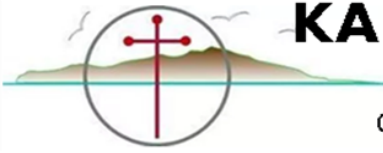


# TOGETHER

## KAPITI UNITING PARISH



ChristianChurchesNZ – Methodist – Presbyterian

DEC 2024 – JAN 2025



*Rev Anna's grandchildren at the Treaty Bill Hiko*

# From the Minister's Desk

## A New Zealand Christmas

*Oh, the grace was on it that He chose that country—  
We have kind oxen and our straw is sweet,  
We have shepherds too now, and stables and a manger,  
Had we but one footprint of His little feet!*

*Oh, my heart goes crying through these days of summer,  
Through the sleepy summer, slow with streams and bees,  
Had my land been old then, here He might have lighted,  
Here have seen His first moon in the ngaio trees.*

*Oh, my heart goes crying through these days of waiting  
While our lilies open and our tuts sing,  
Had my Lord been born here angels might have ringed us,  
Standing round our islands wing wide to wing.*

*Had my Lord been born here in the time of rata,  
Three dark-eyed chieftains would have knelt to Him,  
With greenstone and mats and the proud huia feather,  
And the eyes of Mary, seeing, would grow dim.*

*Oh, my heart goes crying through these days of waiting,  
We too have oxen and our straw is sweet,  
We too have shepherds and stables and a manger,  
Oh, for one clear footprint of His little feet!*

*by Eileen Duggan*

This Christmas I would like to give thanks for writers, hymn-writers and poets who help us to celebrate this enearing season in the church calendar. I have chosen to highlight Eileen Duggan because, despite her achievements and popularity, she is largely unknown in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Eileen worked hard to contextualise her faith and her poetry, just as we do. Her Christmas Poem is a gift to the Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand. At one time, Marlborough-born poet, Eileen Duggan, was one of New Zealand's most widely acclaimed poets.

Between 1922 and 1951, she published five volumes of poetry, with second editions of Poems printed in England and the United States. She was made an OBE in 1937 and an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1943

Poetry, essays and journalism earned Duggan an income for nearly 50 years and her work was very popular. She used traditional poetic forms and simple lyrics, and Christian beliefs, legends and symbols were important elements in her work. However her poetry is now largely out of print.

May our 'hearts go crying through these days of waiting' and may Christ be born anew in each of you

*Rev Anna Gilkison*

## **Advent Study**

**Tuesdays at 2-3pm from 26 November to 17**

**December**

**Waikanae Lounge**

Join in our Advent Study which starts with a labyrinth and continues with the theme of Journeying



*Carved wooden finger labyrinth inspired by the one in Chartres Cathedral (approx 1200AD)*

# News from Waikanae

**Advent Studies** will be led by Rev Anna in the Waikanae Church lounge, beginning on Tuesday 26 November at 2pm. There will be a series of 4 studies.

**Worship:** The service on 17 November to mark the 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of our church building shared, with thankfulness, memories of those who have been part of our Household of Faith.

**Advent services:**

15 December: Readings and Carols – and mince pies!

22 December : Almost Christmas – a Simple Service in the Church lounge.

**Christmas Day:** Rev John and Diana Roberts will lead a family-friendly service at the earlier time of 9am.

**Holiday Services:** January 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> will be simple services in the Church lounge led by families.



*Farewell to Pat Souness who has been an active member of our congregation for many years.*

With Heather Freeman, Pat founded the Waikanae Playgroup. She has brought joy with her church flowers, and special arrangements for Harvest Festivals and Spring Flower services. She has faithfully delivered our weekly Foodbank contributions.

Pat is moving to Greytown. We shall greatly miss her warmth and generosity.

Fellowship and Soup Group will combine on December 5<sup>th</sup> for what has become a tradition: a barbecue at the home of Desmond Corrigan. These two groups strengthen our bonds and deepen our spiritual growth.

*Diana Roberts*

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## **Notes From Parish Council**

November 2024

- The Annual Financial Report has now been finalised and will be presented for approval by the Waikanae and Raumati congregations at services on December 8, 2024.
- The work in the kitchen and vestry at Raumati is almost complete with just the floor coverings to be done. Thanks goes to Marie Smith for sorting out the insurance claims and to Merrill Baker and Isobel Robertson for cleaning the kitchen after the builders finished.
- Mary White is moving to Upper Hutt on December 6. She will be missed very much. Tribute was paid to her at the church service at Raumati on November 24.
- Church fair/ Market Day will be held on February 22nd 10am-1pm at Raumati. We are looking for a convenor for this event.
- The Waikanae Church celebrated its 113th anniversary on Sunday November 24.
- The last board games afternoon for this year has been held. As numbers are declining this activity will be reviewed early in 2025.



- Sunday lunches will resume in January.
- Events coming up
  - Children's Christmas Service, Wednesday December 4 at Raumati beginning with afternoon tea at approx 3.15pm with the service to follow. All parish members are encouraged to attend this service. It is usually a lot of fun for everyone. Please can parish members bring a plate of finger food for afternoon tea.
  - Carol singing - December 8 at 2.30pm at Raumati. This is a chance to come along and enjoy singing your favourite carols.
  - The National Youth Choir will be performing in the Raumati Church on Saturday Dec 21 at 4 - 5.30pm. Tickets are available on Event Finder

**Parish Council members are -**

*Rev Anna Gilkison, Jan Rae (Secretary), Cathy Drummond (Treasurer), Erice Carley, Carole Rudings, Maureen Calhaem, Marie Smith, Ken Milne, Barrie Woods, Evan Ireland.*





Presbyterian Church  
of Aotearoa New Zealand

22 October 2024

Tena koutou katoa

As our Church's response to the Abuse in Care report is shared, I ask you to remember that in our brokenness as human beings and as a Church, we are called to care for others, to repent for wrongdoing, to seek justice, and to be people of resurrection hope in the face of it all.

*Gracious God - we pray for some glimmer of hope for those in despair, for love to be known by those who have suffered, for a soft light to be seen in the darkness, for some soothing for those in pain and your grace to be known in abundance. We pray in the name of your suffering servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*In Christ*

*Right Rev Rose Luxford*

*Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

**Response of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa  
New Zealand to  
the Royal Commission of Inquiry's findings into  
Abuse in Care**

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (The Church) accepts the findings of the Royal Commission, including our reluctance to confront abuse, failure to remove people, and the lack of consistent policies and procedures to prevent and report abuse.

The Church acknowledges and deeply regrets the abuse and neglect that occurred within its care. The Church accepts responsibility for the historical, societal, and institutional factors that contributed to these abuses. This includes the misuse of religious power, sexism, racism, and other negative attitudes that allowed such abuses to occur. We were an integral part of the social structures that caused harm. We did not use our power to stand with and advocate for the vulnerable and marginalised.

We acknowledge the physical, sexual, emotional, mental, spiritual, relational, cultural, educational, and financial effects that the victims and survivors experienced on every part of their lives.

The cumulative harm and deep intergenerational impact on victims, survivors and their whanau are immeasurable and unacceptable. We are dedicated to improving this now and for the future.

### **Our Pathway Forward**

Our work on the Commission's recommendations has already begun. We are committed to seeing that work through and expect to be held accountable for this commitment. In the meantime, however, we grieve deeply for all who have been harmed by our actions and inaction and provide this apology as a first step in doing the work of repentance, and from which we hope that in time, restoration may come

***Mrs Katerina Solomona***  
*Convener Council of Assembly*  
*Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand*

***Rev Roxy Gahegan***  
*Deputy Convener*



## **Waiata**

Ko koe, e Ihu, tena  
E patoto mai nei  
E whanga tonu ana  
Ko koe kia tomo mai  
E ao ia nei te kino  
Te hara tino nui  
Ko au kia keke tonu  
Ki tau i tonu ai

## **Lament**

O Jesus, thou art standing  
Outside the fast-closed door  
In lowly patience waiting  
To pass the threshold o'er  
Shame on us, Christians all  
His name and sign who bear  
O shame, thrice shame upon us  
To keep Him standing there!



Kapiti Uniting Parish  
Coastal Villas Christmas Service

Thursday 19 December  
10.30 am  
Dining Room, Coastal Villas

Rev. Anna Gilkison

Everyone is welcome,  
please join us.



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

Phone 04 902 5809

# About People

**The lunch for men in our Parish, held on the 2 November, was a very pleasant occasion. 16 men attended and Kevin Boyce's presentation was well received. Thank you to Kevin for the interesting presentation about his travels and to all who helped with the catering.**

On the 8 December our Carols and Cake event will be in the Raumati hall starting at 2.45pm with carol singing and afternoon tea to follow. All are welcome to attend this event. Please contact the Pastoral Team or the parish office if you are able to help with catering or transport.

On Wednesday 4 December from 2 45 pm in the Raumati meeting room the Children's Christmas afternoon tea will be held. This will be followed by a Christmas service in the church led by Rev Anna Gilkison and Kevin Boyce. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We are in need of plates of food for the children's afternoon tea and would be very grateful if you can help in this way. If you are unable to attend the afternoon but would like to contribute food, we will be setting up from 1.30pm. Enquiries to Merrill Baker 04 902 4134 or 0273532307

To those celebrating birthdays in December and January we send Birthday Greetings to you. For those with Anniversary celebrations may you enjoy your special day.

We think of those who are unwell at present whether at home or in hospital and we hope you will soon be feeling better.

On the 6 December Mary White of the Raumati Congregation, is moving to live in Birchville, Upper Hutt. We will miss Mary very much but hopefully she will visit us from time to time and thus contact will still be maintained. Our very best wishes go with you Mary in your move to Upper Hutt.

A Waikanae Parishioner who is moving soon to Greytown, is Pat Souness. Our very best wishes to you Pat as you make your new home in the Wairarapa.

**The Pastoral team send Christmas Greetings to all in our Parish and may you enjoy the Christmas season and have a Healthy and Happy New Year. Lyn, Merrill, Diane, Erice, Bastiana, Diana, Carole and Dianne.**



Kapiti Uniting Parish

# Children's Christmas Carol Service



Join us for afternoon tea,  
Christmas carols and a story

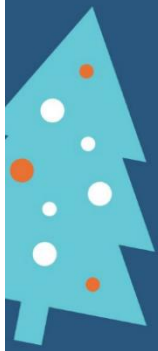


Wednesday 4 December, 2.45pm - 4pm  
Raumati Church, 10 Weka Road

Afternoon tea served  
from 2.45 pm  
Carols and story at 3.20 pm

Free event  
All ages welcome

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



# CWS Christmas appeal 2024

Kia ora, a, he mihi tomua o te Kirihimete, greetings and a very early Merry Christmas

During your preparation for the approaching festive season of Advent, centered on love, hope, joy and peace, our hope at CWS is that we can assist you to convey to your congregation the compassion that Christ embodied. Especially compassion for people who have, for no fault of their own, found themselves becoming among the last and the least in the world.

At CWS, we are called to bring home and practical assistance to those caught in the injustices of poverty. Our partners are the hands of Christ, declaring good news to the poor, the oppressed, and those often with little other hope for a better future.

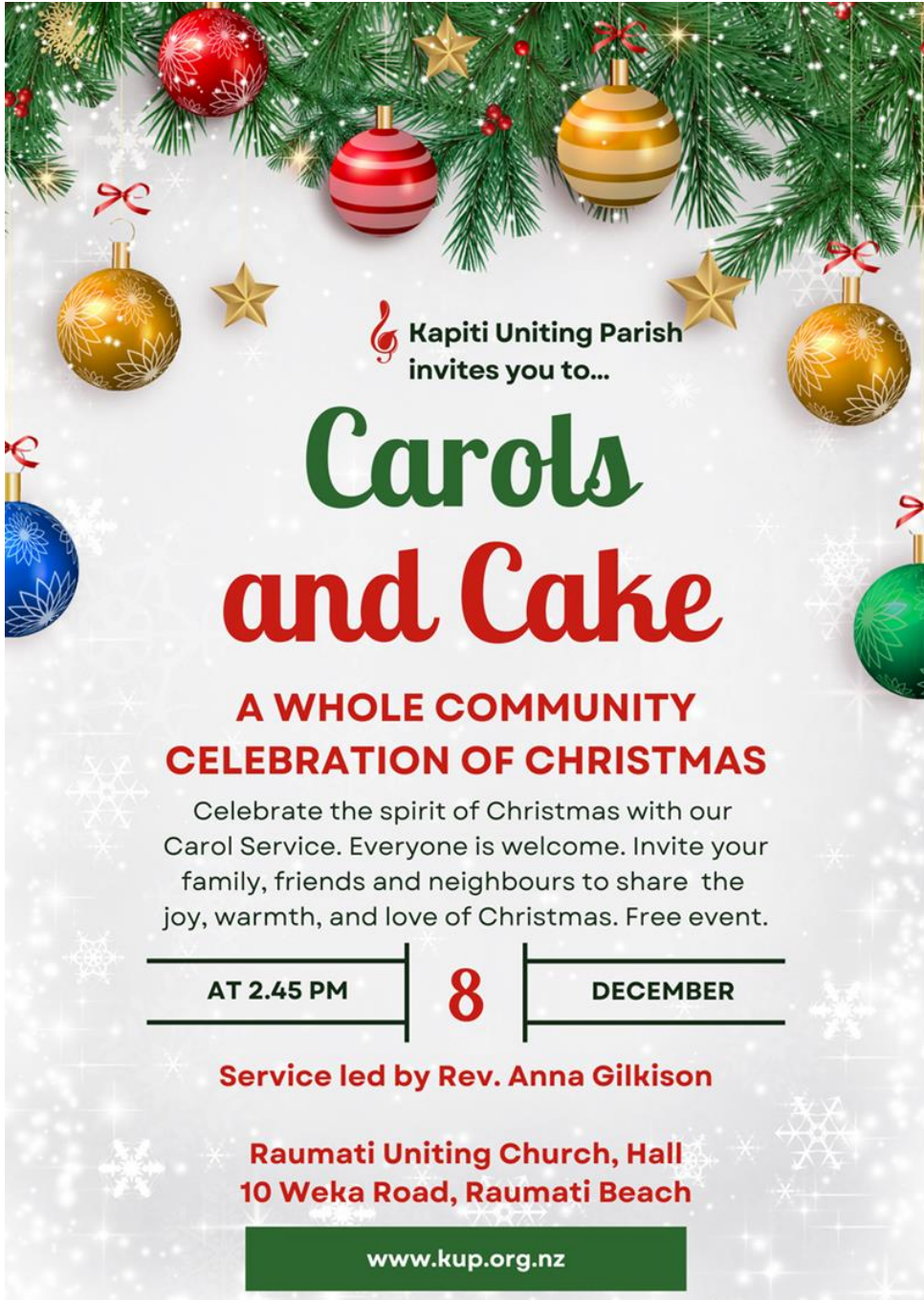
With that better future in mind and heart, this year we focus on Oceania, and the changing impacts of rising sea levels, severe weather events, and environmental degradation. These are only worsening the already fragile well-being of our Pacific family of small communities. They are vulnerable to climate changes and confronted with challenges associated with food insecurity, water scarcity, water pollution and the destruction of vital ecosystems. Hence, the theme for this year's CWS Christmas Appeal is:


## Give climate hope this Christmas

**Leaflets, donation envelopes, and order forms are available at the Raumati and Waikanae Churches or see [CWS.org.nz](http://CWS.org.nz)**



*Retired Tongan police officer Vai Mafi is now involved with farming and food security, researching solutions and teaching the next generation*



 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 2.45 PM

8

DECEMBER

Service led by Rev. Anna Gilkison

Raumati Uniting Church, Hall  
10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach

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



# ADVENT IS HERE

Word search by Rosalie Sugrue

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

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angels, baby, Bethlehem, born, donkey, frankincense, Gabriel, God, gold, hay, Herod, hope, inn, Jerusalem, Jews, Joseph, joy, Judah, king, love, manger, peace, Mary, myrrh, sheep, shepherds, stable, star, wise men

Find a message in the unused letters:

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Answer on page 25

# Raumati Women's Fellowship

Our next meeting will be held on the 12 December at 10am in the meeting room. The theme is The Spirit of Christmas.

Please bring a gift for Women's Refuge to place around the Christmas tree. You can leave your gift unwrapped, gifts are particularly needed for teenage boys.

**All are welcome.** Contacts: Lyn Martin 04 904 8361 and  
Merrill Baker 04 902 4134 or 027 353 2307

## Christmas Presents for Women's Refuge

Again this year we are hoping Kapiti Uniting members will support the Women's Refuge by donating Christmas presents for the families they have 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 have to be wrapped as the Women's Refuge workers will need to see which gift is suitable for each mother or young person.



Women's Refuge is always very grateful for the presents we donate.

**Please put the gifts under the Christmas Tree by Sunday 15 December.**

# Proposed Treaty Principles Bill

With our Partner Churches, Kapiti Uniting Parish affirms its unwavering commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which commitment is embedded in the mission statements of our partner churches - and which we regard as a sacred covenant,. As a bicultural church rooted in the principles of Te Tiriti, we are profoundly concerned about the implications of the Treaty Principles Bill currently before Parliament.

With our partner churches, we oppose any legislative attempt to dilute or diminish the status of Te Tiriti o Waitangi or to undermine the principles that have been established through hard-won progress..

We recognise Te Tiriti as a covenant between tangata whenua and tauwiwi, grounded in a theological understanding of covenantal partnership.

**For Kapiti Uniting Parish, this sacred covenant calls us to be a prophetic voice for justice and truth. Our bicultural journey is a spiritual commitment to power-sharing and mutual respect, one that reflects our belief in the transforming love of God for all people.**



# Raumati Playgroup

*This term at playgroup the children have been very busy letting their imaginations go wild*



*We had a dress up day and the kids made some fairy wands*



*On a sunny Thursday we made the most of the nice weather and did water play on the deck and we also had lots of fun with "celebration Playdough" where the kids made pretend cakes and cupcakes.*

We have been doing some very fun activities such as playing with "dirt" playdough (which is made from coffee grinds) and used natural resources like sticks, leaves and shells.



I have been very impressed with the engagement of the children with the music time and how much they have been enjoying playtime and crafts - I always look forward to seeing what they create.

We have welcomed a number of new children and caregivers this term and I am hoping the sessions will continue to grow.

Thank you to Maureen Calhaem, Marie Smith, and all the other volunteers who help to make the playgroup such a fun environment for the children and the adults

Our last playgroup of the year will be on Thursday 12 December. We wish all our families and volunteers a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you next year.

***Monica Simpson***



## **A New Fijian Methodist Congregation in Kapiti was officially inducted and established on the 10th November 2024.**

The induction service was led by Reverend Alipate Livani, the Wasewase Superintendent or Talatala Qase of the Wasewase Synod, joined by five Fijian presbyters representing the five Circuits across the North and South Islands that constitute the Wasewase Synod in New Zealand.

The President of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma, the Reverend Dr Semisi Turagavou, was present as well as members of the Koroturaga Fijian Wesley congregation from the Wesley Wellington Parish in Wellington were also in attendance to provide support to the new congregation.

The congregation's first-ever Catechist, or Vakatawa, Maikali Bulicakau, was inducted along with the newly appointed members of the executive committee who will now serve the new congregation.

The Kapiti Fijian congregation is made up of Fijian families who live and work along the Kapiti coast and nearby areas. They use the Raumati Church for their meetings most Sundays.



*Reverend Dr Semisi Turagavou (sitting in the middle) with Rev. Anna Gilkison of the Kapiti Uniting Parish and senior ministers and their wives after the Kapiti Fijian congregation induction service on November 10.*





Reverend Dr. Semisi Turagavou accepts a whale's tooth in the Fijian traditional ceremony of welcome accorded to him at Kapiti on November 10.



*A celebratory meal*



**Thanks to Dianne Boyce and her neighbour Diana Harding for decorating the Raumati church and foyer – we are now ready for Advent and the children’s Christmas Service.**

## Parish Directory

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

### Parish Council:

Secretary: Jan Rae 021 1127739  
janiserae47@gmail.com

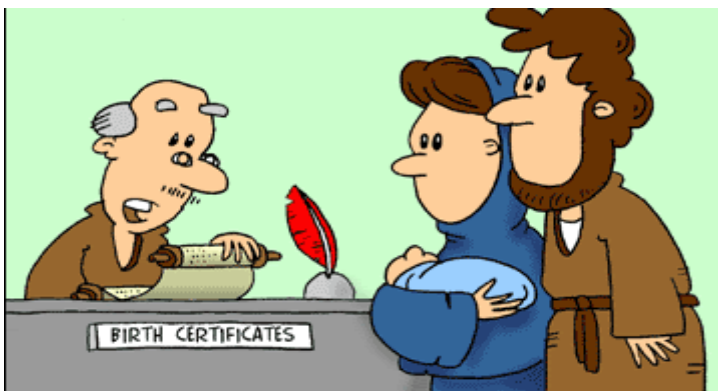
Treasurer: Cathy Drummond 04 902 5809  
kuptreasurer@gmail.com

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

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

## December: Regular Events

<b>Tuesdays</b>	<b>10am-12pm</b>	<b>Women's Craft Group, Raumati</b>
	<b>11am-4pm</b>	<b>Thrifty Place</b>
<b>Thursdays</b>	<b>10am-12pm</b>	<b>Raumati Playgroup (until 12<sup>th</sup>)</b>
	<b>11am-4pm</b>	<b>Thrifty Place</b>
<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>10.30am-1pm</b>	<b>Thrifty Place (until 15<sup>th</sup>)</b>



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-20-2000

*'Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' is a bit long for this form...you might want to just use 'Jesus'*



Help support New Zealand's finest young singers  
*and*  
indulge in a rich and innovative Christmas experience  
at Raumati Church, 21 December at 4.00pm



### **Programme:**

We begin in the cruel winter with Velja Tormis' harrowing Autumn Landscapes and Philip Stopfords Lully, Lulla, Lullay, unfurling into the awakening spring through Paul Mealor's Now Sleeps the Crimson Petal and Reena Esmail's The Unexpected Early Hour.

The programme bursts into the festive summer season with classics including by Eric Whitacre, Dobrinka Tabakova, and Felix Mendelssohn. This concert also centres local composers, including Igelese Ete, Anthony Ritchie, and Reuben Rameka.

*Kassandra Wang of the choir says: - we are thrilled to be touring Asia and Europe in 2025, including representing New Zealand at the Grand Prix of Nations in Denmark and Choir of the World competition in Wales. All proceeds will go towards establishing an equity-based hardship fund to ensure that no singer is left behind due to financial strain.*

**Raumati Church, 10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach, Paraparaumu  
Saturday 21 December 2024 4:00pm - 5:30pm**

Tickets available from: <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2024/the-firefly-wakens-nz-youth-choir-fundraiser/kapiti-coast>  
or the Eventfinda ticket kiosk in Coastlands Mall

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Answer to word search: *MERRY CHRISTMAS*



# 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 10 am



[www.kup.org.nz](http://www.kup.org.nz)  
Phone 04 902 5809



## December: for your diary

2	11.30am – 2pm	Thrifty Place Volunteers lunch
3	2-3pm	Advent Study at Waikanae
4	2.45pm	Children’s Service and afternoon tea
		Raumati
5	10am -12pm	Raumati Playgroup
8	2.45pm	Parish Carol Singing and Tea, Raumati
10	10am-12pm	Pastoral Care, Raumati
	2-3pm	Advent Study at Waikanae
11	10-11.30am	Property and Finance Group
	11am	Advent Service at Sevenoaks
12	10am – 12pm	Raumati Women’s Fellowship
	10am -12pm	Raumati Playgroup - <i>last one of the year</i>
	11am	Raumati piano tuning
14	10.30am – 1pm	Thrifty Place <i>last one of this year</i>
		<i>Reopening date 11 January</i>
17	2-3pm	Advent Study at Waikanae
19	10.30am -12pm	Coastal Villas Advent service
20	10am-12pm	Parish Council, Raumati
24	Midday	Parish Office closing
		<i>reopening 7 January</i>

## December Services

	<b>Waikanae 10am</b>	<b>United@9 9am</b>	<b>Raumati 10am</b>
<b>1 Dec</b>	Carole Rudings and Kate Foley	Rev Robin List HC	Rev Anna Gilkison HC
<b>2.45 Wed 4 Dec</b>	Children's Service and afternoon tea Raumati		
<b>8 Dec</b>	Rev Anna Gilkison HC	Barrie Woods with United@9	
	<i>Special congregational meetings after services to approve Annual Financial Reports</i>		
<b>2.45pm Sun 8 Dec</b>	Carol singing and tea at the Raumati hall		
<b>15 Dec</b>	Readings and Carols Worship Group	Rev Anna Gilkison	Maureen Calhaem
<b>22 Dec</b>	Christmas Service Worship Group	Rev Roger Wiig	
<b>24 Dec 9pm</b>	Rev Anna Gilkison at Raumati		
<b>25 Dec</b>	<b>9am</b> Rev John and Diana Roberts	<b>10am</b> Rev Anna Gilkison	
<b>29 Dec 10am</b>	Rev Anna Gilkison at Raumati		

**Advent Study at Waikanae, led by Rev Anna Gilkison**  
2pm on Tuesdays 26 November, 3, 10, 17, December