

TOGETHER

KĀPITI UNITING PARISH



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

DECEMBER 2025



A Warm Welcome at Waikanae Church

From the Minister's Desk

It's that time of year again. Time for carols and cake, trees and candles, hospitality to children and strangers, messages of light and joy. Your hard-working church family is going the extra mile to bring Christmas to Kapiti. Come along, enjoy the fun and support us as we share the wonder of the Christmas message of Peace for all the World.

Ways in which you can help:

- Bring some delicious food for the children who come to our Christmas service on Wednesday, 3rd December and for the visitors who come to our Carols and Cake event.
- Come to the Children's Service to lend your voices and your enthusiasm to the singing and to cheer our gallant company of actors!
- Bring a friend, a neighbour or just yourselves to the carol-singing afternoon tea in the Raumati hall on Sunday afternoon, 7th December.
- Volunteer to lend a hand with the afternoon teas.
- Come to the Study at Waikanae on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm. Hear about mangers and gifts and camels!
- Make sure we have full churches for our special Christmas Services so that Christmas visitors see us at our best.

*At this time of Advent
fire our imaginations
with the sweep of your salvation*

*Catch us up
in the cause of your kingdom
already breaking through into this world.*

*And let your Spirit
wild as the wind
gentle as the dove
move within us and among us
to enliven our worship*

*and strengthen our faith
sending us out
with anticipation and joy.*

Rev Anna Gilkison



Dividing Wall in Bethlehem

LIGHT A PRAYER FOR PEACE

On the first Advent Sunday in December both our churches will be lighting candles, symbolically, and saying a prayer for justice and peace for all peoples across the Holy Land, whether Palestinian or Israeli, whether Muslim, Christian or Jew.

If it is not possible for you to come to worship in person on that Sunday I invite you to join us from your home in saying a Prayer for the Holy Land.

***God of peace and justice
we pray for the people of the Holy Land
Palestinian and Israeli,
Christian, Jew and Muslim.
We pray for an end to acts of violence and terror.
We lift to you all who are fearful and hurting.
We ask for wisdom and compassion for those in
leadership
Above all, we ask that Jesus, the Prince of Peace,
Would bring lasting reconciliation and justice for all.
Amen.***

Rev Anna Gilkison

News from Waikanae

50th anniversary of ordination



On 2 November family and friends of **Rev John Roberts** joined the congregation to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the Methodist Ministry. Rev Anna led the service. John's Ordination took place at Turangawaewae Marae in 1975, with the Maori Queen in attendance and Rev Rua Rakena presiding. Rev Anna presented

John with a certificate of recognition from Te Hahi Weteriana, the Methodist Church. John shared the story of his journey to ordination, in a question- and -answer session with his wife Diana. A special morning tea, with a celebration cake, followed.

Church Anniversary.

Our focus for this year's celebration was the contribution of the **Women's Fellowship** to the life of our church over forty nine years. The group's Minute Books reveal an astonishing range of caring and sharing activities



including: fund-raising for church buildings and furnishings, and national and international projects; providing food for many occasions – and a monthly Soup and Sandwiches lunch for the beach community. Diligent knitters supplied the Wesleyhaven care home with dozens of comforting items. The Fellowship has taken a significant lead in community inter-church gatherings including women’s Christmas celebrations and the World Day of Prayer. The Waikanae Fellowship has produced two Methodist Women’s Fellowship National Presidents: the late Nelma Woodfield, and Marie Smith.

Worship



We look forward to the richness of Advent services, beginning with our Songs and Stories version of the traditional Lessons and Carols, led by Sue Hodgson and Rosemary Wells. As the season grows to its fulfilment on Christmas Day, we light the Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, relating these to the Christian

World Service Christmas Appeal. On Christmas Day we welcome holiday guests; perhaps our most memorable was a 2-year-old called “Holly”!



We'll host a parish Combined Service to begin the New Year, and Worship Group will lead two Simple Services in the church lounge in January.

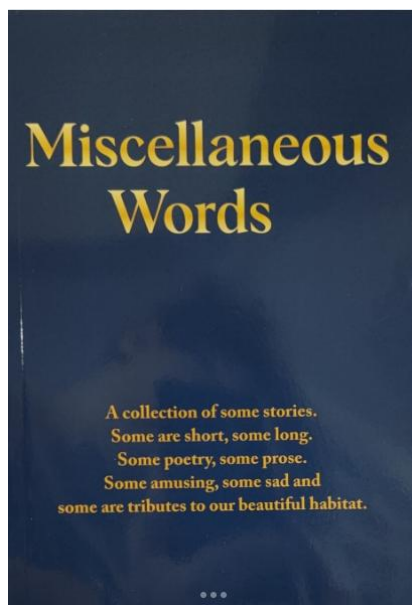
It will be good to have Rev Roger Wiig conducting the last of the January services.

Book Launch

Did you note the front page of the 12 November *Kapiti News* local paper?

The article featured **Keith Lang**, a member of the Waikanae congregation, and his recently published book of poetry:

Miscellaneous Words.



Our Waikanae church launched this wise and wonderful anthology following our worship on 23 November. Keith's family joined in the occasion, paying tribute to their father, and bringing luscious cake! The books sold like – hot cakes!

Advent Studies

For the Waikanae congregation these combined study times are a highlight, when not only do we open our hearts, minds and spirits to the significance of the season, but we strengthen our links with Raumati parishioners.

As we move towards the great festival of Christmas we pray for hope, peace, joy and love for all God's people and for the whole of creation.

Diana Roberts



Stir-up Sunday

The collect for the Sunday before Advent in *The Book of Common Prayer*

“Stir up, we beseech Thee, O Lord, the wills of Thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may be of Thee plenteously rewarded.”

Congregations took this call as a reminder to stir up their Christmas puddings, believing that puddings made on that day would carry God's blessings to everyone who ate a portion.

It's time for us, as we organise our Christmas puddings, to stir up our spirits to fully enter the season of Advent and “plenteously bring forth the fruit of good works.”



About People

Happy Birthday to those celebrating in December. We hope you enjoy your special day.

To those celebrating an Anniversary our congratulations and best wishes are sent to you.

It is with sadness we heard of the passing on Saturday 15 November of Russell Hodder, dearly loved husband of Florence. We will keep Florence and her family in our prayers over the days and weeks ahead.

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

As we come into this festive time of Christmas we wish you all a blessed Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year ahead.

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



Christmas Decorations at Raumati Church



Diane Boyce, Kate Foley and Thrifty Place volunteer Diana Harding have worked hard decorating the Raumati Church ready for Advent, thank you, it looks great.

We are fortunate to have the life-size Nativity characters to illustrate the characters in the Christmas story to the children who will come to our special service and tea for them on the 3rd December.

The thespians of the Parish will also be putting on a traditional Nativity play to share the Christmas Story with the children.



Everyone is very welcome to come along whatever your age.

Notes from Parish Council

Notes from Parish Council – November 2025

- We have recently heard that Kapiti Uniting Parish is to receive a donation of approximately \$35,000 from Kapiti Carers. This group ceased to operate at the end of 2024 and their constitution states that if it closes, the monies remaining in the account would be distributed equally among the four original founding churches, this includes Kapiti Uniting.
- It has been decided that there will be no church fair/market day at the beginning of 2026.
- New members for Property and Finance committee – Merle Stevenson has volunteered to be the secretary and Shyam Murti has also volunteered to join the committee.
- The income figures for October are very positive, thanks to a generous donation of \$10,000, as well as the quarterly income for hall hire. Thrifty Place income has also risen. These have all contributed to a surplus for the month.
- Jennie Dickens, who chaired the Pastoral Committee for many years, has left the parish to live in Crofton Downs. She will be missed at Kapiti Uniting Parish.
- The members of Parish council would like to wish everyone in the parish a very happy Christmas and look forward to sharing the various Christmas celebrations in the parish with you.

Jan Rae, Parish Council Secretary

Members of Parish Council: Rev Anna Gilkison, Marie Smith, Carole Rudings, Barrie Woods, Kate Foley, Erice Carley, Maureen Calheim, Evan Ireland, Cathy Drummond, Jan Rae.



Kapiti Uniting Parish

Children's Christmas Carol Service

Join us for afternoon tea,
Christmas carols and a story

Wednesday 3 December, 2.45pm - 4pm
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



Kapiti Uniting Parish

Coastal Villas Christmas Service

Thursday 18 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



CHRISTMAS - Matthew (2:1-12)

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

© RMS

FIND: Bethlehem, born, child, come, east, dream, fled, gifts, gold, Herod, Jerusalem, Jesus, Jews, Judah, king, Mary, place, rejoiced, star, warned, wise-men, worship

Use the unused letters complete this sentence:

King Herod was _____ (Mt 2:3) answer on page 26



A New Year has
come - lets get some
wise one's joys by
delighting in the
stories of new birth

I met my 3rd great-
grandchild today
(Theo Sugrue)

Rosalie

Raumati Village Community Garden

We have been busy and we are nearly all set for summer (maybe we can squeeze a few more salad seedlings in!). Thanks to the Kapiti Horticultural Society, we have topped up our beds with 14 bags of Zoo Do! We highly recommend this product. It supports a charity, is great value for money, you can plant straight into it and it is free delivery (www.zoodo.co.nz).

Thanks so much to our helpers, we appreciate you!



The garden is looking so tidy and organised. Thank you David, Sarah, Salem, Diana and Lynn - and thank you Jim who is our doing such a great job checking our rat traps!

How can you help? If you are passing by, please water the garden. One of our watering cans just got stolen, but we still have one and will get another. Do you have any salad seedlings, such as lettuce or

spring onions? Please pop them in the middle bed. Thanks for your support.

Kate Foley

Water is Peace - WHAT DOES PEACE TASTE LIKE?

A group of children aged between eight and ten years excitedly answered this question: 'vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream...pizza fresh out of the oven with onions and sausage...yummy times a hundred!' And then a quiet little voice spoke out 'Peace tastes like water.'

A stunning reply! What brought such a response from that child? A splashy slurp from a school water fountain after an energetic game? A cool sip from a bedside water bottle on a hot night? Quenching thirst brings a sigh of satisfaction, a feeling of peace. There is healing in the sound and movement of water. The splash and sparkle of a fountain, the smooth calm of a pool, the ripple of a stream, and the surge of the sea are all deeply refreshing and soothing. Peace flows from water. And water flows from peace.

When peace breaks down, then water is threatened. Rivers are polluted, wells contaminated, pipelines sabotaged, and town supplies destroyed. Christian World Service in its 2006 Christmas appeal material tells the story of a refugee household in a village in the Palestinian Occupied West Bank Territory. A grandmother, her three sons, and their families were struggling to get water, because of restrictions placed on the supply by Israeli authorities.

The Middle East Council of Churches, working with a CWS partner and local Palestinian Christians, have helped this family and many others to build large concrete roof tanks to collect and store rainwater.

The words of a Charles Wesley hymn proclaim that the name of Jesus is 'life and health and peace.' the Christmas Appeal theme, *Water, the Gift of Life* reminds us that water is life and health and peace too. The Living Water that is the spirit of Jesus can only bring wholeness to life when we channel it into the whole situation in which people live. To be a channel of God's peace is to be part of an irrigation scheme that carries the lifegiving water of hope to where its most needed. The CWS liturgy for Advent Two – Peace- offers this prayer:

Creator God, with the people of Palestine we cry out for your peace,

For we thirst, not for a sweet easy drink of false promises, nor for the sour wine of cynicism and vengeance, but for the holy water of justice and freedom.

Bring light and life. Amen

This year, place a jug of cold water at the centre of the Christmas table, and drink a Christmas toast to freedom and justice and the Prince of Peace.

Diana Roberts

Methodist Touchstone, November 2007

Thank you to the Fijian Congregation



On Saturday 8 November, volunteers from the Fijian Methodist Congregation which meets at our Raumati Church, carried out a working bee doing some maintenance and gardening.

We appreciate your help – thank you for working to help keep our facilities and grounds looking good.

Kate Foley





Kapiti Uniting Parish
invites you to...

Carols and Cake

A WHOLE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with our carol service. Everyone is welcome. Invite your family, friends and neighbours to share the joy, warmth, and love of Christmas. Free event.

AT 2.30 PM

7

DECEMBER

**Raumati Uniting Church, Hall
10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach**

www.kup.org.nz

Poetry with Robin List:

This month's poet: Edward Thomas.

After a nod to Eleanor Farjeon last month it seems logical to turn to her friend and lover Edward Thomas, another of the gifted young men on both sides of the conflict in World War I who lost their lives so needlessly. They were robbed and so were future audiences of words, music and art probably far beyond the comprehension of the generals and politicians who placed king and country before God and neighbour.



Beyond all else Thomas was a poet of the land and country people and while some of his poems such as *The Owl* have a sombre tone his writing isn't marked by the down-right pessimism of Thomas Hardy, even if Hardy did write some great poetry.

I started reading Edward Thomas in the early 1970s and was captured by a man who didn't just describe pictures of rural scenery. He understood the elements of what he saw as a man living in daily intimate contact with his subject matter. He was a poor man living in a rented cottage and he had to walk to most of the places he wished to visit or do business.

In fact he came from a solidly Welsh-English middle class family. He studied history at Oxford and, determined to live by his pen, built a hard working literary career as a critic, biographer, travel writer and novelist. He came to poetry late and attracted the friendship of Robert Frost.

As a Southlander born and bred I couldn't resist this poem, but read carefully, this is no rustic idyll. He has a world in either hand as he writes:

SWEDES

*They have taken the gable from the roof of clay
On the long swede pile. They have let in the sun
To the white and gold and purple of curled fronds
Unsunned. It is a sight more tender-gorgeous
At the wood-corner where Winter moans and drips
Than when, in the Valley of the Tombs of Kings,
A boy crawls down into a Pharaoh's tomb
And, first of Christian men, beholds the mummy,
God and monkey, chariot and throne and vase,
Blue pottery, alabaster, and gold.
But dreamless long-dead Amen-hotep lies.
This is a dream of Winter, sweet as Spring.*

I have his wife Helen's memoirs 'As It Was' and 'Life Without End' if an interested reader would be prepared to prove that they really understand how precious an old Faber paperback can be.

Raumati Women's Fellowship

The group will meet on Thursday 11 December in the Upper Meeting Room at 10am. We will be sharing a Christmas Celebration, please bring a plate

All women are welcome to join us.

Contacts : Lyn Martin: 04 904 8361 022 165 7523

Merrill Baker: 04 902 4134 027 353 2307

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

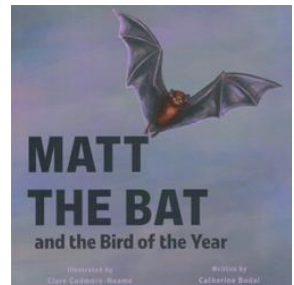
The requests will remain confidential and names will not be used without your permission.

Maureen and Merrill

*Maureen Calhaem says: Thank you to everybody for the rides
and your care during this year*

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

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





Thrifty Place

**We will close for the holidays
on Thursday 18 December
and re-open on
Saturday 10 January**

We wish all our customers a
Merry Christmas and
happy New Year



www.kapitiunitingparish.org.nz/thrifty-place

Raumati Playgroup

Tiny Tunes Playgroup

4/12/25

Christmas Craft (dress-up)

11/12/25

Christmas Craft (dress-up)

This term has been a busy one for playgroup. Our attendance has been high this term and we have been getting younger babies and children attending which has been lovely.



One of the activities that we did this term was making necklaces. This involved using things like penne pasta, pipe cleaners, paper that has been hole punched and tin foil rolled into rings. The kids then had to thread these items onto string,

which was so great for their motor skills.

The week after that Kate took playgroup for me while I was away and she got the highest attendance that we've had this year which was 24 kids.

Last week we did water play and with the weather now getting extra warm we couldn't have picked a more perfect activity.



Christmas Presents for Women's Refuge

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

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

The gift doesn't need to be wrapped as the Women's Refuge workers will need to see which gift is suitable for each mother or young person.

Please put your gift under the Waikanae or Raumati Christmas Tree by 14 December.



Parish Directory

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

Parish Council:

Secretary: Jan Rae 021 1127739
janiser47@gmail.com

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

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

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

December: for your diary

3	2.45 – 4pm	Children's Christmas Carol Service, Raumati
7	2.30 – 3.30pm	Carols and Cake, Raumati Hall
10	10-11.30am	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
11	10am-12pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
14	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
16	10.30am	Waikanae Soup Group
18	10.30 -11.15am	Coastal Villas Christmas Service
19	10am-12pm	Parish Council morning tea Raumati
24 – 30	-	Parish Office closed

December 2025 Services

Date	Waikanae 9.30 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
7	Carols and Readings Service - Sue Hodgson and Rosemary Wells	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	
14	Maureen Calhaem HC	Kate Foley, Carole Rudings	Rev Robin List
21	Rev Anna Gilkison Christmas Service	Maureen Calhaem	
24	9pm Rev Anna Gilkison Christmas Eve at Raumati		
25	9am Rev Anna Gilkison Christmas Day	10am Rev Roger Wiig Christmas Day	
28	Rev Anna Gilkison at Raumati		

December: Regular Events

Tuesdays	10am -12pm 10.30am – 4pm	Craft group, Raumati Thrifty Place
Thursdays	10am -12pm 10.30am – 4pm	Raumati Playgroup (term time) Thrifty Place
Saturdays	10.30am – 1pm	Thrifty Place – until 18th

Answer to word search; King Herod was TROUBLED.

January 2026 Services

Date	Waikanae 9.30 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
4	Desmond Corrigan, with Robin List HC at Waikanae		
11	Worship Group Lounge Service	Rev Anna Gilkison	
18	Worship Group Lounge Service	Rev Anna Gilkison	
25	Roger Wiig	Maureen Calhaem	Heather List

January: for your diary

1 - 2	Parish Office closed
9 - 19	Raumati Hall floor being refurbished - no hall access
10	Thrifty Place re-opens
29	Raumati Playgroup starts

January: Regular Events

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

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