TOGETHER

KĀPITI UNITING PARISH

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

DECEMBER 2026

Christmas Night Market



is the theme for our Children's Christmas Service this year at 2.45pm on Wednesday 2nd December
Thank you to everyone who donated gifts and food

From the Minister's Desk

Being a Christian Church can be challenging. It can be discouraging. This Advent I am trying to perceive God's will for us in these uncertain times for churches like ours – Uniting Churches. The Executive Officer of Presbytery announced to a combined meeting of Presbytery and Synod last week that there was no such thing as a Uniting Church. The Partner Churches, in our case Methodist and Presbyterian, have effectively pulled out of supporting Uniting Churches, although it has yet to be formalised. We are not being consulted in this process. We appear to have no voice and no influence over the outcome.

In the midst of my own real sorrow about this outcome I am aware that this sense of powerlessness is shared by many people on this planet today, in many different circumstances. Where does our hope lie? Where does our strength come from? It comes from God. And, at this time of the Church year, we are vouchsafed a powerful message of hope, an extraordinary expression of loving-kindness, a life-giving promise of peace.

This Season of Advent invites us to receive the gift of peace as well as to give it. It encourages us in our daily struggles to notice when someone or some experience brings peace into our lives and to be grateful for it.

Advent reminds us that joy is God's gift to us. Make room for joy this Christmas.

In the calendar of this season open a window each day to see how love is made visible that day – 24 different ways of loving and being loved.

And please offer love, in your prayers or in your actions, to our office administrator, Fiona, who has been grappling with one big technological office crisis after another for weeks. Despite these setbacks she has to manage a huge administrative workload over the next few weeks.

Kia kaha
Kia maia
Kia manawanui
God bless you all this Christmas

Rev Anna Gilkison

ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR



This year we will be having our own KUP Advent Calendar by email from 1st to 24th December.

If you would like to join in, please let the parish office know – email: kapitiuniting@outlook.com

This is guaranteed to be healthier for both body and spirit than your usual chocolate advent calendar from The Warehouse.

News from Waikanae

Church Anniversary, 15 November.

We celebrated the anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of our little church in November 1911, at Te Horo. Many years later



the building made its way to Waikanae on the back of a truck, travelling along the beach for part of the journey. As the tide rose, the truck began to sink in the sand and a tractor was called in to save the situation.

There have been times when our congregation has felt bogged down in the sand, but the faith, work and vision of our people, strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit, have moved us forward.

Desmond prepared a brilliant presentation of a series of pictures of Waikanae people and special occasions in the life of the church over the past 20 years. We gave thanks to God for the faithful service and loving fellowship. It is good to remember all that has shaped and enriched the Waikanae church in our Uniting Parish and to carry these gifts into our future.

Blessing the animals

On 8 November Rev Anna led our service of Blessing the Animals. Two small dogs: Gail's Millie and Shirley's Penny trotted eagerly to the front for their blessing, and behaved beautifully.



At the meeting of the **Women's Fellowship** on 17 November, Marie Smith reported on two recent meetings she attended: the Wellington District MWF meeting at Wesley Wellington, and the National MWF Council meeting at Te Awamutu in the Waikato. The nationwide Fellowships' contribution to this year's Special Projects was $12,157 each to the Starship Foundation and the Tongan Development Project ($24,314.00 in total). Fellowships and parishes from all over our country supported these projects. Our Parish raised $800.00.

Advent

The Season of Advent brings the old church year to an end and we look to the renewal that Christmas brings.



A series of 4 Advent studies hosted by Waikanae, will lead us through the life of Jesus, from his birth, through his childhood to his maturing and adulthood. These studies give us time to reflect on the deeply spiritual meaning of what can be a highly pressured and commercialised season.

Week by week the Advent wreath glows more brightly as we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and the Christmas Day Christ Candle.

May the Christmas Blessings of the Angels' Message be Yours:

"Peace on Earth. Goodwill to All".

Diana Roberts



About People

We have recently said farewell to five people from our Raumati Congregation. Pearl and Shyam Murti have moved to Khandallah and Judi and John Redward to Papamoa. We wish them well in their new homes.

It is with sadness we heard of the passing of Airdre Thorpe on the 18 November. Airdre had been in the hospital wing at Summerset for some time and was a member of our Raumati Church. Her funeral





was held on Monday 23 November in our Raumati Church and was led by Rev Anna Gilkison. We will keep the Thorpe family in our prayers over the days and weeks ahead.

Sadly Tom Anthony passed away on the 3 November in the Care Home at Coastal Villas. His funeral was a private one. The family extended an invitation to anyone who knew Tom to come to an afternoon tea which was held at Coastal Villas on the 12 November.Tom was a member of our Raumati congregation. Our Prayers are with his wife Sally and family members.

For those who are unwell at present at home or in hospital we hope you will soon be feeling much better and our thoughts are with you.

Congratulations and very best wishes to John Calman who celebrates his 90th Birthday on the 13 December. Enjoy your special day John.

To all who are having Birthdays in December may you have a lovely day.
To those celebrating an Anniversary may it be a special time for you.

As we enter the month of Christmas we wish you all very warm greetings for the Season and our very best wishes for 2027.

The Pastoral Care Team
Lyn, Carole, Diana, Bastiana, Diane, Dianne 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

'Sustain me with raisins….'

…'And refresh me with apples' begs verse 5, chapter 2 of the song of Solomon. At least that's what it says in contemporary translations; the King James Authorised version more robustly states; 'Stay me with flagons and comfort me with apples.' Are apples a comfort? Apple pie, maybe. But there's no doubt that food is a comfort in times of distress and exhaustion.

Food has always played a significant role in comforting the bereaved. Whether a funeral is religious or secular, we can be sure that refreshments will follow the more formal proceedings. A get-together with a spread of refreshments is so much a part of funeral arrangements that funeral directors now often have their own team of caterers to provide this service.

The tension and sadness ease as mourners, with a drink and a plate of food, share reminiscences of the friend or family member they have come to honour and farewell. After this social time it is usual for close relatives to go back to the family home to do some real bonding – with more food and another round of tea and perhaps something stronger. Traditionally this food for the family was provided by neighbours and the church fellowship. They called around to drop off hearty casseroles, egg sandwiches, a good fruit cake, scones, home made sausage rolls, and maybe something special, like a trifle.

These practical demonstrations of caring have been largely superseded by sympathy cards.

The cards are carefully chosen, with much thought as to the rightness of the words; their loving messagesmean a great deal to the recipients, and they are treasured.

Yet my Granny used to say: 'a little help's worth a deal of pity.'

And that saying is as true for us as it was for her.

Its still taken seriously in Māori communities, where tangihanga spread out over three days and the members of the bereaved family are freed from kitchen duties, so that they may be with the beloved tūpāpaku They know that not only the catering, but also the financial burden will be shared.

The tangi ends with a Hākari, a feast which ushers the mourners back to the table and into the world of light, and sustains them for the daily living ahead.

Diana Roberts

From Methodist Touchstone
March 2006

Kapiti Uniting Parish
Advent Study:

Jesus and His World

Will be held at:
Waikanae Lounge 2-3pm
on Tuesdays: 24 November, 1, 8, 15 December



Study One, 24th November
The infant Jesus - with a focus on the flight into Egypt
Led by Rev Robin List

Study Two, 1st December
The child Jesus – The years in Galilee
Led by Diana Roberts

Study Three, 8 December
The young adult Jesus - with a focus on his years with John the Baptist
Led by Rev Anna Gilkison

Study Four, 15 December
Jesus the adult - with a focus on how, as an adult, he was influenced by his childhood experiences
Led by Rev Anna Gilkison

All are welcome. No-one needs a theological degree to enjoy these studies!
You are welcome to attend all or any of the studies
- it isn't necessary to attend all four.

We look forward to seeing you there

Kapiti Uniting Parish

Coastal Villas Christmas Service

Thursday 17 December

10.30 am

Dining Room, Coastal Villas

Rev. Anna Gilkison

Everyone is welcome,
please join us.

www.kup.org.nz

Phone 04 902 5809

Raumati Playgroup

We have had a very busy month at playgroup! Now that the weather is nicer our numbers have increased and we have gained quite a few new regulars.



We did some mask making, where we had some blank masks for the kids to colour in and put stickers on. This is my daughter's mask that she made.



We also decided to do colourful rice again since it was such a big hit last term. This is where I have died rice with food colouring and I put out scoops and diggers so the kids can play with it in a similar way that they would with sand. Because it was a nice day on the day that we did this we got to do it outside which was so lovely.



Because we are now in the warmer months we have been able to do water play which is always a favourite for the kids. We started off with just doing water play. We had lots of tubs of water and two water play tables.

The week after we still did water play but we also had toy animals that I had frozen in ice that the kids needed to try and melt and save the animals.



This week we did fairy potions, where the kids just added potion powder to water and could watch the reaction of the potion bubbling away.

Drawing, colouring in, and collage are always popular in addition to our themed activities which change each week. For our final two weeks of term we will be doing Christmas crafts



We have unfortunately had the devastating news that Dakota, a 6 year old girl who used to come to our playgroup, has been diagnosed with a terminal brain cancer and doesn't have long to live. Her mother and younger sibling are current members of our playgroup.

If you could please keep Dakota and her family in your prayers they would appreciate it.

We are looking forward to a break over Christmas but we will miss the excitement and fun of playgroup.

Thank you *to our wonderful volunteers Marie, Maureen, Bev, Sylvia and Lovinia for making playgroup possible.*

Monica


Kapiti Uniting Parish
Children's Christmas Carol Service
Join us for afternoon tea,
Christmas carols and a story
Wednesday 2 December
Raumati Church, 10 Weka Road
Afternoon tea served
from 2.45 pm
Carols and story at 3.20 pm
Free event
All ages welcome
www.kup.org.nz

Being There

What is it that you and I have to share of our Faith. I used to be so sure. It was a “sola fide” belief when Marion and I went to PNG. My friends would write from New Zealand and ask how many had made a decision for the Lord....in other words how many were “saved”. My more conservative friends would even add, “Saved from hell”.

This conviction or way of thinking was completely shattered after a few weeks. Something else took it’s place. It was an agonising love for these people living in circumstances that were unimaginable. Mothers were in the forest and in their gardens collecting food with their babies on their backs or over their shoulders.

Malaria was rampant, as well as tuberculosis. Children were dying of malnutrition particularly if the families lived in the hill country. Whooping cough and measles would wipe out complete villages of their children. The average haemoglobin level in a pregnant woman was around 6.5gms. It should be at least 12 to 14 gms.

Children fell into fires and the surgical challenges were immense.....no plastic surgeons in the country at that time. I had to learn. Electricity for the hospital was an ongoing challenge and so was one of it’s consequences; caesarians by torch light at night.

I quickly realised that there were no easy answers here....except “being with”. “Being with” was the essence of Faith.

There were no formulae, just love and sharing with no doctrinal statements. It was a walking together into a dawn with Jesus on the shore to welcome us. Trust and Faith come together when you walk the road together. There was even “flying together” when the MAF pilot would smile wryly at me in a rain storm with minimal visibility and hand me the map saying, “Pete, you find out where we are and I will keep this crate in the air.”

Faith for me has never been tied up by creeds, helpful as they might be for some. I believe Faith is a risky undertaking with a deep down joy of its outworking and possibilities for adventure in our sharing it with others and “being with”. Perhaps Sydney Carter’s hymn says it all. “And the creed and the colour and the name won’t matter. Were you there? “

Mi selim staka tingting na luv long yufela olgeta. Pete S
[I send lots of thoughts and love to you all]....Melanesian Pijin

a "Happy Christmas to all"
Pete Strang

PS: Thank you for the welcoming afternoon tea recently. I really appreciated meeting people and sharing our stories....very special.

Services of Remembrance and Blessing for our pets at Raumati and Waikanae Churches



Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. On the fifth and sixth days of creation, you called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless the animals and all living creatures. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures!

Amen

Letter to Waikanae Church from the Electoral Commission

ELECTORAL COMMISSION
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI

25 November 2026

Tēnā kōrua Marie

Thank you for hosting the 2026 General Election

On behalf of the Electoral Commission and the Kāpiti electorate team, I wanted to write personally to thank you for making your venue available as a voting place for the 2026 General Election.

Your contribution to this election was genuinely important. Without community venues like yours, we simply could not deliver voting services to the people of Kāpiti – and the fact that you were willing to open your doors and work with us made a real difference to voters in your area.

I know that hosting an election is not without its demands. It requires flexibility from your team, some disruption to your normal operations, and a good deal of goodwill. We are grateful for all of it.

The 2026 General Election was a significant one for the Kāpiti electorate, this was the first election ever run under our new electorate boundaries, and it was made possible in large part by venues like yours being prepared to be part of it. That means your contribution will be remembered as part of the history of this electorate.

Thank you again. We hope to work with you again at the next election.

Ngā mihi nui.

Steven Bell

Steven Bell
Electorate Manager - Kapiti

Scripture Versus Tradition
The Christmas Story

You hear Nativity readings every year but how well do you listen? Give a tick for yes or a cross for no if the words in **bold** are written in the Gospel readings of the birth stories of Jesus (*in Bibles translated from the original Greek - KJV, RSV, NRSV*)

1. **Nazareth** was the home town of Mary ____

2. An angel told Joseph to go **to** Bethlehem ____

3. The Angel said, to Mary, **'Fear not'** ____

4. Mary rode a **donkey** to Bethlehem ____

5. **Bethlehem** was called the City of David ____

6. The Inn Keeper said, **'No room'** ____

7. The word **stable** is in Luke's gospel ____

8. The Inn Keeper was referred to as **'host'** ____

9. There were **animals** near the manger ____

10. The angels **sang** 'Glory to God in the highest' ____

11. The shepherds said, **'Let us go now to Bethlehem'**

12. The shepherds brought a **lamb** to Jesus _____

13. There were **three** Wise Men ____

14. The wise men travelled by **camel** ____

15. The Bible uses the title **Magi** for wise men ____

16. The wise men were **kings** ____

17. Their names are **Caspar, Melchior** & **Balthasar** ___

18. Herod said, **‘Search diligently for the child’**

19. The wise men saw Jesus in **a house** ____

20. Jesus name was **given by an angel** ____

Answers on page 20



Raumati Women's Fellowship

The Raumati Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday 10 December at 10am in the meeting room. This will be our last meeting for the year and we will have a Christmas theme with some of our members speaking about Christmas in another country and a Christmas Meditation presented by the committee. You are invited to bring gifts for Women's Refuge to place under the tree in the church.
All women are welcome.
enquiries to Lyn Martin 04 904 8361 022 165 7523
Merrill Baker 04 902 4134 027353 2307

A Prayer for Good Government

Spirit of justice, creator spirit,
help us to make and keep this country
a home for all its different peoples,
and grant to our government
and all its representatives
imagination, skill, and energy
that there may grow amongst us
Aroha and Peace

New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book

Answers to Scripture versus Tradition
Only seven statements can be confirmed from the words as written in the Gospels as translated from the Greek originals - (1) Lk 1:26, (3) Lk 2:4, (5) Lk 2:4, (11) Lk 2:15, (18) Mtt 2:7, (19) Mtt 2:11, (20) Lk 1:3 & 2:21

Christmas Presents for Women's Refuge



This year we are hoping Kapiti Uniting Parish members will again support the Women's Refuge by donating Christmas presents for the families under their care.

Although presents for children are always welcome, the Refuge says they would be especially grateful for presents for teenagers - and presents for mothers are also welcome.

The Women's Refuge workers will need to see which gift is suitable for each mother or young person so we would prefer gifts are unwrapped.

Please put your gifts under the Waikanae or Raumati Christmas Trees by 13 December.

The Oxen

by Thomas Hardy

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

December: for your diary

1	2 – 3pm	Advent Study, Waikanae
2	2.45pm	Children's Carol Service, Raumati
8	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
	2 – 3pm	Advent Study, Waikanae
9	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
	12pm	Thrifty Place Volunteers lunch
10	10am – 12pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
11	10-11.30	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
13		*Last day for donations to Women's Refuge*
15	2 – 3pm	Advent Study, Waikanae
17	10.30 – 11.15am	Coastal Villas Church Service
		Last day of Thrifty Place for the year
18	10am – 12pm	Parish Council, Raumati

December: Regular Events

Tuesdays	10am -12pm	Craft group, Raumati (until 15th)
	10.30am – 4pm	Thrifty Place (until 17th)
Thursdays	10am -12pm	Raumati Playgroup (until 10th)
	10.30am – 4pm	Thrifty Place (until 15th)
Saturdays	10.30am – 1pm	Thrifty Place (until 12th)

Thrifty Place will re-open on 9 January

December Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
2nd 2.45pm	Children's Christmas Service, Raumati		
6th 2 Advent	Rev Roger Wiig HC	Kate Foley	
9th 10.30am	10.30am Sevenoaks Service		
13th 3 Advent	Desmond Corrigan	Barrie Woods with Rev Anna Gilkison HC	Rev Anna Gilkison HC
17th 10.30am	10.30am Coastal Villas Service		
20th 4 Advent	Rev Anna Gilkison Congregation Christmas Service / Carols and Readings	Maureen Calhaem	
24th 9pm	9pm Christmas Eve, Raumati, Rev Anna Gilkison		
25th	**9am** Rev Robin List and Heather List	**10am** Rev Anna Gilkison	
27th 10am	Full Parish Waikanae, Mike and Paula Binkhorst		

January Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
3	Raumati Full Parish 10am Rev Roger Wiig HC		
10	Desmond Corrigan	Maureen Calhaem	
17	Simple Service	Kevin Boyce	
24	Simple Service	Rev Anna Gikison	
31	Rev Anna Gilkison	Barrie Woods	Rev Robin List

Donating to Kapiti Uniting Parish

Donations are always welcome to help us with our Parish expenses and you can make your gift in different ways:

We have cash collection boxes at our services or

In person at your bank, or online, to account:

Kapiti Uniting Parish 03 0732 0063111 00

Please put your name as reference for your payment so that we can issue a tax receipt which you can use to apply for a tax refund.

WWW.kup.org.nz

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

Kapiti Uniting Parish

Christmas service times

Raumati Church
10 Weka Road
Christmas Eve 9 pm
Christmas Day 10 am

Waikanae Church
9 Taiata Street
Christmas Day 9 am

Phone 04 902 5809
www.kup.org.nz