

Our new moderator, the immediate past moderator, Rev Hamish Galloway, and Rev Tamiana Thrupp, moderator of Te Aka Puaho.

Photo from PCANZ website.

Otorohanga Christmas Tree Festival

Contact Doreen de Haan (justdoreen@xtra.co.nz; 0210376531; or 078738631) to **reserve your spot** in St David's hall to set up your tree on Wednesday 15th November, 4—6pm.

A fun activity for families. No cost involved.

Public viewing Thursday 16th through Saturday 18th, 10—4pm daily. Everyone is welcome.



ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

NOVEMBER 2023

Ranfurly St Otorohanga

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
 Linked together as disciples of Christ to share our faith with and give loving service to the community.



Rev Rose Luxford
 the new moderator of the PCANZ.

Photo from PCANZ website

CHURCH & Parish Life contacts
TREASURER Claire Sherrington (07) 873 7670
SESSION CLERK Dawn Phillips (07) 873 8735
ROOM BOOKINGS Nina Mark (07) 873 6963 / 027 237 2382

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General Assembly

The Presbyterian General Assembly this year was held in St Kentigern's College, Pakuranga, Auckland. The venue was great, but the weather was atrocious: wet, cold and windy.

Commissioners gathered from all around New Zealand. This year, our name tags gave only our name and Presbytery of origin. There was no indication whether each person was an elder or a minister. This made for a great atmosphere of equality and collegiality.

The Assembly was wrapped in worship, from the opening service on Wednesday evening to the closing service on Sunday morning. We were led in devotions each morning, and prayers were offered frequently during each day.

Commissioners do not represent their parish, but vote as individual people. Debates took place in a spirit of respect and acceptance.

Decisions affecting St David's, Otorohanga, include:

that we be urged to continue to take all practical steps to reduce our carbon footprints and share resources to encourage members of the Church to respond positively to the climate crisis.

that we recognise the 2022 Bi-lingual edition of Te Paipera Tapu as our preferred Bible for use in worship.

that where a presbytery has an ongoing inability to arrange for a minister to be present at meetings of a church council, the presbytery be authorised to permit the church council to meet without a minister for such period as the presbytery decides.

PRATTS PLUMBING

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL
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6 Main North Road

Church bank account number: 02 0392 0018524 00
 Website: saintdavid's.org.nz

Calendar for November

Fri 3	10.00am	Cuppa & Chat
Sat 4	4.00pm	Beattie Home service
Sun 5	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 8	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 12	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 15	9.30am	Session
Sat 18		Spring Fair
Sun 19	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 26	10.00am	Morning Worship
Fri 1 Dec		Santa Parade

The gospel is God's power to save all who believe, for in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed originating from out of God's faithfulness toward us and finding its intended human response in our faith in God.

- Romans 1:17
- Interpretation by Dr Andrew Callander

Remember the garage sale to be part of the Spring Fair.

Preaching Roster

Nov 5	Terry Cowland
Nov 12	Keith Budge
Nov 19	Dawn Phillips
Nov 26	Terry Cowland
Dec 3	Terry Cowland

Copy for the December newsletter is requested by Monday 20 November. The Editor

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who make our newsletter
possible.**

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Wider work of the church

Presbyterian Support is the second largest social service organisation in New Zealand after the Salvation Army.

The Presbyterian Church is represented on Christian World Service.

Through Global Mission, the Presbyterian Church of Aorearoa New Zealand is in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

The Inter Church Council for Hospital Chaplaincy has Presbyterian members.

The Inter church Bioethics Council involves Presbyterians.

There are thirteen Presbyterian Church Schools.

On a personal note - Dawn Phillips

I have been to General Assembly on 3 previous occasions, but had forgotten how pleased it always makes me feel to belong to the Presbyterian Church. Most of the time I don't give a thought to which denomination I belong to. So it is always great to feel the inclusivity of the church at a General Assembly. The Pacifica people were well represented. Their languages were used in greetings, in prayers, and in speeches to the assembly. The moderator of Te Aka Puaho, Rev Tamiana Thrupp, often spoke, generally thanking and affirming people on behalf of us all.

At the opening service, we sang "How great thou art", the first verse in Tokelau, the second in Cook Island Maori, the third in Niuean, and the fourth in Samoan. The chorus was in Maori, and the final verse was in English.

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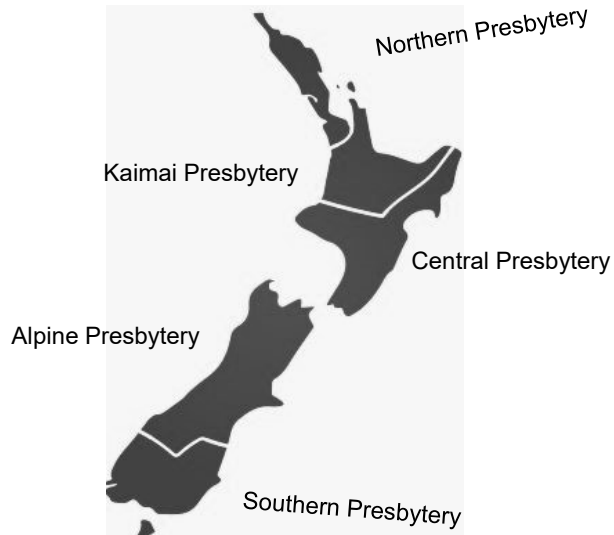
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General Assembly was attended by some 160 delegates.

Each Presbytery presented a report: Te Aka Puaho, Pacific Presbytery, Northern, Kaimai, Central, Alpine, and Southern.

There were also reports from other arms of the church: Research Centre, Presbyterian Support NZ, Knox Centre for Ministry & Leadership, Youth Ministry, Children & Families Ministries.



We heard presentations from: Interchurch Bioethics Council, Global Mission, Christian World Service, Uniting Congregations Aotearoa NZ, Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy, and some overseas visitors such as the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

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Cuppa and Chat

Once again on October 6, morning tea was enjoyed by all. Mary Sircombe spoke about the settling of the coast, and will continue on November 3, the last meeting for the year.

All welcome. Nina

**The winding up of APW**

Dr Mavis Duncanson and Ms Mary Gibbs reported on the decision of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand to wind up as an organisation. The Moderator led a prayer of thanks for the work of Presbyterian Women, in all its forms over the years, and for the people who have been involved in it.

In the evening there was a special service led by Rose acknowledging the 118 years of service by the APW. The centennial quilt was on display. The women gave a big donation to the funds of Presbyterian Support Northern.

The square made by Oto APW as part of the centennial quilt.

