

XPRESS

The newsletter of
Otaki-Waikanae Presbyterian Parish

Christ Centered † Community Serving

June 2025



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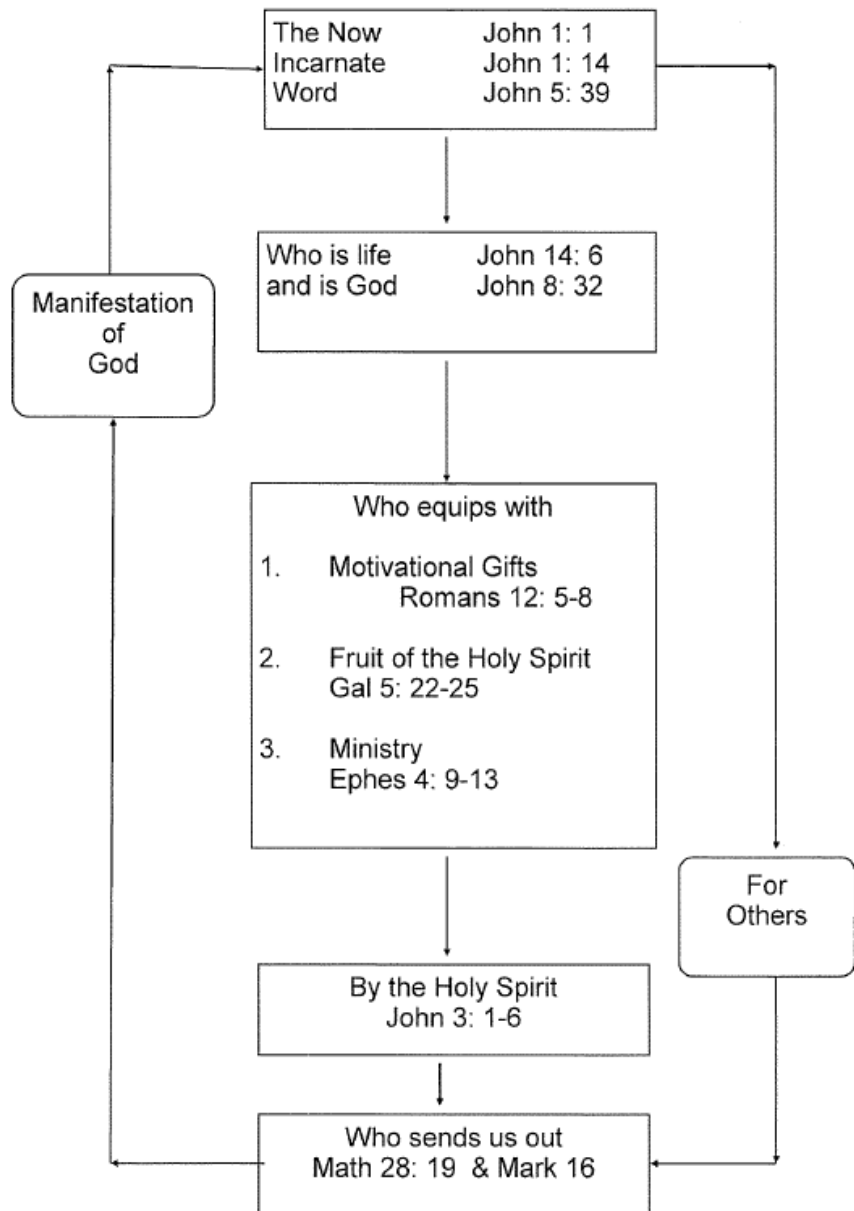
THE CYCLIC LIFE

We have just celebrated Pentecost and Trinity Sundays. But , unlike many experiences in life it is not a matter of, ‘been there, done that, got the T-shirt”, rather, there are deep implications, which probably take a lifetime to learn but are never fully learnt, known or mastered. Possibly the reason for this is that we are included in That which is greater than we are able to imagine, and That which loves and holds us. Yet, without ever fully understanding or achieving, it is sufficient and celebrated by God. We are not expected to know it all, only to grow in relationship of God, and the rest follows. The Christian life cycle differs from a life without God in practically every way. For a number of years I ran Alpha courses and Holy Spirit weekends, with four additional courses. As part of this I drew up an understanding of the Christian lifecycle, which I share with you (see over)

Grace and peace to you.

Peter L Jackson

The Spiritual Lifestyle



Report from Parish Clerk:

Blessings to you all as we enter the season of winter. This can be a time for reflection, and as in nature, a time to rest and gather what we need to renew ourselves for the coming seasons.

We are entering a season of great changes to our church, with our minister Peter starting his half time ministry in July. There will be a lot of adapting and changing how we do some things, but if we look at this time as an opportunity and a blessing rather than as a loss, we can continue the work God has in store for us as a vital part of our communities in Waikanae and Otaki.

The early church was started with a group of very diverse people, and like them, our Parish is made up of very diverse group of people with a whole range of talents and skills. We can't all be gardeners or cooks or readers or preachers, but God gave us all an ability, knowing what we are good at, and and as it says in His Holy Word, we are not all the same, but different parts of the same body.

Thank God for His provision that we have people who are willing and able to give their time and talents to our church – our minister Peter, people like Jacqui in the office, Kos (and the Finance Team) in charge of the money, the readers, the people who work with the children and families at the Sausage Sizzle, Messy Church and Te Awhi Rito, the elders who take care of the running of the services, our musicians – Sheila, Ruth and Heather, the people who run the sound and power point systems, the helpers in the kitchen at Café Rendezvous, Meri and Kevin at the Garage Sale, the Café Kitchen people, the members of Parish Council, the lawn mowing people and the gardeners. And the list goes on!

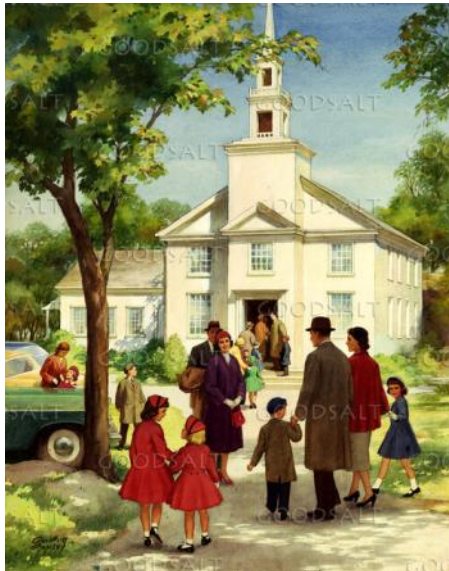
Our church is in good hands! Praise God!

Blessings,

Glenda John

I will leave you with a quote from one of my favourite preachers of the past, Charles Spurgeon:

*Some go to church to take a walk;
Some go there to laugh and talk.
Some go there to meet a friend;
Some go there their time to spend.
Some go there to meet a lover;
Some go there a fault to cover.
Some go there for speculation;
Some go there for observation.
Some go there to doze and nod;
The wise go there to worship God.*



An update from the Treasurer.....

Dear Parishioners

Overview from 1 July 2024 to 31 May 2025

- Direct Giving remains under budget which is of considerable concern and, like households, the Parish continues to face cost increases in almost every area.
- The Parish continues to receive a grant from Central Presbytery of \$2,839 per month to support the work of our Child/Youth/Family workers. A Resource Grant of \$5,000 for this work was received in April 2024. A large part (\$27,455) of the wage and resource grants has not as yet been spent. The liability this creates to Central Presbytery has been taken into account when calculating the amount of General Funds available.
- An insurance claim for the theft of the instant hot water heater, and resulting damage, at the Otaki church has been filed. The plumber's quote for supply and installation came to \$2,330 + GST, not including the electrician.

Profit and Loss:

May 2025:

- ⇒ The Parish achieved cash surplus of \$1,167, compared to a budgeted shortfall of \$3,592.
- ⇒ Tithes & offerings of \$7,410 were under budget by \$1,509.
- ⇒ Other income of \$11,568 was \$3,978 over budget for the month (donations, rent from the hall, but especially the garage sale all contributed).
- ⇒ Total income of \$18,878 was \$2,469 over budget for the month.
- ⇒ Staff wages were close to budget.
- ⇒ Property expenses of \$1,448 were \$1,411 under budget (Waikanae roof and window repairs still to be completed).
- ⇒ Total expenses were \$17,811 compared to budgeted expenses of \$20,071.

Eleven months to 31 May 2025:

- ⇒ The Parish incurred a cash deficit of \$20,499 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$37,425.
- ⇒ Tithes & offerings of \$88,050 were down on budget by \$10,056.

- ⇒ Garage sale income of \$10,364 was \$5,964 over budget.
- ⇒ Total income of \$206,510 was over budget by \$9,707 (a cash legacy, donations, garage sales, special fund raising (performances) and rent from the hall all contributed).
- ⇒ Ministry expenses of \$100,067 were \$2,120 under budget.
- ⇒ Property expenditure of \$44,264 was under budget by \$3,071 (but work on the roof and foyer window at the Waikanae church is yet to start).
- ⇒ Total expenditure of \$227,009 was under budget by \$7,219.

Cash and Investment Balances:

Since balance date, there has been a decrease in parish funds of \$27,383 for the eleven months to 31 May 2025. At that date General Funds available were \$71,696.00.

Peter's new Terms of Call

Peter's new Term of Call will come into effect on the 1st July 2025. While this of course will make a considerable difference, it remains a concern that the financial position of the Parish continues to decline. Please pray that the Parish is able to find ways to grow the congregation to ensure its ongoing viability and continued Mission in the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or wish to discuss anything further.

Kos van Lier

4 June 2025

Phone: 021 237 0644 / Email: treasurer@owpresb.nz

Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated items for our church garage sale as the money raised helps to keep the church going.

Gratefully yours

Meri & the Garage Sale Team

Letting Go

To let go doesn't mean to stop caring –

It means I can't do it for someone else

To let go is not to cut myself off –

It's the realisation that I can't control another

To let go is not to “enable” –

But to allow learning from natural consequences

To let go is to admit powerlessness –

Which means the outcome is not in my hands

To let go is not to try to change or blame another –

I can only change myself

To let go is not to care for –

But to care about

To let go is not to fix –

But to be supportive

To let go is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes –

But to allow others to affect their own destinies

To let go is not to be protective –

It is to permit another to face reality

To let go is not to deny –

But to accept

To let go is not to nag, scold or argue

But to search out my own shortcomings and correct them

To let go is not to adjust everything to my own desires –

But to take each day as it comes and cherish myself in it

To let go is not to criticise or regulate anyone –

But to try to become what I dream I can be

To let go is not to regret the past –

But to grow and live in the future

To let go is to fear less and to love more.

Kapiti Hidden Books

It is the enthusiasm of our volunteers that is the inspiration and drive behind Kapiti Hidden Books. Since commencing, 13,223 books have been placed in and around the Kapiti Coast and we have 1400 follows on Facebook.

Every book we “hide” is inspected, anything that might identify a previous owner is blanked, and any minor damage repaired. Each book then has a yellow notice inserted, inviting the finder to read, keep or re-hide the book. Books are then placed in an individual waterproof bag with another notice.

From time to time, we run competitions. This does entail additional work, so we tend to limit these to the Christmas/New Year holidays. For instance, last Christmas it was our “Create a Poster” about “Wildlife Conservation” or “Protecting the Environment” or “Species Protection” competition.

To do this, we had to start well before the holidays packing books to ensure we had 500 books, each with an addition green competition invitation inserted. We also had to arrange with every library in Kapiti and several other places to hold collection boxes for the entries.

These were collected toward the end of January – and we had great entries, with a wide array of subjects. Ages of the children who responded ranged from 4 to 13! Prizes were delivered to each winner (or winners in the case of the twins who won the home cricket set - they were absolutely jubilant!)

During the winter months, the opportunity to put out books is limited by the weather, but our team of helpers ensures that most sunny weekends will see books “hidden” in the 50 parks from Otaki to Paekakariki. None of this would be possible without the generosity of those who provide us with books. We have a sponsor which allows to purchase some books (and also the plastic bags which we use to ensure every book stays dry), but we also rely on the gifts of books, for which we are most grateful.

Worship Team & Future Services

The Worship Team met on 27th May. One of the tasks it had was to confirm the services over the next couple of months.

Peter changes to half time from the beginning of July. As arranged, he will take the last and first Sundays of each month. This means that he will take the service on 6th July. The next two services will then be provided by the Worship Team. At the moment, it is planned that I will lead the service on 13th July, and Owen on 20th July.

Peter will then take the last service in July (the 27th) and the first in August (the 3rd). The Worship Team will then lead the second two weeks and Peter the last week of August. This schedule will continue going forward

John Miller

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Minister: The Rev. Peter Jackson
Phone: 021 207 9455 (mob)
Email: minister@owpresb.nz

Parish Clerk: Email: parishclerk@owpresb.nz

Parish office: Hours Waikanae: 9.00am—12.00pm
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
Hours Otaki: 9.00am to 12.00pm Tuesday
Phone: 04 2936987
Email: office@owpresb.nz
Website: www.otakiwaikanaechurch.nz
45 Ngaio Road, Waikanae



Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand
Otaki –Waikanae Presbyterian Parish

You were visited by...

Elder/Visitor: _____

On (date): _____

Phone: _____