



The logo for Season of Creation

A local result
of the recent
very wet
weather.



Nigel being commissioned at Raglan Congregational church



ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OTOROHANGA

SEPTEMBER 2022

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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and give loving service to the community.



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Session report

We were pleased to welcome Nina back from her stay in hospital.

It is good to know we can again run services within Beattie Home.

More good news is that another Light Party is set to go ahead at Windsor Park on 31 October, at 4pm. After a 2 year gap, this is encouraging news.

Some of us travelled to Raglan on Sunday afternoon, 21 August, to attend the commissioning service for Rev Nigel Crocombe who has been called to the position of pastor at Raglan Congregational Church. It was a splendid occasion, and a real privilege to be there. We pray God's rich blessing on Nigel in this new situation.

The Mangers have rented our manse to some tenants now.

Dawn Phillips Session Clerk

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do, it's because I missed my exit.

Copy for the October newsletter is requested by Monday
26 September. The Editor

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(continued from page 5)

*"We are recovering the sense of wonder at how the world was made, and we need to reclaim the theology of why it was made.**We need to listen to creation so that we can move from a theology of plunder back to a theology of wonder."*

When the Rev Sikawu Makubalo of the Methodist Church from Southern Africa revealed the burning bush logo of the 2020 *Season of Creation*, he said that the bush contrasts the fire of so many unnatural fires that aggravate the climate crisis, with the sign of fire as the light of the Holy Spirit that unites Christians. He asked those in attendance: *"Are we listening? What are we seeing? Are we moved?"*

Right Rev Hamish Galloway

Matthew 5:11

If one of the occupation troops forces you to carry his pack one kilometre, carry it two kilometres.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of — it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

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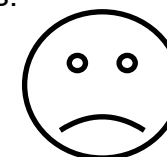
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07 873 8700Farms * Lifestyle * Residential * Commercial
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Sun 4	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 6	7.00pm	Home group at Farquhars'
Sat 10		Presbytery Gathering, Katikati
Sun 11	10.00am	Communion
Wed 14	2.00pm	Managers
Sun 18	10.00am	Morning Worship
Tues 20	7.00pm	Home group at Farquhars'
Wed 21	9.30am	Session
Sun 25	10.00am	Morning Worship
Sat 1 Oct	4.00pm	Beattie Home service
Sun 2 Oct	10.00am	Morning Worship

Every Friday: 9.30am Prayer meeting at Tollands'Preaching Roster

September 4	Terry Cowland
September 11	Dawn Phillips
September 18	Keith Budge
September 25	Terry Cowland
October 2	Terry Cowland
October 9	Dawn Phillips
October 16	Keith Budge
October 23	Terry Cowland

Unfortunately we must postpone indefinitely our proposed mini-Olympics.



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Moderator's message: **Season of Creation** 1 Sept—4 Oct
(abridged)

Do you remember Climate Change protests many New Zealand school students participated in a couple of years ago? Students took Friday afternoon off school to march together. I was sitting on the verandah of Hagley Golf Club on one such Friday afternoon, surrounded by my old golfing mates. We saw a huge group of school students coming towards us down the path through the park. They were carrying placards calling for action on climate change. They were chanting and singing. The first reaction amongst my group was "let's go and tell them that they need to get back to school!" Some of us managed to change the mood to let's go out to them and applaud their passion for creation. And so we did, listening to these young voices as they spoke up for care for the planet.

This is a topic close to my heart as it is so in tune with my Moderator theme of Empowering Generations. This cause is so important to the younger generations and we who are older need to listen to their voices and respond.

And this story fits so well with the theme and symbol of the *Season of Creation* 2022, the annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home.

This year's theme is, "Listening to the Voice of Creation", and the symbol is the burning bush.

Season of Creation begins on 1 September, World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends on 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

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As I reflect on the theme in the context of the Exodus 3 passage where God captures the attention of Moses through a burning bush, I think of these things:

God called and Moses listened.

God spoke of hearing the suffering voices of the people.

Today the suffering voices of people continue to cry out...as I write this message the Leaders of the Pacific Forum lament rising sea levels, villagers in Bangladesh and citizens of Sydney weep over homes and livelihoods drowned under flood waters, residents in Spain, Portugal and France desperately call for more help to fight the fires that ravage their lands, and the United Kingdom experiences the highest temperatures ever recorded.

And just as God used part of creation to call Moses, are these rising sea levels, floods and fires creation itself calling out for our attention?

Moses listened and at the grand age of 80 sprang into action.

In this *Season of Creation*, individuals and communities are invited to spring into action through prayer, sustainability projects and advocacy.

Prayer: Host an ecumenical prayer gathering.

Sustainability: Lead a clean-up project.

Advocacy: Participate in an ongoing campaign such as the fossil fuel divestment movement.

I was especially touched by a quote from Rev Rachel Mash, Provincial Canon for the Environment in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa: