



Kia Ora Koutou Katoa

Matariki brings to mind the preparing of soil to receive new seeds, it's also the beginning of the Māori New Year.

*Mathew 13:37: "Jesus answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man.*

*The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the Kingdom."*

*Naa, ka whakahoki ia, ka mea ki a raatou, Ko te kairui o te purapura pai, ko te Tama aa te tangata;*

*Ko te maara ko te ao, ko te purapura pai, ko ngaa tamariki o te rangatiratanga*

And, sowing the good seed, whether it be seeds for the gardens, seeds of the field, and of people – if some fall by the wayside, let's make it our responsibility to help our fellow man.

Growing up in the '50s to '60s, each family had vegetable gardens, we collected tuna, watercress, puha, harore (wild mushrooms), kereru, venison, wild pigs and eels together.

Karakia was used to plant seeds and to harvest and store all foods. We grew enough food for everyone in our valley, until Matariki came around again for the next harvest.

Karakia was always a part of their respect for God's creation, and it was ongoing - not just Sunday but every day. "We lived it, we talked it and we walked it".

Kia tau te Rangimarie, kia koutou, kia tatou katou. *Marina Rakuraku*



**ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OTOROHANGA**

**JULY 2022**

Ranfurly St  
Otorohanga

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

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



**God hung the stars in the sky— the Great Bear, Orion, the  
Pleiades (Matariki) and the stars of the south. Job 9:9**

### **CHURCH & Parish Life contacts**

**TREASURER Claire Sherrington (07) 873 7670**

**SESSION CLERK Dawn Phillips (07) 873 8735**

**ROOM BOOKINGS Nina Mark (07) 873 6963**

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Session report

Usually when the minister leaves a parish, the Presbytery appoints an Interim Moderator who chairs Session meetings and keeps a watchful eye on the congregation’s wellbeing. However in Kaimai Presbytery to which we belong, a Superintending Moderator is usually appointed instead when the parish is not in the position to call another minister, the situation we are in. At this time, the Kaimai Presbytery is short of ministers and has found no-one to be our Superintending Moderator.

Nationwide, the Presbyterian church is short of ministers. There are 65 “vacant” parishes, and only 12 students currently studying for the ministry.

Thank you for your loyal support and your prayers for the parish leadership. God bless us all.

Dawn Phillips Session Clerk

Church bank account number: 02 0392 0018524 00

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The people who are victims of the refugee crisis need empathetic and aware, interested and activated Christians – may that be so. Amen.

*Right Rev Hamish Galloway*  
 Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

**A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory**  
**Steven Wright.**

**Home Group at Farquhars’: Bible study**

The group are going to work their way through a study book called “Walking Like Jesus Did, studies in the character of Christ”.

Phone 027 360 8648 for more information.

**Report from the Board of Managers**

Over the past three weeks there has been maintenance carried out on our complex including the Manse. Both buildings have had an outside commercial clean, including a moss removal spray put onto the roof, outside windows cleaned and an insect spray on the premises to kill the common insects such as flies, spiders and cockroaches.

The builder has now fixed the door into the Disabled Toilet after the door had been stuck inside the door cavity.

The Hall, Kitchen and Toilet floors have been stripped back, re-sealed and re-polished as after much use, the floors had become quite scruffy over the past three years.

Claire

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Message from the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of  
Aotearoa New Zealand for Refugee Sunday.

"Every two seconds someone in the world is forced to leave their home and everything they know. With the threat of violence, persecution or disaster knocking on their door they make the only choice they can to find safety—they run." - CWS website

The biblical narrative tells of a similar tale. It has many accounts of people dislocated from home and land. The biblical text consistently calls for justice, mercy, and hospitality towards people so dispossessed. That call has never been so urgent. There are more displaced people in the world today than at any other time in history.

This fact has been dramatically thrown in our faces with the war in Ukraine where more than 14 million people have fled their homes since the Russian invasion - almost 7 million having left for neighbouring countries. Add that to the 6.7 million Syrians who have sought refuge in other countries, the 2.6 million refugees who are Afghan by birth, the 2.6 million South Sudanese who live in host communities abroad, the 1.1 million Rohingya refugees who fled violence in Myanmar, plus other affected peoples around the globe, and a deeply shocking picture of many millions living with displacement, poverty, and in huge vulnerability emerges.

What can we do? Understand our biblical mandate to be informed and care about this crisis.

Churches around the world will focus prayer on this issue at services around Refugee Day 20 June, and Refugee Sunday 26 June.

Prayer is needed but let us also be motivated to work for a better and more just world that sees this crisis diminish rather than escalate. In countries close to the borders where people are in refugee crisis, that work is real, obvious, and urgent. I am hearing stories of compassionate actions taken by churches in countries neighbouring Ukraine.

For far away countries like ours, help can take the shape of giving through the likes of Christian World Service. It can also mean developing friendships with people in our streets who have had to flee their homeland. We have a number of people in our neighbourhood for whom this is true. Engaging with them to build friendship and understanding, listening to their stories, sharing food together ... this is deeply biblical, this is hugely rewarding, this is gold!

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Copy for the August newsletter is requested by Monday  
July 25th. The Editor

**We do thank our sponsors, who make our newsletter possible.**

**Please support them!**

**Cuppa & Chat**

On Friday 13 June, thirteen people braved the weather to attend morning tea. All enjoyed Ross Marshall's scrap booking, his collection of postage stamps through the years. It brought back memories of days gone by.

Next meeting, 1st July.

Ring Nina 873 6963



**If you want the rainbow, you got to put up with the rain.**

**Steven Wright**

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Sun 3	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 10	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 12	7.00pm	Home group at Farquhars'
Wed 13	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 17	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 20	9.30am	Session
Sun 24	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 26	7.00pm	Home group at Farquhars'
Sun 31	10.00am	Morning Worship

**Every Friday: 9.30am Prayer meeting**Worship Leaders' roster:

July 3	Terry Cowland
July 10	Dawn Phillips
July 17	Keith Budge
July 24	Terry Cowland
July 31	Keith Budge
August 7	Terry Cowland
August 14	Dawn Phillips
August 21	Keith Budge
August 28	Terry Cowland

**Garage Sale**

We will be holding a garage sale later on in the spring. In the meantime, please hold on to those items you would otherwise dispose of, and bring them to the garage sale instead. Details will appear in a later newsletter.