

Otaki-Waikanae Presbyterian Parish



First Sunday of Advent

Hope



Parish News
30 November 2025

Christ Centred  Community Serving
Welcome to our church

This Week's Service

Sunday 30 November 2025

9.15 am Waikanae Morning Worship

Duty Elder: John Miller

Readings: Isaiah 9:2-8, Luke 5:12-16

Hymns: TIS265, TIS268, TIS457, TIS215, TIS778

10.50 am Otaki Morning Worship

Next Week's Service

Service Rosters 7 December 2025

9.15 am Waikanae Communion

Duty Elder: John Miller

Door Steward: Adair Anderson

Reader: Marion Brash

Prayers of the People: Peter Jackson

10.50 am Otaki Communion

Door Steward: Annie Christie

Worship Coordinator Quentin Christie

Communion
Coordinator Quentin Christie

DIRK RINCKES
IN LOVING MEMORY

With sadness, we have learned of the death of Dirk Rinckes at 6.30 pm Sunday 23rd November 2025.

Dirk was a long-standing member of our Waikanae congregation, the Archivist for the Otaki-Waikanae Parish and a Presbyterian Elder for many years

The family will hold a Private funeral.



Church & Community Notices



Join us for our service this Sunday
via Live Stream

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85960557355?
pwd=0s46V73LahzyiUEjG4HxDjvWGRBYJY.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85960557355?pwd=0s46V73LahzyiUEjG4HxDjvWGRBYJY.1)

Meeting ID: 859 6055 7355

Passcode: 240807

PLEASE MUTE YOUR COMPUTER DURING THE SERVICE
Access the same way as Monday Bible Study.



CONNECT

HELP - I have very little in from the congregation for the new Connect.

Please forward any items, reports, stories or pictures to the office as soon as possible, by 3 December at the latest.

Thank you

Church & Community Notices

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

It has been decided that the Sausage Sizzle will no longer run at the Otaki Church.

We would like to thank everyone who has made donation to keep it running for this long.

Many Thanks

Rest Home Service

Parkwood Lodge

11.00 am Wednesday, 3 December 2025

Leader: Marion Brash

Piano: Sheila Harkess

All helpers and supporters very welcome

Christmas Services

21 December 10.00 am
Joint Service Waikanae
9 Lessons and Carols

25 December 10.00 am
Joint Service Waikanae
Christmas Morning Service

Church & Community Notices



LAST FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON FOR 2025

**Monday December 8th at 12 noon at
Olive Grove Cafe Waikanae.**

We will present flowers and a card to Bonnie, our lovely barista at Olive Grove, who will be retiring next month. Our venue will change in 2026, but we will continue to meet on the second Monday of every month.

Third Saturday Kitchen cafe and Sales table

We are holding the cafe and sales table on a different date in December because of its close proximity to Christmas.

It will be held on Saturday the 13th of December instead of the 20th.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Church & Community Notices

CAFÉ RENDEZVOUS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Tuesday
2ND December 2025

Waikanae Presbyterian
Church
43 Ngaio Road, Waikanae

11.30 Free Coffee and Tea
12.00 Free Christmas
Lunch

ALL WELCOME

Special thanks to
Waikanae Butchery and
Kaibosh

Church & Community Notices



The madness of the commercial-driven Christmas season appeared overnight a few weeks ago. The message with a unified voice: Spend! Spend! Spend! Spend! A good Christmas depends on what you purchase to make others and yourself happy... and don't worry about the debt and hardship that will follow. And, in that build-up to Christmas, is the Advent Season marking the beginning of the liturgical year - if you are into that sort of thing. If not, Advent and Christmas are still the beginning of the Christian story.

Through Advent, we are focused on a pathway of powerful promises and, eventually, scenes of supernatural happenings in Matthew chapters 1 & 2. Those passages read like fairy tales to many, but in fact convey the mystery of God in the advent of Jesus. In a world of wars and rumours of wars, how about the first reading for the first Sunday in Advent, from Isaiah 2:4: *"The LORD will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore"*. When I contemplate that verse, there is hope and relief that, for example, history is in the Lord's domain and in the end, institutions like the United Nations are not eternal. International peace will be a miracle of God, not the feeble attempts of human counsel.

The last reading on the fourth Sunday in Advent is Matthew 1:18-25. The virgin birth, the angel of the Lord appearing in a dream, the choirs of angels, and that star that pinpoints the place of Jesus' birth for the Eastern visitors. For me, that passage of Scripture displays the mystery

of God. A mystery that is still discoverable in our day, as God moves in mysterious ways through Christ in our midst. I am talking about people discovering a faith relationship with Jesus, coming in from a place way out from a fellowship of believers, miracles, spiritual and physical, in 2025 faith and peace in tragedy and grief. The faith of Mary and Joseph, the surprised awe of the shepherds, and the searching and discovery of the Eastern visitors. The mystery of God cannot be shackled by the likes of Herod's self-interest and unbelief, or noisy scoffers inside or outside the church.

So how does the Advent narrative cross over into a secular, largely non-religious society that is rediscovering spirituality? A story before offering an answer. I am a member of one of the Rotary Clubs in Invercargill. The club plays a significant role in organising the City Christmas Parade, which winds its way through the CBD on the last weekend of November, attracting thousands of people who line the streets and end up at Queens Park for an afternoon of festivities.

I have been a float vehicle driver for close to 15 years. I have towed the Santa Claus float a few times, reminding myself it was representing St Nicholas. I held up the parade one year because the Santa float trailer got a flat tyre, thankfully outside a tyre shop. *"God is good all the time - all the time God is good!"* About 10 years ago, there was no visible Christian presence in the parade. So, our church decided to sponsor a float depicting the manger scene. It was very plain. We used mannequins for the characters and stuffed animals, and a couple of bales of hay. We were placed about 25 in the line of about 30 floats. We were placed behind a float for a large chain store that sells building materials. They had a deafening sound system that broadcast the "Bob the Builder" theme throughout the journey. It drove me nuts!

The following year, we were separated from Bob the Builder and placed well within earshot of the crowds' comments. I could not believe the number of anti-Christian slurs and comments spoken our way about our faith and the meaning of Christmas. One was that God was as dead as our mannequin characters. So, a bit of a rethink on our visible presence in a secular setting. The following year, we had Joseph and Mary as live human beings, with a few real human children, still with the baby doll Jesus and the stuffed animals. From about four years ago, we still have a

plain-looking manger scene, a bit of Christmas music, a human Joseph and Mary in costume, as long as they have had a baby born during the year to represent baby Jesus, and as many angels, shepherds, and children dressed up as animals as we are allowed to fit on the big trailer we use.

We live in a secular post-Christian age. What many of us are experiencing is that there has been a ground shift in our cultural settings from those who, before, wouldn't give Christianity a thought beyond "that is quaint" or "that's irrelevant", sometimes with a cuss and a swear. What I have described is not a revival of faith as such but drawing people's thoughts to the story of Jesus' birth. Our float is a tiny part of that. We need to be out in the secular world being seen. The story has power in it through the Holy Spirit's ability to open people's minds and hearts. Never underestimate that power.

The liturgical Season of Advent is a time of slow-down to prepare for Christmas, along a path marked by Old and New Testament passages. How will you tell this story, or will you avoid it or try to remove the mystery? One of the readings for the fourth Sunday of Advent is Isaiah 7:10-16. The Lord asks King Ahaz to ask him to do something as difficult as he can think of, even an impossible thing. Ahaz refuses because he would not test the Lord like that. So, the Lord chooses the difficult, impossible thing. Verse 14: "All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')".

Right Rev Peter Dunn

Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

moderator@presbyterian.org.nz



**Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand**

Church & Community Notices

A SPRING CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

"Brahms, Boogie & Beyond"

A FUNDRAISER FOR
WAIKANAE FOODSHARE
CHRISTMAS PACKS



FRI 28 NOV, 7PM

ST MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN
RANGIHIROA ST, WAIKANAE BEACH

FEATURING LOCAL
KAPITI MUSICIANS
AND CHOIRS

ENTRY BY KOHA
SUGGESTED DONATION \$10
ALL WELCOME



www.anglican.co.nz

Church & Community Notices

Mission	Main Contact People	Contact Numbers
Kapiti Hidden Books	Yvonne and John Miller	04 2389663
Biscuit blessing	Annie Christie - Otaki	027 480 4803
	Dot Le Prou - Waikanae	021297 9144
Christian World Service	Marion Brash	04 293 1932
Bible Society	Marion Brash	04 293 1932
Café Rendezvous	Peter Jackson	021207 9455
	Dot, Penny, Destine	
	Helen, Lisa	
Garage Sale	Meri Risati-Garratt	021456 562
	Kevin, Heather	
Saturday Morning Café & Sale	Lois Gemmell, Annie Christie	
	Heather Craig	
Wednesday Fun Club	Heather Watson	06 364 8391
Sausage Sizzle	Roger Upson	022 397 4782
	Margaret B, Sue, John	
Skills Sharing	Lois Gemmell	06 364 0993
Te Awhi Rito	Peter Jackson	021207 9455
	Lois, Quentin, Roger, Margie,	
	Margaret S, Sheree	
Messy Church	Adair Anderson, Katie Lewis	027 774 1041
Christian Broadcasting Service		

Daily Bible Readings

Monday 1 December

Deut 30:11-14

Psalms 19:1-6

Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday 2 December

Isa 11:1-10

Ps 72:1-4,19-20

Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday 3 December

Isa 25:6-10a

Ps 23

Matt 15:29-37

Thursday 4 December

Isa 26:1-6

Ps 118:18-27a

Matt 7:21,24-27

Friday 5 December

Isa 29:17-end

Ps 27:1-4,16-17

Matt 9:27-31

Saturday 6 December

Isa 30:19-21,23-26

Ps 146:5-9

Matt 9:35–10:1,6-8

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK

**Your greatest
contribution may not be
something you do, but
someone you raise.**

Parish Contact Details

Minister: The Rev. Peter Jackson

phone: 06 364 8759 (home) 021 207 9455 (mob)

email: minister@owpresb.nz

Rev. Peter Jackson is available to meet
with you:

Monday in Waikanae from 2.00-3.00pm

Thursday in Otaki

from **11.00-12.00pm**

Please contact the office for an appointment.

Parish Clerk: Glenda John

027 329 5440

email: parishclerk@owpresb.nz

Parish Office: Jacqui Hurley

Hours: Waikanae 9:00am to 12:00pm Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday

Otaki 9:00am to 12:00pm Tuesday

phone: 04 293 6987

email: office@owpresb.nz

website: www.otakiwaikanaechurch.nz

43 Ngaio Road, Waikanae

Offerings: Can be paid by Direct Debit into:

06 0592 0094011 00

Church Bank Account—Otaki Waikanae Presbyterian Parish

