

# TOGETHER

## KĀPITI UNITING PARISH



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

MARCH 2026



*A korerū has made its home in our Community Garden  
(full story on page 17)*

# From the Minister's Desk

As I write this it is three days until autumn. Perhaps this still, warm day will herald a season of mildness and light. That is the paradox we live with here in the Southern Hemisphere, that our religious practice draws our attention to a turbulent, dark period in the life of Jesus while our reality is filled with harvest fruits and golden colours.

But autumn is as rich in symbolism appropriate to the season which encompasses Lent, Holy Week and Easter as spring is for our Churches of origin.

The leaves are flames which remind us of the passionate events which burn like fire in the days leading to the crucifixion. And after their autumn passion the leaves fall to the ground to be resurrected as new growth after the 'three days' of winter.

It is a good spiritual exercise to look around at what our patch of earth is saying to us through the coming weeks. We, in the church, may use the symbolism of spring because it is embedded in our theology but our own lived experience here in Aotearoa NZ can enhance our theology and enrich our worship.

We have a great company of worship leaders who are preparing to help us pray, sing, and reflect on the road to the Cross and the resurrection. I came back to nothing but praise for the worship each congregation has experienced during the past weeks. On your behalf and my own I thank them for their hard work, wisdom, creativity and depth of understanding.

And, mindful as we are of the load they are carrying with such grace and talent, I would like to thank our musicians.

Also all the others, on the sound desk, greeting at the door, pouring tea, gathering worshippers in and tidying up after they leave. Thank you.

I understand that Moses was so pleased with our church he made an appearance in the middle of Kevin's worship!



I encourage you to share worship with our neighbours on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March by joining the World Day of Prayer Services.

There is a lot more to our community life as a church than worship, including this monthly magazine. It has done much to close the gap between those who are able to participate in our church-based activities and those who continue in their faithfulness in other ways that are available to them. Thank you to everyone who contributes to 'Together' and especially to Fiona who brings it to birth each month!

I end with a prayer from our Lenten Study which begins this week.

**Lord Christ, set us on fire  
Burn from us all that dims your light.  
Kindle an answering flame in lives around,  
That darkness may be driven back  
And glory stream into this world  
transforming it with love.**

*Rev Anna Gilkison*

# News from Waikanae

**The Season of Lent** was heralded for us with the Shrove



Tuesday **Soup Group** meeting on 17 February. We welcomed Waveney and Malcolm Bowman, family of the late Monica Olsson, who are visiting from the USA. There were the traditional pancakes for morning tea, and we explored the background to this custom

and to the ceremony of Ash Wednesday which begins Lent. We noted that Lent is a time of endings and beginnings, and members of the group shared their reflections on the 2025 year that has ended. As we age, we are finding new challenges, and we value the love, understanding and support of our church community, and the resources of our faith that have grown and deepened over the years.

We are looking forward to the series of **Lenten Studies** to be held at Raumati, and Desmond and Diana from Waikanae will be coordinating sessions three and four of the studies.

**Worship.** On 15 February Evan Ireland led a service in which he addressed the issue of Scams – one of the insidious and persistent problems that plague society. The Church has always been called to address harmful practices, and we are blessed to have Evan, an



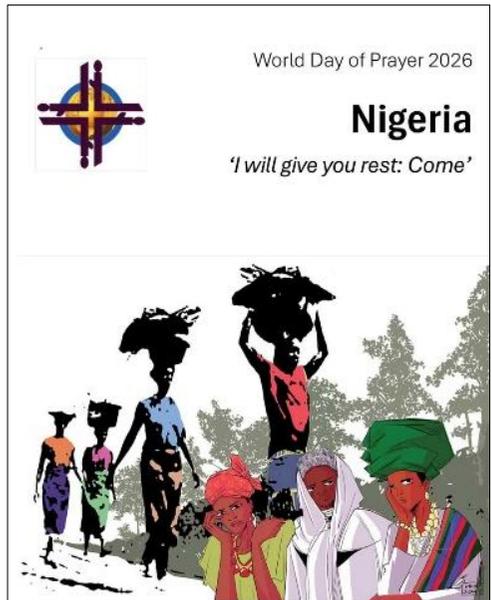
international IT expert, to explain how scammers deceive us, and how we can prepare ourselves to be aware and alert and take action. The prayers and singing that shaped our worship guided us to the strength and wisdom that God gives us to discern, resist and oppose dishonesty, greed and exploitation.



Our **Harvest Festival** will be celebrated on 22 March, so we are keeping an eye on our pumpkins!

**World Day of Prayer, Friday 6 March,** will be held in Waikanae at the Presbyterian Centre, Ngaio Road, at 1.30pm.

Members of our congregation will be sharing in this ecumenical service prepared by the women of Nigeria. In this west African country of over 211 million people and over 500 indigenous languages there is deeply rooted discrimination and inequality facing women and girls. World Day of Prayer provides a platform for addressing social, political, religious and economic issues affecting families and communities



**Women's Fellowship** will meet on Tuesday 17 March (St Patrick's Day) to plan for the Women's Fellowship Service in May. We'll be learning about the National Fellowship's Special Projects for 2026.

***Diana Roberts***

**EASTER SYMBOLS Sacred and Secular**



X	B	M	O	T	Y	T	P	M	E	S
B	D	B	U	N	N	Y	H	E	P	P
O	A	S	G	G	E	E	N	I	W	E
N	E	I	S	N	R	O	H	T	D	A
N	R	S	O	A	D	W	R	I	I	R
E	B	M	S	R	E	K	C	O	C	S
T	C	R	O	S	S	T	O	N	E	N
O	N	W	O	R	C	N	I	B	B	I
W	S	N	B	O	W	L	O	D	U	O
E	E	E	D	G	A	R	D	E	N	C
L	L	I	H	C	H	I	C	K	S	X

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FIND: ass, bonnet, bowl, bread, bunny, buns, chicks, cock, coins, cross, crown, dice, eggs, empty tomb, garden, hill, money, robe, spear, stone, sword, thorns, towel, whip, wine.

Find reply to traditional Easter Greeting in unused letters

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List: 5 'Easter symbols' that do not come from the Bible

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# 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*

# About People

A very Happy Birthday to all who are having Birthdays in March.

To those celebrating an Anniversary we hope you will enjoy your special day.

We want to say a very heartfelt Thank You to Erice Carley who has relinquished her role on our Pastoral committee. Erice has given many years of faithful and compassionate caring to pastoral care and she has also represented the team on Parish council for the last 18 months.

Thank You Erice for your loyal and loving commitment to Pastoral Care and to the Pastoral Team.

For all who are unwell we pray that you will find comfort, strength and peace.

Many of you will remember Norma Ede who moved to Auckland a few years ago to be nearer her family. Sadly Norma passed away on 23 January aged 98yrs. Her funeral was held at St Paul's in the Park, Chapel Road ,Flat bush, on the 30 January at 2pm. Norma was a member of our Raumati Congregation and her daughters told me she loved her many years spent in Paraparaumu.

She lived a long and a wonderful life.

## **The Pastoral Care Team.**

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



## Getting to Know:

Pete Strang - who could literally be described as a 'flying doctor'.



Pete has recently moved to the Kapiti Coast from Dunedin and now lives in Coastal Villas.

Pete was born and raised in Green Island, Dunedin. After secondary school, Pete went on to University of Otago Medical School where he studied medicine until his final year, when he transferred to Christchurch to finish his degree.

During this hectic year he found time to marry Marion, a lady who was to provide absolute support and encouragement for his extraordinary career as a doctor until her death six years ago. Pete and Marion had two sons and two daughters with five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

After four years in Christchurch, they moved to Auckland where Pete trained as an obstetrician. After time in Auckland, Pete, Marion and their family moved to Gore. It was a happy family time where they experienced the generosity of a rural community, but for them it was not to be permanent. They accepted a position with the Royal Council of Churches in Papua New Guinea.

PNG was something of a culture shock. Not only was it a vastly different climate with tropical diseases, but also a country of small communities with a mixture of dialects and languages. Into this mix, the people were warlike, even between neighbouring communities, and the Strang family were not immune to this. Their expectations were more peaceful than the local practice and they were alerted to the prudence of being aware of social differences.

But there was work to be done. Fights between communities frequently resulted in very serious injuries from spear and arrow wounds, requiring complicated surgery under extremely primitive conditions. There was only one person to do it and the work was challenging for Pete, Marion and their family.

They returned to Auckland but again their move was not to be permanent. Their new posting was to the Highlands of New Guinea, where Pete served as locum. Again, they found the country and people wonderful, but they were destined to return to Gore for a short time. The Solomon Islands were their next home.

After the Solomons, they eventually returned to Dunedin where Pete studied psychology and took up an appointment with Otago University as Director of Studies, Health and Counselling.

One could be excused to think that there had been enough happening in this family to fill a lifetime, but Pete is also an accomplished mountain climber. He has climbed Mount Cook twice and visited Antarctica twice, where he accompanied Sir Edmund Hillary on one of the most difficult peaks on the continent, Mount Haschel. We hope to share the story of this expedition in a future edition of Together

Pete's adventurous spirit has become restricted in the last few years and he is content to ride his e-bike and his motor bike, *FOR NOW!*

***Welcome to Kapiti Uniting Parish, Pete – we are very pleased to have you join our church family.***

*(based on an article in Comings and Goings at Coastal Villas by Laurie Albrighton)*

*“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.”?*

*G.K. Chesterton  
in his book ‘What’s Wrong with the World’*

# What are we worth?

**‘Preparing delicious, healthy meals for busy families is all in a day’s work for the Custom Cuisine Chef’ an article in a Sunday paper tells us. For \$550 Mr Custom Cuisine will plan the menu, buy the groceries and prepare a package with twenty servings of five mains and side dishes. A week’s dinners (minus the weekends) at just over \$27 per serving. The business is growing, and it’s happening right here in New Zealand.**

In the majority of New Zealand households, ‘preparing delicious, healthy meals for busy families’ is the responsibility of a member of that household. So is keeping the house clean, tidying the garden and caring for the children. But it is impossible not to notice that many commercial enterprises are offering to do these jobs for us.

How is it for those of us who do it all ourselves, not for a fee, but for love? It’s not surprising that we might feel undervalued, that we’re not paid because we’re not worth anything. In fact, women are urged to join the workforce. A bit puzzling: if we’re not working when we’re looking after the house, why do we pay someone else to do our housework when we get a job?

The perplexity of this situation is beautifully expressed in a Tremaine

cartoon which appeared in a Sunday paper the day after the Custom Cuisine article.

The cartoon shows two women chatting over the back fence. They’ve swapped households for the day. ‘I’ve done your dishes and changed your baby,’ one tells her neighbour. ‘Great!’ exclaims the other, ‘I’m just going to hang out your washing.’ They check out with each other that they’ll be back home about five, when they’ll fix up the money. And here comes the punch line: ‘it’s great to be out of the home and in the workforce!’.

For me, this whole situation has sparked off a chain of reflection about economics, social policy, ethics and religion. I’ve been thinking about how the institution of the Church deals with this amateur/professional, lay/clergy status. Surely, both are equally valuable. Let’s make sure each is equally valued and equally well resourced.

The New Testament gives equal worth to all parts of the body, and assures that each one of us is of more value than even one sparrow – a sparrow whose every feather is known to God.

***Diana Roberts***

*From Methodist Touchstone  
March 2005*

# Raumati Playgroup



## Valentine's Day at Playgroup

Playgroup so far this year has been going amazingly well. We are very mind-blown by the fact that we are getting on average around 20 kids attend which is so incredible.

We've been trying to do water play at playgroup but unfortunately the weather hasn't been cooperating for us so we've only been able to do one activity so far this term which was making heart sun catchers for the kids to display on the window for Valentine's Day. For this the kids needed to stick little bits of coloured cellophane and tissue paper to a sticky heart. Even

some of our younger kids gave this activity a go.

I have a few ideas for activities coming up, however, I do require a few resources that we don't currently have. I was wondering if anyone happens to have

- some old golf balls (we need around 8) or
- some blank cards or envelopes

lying around that you no longer need. Please drop them off at the parish office. Thank you so much!

Thank you to our volunteers Maureen and Bev who help to make playgroup happen.

**Monica Simpson**



Our new Art Gallery notice board in the hall to showcase the children's artwork

# Poetry with Robin List:

Poet for March: John Milton 9 Dec 1608 – 10 Nov 1674 (Civil War)



A few years ago when Heather and I were in Cambridge doing this and that, including study leave, we went to Emmanuel Church, now United Reformed rather than Presbyterian. We settled into our pew, took our bearings and Oh my goodness! The principal stained glass windows depicted John Milton and Oliver Cromwell! What did we expect? Peter, John, and Andrew catching eels in the fens?

While there had been debate within the parish about replacing Cromwell, Milton was there to stay, and finally Cromwell was understood as part of the history of Emmanuel, not its present very outward facing service to the poor and homeless.

Milton is one of English literature's most misunderstood poets. He isn't heavy and dour with nothing to say. Too often that can be said of his critics who are too lazy to find Milton's real subject matter and to grasp the way he revolves characters and language around a theme. And that language. He made English the tongue for epics.

For all that he was an odd man. Perhaps we'll have to allow him some elbow room because of being a single parent who became blind during a violent civil war and its messy aftermath. As blindness overtook him he taught his daughters to read to him in Latin and Greek and to

transcribe for him. His writing wasn't confined to English. The sad thing is, the daughters didn't understand what they were reading. Like the stained glass windows we just have to understand these things in their time and place.

**ON THE UNIVERSITY CARRIER  
WHO SICKENED IN THE TIME OF HIS VACANCY,  
BEING FORBID TO GO TO LONDON BY REASON  
OF THE PLAGUE**

Here lies old Hobson, Death hath broke his girt,  
And here, alas, hath laid him in the dirt;  
Or else, the ways being foul, twenty to one  
He's here stuck in a slough and overthrown,  
'Twas such a shifter, that if truth were known,  
Death was half glad when he had got him down;  
For he had any time this ten years full  
Dodged with him betwixt Cambridge and The Bull.  
And surely Death could never have prevailed  
Had not his weekly course of carriage failed;  
But lately, finding him so long at home,  
And thinking now his journey's end was come,  
And that he had ta'en up his latest inn,  
In the kind office of a chamberlin  
Showed him his room where he must lodge that night,  
Pulled off his boots, and took away the light.  
If any ask for him, it shall be said,  
"Hobson has supped, and's newly gone to bed."

This is only one of Milton's mock epitaphs on Thomas Hobson, the origin of 'Hobson's choice', and the donor of Cambridge's first reliable clean water supply.

*(Fiona said we couldn't fit the whole of 'Paradise Lost' into Together this month so I've settled for the poem above)*

Article written by "Hezekiah Thrift"  
in The Spectator, 10 October 1712



Mr. Tobias Hobson, from whom we have the expression, 'Hobson's choice' was a very honourable man, for I shall ever call the man so who gets an estate honestly. Mr. Tobias Hobson was a carrier; and, being a man of great abilities and invention, and one that saw where there might good profit arise, though the duller men overlooked it, this ingenious man was the first in this island who let out hackney-horses. He lived in Cambridge; and, observing that the scholars rid hard, his manner was to keep a large stable of horses, with boots, bridles and whips, to furnish the

gentlemen at once, without going from college to college to borrow, as they have done since the death of this worthy man.

I say, Mr. Hobson kept a stable of forty good cattle, always ready and fit for travelling; but, when a man came for a horse he was led into the stable, where there was great choice, but he obliged him to take the horse which stood next to the stable-door; so that every customer was alike well served according to his chance, and every horse ridden with the same justice: from whence it became a proverb, when what ought to be your election was forced upon you, to say Hobson's choice. This memorable man stands drawn in fresco at an inn he used in Bishopsgate-street, with an hundred pound bag under his arm, with this inscription upon the said bag: "The fruitful mother of an hundred more."

Whatever tradesman will try the experiment, and begin the day after you publish this my discourse to treat his customers all alike, and all reasonably and honestly, I will ensure him the same success.

# Raumati Village Community Garden

## Unique Artwork for our Garden

Allyson Dewe has run a vibrant and popular Craft Group at Raumati for several years. Each week the members use their talents to make a different project; and last week they painted and varnished stones to decorate our Community Garden



*Members of the Craft Group with their stones*

They have placed the stones in different places around the Community Garden. Pictures of some of them are on this page, and others are tucked away throughout this edition of Together. There are eleven for you to find.

*Thank you Allyson and all the Crafters for your thoughtful gift.*



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# ***Our Hirers***

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## ***Susan Ansell runs Chair Yoga classes at Waikanae***

Susan has been teaching yoga at the Waikanae Uniting Church lounge for many years. Recently she has started a Wednesday morning chair yoga class.

The chair yoga class is accessible to all and is centred around working on your breath. There are lots of options for seated movement, depending on what your body is able to do on the day.

Participants learn techniques to improve their breath, flexibility, circulation, balance and wellbeing. There is even 'homework' if

people want to practice what they have learnt in class during the week at home.

There is something special about learning together as a group and the lounge has provided a great warm accessible space for this learning (and often laughter) to happen.

The Chair Yoga Class (all seated) is on Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am. All are welcome, cost is \$12 per casual class

Susan also runs a traditional yoga class in the Waikanae lounge (which includes standing postures) on Fridays 9:15 -10:30am cost is \$150 for 10 classes or \$18 casual for the 90min class)

Contact Susan on [susanyoganourish@gmail.com](mailto:susanyoganourish@gmail.com) or 0272740800 to learn more or to register.



## **Raumati Women's Fellowship**

The Raumati Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday 12 March at 10am in the meeting room. Our speaker will be Trish Tennant who will speak about 'Hidden Books Kapiti'.

All women are very welcome.

Contact: Lyn Martin: 04 904 8361. 022 165 7523

Merrill Baker: 04 902 4134. 027 353 2307

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**Our thanks to Pete's Glazing in Raumati** who replaced the broken glass in the Raumati hall door. Pete's Glazing service was very quick, efficient and great value, a pleasure to do business with.



# World Day of Prayer

Friday 6 March 2026

**“I Will Give You Rest: Come”**

*A service prepared by WDP Nigeria*

*You are invited to join in  
worship and fellowship  
at your local church*

**1.30pm at:**

**Waikanae Presbyterian Church  
43 Ngaio Road, Waikanae**

**St Mark's Anglican Church  
330 Rosetta Road, Raumati Beach**

## 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**





## KAPITI COMMUNITY FOODBANK

[www.thekapitifoodbank.co.nz](http://www.thekapitifoodbank.co.nz)

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Kapiti Uniting Church  
10 Weka Rd  
Raumati

Email: [kapitiuniting@outlook.com](mailto:kapitiuniting@outlook.com)

12th January 2026,

Dear Parishioners of the Kapiti Uniting Church,

On behalf of the Kapiti Community Foodbank, please accept our sincere and very grateful thanks to the parishioners of Kapiti Uniting Church, Paraparaumu for their very kind donation of food items prior to Christmas. Your wonderful assistance gave us food to distribute to those in need of our services in Kapiti for the Christmas Season.

We are aware of the personal sacrifices your members have made in order to make this donation to the Foodbank and we do not underestimate the thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity.

Thank you! sincerely for your charity not only from the Foodbank but from those in need in our Kapiti Community. Thank you!

Yours sincerely,

Richard Moulton  
Chairman  
**Kapiti Community Foodbank Inc**

17 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu 5032  
e-mail: [secretarykapitifoodbank17@gmail.com](mailto:secretarykapitifoodbank17@gmail.com)

# March: for your diary

3	2pm	Lent Study, Raumati
4	11am	Parkwood Lodge Church Service
10	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
	2pm	Lent Study, Raumati
11	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
12	10am-12pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
13	10-11.30am	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
17	10am	Waikanae Women's Fellowship
	2pm	Lent Study, Raumati
19	10.30 – 11.15am	Coastal Villas Church Service
20	10am-12pm	Parish Council, Raumati
23	2pm	Lent Study, Raumati
25	10am – 12pm	Music and Worship Group, Raumati
27	10am-12pm	Folding April Together

## Answers to:

### Easter Symbols – word-search sentence

HE IS RISEN INDEED

*Secular symbols:* BONNET, BUNNY, BUNS, CHICKS, EGGS

*“From death came life, from sorrow came joy; this is the hope of Easter.”*  
*Aloo Denish Obiero*

## March: 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



## March Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
<b>1</b>	Robin List	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	
<b>8</b>	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	Kate Foley and Carole Rudings	Maureen Calhaem
<b>15</b>	Heather List	Rev Anna Gilkison	
<b>22</b>	Harvest Festival	Barrie Woods	Rev Anna Gilkison
<b>29</b>	Desmond Corrigan	Rev Roger Wiig	

**[WWW.kup.org.nz](http://www.kup.org.nz)**

email: [kapitiuniting@outlook.com](mailto:kapitiuniting@outlook.com) Phone: 04 902 5809

Kapiti Uniting Parish  
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# Easter Services

2 April - Maundy Thursday  
7 pm Waikanae

3 April - Good Friday  
10 am Raumati

5 April - Easter Sunday  
10 am Waikanae  
10 am Raumati

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Rev. Anna Gilkison

10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach  
9 Taiata Street, Waikanae Beach

[www.kup.org.nz](http://www.kup.org.nz)