

TOGETHER



KĀPITI UNITING PARISH

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

SEPTEMBER 2026



Spot the Gardeners!
Robin and Heather List working at Raumati

From the Minister's Desk

LOOKING BACK

Two weeks ago we said good-bye to two very special women who have been loved members of Kapiti Uniting Parish for many years.

Erice's farewell was a remarkable testimony to the high regard in which she was held here in this church. We, her church family, brought to this service our love for someone who quietly found her way into our hearts through her integrity as a person, her unparalleled commitment to ministry and community engagement, her loyalty and her understated humour. We miss you, Erice.

Marie Storey's farewell was one of a kind. As someone said to me, you could leave your handbag in full view and no-one would dare take it there were so many police amongst the mourners! Marie was a symbol of what her father instilled in her, that women as well as men have the right to lead lives of worth and potential. The way she was honoured by several generations of police officers, especially the women, made her service both a memorable and a wonderful experience to be a part of. We miss you too, Marie.



Police Guard of Honour for Marie Storey

These significant occasions in the life of our Parish were made possible by the hard work of several of people from our church. Thank you, Lyn and Merrill and all your helpers; thank you our musicians, Elizabeth and Ellen (who had to cope with a failing organ!), thank you Ralph, who stayed to the end of two very long days cleaning and restoring order to the church, and thank you Kate, Marg and John who spoke movingly at Erice's funeral and at Marie's.

Last Sunday we had a belated Lay Preacher's service at Waikanae. The theme was 'Believing the Impossible'. Sue Hodgson and Beth Manning spoke with insight into what this meant to them. *Their reflections are also included in this edition of Together.*

LOOKING FORWARD – ‘Season of Creation’

Again I resume the long
lesson: how small a thing
can be pleasing, how little
in this hard world it takes
to satisfy the mind
and bring it to rest.

With the ongoing havoc
the woods this morning are
almost unnaturally still.
Through stalled air, unshadowed
light, a few leaves fall
of their own weight.

The sky
is gray. It begins in mist
almost at the ground
and rises forever. The trees
rise in silence almost
natural, but not quite,
almost eternal, but
not quite.

What more did I
think I wanted? Here is
what has always been.
Here is what will always
be. Even in me,
the Maker of all this
returns in rest, even
to the slightest of His works,
a yellow leaf slowly
falling, and is pleased.

Wendell Berry

In 1964 Wendell and Tanya Berry, gave up their life as Stanford graduates living in New York and returned to Wendell's roots as small Kentucky farmers. Since then he has been an advocate for living off the land and for small-scale farming, a poet, writer of essays, philosopher and environmental and peace activist. He is a man of great and timely wisdom for his generation and for the ones that have followed.

He is also a Christian and his Christian beliefs are woven into his writing. He has said of religion, 'I tried to get along without it, because I thought I was going to be a modern person, but you can't think about the issues I write about without finally having to talk about mystery. The gospels for me were not a church discovery. I had to carry them into the woods and read them there in order to see my need in them.'

I'll give Wendell the last word:

'So, friends, every day do something that will not compute. Give your approval to all you cannot understand. Ask the questions that have no answers. Put your faith in two inches of humus that will build under the trees every thousand years. Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts....Practice resurrection.'

Rev Anna Gilkison

Believing the Impossible

by Sue Hodgson



The gospel stories tell us Jesus turned water into wine, raised people from the dead and as we read today walked on water. All impossible to me if taken literally.

When I was recently wandering around the Sarjeant Gallery in Whanganui there was a exhibition of items made from a range of textiles including a brightly coloured sparkling waka full of people of all colours including their clothing and they were all paddling in the same direction. It was created using a mixture of textiles, sequins feathers and thread,.

It caught my attention and I stood there thinking *wouldn't it be wonderful if we could be like the people in the wakaall paddle together in the same direction especially our politicians rather than the bickering and criticism of each other that happens today*

Coincidentally it was titled– **Heavenly Dreamboat** and was created by an artist from near Tkitiki on the East Coast

Hinewaiapu is a significant cultural and geographic entity in the East Coast region of New Zealand, representing both Ōhinewaiapu Marae associated with the Ngāti Porou iwi and the feminine taniwha (water spirit) of the Waiapu River)

If Jesus can walk on water as we read in the gospel reading today, then nothing is impossible - and that is my dream.

Believing the Impossible

by Beth Manning

I often reflect on something a biochemistry lecturer once said to me at university:

"For some people, the study of science leads them away from God. But for me, how can you look at all the incredible design, detail, and complexity of nature and not see the hand of the Creator—the God of the impossible?"

You don't have to abandon logic or ignore scientific reality to hold fast to the belief that in the beginning, "God". Faith doesn't require us to turn a blind eye to empirical data or dismiss proven natural laws. For me, Science is not the enemy of faith; it is the language through which we decode the mechanics of creation. When we study physics, chemistry, and biology, we aren't disproving the divine—we are simply discovering the rules God put into motion, whatever those rules are.

Science doesn't diminish that truth; it magnifies it. The deeper we look into the microscope or the telescope, the more wonder we uncover.

So I choose to honor science while believing in the impossible—not because I reject what we can measure, but because the evidence of creation continually points to a God far greater than anything we can map, quantify, or fully comprehend.

News from Waikanae

People



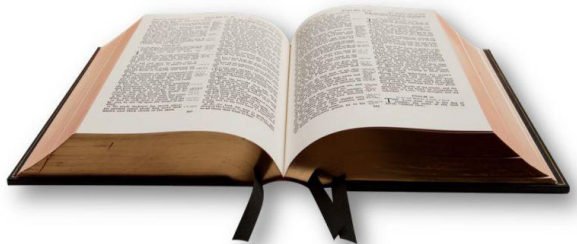
We celebrate **significant birthdays**. The Smith family gathered from far and near to honour **Don Smith** on his **90th birthday**. The congregation and the Parish thank you Don, for your faithful service in a range of positions over

many years.

Joan Barnard turns 103 on 4 September. Joan, you are very much part of our church family, and we treasure you.

Worship

The work of **Lay Preachers** has ensured that the whole parish is led in worship every Sunday. We remember those who have gladly offered their gifts and their time to share the Gospel with us in past years. We are thankful for those who have come forward recently in response to this call: Desmond, Sue, Rosemary, Fiona Duckworth, Tina and Evan, Paula and Mike,



Empowering Lay Preachers

and Beth. Maureen, Heather, Barrie and Kevin, we are grateful for your leadership. Our **Lay Preachers Sunday** service on 23 August honoured this enrichment of our life together.

Soup Group met on 18 August with a membership diminished



by the current onslaught of late-season colds and flu. Sue led us in a stimulating reflection on our forthcoming General Election, based on questions

from the University of Otago School of Theology. This was so helpful that we plan to make the resource available to the parish, and develop it into a Simple Service of worship at Waikanae.

Spring is coming to Waikanae:

Glorious magnolias, the first pink cherry blossom, the first soft greening of the willows, the daffodil stalls at our local market, the bouncy, tail-wagging lambs. We look forward to our annual Spring Flower service on 20



September, and the Season of Creation. A wonderful time of joyful thanksgiving.

Diana Roberts

About People



We send our very good wishes and congratulations to Don Smith who celebrated his 90th birthday on the 22th August.

To all who will have Birthdays in September we wish you a very happy day and may it be special for you.

To those celebrating an Anniversary we send our very best wishes to you.



We were saddened to hear of the recent deaths of two of our Raumati Parishioners:



Marie Storey, on 4th August *and* Erice Carley on 6th August

Both funerals were held in our Raumati Church and were led by the Rev Anna Gilkison. Erice's Funeral was on the 12th August and Marie's on the 14th.

*We will miss them both very much.
Rest in peace Marie and Erice.*

Our thoughts are with all who are unwell in hospital or at home. We send our good wishes to you. This colder weather is giving winter ailments to many. Keep warm and safe.



Feel Better Soon!

We give a very warm welcome to Ainsley Walker who has recently joined the Raumatī Congregation. It is lovely to have you with us Ainsley.

We welcome Alisi Barton to our pastoral team. It is lovely to have you join us Alisi.

The Pastoral care Team

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



Kapiti Island, painted by Marie Storey

Paying the price

'I'm not putting cheese in the kids' lunches any more.' 'I can't afford to bake biscuits, the butter's too dear!' 'I'm buying milk in one-litre bottles instead of two.'

Comments like this are in the news media every day. And every day there are headlines like: 'Experts struggle to serve up solutions to widening food crisis.' 'Stopping the world from starving;' 'Perfect storm menaces the hungry.'

They're calling it *the silent tsunami*; the relentlessly rising price of basic foods which is building up into a huge and devastating wave of deprivation that is waiting to bring starvation crashing down on the world's poorest people. One hundred million of them are at risk.

Economics lecturer and member of the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), Dr Susan St John, used the phrase 'perfect storm' to describe the situation of many children here in this country.

At the launch of the CPAG report *Left Behind; how social and income inequalities damage New Zealand children*, she said that 185,000 of our children – one in five - live in poverty that leaves them vulnerable to a cycle of disadvantage.

Rising food and fuel prices are just one factor that increases the widening wealth gap that is wreaking havoc in our communities.

The rate of preventable disease has doubled over the past 20 years in the children of families who are 'left behind', paediatrician Professor Innes Asher told us.

This is the result of crowded, substandard accommodation, lack of access to health services, unavailability of early childhood education, and inadequate nutrition. Behind all of these factors are the economic policies that isolate some groups and communities from the mainstream.

Food prices and the food crisis affect us all, because without food we cannot live. Those who suffer most are 'the least of these', the ones for whom Jesus showed the deepest concern (Matthew 25:45).

We are called to be there with and for 'the least'. Delivering food parcels to the 185,000 children who are the focus of *Left Behind*, and donating money for the hundred million hungry identified by the UN World Food Programme are part of what we can do.

Most of all, though, we need to hear and respond to the call of

Proverbs 31:8-9; 'Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.' Let's make

this call our mission in this election year.

Diana Roberts

From Methodist Touchstone

June 2008

Since this article was written, child poverty in New Zealand gradually increased until 2018 before falling to 135,000 in 2022. It has since been rising and in 2025 was 148,000. (figures from CPAG)



Kapiti Uniting Parish AGM

11 October 2026

**The AGM will be held in the church
after the full parish service
at 10am at Raumati.**

**There will be a shared finger food lunch in the hall
after the AGM all are welcome to attend
*Please bring a plate to share if you are able***

*Copies of the Annual Report and Agenda will be available after
26 September from: the Raumati and Waikanae churches, the Parish
Office (04 902 5809), and on our website KUP.org.nz*

Suggested questions to ask ourselves about the election *from the University of Otago School of Theology:*

1. Why do you vote, what is your motivation?
2. What difference will your vote make since you're only one person and over 2m others will be voting? (see Gov't's rationale for not advocacy climate change policies)
3. Do you think Jesus would vote? (does the Pope vote?)
4. Have you voted for different parties or always the same?
5. How do you get your information re policies of the different parties or don't you bother?
6. Do you think everyone has a responsibility to vote or perhaps only the informed - only those who have taken the trouble to know what the policies of each party are?
7. Do you know people who don't bother voting?
8. Should there be more cross-party consultation and agreement on policies?

The Kererū



The kererū can be seen as a metaphor for the Church in Aotearoa and in the World.

It spreads seeds throughout our native forests and plays a significant role in their regeneration.

Raumati Playgroup

We have had another great month at playgroup. Usually in winter the number of children attending can drop off quite a bit, but we have managed to be quite steady with numbers this winter. Hopefully that will last.

This term I have been trying to bring out Playdough a lot since it is always a favourite with the kids. Sometimes I like to do a themed Playdough to get the kids imagination going, so we did construction playdough.

For this I make playdough that looks similar to mud and dirt, so I made a "dirt" playdough with old coffee grinds to give it a dirt texture. I also made a chocolate playdough using cocoa which smelled delicious. I put out things like dump trucks, small branches that look like mini trees, shells etc. so the kids can create what they would like.





The next activity that we did was "straw rockets". This activity was inspired by the huge amount of straws that we have in the craft cupboard. For this activity the kids just needed to colour in their rocket and then put a straw in the hole we had created in the rocket and blow and their rocket would go

flying. It was incredibly cute watching some of the younger ones learn how to blow.

I've also added a picture of my daughter Sadie at playgroup. This is her having a tea party with all of the baby dolls. Sadie comes to playgroup every week with me and helps to set up, do the music, and pack up.



I decided to be brave this term and do some messier activities with the kids. We did a gluing and pasting activity where the kids made collages with different items like feathers, glittery paper, tissue paper and small bits of material. Last week we did painting which is always very messy but the kids had a great time.



Thank you to all the volunteers Bev, Maureen, Marie, Charlotte and Lovinia.

Monica Simpson

Tiny Tunes Playgroup

Term 3 Schedule

3/9/26	Fathers Day Craft
10/9/26	Glitter Pictures
17/9/26	Colour Volcanoes (Bring old clothes)
24/9/26	Playdough

10 reasons Christians should vote in elections

- 1) Voting publicly recognises that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God. (*Romans 13:1-7*)
- 2) Voting recognises the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)
- 3) It is one way that we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation as a whole. (*Jeremiah 29:5-6*)
- 4) It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf. (*1 Timothy 2:1,2*)
- 5) It is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nation. 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing', Edmund Burke. (Psalms 34:14)
- 6) It makes a difference the way a grain of salt makes a difference, and that is how we are to influence our society for good. (*Matthew 5:13*)
- 7) It is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.
- 8) Not voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions. (*Luke 10:25-37*)
- 9) Voting has biblical precedence for example *Acts 14:23* describes that the early Christians elected elders by voting.
- 10) Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honor God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift.

Our Hirers



**BUILDING GIRLS' CONFIDENCE AND LIFE SKILLS WITH FUN,
ADVENTURES AND FRIENDSHIPS**

Scouting for Girls was born in Christchurch!

Lieutenant Colonel David Cossgrove was a headmaster in Christchurch and, in 1908, brought the Boy Scout Movement to New Zealand. Cossgrove served in the Boer War with Lord Robert Baden-Powell, who founded the UK Boy Scouts in 1907.

The Cossgroves had four daughters, and the youngest, Muriel, living in a country where women had already had the vote for fifteen years, asked for a girls' equivalent to Scouts. In 1908 – a year before girls in Britain made the same request – Cossgrove organised the Peace Scouts for girls.

In 1928, Peace Scouts became GirlGuiding and New Zealand joined the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts as a founding member. Today, New Zealand is one of 150 countries that belong to the association.

All Guides make the Guide Promise:

*I promise to do my best,
To be true to myself and develop my beliefs,
To live by the Guide Law
And take action for a better world.*

The wording of the promise has changed over the years, but it still has the same values of service and self respect at its heart.



Biscuits are one of the first things people think of when Girl Guides are mentioned, they are now available in supermarkets.

Camping and outdoor adventures are other things associated with Guides.

This is the second Dominion Girl Guides camp, held at Porea, in 1957- more than a thousand girls attended.



Two groups from Girl Guiding meet weekly at the Raumati lower meeting room: the Kapiti Rangers (pictured) and the Raumati Brownies.



Guiding in Kapiti:

There are currently 104 girls involved in Guiding in Kapiti and there is space in the Pippin (5-6 years olds) and Brownie (7-9 years old) units in Paraparumu, Waikanae and Raumati.

We are also looking for leaders in Paraparumu and Waikanae.

To learn more, please contact: girlguidingnz.org.nz/

Gospel Symbols

from 'Lay Preaching Basics' by Rosalie Sugrue

Theologians and artists have delighted in making symbolic parallels and connections between various aspects of the Bible. Since the 5th century the Four Evangelists have been associated with the four 'living creatures' who surround the throne of God in Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelation 4:7.



	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Apocalyptic Creature	Winged human	Winged lion	Winged ox	Eagle
Symbolises	humanity, reason	royalty, courage	sacrifice, strength	heavens, Holy Spirit
Theme of the Gospel	Jesus is the Messiah, fulfilment	Son of God, authority, discipleship	Saviour for Jews and Gentiles	Jesus divine love, unity, servanthood
Gospel Begins With	Christ's genealogy from Abraham	John the Baptist roaring like lion in the wilderness	temple duties of Zechariah	Christ as Logos ("The Word")

**INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF PEACE**



You are invited to a
Peace Gathering
to acknowledge the
United Nations Day of Peace
on Sunday 20th September at 5pm



*Kapiti Uniting Parish
Raumati Church
10 Weka Road
Raumati Beach
04 902 5809*



Shared tea to follow

Everyone is welcome

Raumati Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 September at 10am in the meeting room. Our speaker will be Sue Fenton from the Kapiti Loss and Grief Centre.

All women are very welcome.

Contacts: Lyn Martin 04 904 8361 or 022 165 7523
Merrill Baker 04 9024134 or 027 353 2307



Kapiti Foodbank

Our local foodbank is in urgent need of donations of both money and groceries.
Bank acct: Kapiti Community Foodbank
Account Number: 12-3157-0048639-00
Particulars: your name, Reference:donation
email: treasurerkapitifoodbank@gmail.com for a tax receipt

Groceries can be donated at churches (including KUP) and in local supermarkets. Particularly in demand are::

- ☐ Soup
- ☐ Pasta sauce
- ☐ Canned fish
- ☐ Pasta & noodles
- ☐ Canned spaghetti & baked beans
- ☐ Refreshments (including tea, coffee, milk & sugar)
- ☐ Spreads (including jam, honey, marmite & peanut butter)



"Your Community Needs you – Donate to Feed those in Need"

September: for your diary

8	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
9	11am	Church Service at Sevenoaks
	11am	Church Service at Parkwood Lodge
10	10am – 12pm	Raumati Women's Fellowship
11	10-11.30	Property and Finance Group, Raumati
15	10 am	Waikanae Women's Fellowship
17	10.30 – 11.15am	Coastal Villas Church Service
18	10am – 12pm	Parish Council, Raumati
20	5pm	Peace Gathering, Raumati

September: 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

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

September Services

Date	Waikanae 10 am	United@9 9 am	Raumati 10 am
6	Maureen Calhaem	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	
13	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	Maureen Calhaem	Heather List
20	Spring Flower Service Tina Ireland	Rev Roger Wiig	
20 5pm	Peace Service at Raumati		
27	Rev Robin List	Barrie Woods	Rev Anna Gilkison

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