

XPRESS

The newsletter of
Otaki-Waikanae Presbyterian Parish

Christ Centred ✝ Community Serving

March 2025



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Commercial takeover

Around about the end of January buns bearing a cross start appearing in supermarkets. I find it strange that in most cases, the cross is retained, although the recipes and their variations seem to multiply by the years,

The original meaning, which is specifically Christian, has been usurped by commercial consumerism. The original significance of the bun was specific. They were baked to mark the end of lent and served on Good Friday,

The cross recalls the crucifixion of Jesus. The bitter spices to recall the spices used to embalm Him. The raisins represent His body in the tomb, The sweet dough which has risen represents the resurrection .

The multitude of current variations leave the Christian symbol without meaning, yet retain the Christian branding. Why? Why not take the cross off and call them something else? There is also, notably, no Christian outcry.

Is it possible that at times our faith walk follows a similar pattern? The season of lent is a time set aside to self-examine against the event and life of Jesus, and to, at times, face the hard truths about ourselves, but is the road of transformation that leads to the life of resurrection, and new life.

Shalom,

Peter.

Report from Parish Clerk:

Greetings to you all as we enter this season of Lent and the lead up to Easter. The garden is already showing signs of the change in the natural season with the Autumn flowering plants in bloom. As much as we would like to keep one season or another, depending on our preference for warm or cold, the Creator had different ideas and gives us four seasons, each with their own special type of beauty and reason. Winter for rest, Spring for renewal, Summer for abundance of growth, and Autumn for a winding down.

Ecclesiastes 3 puts it best, "there is a right time for everything". The way to have peace is to trust in God's timing. We as a parish are currently undergoing some big changes and this can lead to fear of the unknown and what the future holds. If we hold on to our trust in God and keep working and striving for what is important to Him, we will see a way forward.

I have enjoyed my time back here in Waikanae and Otaki and although I miss my family very much, and I must admit, the very quiet lifestyle of Alexandra, (but not the wind!), I know that I too must trust in God's timing. In the Book of Acts, the Apostles were where they were meant to be when they were meant to be there. This is not how they would have planned it. Peter was probably astounded to discover his speech made the way for 3,000 more converts, but he was in the right place at the right time. So too was Paul who would I am sure rather not have been imprisoned but his imprisonment opened the way for more followers of The Way. God's timing is perfect, in our own lives and in the life of our Church.

Love and blessings to you all,

Glenda John

Parish Clerk

An update from the Treasurer.....

Dear Parishioners

Overview from 1 July 2024 to 31 January 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.
- Work on repairing the storeroom roof at Waikanae is close to completion. The window above the foyer will now be repaired, not replaced, which will result in a cost saving.
- 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 (\$17,917) 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.

For the month of January 2025:

- The Parish incurred a cash deficit of \$1,587, compared to a budgeted shortfall of \$3,203.
- Tithes & offerings of \$9,086 were over budget by \$167.
- Other income of \$9,745 was \$2,705 over budget for the month.
- Total income of \$18,831 was \$2,872 over budget for the month.
- Staff wages were close to budget.
- Property expenses were significantly over budget due to the cost of the clean up at the Manse after the October 2024 flood (this cost is part of the current insurance claim).]
- Total expenses were \$20,418 compared to budgeted expenses of \$19,162.

For the seven months to 31 January 2025:

- The Parish incurred a cash deficit of \$25,499 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$29,565.
- Tithes & offerings of \$54,961 were down on budget by \$7,470.
- Garage sale income of \$3,148 was \$948 over budget.
- Total income of \$130,894 was over budget by \$2,751.
- Property expenditure of \$38,369 was under budget by \$326 (but work on the foyer window at the Waikanae church is yet to start).
- Total expenditure of \$156,393 was under budget by \$1,315.

Cash and Investment Balances as at 31 January 2025:

Since balance date, there has been a decrease in parish funds of \$33,259 for the seven months to 31 January 2025.

Peter's proposed new Terms of Call – what is the effect on our financial position?

Subject to Central Presbytery approving the new Terms of Call, the cost of Ministry, (\$54,000 for the six months to 31 December 2024) will roughly be halved for the 2025 – 2026 year. Based on the 2024 result, and all else being equal (which it probably won't be!), the 2026 year would then end in neither a surplus nor a deficit.

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
5 March 2025

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

Report from the Garage Sale

The Garage Sale continues to provide some much-needed funds for our Parish. Since the start of 2025 \$ 1,990.00 has been raised. Thanks to all those from our Parish and their friends and neighbours for all the donations received, and for those who come to the sale and pick up a bargain or two. A BIG THANK YOU to Kevin for all the work he does for our Garage Sale. He is such an asset with collecting, dropping off, getting rid of the rubbish, cleaning the garage, and being there on a Saturday to chat to the customers, some of whom are regulars. The variety of goods for sale is amazing, something for everyone. If you haven't already been to the garage on a Saturday, please come and visit, bring a few dollars too, you never know what you will find.

From Meri and the Team

Worship Team Report

The duty of the Worship Team is to aid and assist the Minister in the worship of the Parish. It is therefore examining the impact that future changes within the Parish could have on worship.

It is clear from the discussions at the Parish Meetings, that change is coming. Exactly what that change may be, is still to be finalised. Whatever it is, however, the Worship Team will need to step up its response.

As a first step, the team is looking at all Sunday and other services through to the end of the present year. Much of these remain unknown at present, but a significant number have been identified as the responsibility of the team. The object is to decide who amongst the team does what and when. Responsibility for services will mainly rest on team members, but we expect also to be able to call on other members of the congregation.

One reason for this approach is that as lay preachers, we need time to prepare. This preparation requires prayer, study and careful thought. It is not something done quickly. If more than one person is to be involved, they must also ensure that there is a common theme to the service.

Apart from a service in the latter part of March, the immediate task for the team is to firm up the longer-term programme.

The team is also locking in future meetings to occur the same day as Parish Council meeting. Thus, they will be at 12:30 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meetings alternate between Otaki and Waikanae, and it is the plan of the team to advise the Congregation in advance so that anyone who wishes to join in our discussions, is welcome to do so.

John Miller

ZERO LEPROSY BY 2035

World Leprosy Mission has now entered the last decade of its long-held dream of Zero-Leprosy worldwide by 2035, but there remains much to be done before that goal is reached. The number of places where Leprosy is still a scourge has steadily reduced in recent years, thanks to this ongoing campaign, but many 'hot-spots' remain.

One of these is the tea fields of rural Bangladesh which, with its hot damp climate, is an ideal breeding ground for infections of all kinds, including leprosy. Leprosy Mission's emphasis is now on education, training parents and carers to spot the very early signs of leprosy, and to seek immediate help, not hide or ignore them in the hope they will go away.

And so teams of specially trained doctors and nurses are sent into areas where leprosy is known to still exist, to run Leprosy Camps. Parents are invited and encouraged to bring their children to be checked as early diagnosis is vital. Caught in the early stages leprosy is 100% curable thus avoiding the disease's progression to the loss of fingers or toes, or facial disfigurement.

At one such recent Leprosy Camp in a tea plantation, 90 children were checked in one day. Six positive diagnoses was more than the staff were hoping for, but how fortunate for the concerned as treatment can begin straight away, thus avoiding the ravages of advanced leprosy. Children, once diagnosed with leprosy, are prohibited from attending school and, depending on the length of treatment required, it may be years before they can resume their education.

World Leprosy Day is officially celebrated on March 26, but Leprosy Mission is asking Christians everywhere to make a special effort, throughout the month of March, to pray for the work of Leprosy Mission and its ongoing success. Zero Leprosy 2035 is achievable, but only with everyone's help.

Marion Brash, Leprosy Mission Contact

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

for the

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of VANUATU

Although more than 2 months has passed since the 7.3 magnitude earthquake rocked Port Vila in Vanuatu, PCANZ's Global Mission Office has only now been able to ascertain the areas of greatest need and so mount a meaningful appeal. Two NZ structural engineers who are church members have already offered their services for free to assist in assessing quake-damaged buildings.

Global Mission's Earthquake Appeal is specifically for the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu as it seeks to rebuild damaged churches and schools, provide counselling and trauma support for families, many of whom are still too afraid to sleep inside their houses.

Donations can be banked direct into the Global Mission Account, 02 0500 0086963 10 with the reference PVC Earthquake Appeal, and please also send an email to Katrina Graham, katrina@presbyterian.org.nz confirming your donation so a receipt can be sent.

Please give as generously as you are able

History of Waikanae Church Building

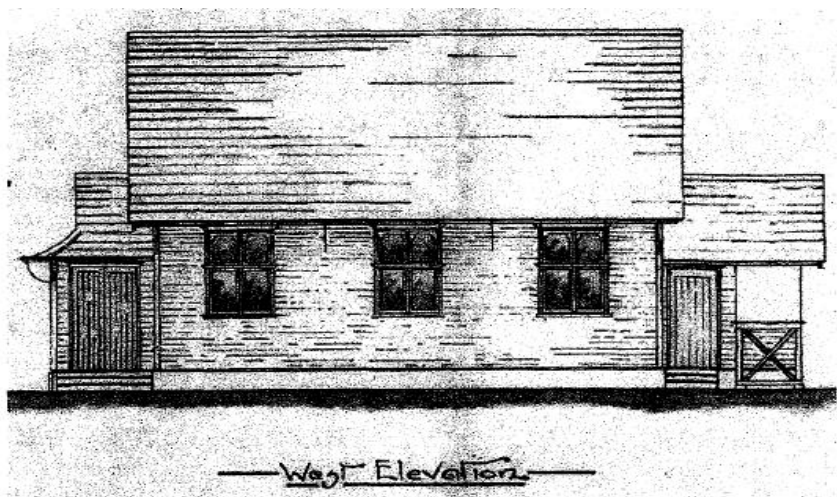
Adapted (with permission) from a researched paper written in August 2010 by Dirk Rinckes, Parish Archivist Waikanae Presbyterian Church.

Early History ...original building

The Presbyterian Church of Waikanae was originally built at Wellington. It was the Kelburn Presbyterian Church, Raroa Road, Kelburn, Wellington.

William Grey Young, a newly qualified architect, was engaged to design the Kelburn Presbyterian Church in 1908. The Evening Post reported that the "Church room" opened on 28th February 1909, "the attendance being very Large."

The building was no more than a rectangular hall 25'6"x31' plus a vestibule and vestry with rainwater tank as small extensions.



The building, minus the extensions, still forms part of the present church. It is situated at the most northern part of the church encompassing the three original windows.

Over the following years there were a number of minor interior and exterior alterations made without altering the main footprint of the building. The first significant extension was in 1914 increasing the length by 20 feet, necessitating relocating the entry vestibule by the same distance.

The next and final extension was in 1934, adding a transept and sanctuary, thus completing the “cross church” design. A modest tower was provided also. A new entrance was created by fitting a door replacing a northern most window on the then west side, and this door is still present.

These extensions were all made by William Grey Young.

Removal to Present Site

In 1994 the church was donated by Kelburn Parish to Waikanae when Kelburn Parish joined the neighbouring Parish of St John's. The building was cut into five pieces for removal and stripped of its interior fixtures. The church had to be placed between what is now the Hall and the Manse, and it was decided to place the sanctuary south facing Ngaio Road whereas in Kelburn it had faced north. Alan Nightingale, a member of the church, a qualified professional engineer and architect, was entrusted with the planning and changes. After reassembling all the pieces, members of the congregation under the stewardship of Alex Stirrat ex MOW engineer, helped with the replacing of fixtures and refurbishment of the interior.

Epilogue

It is proper to recall some details of William Grey Young's career. The “Church room” in 1908 was his first church. Other religious buildings in his name are St Paul's in Wanganui, St Andrew's in Palmerston North, and Knox College in Dunedin. In Wellington his best-known building is the Railway Station.

Adapted February 2025 - Helen Griffith



This is the season of Lent when we are encouraged as Christians to give up something or to fast from something, especially something that will help us to grow in our faith and understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

I came across an interesting concept – the 10 Day Word Fast. I envisioned this would be something to do with not saying bad things or cursing but it goes deeper than that. It lists five types of speaking that are worth having a fast from.

The first is **COMPLAINING**. Complaining creates an atmosphere around us that cannot host the presence of the Lord. Complaining has its root in ingratitude. Complaining sends an emotional virus into the air that others breathe and become infected with. Gratefulness and thanksgiving are an antidote to complaining.

The second is **CRITICISM**. The enemy sets out to create division in our fellowship with other believers and the greatest danger to unity is criticism. Some Christians mistakenly assume their ability to criticise as discernment. Criticism is not one of the 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit. If we develop a critical view of life, it becomes a habit. When we are presented with any problem or opportunity, we respond by evaluating what could go wrong.

The third is **JUDGEMENTS**. With what audacity do we think we know what is in someone's mind? There is one judge, a righteous judge and we are not to judge. A person may have done something hurtful or bad but that doesn't mean we are to judge their whole character.

The fourth is **SARCASM**. The word sarcasm is derived from the Greek word *sarkazein*, which means "to tear the flesh like a dog". There is little room for the use of sarcasm in the words we speak. We should speak words of encouragement and edification. When you listen to a person speak, you almost immediately know their country of origin. Our words reveal which kingdom we live in – Christ's Kingdom. What are the words of Christ's Kingdom? Kind words, encouraging words, praise and worship, that is the vocabulary of heaven.

The fifth is **GOSSIP**. The words of gossip are the wickedest of all. Why? Gossiping carries great negative, destructive power. It does more damage that lasts longer and spreads further than other negative words. Proverbs 6:16-19 lists 7 things God hates. The 7th is “one who sows discord among brothers”. Unity was Jesus’ repeated prayer. Gossip separates and destroys unity. As followers of Jesus, we are not to be involved in any kind of gossip.

(ref: the 10 Day Word Fast)



What we say affects people more than our actions. Proverbs gives special attention to words and how they are used. (Proverbs 13:3, 15:28, 11:9).

The controlled tongue – people think before speaking, know when silence is best, and give wise advice.

The caring tongue – people speak truthfully and give wise advice.

The conniving tongue – people speak with wrong motives; they gossip and slander and twist the truth.

The careless tongue – people lie, curse, use quick tempered words which can lead to rebellion.

When our speech is motivated by the enemy, it is filled with jealousy, selfishness, earthly concerns, unspiritual ideas and thoughts, disorder and evil.

When our speech is motivated by God, it is filled with mercy, love for others, quiet gentleness, goodness, peace, courtesy, sincerity and yielding to others.

We do not fight to control our tongues by our own strength, the Holy Spirit will give us the strength we need to control our speech.

Further reading -The 10 Day Word Fast, from the internet, Psalm 15:3,4, Luke 6:45, Ephesians 5:4, James 3:13-18.

Blessings,

Glenda

Thoughtless words
can wound as deeply
as any sword,
but wisely spoken
words can heal.

Proverbs 12:18



The Old Church In Town

There's a line of trucks out on the highway
They're heading to town to tear her down.
The bell tower's been quiet for a while now
And they say, "Hey boy, there's a need"
But these days I'm not so sure.
Seems to me to be want and greed.

So, it's diesel and dust and it's hammer and tong
And they say, "Hey boy, there's a need"
But these days I'm not so sure
Seems to me to be want and greed.

And where will the people go to find peace?
Where will they go when they're on their knees
And the world caves in and it's full of sin?
And we'll all need saving soon.

They're tearing down the old church in town
It stands there on sacred ground
But they're tearing down the old church in town.

Adam John



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: _____