

KAEO-KERIKERI UNION PARISH



**AGENDA and REPORTS
for the Parish
ANNUAL MEETING
6 November 2016**

**in the Wesleydale Memorial Church,
Kaeo, following the Parish Service
to be held at 10.30am**

All Parishioners and Interested Friends Welcome

In Memory Of

31.10.2015	Bruce Norman
04.12.2015	Des Hoult
30.12.2015	Nancy Topp
11.01.2016	Sid Anderson

We believe that God
does not leave us alone,
but breathes within our life
and walks within our way.

We believe that Jesus Christ
continues to turn his face
towards us all in costly love.

We believe that the Holy Spirit
is weeping within our tears
and touches our faces
with the warmth of hope.

Nō reira...

*Tukuna mai tōu Wairua Tapu
he hōmai hoki ki a mātou
te kaha ki te waiho i a rātou
i roto i o manaakitanga katoa.*

*Send your Holy Spirit
to give us strength
to leave these loved ones
in your care.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

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Finance Committee

Copies of the Performance Report are available at church or on request

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Auditor: vote of thanks for Auditor and appointment of Auditor for 2016-2017.

Appointment of Parish Councillors – reports from Congregational Meetings at each Church and confirmation by AGM.

General Business

Close

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Ted Robinson Chapel in Kerikeri on 11 October 2015 at 11.30am.

Present: Isobel Prisk, Diane Paterson, Gay Traas, Jessica and Neil Scott, Sandy Champtaloup, Kato Akau'ola, Jean Andrewes, Michelle Tupou, Val and Henry Driver, Stella Leather, Mary Fenton, Ian and Elaine Wright, Gladwin Judd, Ian and Lorelei Hayes, Alan and Yvonne Robinson, Michael Tearle, Lynne Cooksey, Bev Barke, Ros Simpson, Clyde Foster, Arlene and Lloyd Purdie, Craig Ambler, Jenny Phillips.

Apologies: Ellen Boscher, Ted and Sandra Crawford, Ray and Sheryl Webster, Anthony Hayes, Lynn Faithfull, Brian and Lorraine Stewart, Torum Jenkins, Jan Gough, John and Kay Blunkell, Helen and Bruce Norman, Tony and Olive Shepherd, Bill Wilson, Carol and Neville Frear, Paula du Plooy, Sue Campbell. Agreed to be received.

Minutes of the AGM on 19 October 2014: After the addition of Isobel Prisk to the apologies to the 2014 AGM, that the minutes be confirmed. A. Robinson/I. Hayes. Agreed.

Matters arising: none

Correspondence: none

Approval of the Agenda was agreed with no items of General Business.

Reports: as listed. That all of the reports to the AGM be received A. Purdie/D. Paterson. Agreed.

We then worked through the Agenda and reports booklet, which should be read in conjunction with the following comments:

The Parish Council should be commended for its patience and endurance.

Women's groups: a speaker felt sorry for those who don't join in as they were missing something special.

Children's groups: a big thankyou to those doing Sunday School and Youth and Diane said thanks to those doing catering at sales days, for Girls' Brigade funds.

Study groups – the lectionary group is a highlight of the week.

Worship: there is room for more people to be involved eg. in the Bible reading roster.

Kaeo Property: the situation is looking positive with the Methodist Church.

Kerikeri Property: thanks to Ian Wright and Trevor Bedggood for being a sub committee for the church house.

Car boot sales: are being held when possible, thanks to all the workers.

Finance: appreciation was expressed for the huge help that Sue Campbell has been as treasurer. More people are needed to be on the finance committee, including one professional.

The financial statements: thanks for them was expressed. Also a wonder that so much money has been spent so far (c \$500K), yet no concrete has been poured!

It is noted that Sonny Hayden should be on the list of those of our parish who have died this past year.

Adoption of Reports: That the reports and financial statements be adopted. L. Hayes/N. Scott. Agreed.

The Auditors: that the auditors be thanked and the appointment of the 2015/16 auditor be delegated to the finance committee. Y. Robinson/I. Wright. Agreed.

Appointment of Parish Councillors: that Michelle Tupou, Paula du Plooy, Bev Barke, Michael Tearle and Bill Wilson be appointed to parish council, as recommended be the two congregations. A. Robinson/I. Hayes. Agreed.

Thank yous: This year the thank yous were directed primary to all of us, taking a moment to recognise the gifts we have among us and the work that is quietly done by many. Some particular people were then mentioned by those present: Jenny Phillips for work done around and about, Alan Robinson for work done as a (temporary) secretary, Robyn McPhail for pastoring us, Jean Andrewes for being our 'thank you' person.

The meeting ended with a Benediction and Waiata Aroha. Lunch was then shared in the Social Centre.

REPORTS

PARISH COUNCIL

Time spent in sharing our stories as meetings begin, and fellowship over a cuppa at half time is always worthwhile, but in what has been a very busy year it has been more so.

Part of the Parish Council role is to receive the details of all committees' work and give approval and support. This includes the work of the Property Planning Group and we were delighted that finally got the church building underway. The building consent arrived shortly before Christmas and work on site began in late January. Much of it is worked through by PPG, for our subsequently approval, and Parish Council appreciates greatly their hard labour.

The most recent effort has related to the Funeral Parlour. With the Agreement to Lease signed work could begin, but only once uplift of funds was assured so that the building contract could be signed. Mid-year the approval received was conditional, which was going to hold up the start until next year. A letter in late September to the Presbyterian Trustees has since yielded approval to uplift without condition.

First endeavours to get a design for a special window came up against the challenge of cost and we accepted the sand-blasted technique over earlier ideas of colour. The design eventually chosen was by Toi Te Rito Maihi and was her response to who she saw us to be in the community as "Union Church". After a number of meetings reflecting on the design, a unanimous decision was able to be made at the April meeting, with the design being introduced to the congregation with overall acceptance.

Considerable reflection was taken before finding a name for the building that seemed just right for us and for its purpose – Cornerstone. Local kaumatua Sid Kingi offered a Māori name Whare Karakia o Manako, which we accepted with grateful thanks.

As attention turned to what would be required for the management of the new building a Cornerstone Management Committee was set up. Also we began recruiting volunteers (task ongoing) and decisions were made on fees. Planning is underway for opening events, gathering names invitations, and tossing around ideas of how to celebrate and have maximum community exposure.

A number of parish councillors attended the Safety in Ministry workshop in Kaikohe in April led by the Rev Marilyn Welch Methodist Regional Superintendent.

Kaero Mainly Music, our joint effort with the Seventh Day adventist church, continued into its second year, thanks to the commitment of the people involved and the loyalty of

delightful children and parents. Sometimes the numbers are very few and we have been impressed with the perseverance of the group.

We really enjoyed the visit by Jill Kayser of Kids Friendly of the Presbyterian Church She introduced possibilities for greater inclusion of children and families the church life and opened our eyes to how we could ensure our buildings, in particular the new building, will be genuinely open and welcoming.

November saw a change in secretary, when Alan Robinson resigned so that he could have time to serve on Standing Committee of Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand, the umbrella organisation of union parishes like ours.

The new Health and Safety regulations have been an incursion into our already busy schedule. Representatives attended a workshop on the Act that came into effect in April and since then good progress has been made in establishing policies and other details.

Parish Council acknowledges the work of all the committees, groups, and areas whose reports follow on from this one. All are a valued contribution to the work of the parish.

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

KAEO: Ian Hayes, Lorelei Hayes, Alan Robinson, Michael Tearle, Bill Wilson

KERIKERI: Michelle Tupou, Craig Ambler (resigned during the year), Bev Barke, Paula du Plooy (Secretary), Mary Fenton, Diane Paterson, Jessica Scott, Neil Scott, Sheryl Webster.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Kerikeri Women's Fellowship

We continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month at 10am at different venues. We begin with refreshments and devotions, all are invited to contribute to a chosen theme. We catch up on Parish news or any members of the church who are not well, bereaved, or in need of assistance, and Jean sends appropriate cards to them. As our outreach project we continue to support a World vision child with prayers and financial donations. Thanks to those from our group who assist each week with packing food for the food bank on a Saturday afternoon. Many thanks to Akisi Renner, our efficient Treasurer who also keeps in touch with our World Vision child.

Jenny Phillips and Jan Gough

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD 01/07/2015 – 30/06/2016

INCOME:		EXPENSES:	
Donations at meetings	\$405.00	World Vision	\$396 . 00
Golly's Bookshop	\$170.00		
TOTAL	\$575.00	TOTAL	\$396 . 00
Excess of income over expenses			\$179 . 00
TOTAL FUNDS:			
Balance brought forward			
From 30/06/2015	\$577.70		
Income	\$575.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,152.70	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$396.00
Excess of income over expenses			\$756.70
Bank balance at 30/06/2016			\$756.70

Akisi Renner

Wesleydale Women's Fellowship

Although our Fellowship group has not held regular meetings this last year we have endeavoured to keep in touch with those who have been unwell or unable to get out.

We have had regular contact with Mavis and Bonnie at Kauri Lodge, visited Rae now that she does not get out so much following her stroke and kept in touch with Margaret Langman at Selwyn Park in Whangarei. Some of our group have assisted with the painting of value words on the tiles that are to be attached to the concrete wall in front of the church.

We extend our congratulations to Aileen on the successful launch of her book of poetry 'Chasing Rainbows'. Aileen's poetry touches on the problems she has faced in life and has managed to climb over.

Our thanks once again to those who do the beautiful flower arrangements each Sunday for our Church services.

Unfortunately we are at a low ebb as far as members go. We hope this may improve in the future.

Lorelei Hayes, Convenor

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AT 31 JULY 2016

Balance 31.07.2015	239.53
Interest ANZ Bank 31.08.2015	.46
Interest ANZ Bank 28.02.2016	.46
There was no expenditure	
Bank Balance 31.07.2016	<u>240.07</u>

Olive Shepherd

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday School

Sunday School and Youth groups continued with a small but enthusiastic band of young people, mostly from the Ambler, Webster and Renner clans, They enjoyed the lessons that were produced for them, including some of the well known Old Testament stories which they never seem to tire of - Noah, Moses, Joseph and Jacob, David and Goliath, Daniel, and Jonah, More recently we have been reminding them of the wonderful parables that Jesus told, most of them being presented as mini-dramas!

Thanks go to Ros Simpson, who has tackled 'more meaty' and thought-provoking Bible content, discussing life issues with Hamish Ambler, our only teen, and delving a little into the book of Joshua.

We look forward to moving into our new Church of course, and experiencing the new space which has been planned for our young people. Please pray for new leaders to appear from our Kerikeri midst, to pick up and continue this important work, and continue in what will be wonderful surroundings with state of the art AV and sound equipment. Why we may even get a band or orchestral group starting...

Mary Fenton

Bible in Schools

We continue to support Bible in Schools teaching at Kaeo and Riverview Primary Schools. There has been a change of curriculum recently to a more story-based approach with a good emphasis on values for life-skills and expanding spiritual horizons. It is good to be part of school life in this way.

Robyn McPhail

Girls' Brigade

Late in 2015 the girls had a lot of fun doing fundraising events to raise funds for the people of Nepal who were devastated by earthquake. This included fun nights where they bought tickets for games etc and finished with raffles that were drawn on our final night of brigade which was held at the mini golf range. The girls enjoyed a round of mini golf, had pizzas for dinner and were given their Christmas presents. They also enjoyed our end of year camp at Lonsdale Park, Kaeo. This was a family camp with a good attendance.

2016 has seen us with a very small group of girls. We have one Pioneer, one Senior and 10 Juniors. Leaders are Jodie, Sheryl and Renee with a huge lot of regular help from Maria, last years pioneer. She has an amazing way with the girls and we appreciate her commitment to helping. This has allowed the other leaders to have a break now and then when needed.

Some of the subjects that the girls have covered are: Pioneers and Seniors - sewing pouches for sewing gear, exploring the Bible and photography. Juniors - talking to God, indoor physical, Mother's Day high tea, exploring different art forms and baking. In June we had our Area Church Parade in Dargaville and have also had a Pioneers/Fonomarae event.

As January 2017 is the next International Fonomarae there has been a lot of fundraising going on. We have done stock sales and sausage sizzles mostly. As this event is to be held in Marsden Bay, Northland ladies are organising it with our team of Kerikeri ladies offering an additional 2 days to take people to Cape Reinga. We have 53 going... A lot of organising of which Jodie is playing a major roll.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Jodie, Renee and Maria for the huge commitment and contribution that they have made to Girls Brigade in Kerikeri. Also to Robyn for doing devotions each week for us - you are truly appreciated. To the people of our church - thank you also for your interest in what we do and your support wherever you can. We can't wait to have our own space in our new church next year.

In Christ's Service, Sheryl Webster, Team Leader, Kerikeri Girls Brigade

STUDY GROUPS

Kaeo Home Group

The same group of people, 12 of us, have been meeting mainly at Bill Wilson's house on the second and fourth Monday of each month: Derek and Avril Manley, Ian, Lorelei, and Anthony Hayes, Tony and Olive Shepherd, Michael Tearle, Bill Wilson, Rebecca (and sometimes Dwayne) Thompson, Alan and Yvonne Robinson.

We worked through the booklet put out by the Presbyterian Church 'Justice and Action', looking at Child Poverty and Family Violence. Our response to those affected by child poverty and family violence is to share Christ's love for a hurting world. It was pointed out that the Maori concept of Te Whare Tapa Wha compares a person's health and wellbeing to the four walls of a whare (house):

Taha tinana – physical health

Taha hinengaro – mental health

Taha whanau – extended family health

Taha wairua – spiritual health

All four aspects need to be attended to for the health of the whole person.

We looked at the causes of the poverty and violence, and were challenged to do something about it – as individuals, and as a church. As well, from time to time, we 'went to the movies' at the Thompsons' place, where Dwayne was in charge. For example we looked at the history of how Christianity spread first east to China, and then west. Very interesting. Currently we are using the Tear fund, 'The Good Lives Project' put out for families, small groups or households who want to examine their lifestyle habits through a Biblical lens. Tear fund believes that one of the most urgent challenges for Christians today is to live counter-culturally in all areas of our lives: work and leisure, our consumption, the environment, poverty, giving, savings and investment, and debt.

Such studies are hopefully helping each of us on our life journey, and we are enjoying it at the same time! Anyone reading this who wishes to join the group is very welcome to do so.

Alan Robinson

Kerikeri Home Group

It's been one heck of a winter; it seems like there is no end to the rain, wind, struggling with health, family situations, you name it, **BUT** Psalm 23 gets us going regardless. It lifts our spirits to press on doing the good work of God.

However, during the winter season the time for our Home Group was brought forward from 6.30pm to 6.00pm. on every first Friday of each month to suit. We start always with a prayer and blessing for our food before we continue on. As the saying goes; it's always a joy when children of God get together around the table to share a meal or somewhere in the house chatting away with someone. Some members were away on holiday, some attended family events, some were struggling with health, and to the rest of us we soldier on.

There was a call strongly felt involving the Home Group which was "A call for Prayer", so members were contacted to be on guard and pray diligently for everyone in our congregation who struggle with health and especially Henry Driver. So we stood together arms to arms in prayer and we believed God heard our cries and answered our prayers in restoring Henry back to good health, also Kato's radiation went well. God is keeping his promises. We were glad to welcome Paula du Plooy back to our Christian family as we thought we were going to lose her.

Looking forward to summer and of course there's always something that comes with it which is challenging our faith, but hey, "bring it on", God is on our side.

God bless, Michelle Tupou

Lectionary Study Group

The Lectionary Study Group meets at 1.15pm - 3pm Mondays at The Ted Robinson Chapel with some of the Village residents also attending. Tea/coffee available on arrival and a time of sharing thoughts and concerns. We look forward to our meeting, with Robyn leading us and sharing with us her knowledge of biblical and political history of those times, and learning to apply the scriptures to our present day times.

Jenny Phillips

WORSHIP

The Worship Committee consists of Robyn McPhail, Jenny Phillips, Jessica and Neil Scott, Sheryl Webster, Jan Gough and Clyde Foster. We meet at Jan's place at 11.00am quarterly where we have tea/coffee prior to starting the meeting. The spaces for taking the services when Robyn is away are addressed and suggestions taken for who can fill in.

The Kerikeri congregation look forward to being able to meet in the new complex soon but are very grateful for the Ted Robinson Chapel in the meantime. Our Communion Service is now the second Sunday of the month. We extend our thanks to the Retirement Village for the use of both the chapel and social centre where we can enjoy morning tea and chat after the service, and where the children can have Sunday School.

The Kaeo church service is at 11.15am and the congregation share lunch together after the Communion Service on the second Sunday of the month. On occasions a gap in the roster is covered by attending whichever Anglican service is being held that week, All Saints Kaeo and St Paul's Whangaroa in particular. We have been inviting all the Anglican congregations to join us on the fifth Sunday of the month, with great support from ministers, Margaret Williams, Wassi Stewart, and Kiwi Herewini.

The Union Parish is rostered, along with other churches to take a service at the Ted Robinson Chapel each Sunday at 4.00pm for the residents in the Kerikeri Retirement Village and Rest Home. A Communion Service is held at Kauri Lodge in Kaeo once a month at 1.00pm, led by Robyn where she also provides a chaplaincy service.

Our Parish takes part in the Kerikeri Combined Churches Services, the World Day of Prayer, the Week Of Prayer For World Peace, and the Combined Churches ministers meetings once a month. Support for Girls' Brigade, Sunday School and Youth are also part of our Parish commitments.

We would like to record our thanks to Robyn, our minister, who serves us so well and is an inspiration to us all.

Jan Gough, Convener

MUSIC Kerikeri

The Singing Group welcomes anyone who wish to join in practicing songs following the service on Sundays except on the second Sunday of the month. Thanks to Marie Cannon who has been a great help with the music and practices each week.

Thanks to all our organ and piano players - Diane Paterson, Marie Cannon, Kato Akau'ola, Clyde Foster, and Robyn McPhail who also plays when the need arises.

Thankyou to Jean Andrewes who has been a source of inspiration with her songs and playing over the years. We are also grateful to Joan Pasche who plays for the 4.00pm Chapel Services on the 4th and 5th Sundays of each month. Marie now does the music roster and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to be included on the roster.

Jenny Phillips

ROSTERS – Kerikeri

Door and Tea: 18 regulars work in pairs on their rostered Sunday, so their turn comes up every 9 weeks. They welcome people to the services, hand out bulletins and hymn books etc. They also bring the milk for morning tea, pour tea, do dishes, etc. Many thanks to all those people who volunteer to serve in this capacity.

Communion: Thanks to the 14 people who (in pairs) offered to take a turn setting up communion to relieve Val Driver from that responsibility. Thankyou to Val who has served faithfully in this and other capacities over many years.

Bible Reading: Our thanks to the 19 people for the readings, the hymns they choose, their symbols of God's presence and thoughts expressed.

Flower Roster: As soon as the new building is ready we will be making up the flower roster again. Many thanks to Margot Ngan for the flowers she grows for our use.

Jenny Phillips

PASTORAL - Kerikeri

We are a very fortunate parish where pastoral needs are concerned. You, the congregation, do very good work in this area helping those who need an extra hand. The pastoral team do very good work too and growing in this field with their reading and visiting which enables them to get to know the person visited and for the person to get to know the visitor.

When we move to Cornerstone it will be important for the team to be well equipped to know about other community groups so that they will know where to refer people if they need specialised care. I envisage pastoral care will grow when we move to the new church and make contact with community and groups.

A big thank you to Robyn who is always there to guide and help the team when needed. On behalf of Ros Simpson, Bev Barke, Kay Blunkell, Paula du Plooy, Michelle Tupou and myself we feel privileged to serve our congregation.

Don't forget we are all here to help in whatever way we can.

Jessica Scott

PROPERTY PLANNING GROUP

Finally this is the year we started building. It was with much delight that we watched the earth works get under way.

It has been a long hard slog and we are grateful to all who have stood by us making it all possible. A GREAT BIG VOTE OF THANKS TO YOU ALL.

The first major part of the build went ahead at what could be said was 'normal' speed but things slowed down with the interior due to the shortage of material. We have

already had a wait for the windows and doors but they are now in. Progress is still slow but ARCO have said they should be finished by the middle of November.

The Funeral Parlour: After a very long slow and at times frustrating time an Agreement to Lease was signed with Scotts Funeral Services Ltd of Kerikeri. The Funeral Parlour will be built on the lot below and northwest of the Church. We are now waiting for finance to be arranged through the Presbyterian Trustees (since received) so the contract with ARCO can be signed. Then the building of the Funeral Parlour will commence as soon as the consent process is completed.

Brian Stewart, Convener

PROPERTY Kaeo

The Kaeo Church Hall servery slide needs replacing, and a quote of \$2,144 was obtained from Sage Doors. Purchase was put on hold so as to wait until the new Kerikeri Church is ready to install theirs, and the two can be delivered at the same time.

Bill Wilson had a one man working bee and removed the mould and dirt from the back wall of the Church Hall. He also dug a drain and laid a pipe into the front lawn area from the existing drainpipe, finishing it at a cesspit. Well done Bill, thanks very much! The latter was done to enable a stage area to be developed at the front of the grounds.

In keeping with the beautification of Kaeo town, the women's group (and others) have painted whakatauki (proverbs, sayings) on tiles – value words. They are to be attached to the low wall on the roadside at the front of the church. More need to be painted to finish the job.

Helen and Eric Laursen, Methodist Church people of note, visited the Kaeo congregation and suggested that we continue with 'reasonable maintenance' of the church building. So, when it became apparent that the floor of the sanctuary was literally breaking up, due to rot, it was fixed using treated pine for a cost of \$3,347.20 (excluding GST). It looks nice too!

The old Kerikeri sound system has been installed in the Kaeo church, being housed in a small cupboard donated by Bill Wilson. As the congregation has matured, more and more people are suffering from hearing loss, so the system is well appreciated.

Local restaurateur, Sabbi Singh, thinks the church should be lit up at night, the way it used to be from time to time in the past, and has generously offered to purchase the lights and put \$500 towards installation costs. Unfortunately the electrician Sabbi suggested put in a quote too high for the Property Committee to consider feasible, something like \$3000. So that idea has stalled at the moment.

Last year Kaeo held a very successful Christmas concert on a temporary platform on the front lawn, and a repeat is proposed this year. A more permanent stage of shingle is planned, so, during the next two months that should take shape.

Alan Robinson, Chairperson

Church House

After a 10 year inspection showed little would need to be done until the next change of residents, there was a flurry of unexpected activity. The water tank sprang a leak which resulted in a significant relining of the tank. At the same time we decided to connect to

the irrigation system. With just a single tank, this will ensure residents have plenty of water for outdoor use.

The next expense came with pump failure in the wastewater treatment unit. The lack of a filter from the unit to the field could account for this, and again we feel let down by the original installers. We installed a filter and a new field for the distribution of the clean and now filtered water.

As the new church year began we received the Far North District Council's letter asking for consent, or otherwise, to the expanded wastewater scheme. Our recommendation to consent was agreed to all by involved in property and finance matters and the Presbyterian Church Property Trustees have signed the consent document.

Ian Wright and John Latell

CORNERSTONE MANAGEMENT

In readiness for the new building in Kerikeri, Parish Council set up a Cornerstone Management Committee, which will meet monthly and have the following tasks:

- Oversight of the building – its maintenance and operation
- Oversight of staff - paid or volunteer
- Responsibility for all Health and Safety requirements for the building
- Considering matters raised by user groups, or referred to it by Parish Council or the minister.
- Maintaining the agreed budget for the building, referring all ex-budget requirements to Parish Council, in consultation with the Finance Committee, and proposing to Finance Committee budget figures for the coming year
- Providing monthly written reports to Parish Council, and reports to the Annual Meeting.

The inaugural committee is (some of whom are checking it out initially): Sue Campbell (secretary), Paula du Plooy Mary Fenton, Neville Frear, Robyn McPhail, Ros Simpson, Bob Tayler, Michelle Tupou (convener).

CAR BOOT SALES

The Car Boot Sale has been held early Saturday morning every fortnight as usual for the past year. We have our regular sellers and buyers interspersed with new people 'trying their luck'.

Only a little money changes hands but they all seem to love the camaraderie and friendliness that the sale exudes, This has been an important outreach activity to remind the Far North that the Union Church is alive and active, and ready to spring into action as soon as the building is completed. We will continue in the new Church property as soon as we can. Electricity, toilets and water will be a big bonus compared with the bare fields we have been on for four years.

Mary Fenton

FINANCE

Kerikeri Union Church Envelope Giving

After 10 years as Envelope Secretary for the Kerikeri end of the Parish I must say that it is heart-warming to see the level of commitment and constancy of those who have chosen this method of giving. There are 27 families using the facility – two more than last year.

Please feel free to talk to me at any time about the system and I will explain just how easy it is, how there is no pressure upon you in any way, and very importantly I emphasise that the system is strictly confidential. It gives you the giver an overview of the extent of your offering and each year you receive a tax rebate certificate for your total. Another alternative is to make regular donations by way of an automatic Bank payment.

From the Kerikeri end of the Parish the total received from Envelope Givers and those who give by way of automatic Bank Payment, for the year ending 31 March 2016 was \$15,424.00 - well done and thank you for your continued support.

Please contact me (407 8123) if you need any further information.

Helen Norman, Envelope Secretary

Kaeo Union Church Envelope Giving

A big thank you again to those members of our Kaeo congregation who continue to support our church envelope system. Please remember the system entitles you to a 33.33% tax refund. If you have mislaid your receipt give me a ring and if you forgot to claim last year the IRD will still accept a claim.

At last we see the new Kerikeri Church building moving towards completion. However, with its completion there comes the challenge to us of using this building in a way which not only extends our parish's Christian outreach into our communities, but also provides an asset to facilitate the life of our area.

The survival in the past of our Christian work was made possible solely by the generous gifts of both time and finance to a work our supporters believed in. But slowly our financial demands outgrew our Sunday collection; fortunately we had rent coming in and were able to fill the gap. More recently we have interest from sale of property, and in the future, if we plan wisely, we'll have some interest and rent.

Regardless of the above comments I believe there is no substitute for willing helpers.

Thanks again to Anthony Hayes, Clyde, and Helen whose help makes it possible for this system to function.

Ian Hayes, Kaeo Envelope Steward

Finance Committee

The year was mostly about the building, with the treasurer involved regularly in the drawing down of funds to pay accounts for the building.

We decided to change GST period from two monthly to one monthly as GST refunds with the build are significant and this was in place from September 2015.

For some time we had been wanting to engage a suitable person to assist with financial oversight. An approach to Robyn Terlesk of accountancy firm BDO bore fruit and an agreement was made to begin at 1 October 2016.

We welcomed Bev Barke to her first meeting in January 2015 and appreciate her input.

The agreement for work with the Sue Campbell was expanded by Parish Council to include the role of administrator, which fits well alongside the treasurer role, particularly in future with the office located in Cornerstone.

The committee is grateful for the work Helen Norman does with Kerikeri banking, receiving Kaeo's banking, and being available to the treasurer. Our thanks to Helen and all involved in counting offerings at Kerikeri and Kaeo in their endeavours to keep correct records.

Current committee members are: Bev Barke, Ian Hayes, Robyn McPhail, Ray Webster, Sue Campbell, and Neil Scott. We are grateful to Sheryl Webster who assists at times.

Finance Committee

MINISTER'S POSTSCRIPT

It is now that much easier to look to the future and have an idea what it might be like.

In that respect I am talking from a church point of view and a personal point of view. A lot has happened in the last year, with building finally happening in Kerikeri, the community starting to grasp what we are planning to do and be, and ourselves working on how we will be a church with a real mission for our local context. And while that has been happening in Kerikeri, we have continued to be church very much grounded in our local community in Kaeo/Whangaroa, with our building becoming more and more a centre of activity for a variety of groups and families.

The qualities of perseverance and endurance have continued to be to the fore. That is a valuable underpinning which has helped provide the environment in which new buds are starting to break open. There are signs of new initiative and confidence in people, some of them newer to the parish family than others. It is important to expand the team, making space for new people, while drawing on the experience and loyalty of those who have been involved for many a year. The mix of people we are becoming suggests we will indeed find new and relevant ways to be church for a world that is not like it was when traditional church life was at its peak.

For that is the key challenge now: how to be future church. Being a church is about being a community shaped by Christ. Our task is to offer a variety of ways for people to engage with us as such community, Sunday mornings being an option, but it needs to become just one of a number.

This is going to be really important for me personally, one day not too far off when it is time to step away from here. How will I be able to feel connected to the family called church, when Sundays will often be about doing other things? As I said, a lot has happened this year. Personally it included buying a wee piece of land in Alexandra. And there is a grandbaby on the way.

Robyn McPhail

PO Box 166
Kerikeri 0245