

Info



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April 2025 Newsletter

Minister's Message

The Pilgrimage of Lent in Autumn

While I'm writing this, we are living in the 3rd week of Lent, nearly halfway through the Lenten journey of 40 days. It is also autumn when fruits ripen, and things will prepare for winter, which may not necessarily mean despair, but the hope for spring. I reflected on what I had done during the period. One of the things that marked my Lenten journey was to attend the Northern Presbytery Ministers' retreat on 12-14 March at Vaughan Park Anglican Retreat Centre at Long Bay. One of the sessions we attended was *The Pilgrimage of Faith* by ministers. They shared their stories about what they have done as pilgrims and how we recognise what is and is not a pilgrimage. We participated in a imaginative pilgrimage journey while facing towards the sea from the conference room, where tall native trees were also growing. While observing that direction, we could also identify some young people with yellow jackets climbed the tallest trees among them. It reminded me of a story of two pilgrimages written by Leo Tolstoy. The story goes like this:

Long ago, in a small village in Russia, two old friends, Efim and Elisha, promised to visit the holy city of Jerusalem. Efim was strong and careful

with his money. He always did what was right and wanted everything to go as planned. Elisha was small and cheerful. He didn't worry much and believed God would care for them. One day, they set off on their journey. They walked for many days and met kind people who gave them food and shelter. But as they travelled farther, they came to a village where people were starving. There was no food, and many were sick. Elisha saw a family in great need. They had no bread or water and were too weak to help themselves. He couldn't just walk away. So, he stopped, gave them food, cleaned their home, and cared for them until they were well again.

Days turned into weeks, and soon, Elisha had spent all his money helping the family. He knew he couldn't continue to Jerusalem, so he quietly left and returned home, happy that he had done what God wanted. Efim, however, kept going. He finally reached Jerusalem and visited all the holy places. But something strange happened—he couldn't get close whenever he tried to pray near the altars. The crowds blocked his way. And each time, he saw something amazing: his friend Elisha standing right at the front, glowing in the holy light as if God had brought him there first! On his way home, Efim stopped by the village where they had parted. He was surprised! The once-poor family was now healthy and happy. They told him about the kind stranger who had saved them and taught them about God's love. Now Efim understood—Elisha had found God by travelling far and helping those in need.

In your opinion, who has done their Pilgrimage well - Efim or Elisha? For me, they've done it in their own way. What about your Pilgrimage

of Lent in Autumn? May God lead you to find the truth of life here and now and beyond. Shalom!

Rev Jin Sook Kim

Onewa Christian Community Church Council Report

Eco Church

It has been great news that Onewa Christian Community is becoming an Eco Church. We have received a lot of resources already and Nan is liaising with the local coordinator to organise a meeting and receive our signage. Council is on the lookout for people who are interesting in being involved in spearheading the Eco-Church initiatives. Please talk with a member of Church Council if you are keen to help keep us green!

Eco Kids

Get ready for "Brilliant Bugs and Bees"! Our brand new Eco Kids programme is officially kicking off on Sunday 6 April at 9:30am. Eco Kids will be off on an adventure - visiting a real beehive, tasting honey and learning lots of cool stuff about bugs and bees before grabbing an ice cream on the way home. If you know any kids that would enjoy a fun outing learning about bugs and bees and eating ice cream then invite them along to the Church service on Sunday 6 April.

Fundraising

Fundraising initiatives continue to be ongoing and Church Council is looking forward to the inaugural fashion show fundraiser. We encourage the congregation to support this exciting new event and invite friends and family to attend.

Community engagement

Onewa Christian Community continues to be a Church that has a focus on engagement with the community. The Church has been advertising for that special person who can help us lead all of those wonderful community initiatives and a number of applications have been received by the executive to date. The Church will be kept updated with any progress here.

Strategic Plan

Council has been reviewing the strategic plan for the year ending 31 March and looking at the performance measures. Council reports that overall OCC has done fairly well in terms of what we have achieved against the strategic plan actions. There are also some areas we can improve. The Church Council is preparing the strategic plan actions for the upcoming 12 months.

Pastoral

We ask that you remember in prayer all those who are part of our Onewa Christian Community and other friends who are unwell or needing extra prayers for other reasons.

Onewa Christian Community Church Council

Onewa Christian Community is an Eco Church

Earlier this month Onewa Christian Community made application to join A Rocha Aotearoa New Zealand as an Eco Church. Our application was confirmed, and we have also been welcomed by our Regional Eco Church Coordinator, a local person who is keen to meet with us. We have access to excellent information and resources and the fellowship of other churches in the group. We are an Eco Church.

So – what happens now? There was no response to the invitation to form an Eco Church Team, but I am sure that there is interest among the congregation. We have heard from members of A Roche Aotearoa; a member of Para Kore helped us understand our waste and re-cycling situation as we sorted our rubbish bins during a Community Breakfast; the Children’s Ministry Team have developed an exciting Eco activities programme for young people; and we will continue to support Repair Cafes. You will notice some differences around our church building, for example a reduction in the use of (non-recyclable) paper towels, and a reduction in the use of single-use plastics.

What else can we as a congregation do? Could we have a compost bin? – where? Who would look after it? Who would make use of the compost? Can we join with other organisations? There is an EcoFest happening around Auckland from 22nd March to 22nd April with local activities. What else?

Please think carefully and prayerfully what we can do on our journey of sustainability and caring for creation. Have a look at the website www.ecochurch.org.nz . Talk to Jin Sook, or me, or any member of

Church Council with your thoughts, questions, ideas. We live in an amazing world; as an Eco Church we must continue to care for it.

Nan Inkson

BEACHHAVEN BIRKDALE GARDEN CIRCLE

We are celebrating 70 years of being a part of the local community in June.

Do you know of any ex-members who may be interested in helping us to celebrate this milestone with a special lunch?

Please let me know their details and I will contact them.

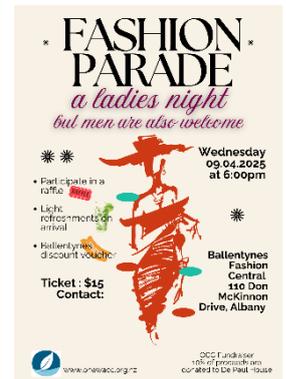
Pauline Fish



Exciting Fundraising Events at Onewa Christian Community in 2025!

Get ready for an incredible year filled with fun, fellowship, and fundraising! We are thrilled to announce our exciting lineup of events for 2025, designed to bring our community together while supporting our mission and projects. Mark your calendars and join us as we make a difference together!

April 9 – Ballantynes Fashion Parade Step into style with our elegant fashion parade, featuring the latest trends from Ballantynes. Enjoy an evening of glamour, refreshments, and community spirit, all while raising funds. Bring your friends and make it a night to remember!



May – Movie Night Grab your popcorn and settle in for a cozy movie night with family and friends. Stay tuned for the exact date and movie choice!

August – Pizza and Board Games Night Nothing beats the perfect combination of delicious pizza and classic board games! Join us for a night of laughter and friendly competition as we enjoy great food and great company. This is a fantastic event for all ages!





October 11 – Spring High Tea Celebrate the beauty of spring with a delightful high tea experience. Indulge in an assortment of teas, sweet treats, and savoury delights, all set in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. This is the perfect event to catch up with friends and enjoy an elegant afternoon together.

November – Pub Quiz Test your knowledge and compete for prizes at our ever-popular pub quiz! Gather a team, challenge yourself with trivia, and enjoy a fun-filled evening. It's the perfect way to wrap up our fundraising year with energy and excitement.



Your support at these events enables us to continue our community services, and spiritual initiatives. Let's come together, enjoy these fantastic occasions, and contribute to a cause that truly matters. Please note that 10% of our fundraising goes towards De Paul House.

Stay tuned for more details on each event, and don't hesitate to invite family and friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

What is the Friendship Group?

You may have heard people in the church talking about The Thursday Group. This name is used for want of a better name by those of us who meet at the church for a few hours every Thursday morning. Others call it the Church, The Church Group, Arts and Crafts Group, The Drop In Centre or just The Group.

It all started back in July 2021 when Colin Gordon asked how can we serve our community better? For a long time I had been concerned that some of our special members had nowhere to go during the week to mix with other people, and this became even more evident during and following lockdowns. I suggested that maybe we could open the church once a week and provide somewhere for these people to meet, to chat or to do some activities. We started small and as word got around it grew into the group it is today with up 40 people there most weeks. This includes carers, helpers and participants.

Various things happen every Thursday – some play cards, Snakes and Ladders, Scrabble or other board games, Garry and friends enjoy making jigsaw puzzles, Adult colouring books are very popular, craft activities appeal to others while some just like to chat. Morning tea is served upon arrival, and a shared lunch concludes the time. Special occasions such as Easter, Christmas, Birthdays, Matariki, and end of term are celebrated with quizzes, games, music and lots of cake.



Recently one of the boys (men) emailed me and he put the words Art and Craft and Friendship in his subject line. It struck me that this was how he viewed his Thursday mornings with us and what a lovely way it was to express it. I talked about it with other members of the group, and we all agreed that from now on we would be known as THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP.

I googled the word Friendship, and it says, “a relationship of mutual affection between people, or a close relationship between two or more people who care about and support each other.” A great way to describe our group. May our friendships keep growing forever.

Pauline F

Building Compassionate Communities

Our February workshop was a Family Violence Education session run by Dr Emma Barker-Clarke and Futi Ka, two very warm, clear and professional presenters from Shine RESPOND, part of Presbyterian Support Northern.

Shine (Safer Homes In New Zealand Everyday) RESPOND provide front line services for women, children, men and non-binary adults who are experiencing family violence.

There is a National Strategy to eliminate family violence and sexual violence but currently there are not enough people able to provide the right help.

The Family Violence Act 2018 does not cover people in a landlord-tenant relationship, employer-employee relationships in the workplace and employee-employee relationships.

Violence can be physical, sexual or psychological e.g. threats, intimidation, harassment, damage to property, ill treatment of pets, financial/economic abuse, dowry-related violence.

Its nature is coercive and controlling causing cumulative harm, a single act or number of acts that may seem trivial in isolation but form a pattern of abusive behaviour. Psychological abuse of a child occurs if someone allows a child to see or hear the abuse of a person with whom the child has a family relationship.

The Domestic Violence Victims' Protection Act 2018 includes entitlements for employees affected by domestic violence e.g. 10 days paid domestic violence leave annually.

Some myths: violence is because of overwhelming social and economic pressure. This is a false belief that puts the blame elsewhere rather than on the perpetrator. Violence is deliberate, unilateral (not mutual) and a pattern of behaviour, a series of acts over time.

Why don't they just leave the abusive partner? They are choosing to stay, or they have poor judgement when choosing a partner. Again this puts the blame elsewhere, on to the victim. Also the victim is at most risk of serious violence or death during the process of leaving an abusive partner.

The best response when someone tells you that they are experiencing family violence is to respond with empathy and compassion. Listen actively and empathically – don't rush the conversation or interrupt. Don't judge their experiences or reactions but acknowledge the seriousness of what they have experienced. Don't try to solve problems for them unless you are addressing imminent risk and don't push them to leave the person abusing them.

If there is immediate or imminent risk call the police 111.

You are not expected to fix the domestic violence problem and have all the answers, or make any decision about the situation on your own, to be a counsellor or an expert.

You could say “I have some resources that might really help. People who are specialists in this field can work with you through this.”

Shine helpline 0508 744 633

AreYouOK Family Violence info line free to call, 24 hours 0800 456 450

Women’s Refuge crisis line 0800 733 843.

For more information go to Shine RESPOND website (2shine.org.nz)

Shine are happy to provide some spaces on their one day introductory course if congregation members wish to attend. Contact Cathy or Rachel.

Age Concern comes to Breakfast

Our speaker at the March Community Breakfast was Kai Quan from the Central branch of Age Concern. She is the manager Intervention Services team which includes Elder Abuse Response.

I’m sure that most of our members have heard of Age Concern as an organisation that deals with issues relating to the older generation, but Kai was able to enlighten us about some of the areas that they work with.

The **Ageing Well** group delivers free workshops that promote healthy living and well-being. They can come and speak to a group of people on a specific topic such as eating well as we age, how to prevent falls and how to access help for health-related issues. Keep an eye on our local

community houses websites for information on when and where they are held.

Counselling, communicating with relevant groups for support, making community connections, elder abuse response services, a visiting service, working in ethnic communities and providing social connections are just some of the other services they provide.

All their services are free, and many are staffed by volunteers.

Elder Abuse is an issue that Kai works with on a regular basis. This can take the form of neglect, verbal abuse, taking financial advantage of someone when they have trusted a person to help with shopping, bill paying etc, scamming, physical or psychological and even sexual. Often this can go unnoticed as older people don't want to make a fuss or get someone they trust into trouble or maybe lose the companionship of someone. We need to be aware of signs of abuse among people we deal with and seek help if we are worried. Kai mentioned that in a report issued by the WHO on Elder Abuse 2 out of 3 health workers admitted that they had abused an elderly person at some stage – worldwide, not necessarily in NZ.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is held every year on June 15th. Look out for people wearing purple ribbons to commemorate it.

Ageism is another concern especially regarding older people. This is discrimination based on one's age and is seen more among people dealing with the elderly. It can have a negative impact on a person's mental and physical health and some reports link it to an early death.

Don't let anyone tell you you're getting old. We are only as old as we feel and I'm sure if we look around our congregation, we can see that we are all busy and active people who will never get old.

By the way, Kai also stressed that we should all ensure that we have an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPOA) set up – just in case!



IDEA Programme
Impact of Dementia mate wareware
and solutions for Equity in Aotearoa



HEALTHY AGEING & BRAIN HEALTH WORKSHOP

IDEA Programme – Dementia & Solutions
Celebrate the 1 year success of the IDEA Programme with us

- Learn About the IDEA Programme
- Understand Dementia & Boost Brain Health
- Explore Age Concern Auckland's Support
- Stay Connected Through Our Visiting Service
- Share Your Thoughts & Experiences

 **Wednesday, 16 April**

 **Start from 2:30 PM**

 **Birkenhead Senior Citizens Hall**

 **251 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead**

Register now!
brainhealth@ageconak.org.nz
Limited spaces available!
Afternoon tea provided



AGE CONCERN AUCKLAND
He Manaakitanga
Kaumihua Aotearoa

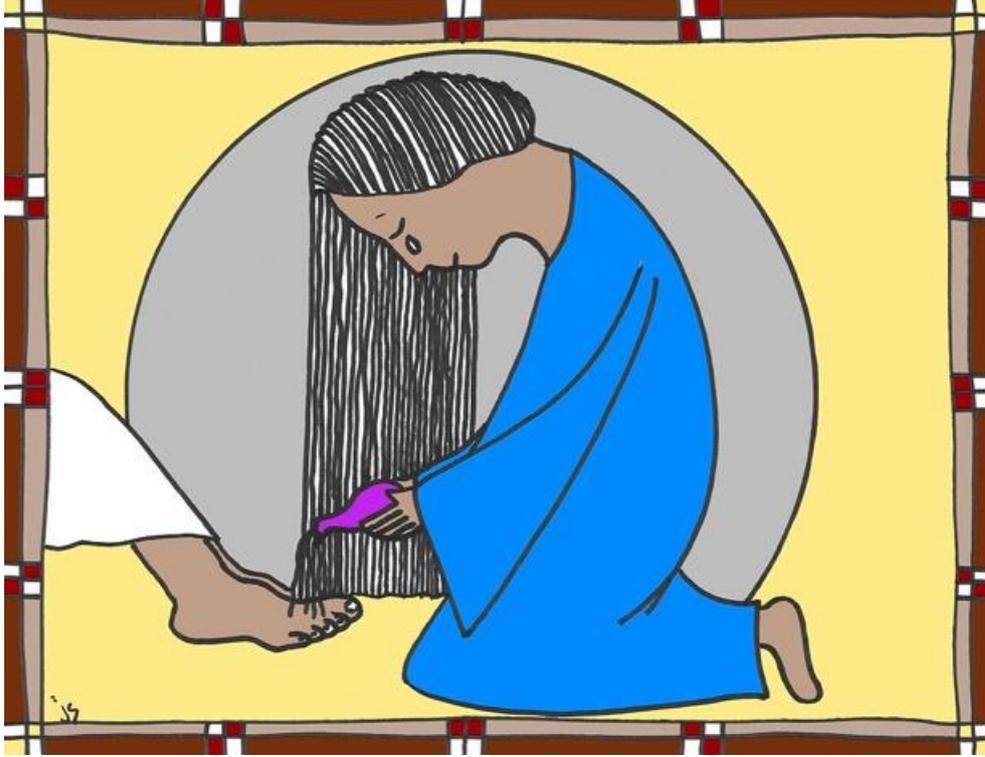


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NEW ZEALAND

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

BTS with Bible 52 – April and May reading plan

- Continuing through Lent and Easter



April

Week 1 (9) – Exodus 3

Additional readings: Exodus 4, Johua 5:13-15 and Matthew 22:23-33

Memory verse – Exodus 3:14 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

Week 2 (10) Exodus 12

Additional readings: *Exodus 13-15; Psalm 51:7, 106:1-12; John 1:29; Romans 6:1-4.*

Memory verse – 1 Peter 2:9 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

Week 3 (11) – Exodus 20

Additional readings: Exodus 19, Hebrews 8:10-14, 1 Peter 2:4-5

Memory verse – Exodus 20:2 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

Week 4 (12) – Numbers 13

Additional readings - *Numbers 14; Exodus 32:9-14; Psalm 106:24-27.*

Memory verse – Deuteronomy 3:16 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

May

Week 1 (13) – Joshua 1

Additional readings: Deuteronomy 31:1-6, Joshua 6, 24 and Psalm 1:13

Memory verse – Joshua 1:9 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

Week 2 (14) 1 Samuel 16

Additional readings: 1 Samuel 8, 17, Ruth 4:18-22, Luke 6:45

Memory verse – 1 Samuel 16:7 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

Week 3 (15) – 2 Samuel 7

Additional readings: 2 Samuel 6, Genesis 19, Psalm 132 and Hebrews 10:19-22

Memory verse – 2 Samuel 7:22 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

Week 4 (16) – 1 Kings 3

Additional readings – Proverbs 15:33, James 1:5 and 1 Kings 3:9

Memory verse – 1 Kings 3:9 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

* The numbers within the brackets are the number of weeks we had so far.

BTS will meet at 5 pm on 27 April and 25 May (4th Sunday) at the church lounge on Hinemoa Street. We'll have a light supper, share our reflections, and learn from one another. **All are welcome

Roster for the month – April 2025

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Reading	Prayer	Morning Tea
6 April	Mary Boyd	Jocelyn Collinge	Jocelyn Collinge	Mary Boyd	Rosemary Bold & Robin Baxter
13 April	Rosemary Bold	Nan Inkson	Nan Inkson	Rosemary Bold	
18 April (Good Friday)	Helene Muller	Margaret Larsen	Margaret Larsen	Helene Muller	Jocelyn Collinge & Linda Buckthought
20 April (Easter Sunday)	Worshipping with Global Mission Church at 12 noon in 97 Onewa Road. Bring a plate.				
27 April	Karen Davies	Cathy Fraser	Cathy Fraser	Karen Davies	Barbara Wadam & Dale Kerr

*Serving elders for communion: Karen Davies, Cathy Fraser, Nan Inkson, Robin Baxter

Thank you for everything you do, team!

Also, drum roll please ...



**News and opinions for the newsletter always welcome:
please think about contributing for next month's edition.**

**E-mail all articles to Pauline (admin@onewacc.org.nz)
by 20th of the month**

OCC values

Community

We focus on people, personal connection and treating everyone with respect in practical ways ('manaakitanga').

Diversity and inclusion

We want to reflect and support the community around us.

Open heart / open mind

We make space for personal and spiritual growth. We promote real and meaningful connection with others.

A living faith

Active faith begins at the point where certainty ends. A living faith involves faith in oneself, faith in others, faith in the future and faith in God.



If you need a contact directory, please contact your elder