



This picture was painted by Gaynor McCartney and presented to St David's, Easter, 2024

Planning meeting

On Thursday, 18 April at 10.00am, we will hold a meeting to revise our strategic plan for St David's. Our existing plan expired last year. If you are interested in helping shape the future goals and plans of the congregation, **you are welcome** to join the office bearers at this meeting. Bring your ideas.



ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

APRIL 2024

Ranfurly St
Otorohanga

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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



Weeping may linger for the night but joy comes with the morning. Ps 30:5



E tau iho te tangi i te ahiahi, ā, I te ata he hari.

Nga waiata 30:5

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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**Easter Message from the Moderator of Kaimai Presbytery,
 Rev Wilson Orange**

Left to ourselves we are lost. None of us deserved to be rescued, no not one. This only happens when the living Saviour who suffered for us, was crucified, died, was buried and then gloriously resurrected, and now speaks to our hearts and consciences, to believe and trust in him.

It is written in Luke 23:33, "They crucified him with the criminals, one on either side of him."

Which is more amazing, to find Jesus in bad company, or to find the criminals in such good company? As a matter of fact both are true!

One thing is certain however, all there were exposed to the same public abuse, to the same unrelenting pain, to the same excruciating irrevocable death throes. But the Lord Jesus Christ alone was the principle actor, the hero of Good Friday; man like us, yet at the same time different, because in him, God himself was present and at work, healing the wounds of the world.

Through Christ on that cross, God cancelled out and swept away all our wickedness, our pride, our anxiety, our greed, our false pretences. In Jesus Christ, God made the day break after the long night, and spring came after a long winter.

True, only one criminal crucified with Christ acknowledged who Jesus was, and what he did. Then without any sacraments, nor confirmation nor even a prayer of repentance, through simply believing he received that very same day, the awesome promise of paradise with Jesus. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble

Are we ready to believe and trust in the crucified, risen Lord Jesus?

Our Website is operational, thanks to Ann Roberts (now Crocombe) and to Kieng Sim. Occasional enquiries come in via the website. We were sorry to lose Ann as an active Session member, but are happy for her in her marriage to Rev Nigel.

Police clearance was obtained for all office bearers who requested it. One Session member attended the PCANZ Ethics Course on line. With help from the police, office bearers have written a church policy on dealing with strangers who come demanding money.

Another successful Combined Churches Light Party was held. The World Day of Prayer service, written by the women of Taiwan, and hosted by the Catholics this year, was another great occasion for the combined churches. Several members of our congregation attended the town Anzac service, and Nina made a posy to be laid on our behalf among the wreaths.

Owing to adverse weather, the picnic service was held in the church atrium. The much appreciated mid-winter Christmas lunch was naturally held indoors anyway.

Cuppa and Chat had a busy year. In one month they had a police speaker telling how to keep ourselves safe, and a mobility scooter display: the range was amazing. Thanks to Nina Mark and Betty Hoskins for their sterling work providing morning tea for the many participants and arranging speakers.

A home group at Farquhars' place studied the book called "Walking like Jesus did". Norm and Jan Farquhar returned to the States and the group lapsed. A small corporate prayer meeting was irregularly attended, and petered out.

St David's sent some monetary support to victims of Cyclone Gabrielle, via Wairoa church.

We are very grateful to Terry Cowland, not just for the teaching he imparts at services twice a month, but also for the printed notes with devotional questions that he gives us.

Session are humbled by the amount of work done by the Managers, especially our treasurer, Claire. Thank you all very much for your service to our Lord through the church. And thank you to Jane for her reliable supplying of music for services and other occasions. To Nina Mark, we express our deep appreciation of her handling of hall bookings. Dawn Phillips

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An elderly man was sorting his things before vacating his house to go to a retirement village. He came across an old family Bible in the bottom of a drawer. It had many details of family births, baptisms and deaths, and he thought it should be handed on to the next generation for safe-keeping. So he parcelled it up carefully and took it down to the post office, intending to send it to his granddaughter. The man behind the counter commented that this was a heavy parcel and asked what was in it, like crystal or glass. In short, was there something breakable. "Yes", replied the elderly man. "What is it?" asked the assistant. The elderly man replied, "The Ten Commandments."

Calendar for April 2024

Sun 7	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 10	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 14	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wed 17	9.30am	Session
Sat 18	10.00am	Strategic Planning
Sun 21	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sun 28	10.00am	Morning Worship

Preaching Roster

April 7	Terry Cowland
April 14	Keith Budge
April 21	Dawn Phillips
April 28	Terry Cowland

Annual report from Session, 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Early in the year, June Douglas was made elder emeritus. We honoured her long and varied service as an elder.

Representatives attended each Presbytery Gathering. These are always worthwhile: we appreciate the efforts the Presbytery makes to equip us as a parish.

We have continued to take our turn at leading the Beattie Home services. It is a privilege to catch up in this way with folk who attended St David's while they could.

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Resurrection Hope

Message from the Moderator of the PCANZ, Right Rev Rose Luxford

I have been in ministry for 26 years now, and every Easter, I find myself experiencing the same dynamic. I cannot begin to write my Easter Day sermon until I have led/attended the Good Friday service. I need to first go through the Good Friday experience. It is a process of following the story, and not engaging with the resurrection account until after the crucifixion. Without reflecting on the events of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion, we cannot fully appreciate the joy and significance of the resurrection.

Easter is at the heart of our faith. And the narrative it brings to us—that life is stronger than death, that hope is stronger than despair, that the light is stronger than the darkness—makes us an Easter people. People of the resurrection. That large narrative provides a framework in which we live out our lives.

When we have those times of 'walking through the valley of death', we carry with us a sense of that overarching hope. When we are racked with grief, we have the inherent hope that that healing and wholeness will come. And through the cross of Jesus Christ, we have the assurance of coming into deep relationship with God our Creator. There is a reuniting, a reintegration of that which has been torn asunder.

The word salvation comes from the Latin root of salus or salvus, which can be translated as health, to be whole, to be integrated. Re-integrating, reuniting from what we were estranged from, equipping us for the kind of life our Creator intended us to have.

Resurrection is mystery and promise, reality and hope. The dimension of hope was fundamental to the thinking of the New Testament writers. The suffering of Christ and the suffering Christians were undergoing were the birth pangs of a new age. In Christ, God had begun to move with power. Christian faith was faith in one who had raised Christ from the dead and therefore they could persevere with hope and confidence, joy and expectation.

And that continues to speak to us today. The resurrection event of Easer is not just something we remember as a past event, it is a continuing reality which gives us hope today. We live in a world that is in real need of a sense of hope. Individuals, communities, countries alike. There are many who are feeling disconnected, isolated, overwhelmed with the pressures around them and the polarization of society. The Easter narrative has something important to offer in this space. A word of hope into situations of despair. A promise of reintegration after brokenness. A sense of 'gathering in' as opposed to separating out. Relationship with the Risen Christ who connects with us on this journey of life and holds out the promise of fullness of life. In Christ all things are made new.

May we all experience afresh the life-giving joy of being people of the resurrection, and may that be something we in turn live out in our communities.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

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Copy for the May newsletter is requested by Monday 22 April. The
Editor