Services - December and January

Date	Waikanae	Raumati		Paekakariki
	9.15am	United@9 9 am	10 am	10.30am
2 December **1st Advent**	Maureen Calhaem	Rev. Cornelia Grant HC	Rosalie Sugrue	Rev. Cornelia Grant HC
5 December	Children's Christmas Carols - 3 pm Raumati Church			
9 December **2nd Advent**	Rev. Cornelia Grant HC	Rosalie Sugrue	Rev. Stuart Grant HC	TBC
16 December **3rd Advent**	Own Service	Don Niccol	Rev. Roger Wiig	TBC
23 December **4th Advent**	Diana Roberts	Combined with Raumati 10 am	Colin Anderson	No Service
24 December **Christmas Eve**			Rev. Stuart Grant **7.30 pm**	
25 December **Christmas Day**	Diana Roberts		Rev. Roger Wiig **9.30 am**	Rev. Stuart Grant **9.30 am**
30 December	Rev. John Roberts		David Davis	Rev. Stuart Grant HC
6 January	Rev. John Roberts		Colin Anderson	
13 January	Rev. Stuart Grant HC		Rev. Roger Wiig HC	
20 January	Rosalie Sugrue		Rev. Stuart Grant	
27 January	Rev. Cornelia Grant		Maureen Calhaem	

KAPITI UNITING PARISH

Christian Churches of NZ - Methodist - Presbyterian

TOGETHER

December 2018/January 2019
Christmas Edition

Another year comes to an end. We have had a good and busy year in our church life. If we look at the greater scheme of things and happenings in the wider world we would have to say we are very much blessed.

Advent - the four Sundays of preparation leading up to Christmas - serves to bring these blessings into our consciousness. On the other hand, Advent reminds us that Christmas cannot be rushed. Just as there is no Easter without Good Friday, so there is no Christmas without Advent. Mary, like any other mother, had to wait nine months for her baby to be born. The time of waiting gives us the opportunity to slow down, to reflect, and to see with new eyes what Christmas is all about.

Contrary to what the commercial world tells us, it is not about tinsel and glitter and food. It is about God's presence among us human beings. It is about relationships between God and humanity and flowing on from that between humans and humans and the rest of creation.

It is about a new beginning, a new world order where ordinary people like Mary or the shepherds experience life-changing insights in their relationship with God. God is available and accessible to all, not only the learned.

Our Christian World Service Christmas Appeal this year is based on this knowledge. Around the world, CWS ground workers reach out to folk who are overlooked by their own societies or economic structures.

Christian World Service's theme is based on some of the United Nations Sustainability Goals. CWS tries to bring a spark of new light and new beginnings into people's lives:

On 1st Advent to cyclone-prone little islands in Tonga;

On 2nd Advent to Palestinians (as I write there is a new outbreak of armed violence between Hamas and Israel);

On 3rd Advent to people in South Sudan ekeing out an existence in refugee camps or in never-ceasing hostilities outside the camps.

On 4th Advent supporting women and girls in South India, where violence against them is on the increase.

On Christmas Day we think of the people of Haiti as they face their annual destructive cyclone season.

All over the world weather patterns are becoming more violent and destructive.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas remind us that in Jesus Christ God reaches out to humanity.

Through the prophets of old we are also reminded that we are called to take care of creation in a responsible way. Our exploitative use of creation has to stop now if we and our children and grandchildren want to continue living on this planet Earth.

Wherever you are over this Advent and Christmas season and during the holiday time in January, may you be carriers of hope, peace, joy and love in the families and communities where you live. May you safely return if you are travelling to be with family or friends.

For those of you who are housebound through ill health or old age, may you still experience God's love and peace in your life.

December/January: for your diary

December

Sun	1st	2 pm	Raumati Village Community Garden Workshop
Tue	4th	2 pm	Afternoon Women's Fellowship, Raumati
Wed	5th	3 pm	Children's Christmas Carols, Raumati
Thur	7th	1.30 pm	Raumati Domestic Property Group
Sat	8th	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast, Raumati
Mon	10th	1.30 pm	1-2-3 Board Games!, Raumati
		7 pm	Parenting Through the Storm, 1 Weka Road
Tue	11th	10 am	Pastoral Care Group, Raumati
		7.30 pm	Parish Council, Raumati
Thur	13th	10 am	Raumati Morning Women's Fellowship, Raumati
Fri	14th	10 am	Kapiti Counselling Service, 14 Compass Court
Sat	15th	12.30 pm	Thrifty Place closes for 2018
Fri	21st	12 pm	Parish Office closes for 2018

January

Fri	25th		**Deadline for February Together**
Sat	26th		Thrifty Place re-opens
Tue	29th	9 am	Parish Office re-opens
		10 am	Messy Church Review meeting, Raumati

February

Fri	1st	10am	Folding and distribution of February Together

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December/January: regular events

Tuesdays	10 am	Women's Craft Group Lower Lounge, Raumati *(term-time)*
	1 - 4pm	Thrifty Place *(Last day 15 December. Closed 18 December - opens 26 January)*
Wednesdays	9.15am	Paekakariki Café Playgroup *(term-time)*
	1 - 4 pm	Thrifty Place
	4 pm	F.I.T. Exercises, Raumati
Thursdays	9.30 am	Raumati Café Playgroup *(term-time)*
Fridays	9.30 am	Waikanae Café Playgroup *(term-time)*
Saturdays	10 am - 12.30 pm	Thrifty Place

(*Café Playgroup ends for 2018 on 12 December in Paekakariki, 13 December in Raumati and 14 December in Waikanae and starts back in Raumati on 7 February, Waikanae on 8 February and Paekakariki 13 February.)*

Parish Office Closure

The office will close on Friday 21 December at 12 pm and re-open on Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 9 am.

Urgent phone and email messages will be checked regularly.

Please contact Derek Townsend on 905 4751 or 021 124 4091 for office and Raumati property matters.

Thank you to everyone for all your help and support this year.
Wishing you all a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

Kate Foley

God's blessings to you all for December and into the New Year.

Cornelia Grant

P.S. You won't see me in any Christmas services this year as I am having hip surgery and will be out of action till the end of January.

~

About people

Congratulations to Maureen Calhaem who has completed her Diploma in Christian Studies. Maureen will travel to Auckland in early December to be presented with her Diploma. We are proud of you Maureen.

We wish a Happy Birthday to Erice Carley who had a special birthday on 24 November.

Happy Birthday to all those who have had birthdays recently or are about to have them in December and January.

We sadly record the recent passing of Kay Hollis.

We also sadly record the recent passing of Pauline Michl.

Our sympathy goes to any parishioners who are unwell or in hospital or moving to other levels of care. Our thoughts are with you all.

May you all enjoy the spirit of Christmas in the coming festive season.

Diane Ammundsen
Pastoral Group Convenor

For community or church?

Following our recent successful Fair, Roger Wiig was moved to write the following reflection on the event. The committee considered it at the "fair wrap-up" meeting and were very positive about many of the suggestions made.

We will look at it again in the middle of next year when we start preparations for the next fair and hopefully find ways of putting Roger's ideas into action.

Stuart Grant

It was a good fair! Thanks must be given to all who planned it, prepared for it, volunteered for the many jobs it created and that contributed to its success. It was a gift to see the number of smiling faces, the energy and thought that had been put into the stalls and what had been prepared and offered for sale. It was obvious that there was enjoyment in working together. It was a long and successful day.

I guess I have been to at least 50 church fairs and I have never asked: what is a church fair? How is that different from the fair run by the local school? Are they both only means for making money with the side-benefits of helping people get to know one another and getting the satisfaction of doing something together for a good cause? Could it be that a church fair offers something more than items for sale and food to eat?

As I trundled the chairs back into their places, with others setting up the church at the end of the day, I recognised what a huge job had been put into the set up of the stalls and the spaces they occupied. Did all the spaces work well? Year by year there seems to be set places for each of the stalls. Is that just habit or does their location contribute to their success?

But then I thought there were other more important questions: how might our fair raise money and give witness to our faith? How does what we do contribute to our growth in faith and the well-being of the community in which we are set? Is anything or anyone changed by what we do?

Kapiti Counselling Service

The Parish's own professional counselling service is available for confidential counselling or discussions for any member of the Parish or their family.

The counsellors are Marie Livesey, Penny Currier, Angela Claridge and Syd Mepham.

Phone 905 2374. Please leave a message and contact will be made.

PARISH OFFICE AND CENTRE BOOKINGS

Parish Administrator:	Kate Foley
Phone:	902 5809
Address:	10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach
Office Hours:	Tuesday - Friday 9am - 12 noon
Office e-mail:	kapitiuniting@outlook.com
Parish Website:	www.kapitiunitingparish.org.nz
Waikanae Church:	Corner of Ngapaki and Taiata Streets, Waikanae
Paekakariki Church:	Ocean Road, Paekakariki

PARISH DIRECTORY

Minister and acting parish council chair:	Rev. Cornelia Grant	902 1620
Parish council secretary:	Jan Rae	298 2562
Parish administrator and Together editor:	Kate Foley kapitiuniting@outlook.com	902 5809
Treasurer:	Dina Zaripova zaripova.din@gmail.com	027 528 4107
Family-community worker	Angelique Monaghan family.kapitiuniting@gmail.com	027 484 6481
Counselling centre:	Kapiti Counselling Centre, Raumati	905 2374

Raumati Women's Morning Fellowship
Upcoming events

All women are invited to our Christmas meeting to be held on Thursday 13 December at 10 am, in Raumati. Please bring a wrapped gift for Women's Refuge and label whether for a boy or girl and age or for the mother. This will be a Christmas programme followed by morning tea.

New Beginnings Communion Service

The New Beginnings Communion service will be held on Thursday 7 February at 10 am, in the church at Raumati, led by Rev. Cornelia Grant. All welcome.

New Year Dinner

The New Year dinner will be held on Thursday 14 February in the Church hall, Raumati at 6 pm for a 6.30 pm start.

Cost is $5 per person. Women and men are invited to attend. Please bring a salad or dessert and contact Merrill Baker phone 9024134 by 10 February if you wish to attend.

Ephesus in Kapiti

The next Ephesus meeting will be on Sunday 10 March. Information about the 2019 programme will be in the February "Together".

Very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all Ephesians.

Agusta McRae

So, I gave my imagination some exercise. What if we left the church set up as for Sunday worship? What if music was played in that space? Or a PowerPoint presentation ran on the screen at the front to describe what work we are doing for the community, or what it means to be a member of our faith community, or what being a Christian involves? Or, what if there were paintings or sculpture to enjoy in silence?

What if the lounge was set up to provide welcoming hospitality and be the place where morning tea was served? What if more of the stalls were packed into the hall in a way that created a buzz and invited people to move around and through them?

It is easy to ask questions after the event. But asking what we are doing and why is a consequence of listening to, and hearing, the biblical message. It should be a normal part of our faithful life. It is a responsibility we all have.

I have to confess that I haven't been involved in planning or organising church fairs. Others have willingly carried that load and accepted that responsibility, so my questions may just be an irritation. But at the fair I did hear others asking questions too. What time of the year do we have it? What space do we make available to other people who like to sell items they have created or collected? Couldn't we have some of those flags that Thrifty Place put out that just say 'Church Fair here today!'

So maybe, before the next fair, we could all share our questions and then plan the event making it a 'Church' fair rather than just a money raiser. I guess I should join the planning group, or shut up. But the key questions remain: how does what we do contribute to our growth in faith and the well-being of the community in which we are set? Is anything or anyone changed by what we do?

Rev. Roger Wiig

Christian World Service - Christmas Appeal 2018
"Be the lifeline"

Welcome to the 2018 Christmas Appeal. The envelopes for the appeal are being delivered with this December/January edition of Together.

Through this appeal our church can share its concern for our world – making sure the hungry are fed, the thirsty have water, and the dignity of all people is respected. Your support in the past has given families food, water, clothes, and access to education and justice – something they would not have without your gifts – thank you!

Please keep up the tradition that Kapiti Uniting Parish has developed over the years and give generously once again!

Christian World Service uses your gifts carefully, using its strong relationships with local partner groups and confidence in their ability to improve the lives of people in their communities.

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Christmas Presents for Women's Refuge

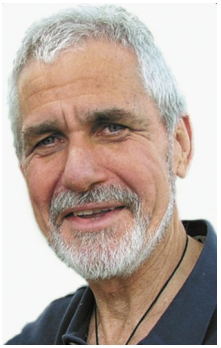
For many years we have helped the Women's Refuge by providing Christmas presents for some of the women and children under their care. They have been very grateful for the support Kapiti Uniting Parish has given them and we plan to do the same again this year. Please label each gift for a mother or for a child and also put the sex and approximate age of the child who would enjoy it.

Please put your gifts under the Christmas Tree in Raumati by Sunday 16 December.

WOMEN'S REFUGE

Parish Men's Group
Christmas Breakfast

An invitation extended to all men and women to share in the Christmas Breakfast in the Raumati Church Hall at 8.30 am on Saturday 8 December. *Ticket have been selling fast! Get in quick!*



Of special note is that our guest speaker will be baritone Rodney Macann, whose singing enthralled the audience at the September recital. He will talk about his experiences as a professional opera singer.

Charge $10, or $15 per couple.
Tickets from Syd Mepham 293 6557,
Don Smith 905 7229 or Bruce Johnston 9023771.

Synod at Masterton

17 November 2018

The final LNIS (Lower North Island) Synod for the year was held in Masterton (1st time this century!)

It was good to be welcomed by Rod and Audrey Fleury (ex-KUP folk) who were part of the catering team. I travelled with Doug and Eileen Bilitho from Levin (my first time on the winding Pahiatua Track).

Following LNIS November tradition there was a service to recognise those in our district who since Conference: have been received into Full Connexion (Rev Paul Rogers); those who have or are moving (Revs Susan Paterson, Sue Brown, Sandra Williams and Ian Body; those who have given national service to the Church and died in the past two years: Rev Frank and Nelma Woodfield, Gwenda Falepau, Joan Weeks, Dekek Holland, Rev Wilfred Cable, Rev Lewis Bowden.

Vice President Nicola Grundy then led a PowerPoint session on the current presidential theme, 'Weaving Us Together to Proclaim Life.'

After lunch David Hanna of Wesley Community Action gave a PowerPoint presentation of the inspirational plans for the redevelopment of Wesleyhaven retirement village and hospital (Naenae) as a community of affordable housing (with substantial Government funding) that involves supporting a wonderful range of locals from a Masterton prefab factory to supporting young people in the construction industry, youngsters in a bush kindergarten, and community craft groups. There was a short business session that included explaining the new format for collection and distribution of Synod levies and how this relates to Uniting parishes, followed by an interesting informal session on what is happening in parishes within the Synod. The sessions were chaired by the co-superintendents Rev. Tony Franklin-Ross and Ian Harris.

Having left home at 7:30 am I was pleased to be safely home just before 6 pm.

Rosalie Sugrue

Trade Aid

Christmas has arrived in the Coastlands Trade Aid store and they have a wide variety of gifts and the items that tell the Christmas story, such as miniature creche models, stars and trees and the things that we hang on our Christmas trees.

There are a great variety of angels and I've tried to capture in photos as many of the products as possible. There are, of course, so many other things that are part of Christmas festivities.

The artisans represented here are supported by two organisations far apart from each other ~ *The Community Crafts Association of the Philippines (CCAP)* and *Manos Amigas* operating in Peru.

As is the case with many of the hand-crafted products at Trade Aid, the associations ensure that the income from sales is fairly distributed to those who make the products.

Like us, many of them will be looking for the star and remembering the Christ Child, so we can help them by our purchases.

Blessings to you all and your families.

Don Niccol

In a museum in Europe two years ago I was confronted with a concentration camp uniform with a pink triangle. The uniform had been worn by a gay man.

Another day I walking on the ground where the Grand Synagogue had once stood in a capital city. The memorial said the synagogue had been burnt to its foundations by locals on the 3rd day of the occupation in 1941. I later read that the Jews of that place thought they would be protected by their neighbours.

How quickly we can turn on each other. Those who are different, who belong to a different tribe, class, religion or sexuality. Those who live on the other side of the sea, border, river, or railway track.

Also on this day 55 years ago something good happened. In 1945 the International Committee of the Red Cross received the Nobel Peace Prize for 1944 because the Committee, by its action throughout the war, had held aloft the fundamental conception of the solidarity of the whole human race.

So today with tribalism and nationalism on the increase, where civil rights are being lost in some countries, where self interest has been brought to new levels and truth for some is becoming a concept confined to history, I want to do something different for my birthday.

Let your gift, your celebration of my 60th, be an occasion for you to build a bridge to someone who is different from you. A member of another tribe, religion, gender, age group. Sign a petition for the rights of another person, group of people, or even the planet.

The best gift I could receive is to know that you and your friends are all building bridges with people, that on this day, 80 years after the 'Night of Glass' a wave of 'goodwill' will spread around the world. That the 9th of November, 9/11, will not be tainted by evil but will be a day where loving **respect** will lead people to be **responsible** for ensuring the **rights** of those who are different.

Have an interesting day, with birthday love.
Ross Scott, Wellington

Contributed by The Very Rev. Marg Schrader

My 60th Birthday Invitation

At 5 am on a Sunday morning 60 years ago I was born. My parents were farmers and I the youngest of three. In the small rural community of Pukerau in Southland, New Zealand, life was good. And I have been blessed with much in this life. A secure childhood home, an education, parenthood, two loving relationships to good people. And now parenthood for a second time, along with being a grandfather.

I have also known the shadow sides of people. Ridiculed for being dyslexic. Bullied as a gentle boy and as a compassionate man. I have faced discrimination as a gay man, and exclusion because of my Christian faith. I too confess to being guilty of inflicting pain on others, though usually not from intention.

And I have experienced love. The love of my parents, family and friends. The parish and people of Ngatea who stood with me in love when I was outed as a gay minister: their love I'll never forget. I can still well up with tears as I think of it. I have experienced love as people have fought for my rights. And in small ways I have had the great privilege of loving others.

I have come to believe in the three "R's": Respect, Responsibility and Rights. Out of **respect** for you I have a **responsibility** to see to your basic **rights.**

As I said, this has been a blessed life so far. A reason to celebrate. But this day is also the anniversary of a dark day in human history. The 'Night of Glass,' *Kristallnacht*. 80 years ago, 1938. I quote from Wikipedia:

"Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked, as the attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. The rioters destroyed 267 synagogues throughout Germany, Austria, and the Sudetenland, and over 7,000 Jewish businesses were either destroyed or damaged." A significant moment in the beginning of what we now call 'The Holocaust'.

Methodist Church Climate Justice Policy

A Climate Justice Policy has been prepared by the Public Issues Network and was revised at the Church Conference in October. Below are excerpts from the policy.

Vision
Climate Change and inequality represent the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one social and environmental crisis, to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Key policy guidelines for Climate Justice

Special approach of the Church:

a) While our Government in Aotearoa New Zealand is currently developing policy that is durable and aligned with climate responsibility, our church's faith-based values are unique. Our approach to climate justice then comes from love as well as just moral obligation.

b) In this land we will ensure that Māori cultural values are embedded into climate justice decisions and activities that include concepts of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and whakapapa (kinship relations).

c) Samoan,Tongan, Fijian, and Rotuman values also enhance our mission and commitment to climate justice, through concepts such as faaaloalo (respect) and sootaga (quality of relational life).

d) Climate justice ensures that those with fewer resources are not further disadvantaged by changes in living costs, energy costs and jobs, and able to participate in and benefit from changes to a zero carbon economy.

e) *Just Transition* means that changes in the economy involve planning and policy for retraining and education opportunities in low emissions work and occupations. This includes policy for

Messy Church

November was our last Messy church event for the year and we explored the theme of Christmas.

There were three stations; The Wise Men, The Shepherd's and Mary, Joseph and Jesus and they all had correlating activities. There was stable building out of cardboard boxes, pin the tail on the camel, mask making and an array of other activities that were all well received.

Each family was given a book on the story of Christmas to take home and share, these will also be available at the Children's Christmas Carols.

Thank you to every one of our Messy Church volunteers, who have worked tirelessly this year to be able to hold this monthly event. From our core team to our helpers in the kitchen, serving, setting up and hosting activities. Messy Church wouldn't be such a success without all your hard work!

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year for Messy Church fun.

Angelique Monaghan

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday/Wednesday: 1-4pm
Saturday : 10am -12.30pm

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Kapiti Uniting Parish
10 Weka Road, Raumati Beach
Phone: 04 902 5809

Thrifty Place will close for the holidays on Saturday 15 December and re-open on Saturday 26 January.

We wish all our customers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

industry and agriculture for long-term planning and avoidance of stranded assets.

f) Responsible investment is a work-in-progress for churches, with divestment and mission-focussed investment as points for attention.

Climate Justice Policy for the Methodist Church of NZ
Te Hāahi Weteriana o Aotearoa includes:

1. To deepen loving relationships with all forms of life and Papatuanuku. It includes learning and teaching, joining with ecumenical activities and other groups to become informed, to join in local activities to stop pollution, to contribute to consultations and policy in the church.

2. To support the well-being of present and future generations by setting our course to safeguard nature now and by sharing resources equitably.

3. The church will support investment and development initiatives of the church that align with transitions to net zero carbon emissions.

4. To engage in advocacy, including political advocacy, for policy to support transitions to zero carbon and climate justice.

Thank you Howard

Howard has decided after six years to say goodbye to his much loved column. Many thanks Howard, for writing interesting and entertaining articles which certainly gave us all plenty of things to think about.

Thank you to all our Together contributors for 2018, and to John Lawton who proof reads each issue and has taken photos all year for us all to enjoy.

Kate Foley

70 Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

Thank you very much to everyone who gave to Operation Christmas Child this year, either by donating a shoebox filled with items for children in need or by giving a cash donation towards postage.

We sent over 70 boxes to the children in the Philippines. Such a fantastic effort by everyone, thank you very much.

Don't forget you can start collecting now for next year! Stationery and clothing items are generally on sale early in the New Year, so don't delay! We have a large supply of boxes in the office that can be collected at any time throughout the year.

Kate Foley

Prayer Requests

May be made verbally or by text/email/phone to:
Mary White 298 7727 or marywhite@xtra.co.nz
Merrill Baker 902 4134 or amkram.nz@gmail.com
Marion Bowker 021 103 3623
Liqin Chin Liqinfeijoa@gmail.com

Your name will not be used without your permission.
A small carefully-selected group of your Church Family will be praying.
They will not discuss these requests with anyone else,
unless you require them to.
We do not necessarily need details as **'God'** will know the facts.

Please be aware that these are the contact names for requests.
A larger group not named here are praying.

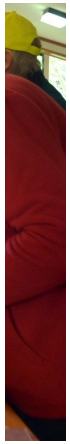
Walk 2 D'Feet MND

Over 100 people dressed in blue, descended on the grounds of our Raumati church on Sunday 11 November for the Walk 2 D'Feet MND (Motor Neurone Disease). Registration was held on our grounds and the walk took place at Weka Park, across the road.

My friend Shauntelle, who is in her early 40's, was diagnosed with MND four years ago. Shauntelle is wife to Goldy, and mum to Tandia (11) and Caden (8). Shauntelle organised the Kapiti Coast walk as part of a yearly nationwide event, with walks held around various cities to raise awareness, and funds to aid research and support those living with MND.

The event was a huge success with over $2,000 raised.

Kate Foley



Parish Fair 2018

Waikanae Congregation News

Worship is at the heart of the life of the Waikanae congregation. All Saints Day fell on Thursday 1 November this year. On the preceding Sunday John Roberts led worship on the theme of 'Living Saints: the spirit of the beatitudes', thinking of saints as people who live simply, hopefully and compassionately. On Sunday 4 November Cornelia Grant reflected on several saints from earlier years and expectations for achieving sainthood in different communities past and present. Stuart Grant's 11 November service marked the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, remembering the end of the First World War in 1918. His reflection was based on the Book of Ruth. On 18 November Diana Roberts used the lectionary readings to consider 'The World Upside Down'. John Roberts marked 'The Reign of Christ' on 25 November, the last Sunday of the church year. In December we begin a new Church year with the season of **Advent**. We will be using the advent wreath and lighting the traditional candles of hope, peace, joy and love each Sunday till we light the Christ Candle on Christmas Day. The candle lighting liturgies will be based on a Christian World Service resource with the overall theme of 'Be the Lifeline'. We will be supporting the CWS Christmas appeal for the overseas aid and development projects it sponsors.

Pastoral care is central to the life of our congregation. Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us, and Waikanae members care for those of our congregation who are troubled or unwell. Cornelia our Presbyter carries a pastoral responsibility for all members of KUP - an impossible task for her alone - and we gladly take up our share. Being alongside those who suffer is not seen as the job of the designated 'Pastoral Care Person' (Diana) : we are all pastoral carers. Our people uphold each other in the face of anxieties for our families, declining health and independence, pain and loss, with loving prayers, companionship and practical help. John and Diana regularly take Communion to those who cannot attend the services.

We will greatly miss **Pauline Michl** who died on 8 November with her funeral service, led by Cornelia Grant, taking place in the Waikanae church on 15 November. Pauline was a much-loved member of the Waikanae congregation. She played the organ for church services over 22 years; was treasurer for Women's Fellowship for 18 years and was involved in District MWF matters. Pauline was a good listener and an active pastoral care person for our congregation over a number of years. The wonderful food she provided is remembered with pleasure. She also served on the local church committee. We extend our love and support to Friedl, Jane and Murray, Andrew and Denise, Linda, and all family members.

An open invitation was extended to the wider congregation to join the **Women's Fellowship** for the final gathering of the year – a lunch at the home of John and Diana Roberts on 20th November. We shared in devotions, and in Julie Pratt's Christmas wreath-making, and enjoyed lunch outdoors. We remembered those who were unable to be with us, and we spoke of what Pauline had meant to us.

The Friday morning **Friday Playgroup** has had an enjoyable year. Numbers have been a bit low at times and there is space for more children. It is good to see the growth and developmental progress of the children, particularly the newborns. Parents enjoy the opportunity to meet other parents. We have been fortunate to receive two grants from the Ministry of Education, during the year. Thanks to Judith Bradley, Toni Weir, Marie Smith and co-ordinator Melissa McGregor.

At the **annual parish fair** held on Saturday 27 October in the Raumati church complex Waikanae staffed the bric-a-brac stall which raised $245 toward the grand total of $4,584. Our thanks to all who assisted with the stall setup on the Friday and those who were on duty on Saturday to persuade the public to buy the goods!

We are pleased that our **church lounge** is being used by a variety of community groups. These include: the Waikanae Beach Garden Group, a Tai Chi class, and a Yoga Nourish group. A pregnancy yoga course was recently held in the lounge. After the babies had been born, the mums and babies met for a catch-up morning tea. This photo was taken on that occasion.

John and Diana Roberts