look carefully, as well as some courgettes and also chillies (if you are brave enough).



## **Raumati Maintenance Update**

Painting of the Raumati Church is now underway: all the gutters on the Raumati building and Thrifty Place have been cleaned out by a property maintenance company and the Fijian congregation cleared out the church gutters. Thank you very much for your help.

If you have sat on a chair in the hall recently, you will have noticed they are not looking very clean. Prior efforts to clean them have not made much of a difference and to reupholster them was going to cost more than the price of the chairs.

The Property and Finance Committee have made the decision to sell all the chairs in the hall and replace with the spare chairs (currently behind the curtain in the church). We plan to sell them at Thrifty Place and online. One by one we will replace with the chairs from the church oversupply. If you know anyone or any groups looking for a number of chairs, please let me know.

Thank you to Robin List for his work getting quotes to secure a new Fire Compliance contractor. Wormald will now handle checking all our fire alarms, emergency lighting, fire hoses etc. Thank you to Robin for his many hours of service ensuring we and are our building are all kept safe in a an emergency.

*Kate Foley and the Property and Finance Committee*

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## ***Our Hirers***

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**AGE  
CONCERN  
KĀPITI**

**He Manaakitanga  
Kaumātua Aotearoa**

### **A New ‘Steady as You Go’ Exercise Classes has started in Raumati church hall**

Exercise and physical activity is important for all ages. It improves physical health and can increase mental wellbeing, social connection and spark friendships.

#### **Do you want to improve your balance, leg strength, and meet new people?**

Steady As You Go is a fun and social, strength and balance exercise programme for older adults. The exercises are gentle, progressively increase balance and muscle mass, and are specifically designed for older people.

Classes consist of a combination of sitting, standing and walking exercises and last for about an hour. They are ideal for beginners, are ongoing and you can see how much you have improved over your first 10 weeks.

#### **Did you know falls are preventable and are not a natural part of ageing?**

Steady As You Go has been evaluated by University of Otago researchers. They found the classes improved physical function, reduced the risk of falls, were fun, improved sense of wellbeing and confidence and provided links with other people in the neighbourhood. Join a Steady As You Go class to increase:

- Independence
- Balance and balance confidence
- Leg strength
- Flexibility
- Spatial awareness
- Wellbeing
- General fitness
- Social connections
- Tasks in everyday life

***Classes are on Mondays from 10 – 11am during Term 2  
Enrolment open until 22 May, call Alison on – 04 298-8879.  
Cost is \$4 per class – wear comfortable clothing and shoes.***

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### **Methodist Church Prayer for Peace 2026, *Andy Dye*:**

Creator God

Today in a fractured world we pray for peace and justice,  
Your peace, not built on our broken promises and failing courage,  
But your deep peace, through your creative power and embodied in  
the service and sacrifice of Jesus.

May we follow Christ, seeking your justice, acting in solidarity and  
hope,

Even when the way seems unclear and the powers of our world don't  
reflect your Kingdom,

Your Peace, Your Justice, Your Kingdom, Your world,

In Jesus name

Amen.

# Raumati Women's Fellowship

**The Raumati Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday the 14 May at 10 am in the meeting room.**

Our speaker will be Carolyn Press McKenzie certified vet nurse, founder, and Chief Executive of the animal rescue organization HUHA (helping you help animals).

We invite our Congregation to donate any blankets, towels or tinned pet food for HUHA for which they would be very grateful. They are always in need of these things. There will be a box in the Raumati church foyer on Sundays 3rd and 10th May where they may be placed, or dropped off to the parish office during opening hours.

Contact Lyn Martin 04 904 8361 022165 7523

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## **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***

When I was ten, I read fairy tales in secret and would have been ashamed if I had been found doing so. Now that I am fifty, I read them openly. When I became a man I put away childish things, including the fear of childishness, and the desire to be very grown up.

*C. S. Lewis*

## May: for your diary

1	10am-12pm	Parish Council, Raumati
8	10-11.30am	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
12	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
13	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
14	10am-12pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
19	10.30am	Waikanae Women's Fellowship
21	10.30-11.15am	Coastal Villas Church Service
27	10am-12pm	Music and Worship Group, Raumati
29	10am-12pm	Folding June Together



**Tiny Tunes Playgroup**  
**Term 2 schedule**

23/4/25	Tattoo Parlour
30/4/25	Bird Pictures
7/5/25	Mothers Day Craft
14/5/25	Cupcake Playdough
21/5/25	Octopus Craft
28/5/25	Crown Making
4/6/25	DIY Projector
11/6/25	DIY Straw Rocket
18/6/25	Colourful Rice
25/6/25	Letter Box
2/7/25	Matariki Star Craft

## May: Regular Events

Tuesdays	10am -12pm 10.30am – 4pm	Craft group, Raumati Thrifty Place
Thursdays	10 -11.30am 10.30am – 4pm	Raumati Playgroup Thrifty Place
Saturdays	10.30am – 1pm	Thrifty Place

## May Services

Date	Waikanae10am	United@9	Raumati 10am
3	Robin List	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	
10	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	Maureen Calhaem	Kevin Boyce
17	Women's Fellowship	Women's Fellowship	
24	Maureen Calhaem	Heather List	Rev Roger Wiig
31	Full combined at Waikanae Rev Anna Gilkison and Desmond Corrigan		

**WWW.kup.org.nz**

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