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BNZ account

Account name: ONEWA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Account number: 02-0112-0168422-000

Church office & worship: 172 Hinemoa Street | www.onewacc.org.nz

May 2025 Newsletter

Minister's Message

The Story of Small Olives

In my backyard, seven olive trees stand quietly — four are tall and mature, while three are smaller, younger trees still finding their place. Every autumn, the larger trees bear generous fruit. The tallest among them, likely over 30 years old, is particularly fruitful. At first, I imagined a daily competition with the birds, both of us reaching for the ripest olives. But I quickly noticed something interesting — while I collected the fruit I could get, especially if it was big, the birds seemed to favour only the black, fully ripened olives.



Even after the birds had their fill and I finished my harvesting, many small olives remained — tiny, overlooked, and scattered across the ground. Too small to cure or press, they often end up in the compost bin. Still, I couldn't help but wonder: weren't they olives, too? If they never reached a plate or an oil press, if no bird savoured

them, had they fulfilled their purpose? Or could their purpose still be found in nourishing the soil, giving life to what comes next?

This quiet thought brought me back to our church life and the question of spiritual purpose. Scripture teaches us that our ultimate purpose is to glorify God, enjoy Him forever, and live in a way that reflects God's character. The church shares in this mission — to honour God and to share the good news of hope and life. As Easter reminds us, death is not the end. From death comes resurrection; from loss comes new life.

So perhaps the small olives, though overlooked, have not failed in purpose. In returning to the earth, they nourish it. They may sprout again — or they may simply feed something else that will grow. Either way, their story continues. And perhaps that's a quiet echo of our spiritual journey: that even when unseen, even in the smallest roles, we still reflect the Creator. Even in the compost, life goes on.



Rev Jin Sook Kim

Onewa Christian Community Church Council Report

Eco Church Initiatives

Council is delighted with all the Eco Church initiatives that are happening. We had a lovely visit from Millie of Eco Church A Rocha Aotearoa NZ who gave us our have our Eco Church sign. In May we will hold an exciting chip packet blanket making party. Council encourages all available to come and check out this interesting and eco-friendly event.

The Kids Eco Church inaugural event Brilliant Bugs and Bees was a great success. It is marvellous to be out and about engaging with the community on environmental matters. The next Kids Eco Church event will be Earth Avengers: Scavenger Hunt. Eco Kids will be exploring the local neighbourhood, engaging with the community and finding lots of cool eco-initiatives.

If you are interested in helping out with any Eco Church initiatives or you would like to be part of the Eco Church Team then please touch base with anyone from Church Council.

Strategic Plan

Over some months we have been reviewing our progress as a Church in terms of the outcomes shown on our strategic plan for 2024/2025. A new draft strategic plan is underway for the upcoming 2025/2026 planning year. Both plans will be on display on the Church noticeboard.

Finances

The financial accounts for the latest year end are already with our accountant for their review. Thank you to our treasurer, Rosemarie, who does such a wonderful job at putting these together for us.

Continued community engagement

Council is delighted with all the community events that continue to flow. Among lots of other things, Cathy spearheaded a wonderful and well attended Easter Craft afternoon, the fashion parade was a roaring (and stylish!) success, and there are plenty more things to look forward to. The Executive Team are making good headway in terms of their planning for the next leadership role focusing on the community.

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. We think about our friends who are travelling and hope for safe and happy journeying for them.

For Onewa Christian Community Church Council

A visit with a difference to the art deco capital of NZ



From the 20 to 23 March David and Rosemarie were in Napier to be part of celebrating 50 years of the Porsche Club of NZ. And what a fantastic time we had!

Every night it was bubbles and canapes before dinner in the War Memorial Centre, Saturday night being a black tie affair with a live band after dinner. On Thursday and Friday we took a long windy (and most enjoyable) drive to arrive at a winery for lunch. Saturday saw over 100 Porsche parade into the sound shell and beach front so that the public could have a close look at the wide variety of models on display, from 1957 to 2024. Our final gathering was lunch at the Mission Estate, a beautiful location with its old buildings.

During the 4 days we also had time to wander around central Napier and Hastings to look at the art deco buildings, visit a Figgery and check out a few local cafés. We also visited a car wash, a necessity after two wet days before the parade!



We also found out, talking to other Porsche owners, that many of them own several. We haven't even got to his and hers, so we really are just beginners!

David and Rosemarie

Easter Craft Afternoon

A happy time was had by all at the Easter Craft afternoon in April. There were 35 children and at least as many adults as some children had two parents with them and there was a great turn out from the



congregation helping. There was even a young couple recently arrived in NZ

who came to help and participate in the activities. The Easter baskets were extremely popular as this craft included sparkly eggs and carrots, cute yellow chicks and lovely Easter stickers, all of which went down a treat. It was special to have Kat Match the balloon lady making her fabulous balloons as well.



The Matariki craft is on Friday 13 June. See you there!



OCC Fashion Parade

What a night – the evening started with very welcome refreshing fruit punch and finger food and an invitation to participate in a raffle.



On the runway, the models were gorgeous in their early winter season outfits. The Ballantynes team did a great job selecting clothes and colours that really suited our volunteers. The models showed off the items with great aplomb. The audience gasped, clapped and reached out to feel the fabric!



Everyone had a great time browsing the racks filled with recent arrival winter clothes and some end-of-season summer wear (even swimming togs) and many went home with something new for their wardrobe.



Special thanks to Barbara, Jenny, Grace, Gwen, Cathy, Fiona, Dale.

This fund-raising event has achieved a contribution to our activities of \$700



May Fundraising Event – Movie Night



**CONTACT
JENNY**

**0210343453
FOR TICKETS**

**16
MAY** | **6.30
PM**

**CONTACT
DALE**

**02102345087
FOR TICKETS**

**MOVIE
NIGHT**

[**FREE ICE CREAM**]

**TICKET:
\$25**

**Bridgeway Cinema, 122
Queen Street, Northcote**

www.onewacc.org.nz

LIFE, ONE STEP AT A TIME



OCC fundraiser, 10% of proceeds are donated to De Paul House

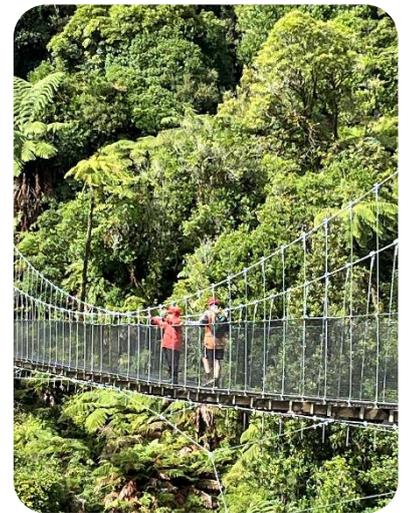
Adventures on our e-mountain bikes



David and Rosemarie have just completed a two-day adventure on their e-mountain bikes – the Timber Trail in the King Country’s Pureora forest. It is the second time we have cycled this trail – the first time, three years ago, was sunny; this time it was wet and muddy.

We were continuing an annual family tradition of David’s siblings and partners undertaking a multi-day cycling expedition.

The 90km Timber Trail is principally in the forest and on the second day the trail mostly follows the former tram-way line used to extract timber from 1923 until the early 1960s. The trail includes swing bridges, many smaller wooden bridges and a spiral.



Foil Fusion Fun-Day

Join us for an exciting Foil Fusion Fun Day at Onewa Christian Community, 172 Hinemoa Street, on Tuesday, May 13, from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM! 🎉

This family-friendly, free event is a special collaboration between Chip Packet and Onewa Christian Community, where we’ll be turning used foil into blankets. Whether you’re a crafting pro or just curious to learn, this event is open to all ages and abilities—everyone is welcome!

A Glimpse into St Aidan's in 2000: A Community Remembered

Looking back at a particular photo taken in the year 2000, I'm reminded of a pivotal moment in the life of St Aidan's Church. The image, taken shortly after the turn of the millennium, speaks volumes—not only about the physical state of the church at the time but also about the spirit of the people within it.

We had the Church Auditorium cleaned and painted, likely in late 1999. By the time the photo was taken, the space had a refreshed look, symbolizing a community stepping confidently into a new century. The picture stands as a simple yet powerful statement: *"This was us in 2000."*

There was a sense of pride and amazement among many of the congregation—just to have lived into the 21st century. Many of them had deep roots in Northcote. They were born and raised there, worked and worshipped there. St Aidan's wasn't just a church to them—it was their lifelong community.



spiritual home that it was and, I hope, still is.

I carry with me warm memories of these individuals. They were good people: loyal, supportive, and deeply connected to each other and to the church. Their dedication shaped St Aidan's into the vibrant

Personally, my journey with St Aidan's began in May 1993. It was my first charge with the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ), following previous ministry in Corby, England, and the Shetland Isles. I retired from St Aidan's in 2004 and moved to Gisborne, leaving behind a chapter filled with heartfelt moments and treasured relationships.

Following my retirement, I believe the Revd Rinny Westra was appointed as my successor, continuing the ministry and legacy of St Aidan's.

As time moves forward, it's important to look back occasionally—to reflect on the people and the places that helped shape our journey. For me, St Aidan's and its congregation will always hold a special place in my heart.

Compiled by Pauline from her e-mails with Rev Clive Yates

BTS with Bible 52 – May and June reading plan



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

June

Week 1 (17) – Nehemiah 1:1-11

Additional Readings – Nehemiah 8, Psalm 35:13, Mark 2:1-12, Hebrews 7:25

Memory verse: Nehemiah 1:5

Week 2 (18) – Esther 4:1-17

Additional readings – Isaiah 15:1-3, Luke 19:37-40, Romans 5:6-11

Memory verse: Isaiah 40:31

Week 3(19) – Job 1:1-22

Additional readings - Job 2, Proverbs 3:7-8, Hebrews 4:14-16
Memory verse: Psalm 18:2

Week 4 (20) – Psalm 23:1-6

Additional readings – Psalm 23, John 10:11-18, Acts 1:9-11

Memory verse: Psalm 23:1-2

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

BTS will meet at 5 pm on 25 May (4th Sunday) and 22 June (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 – May 2025

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Reading	Prayer	Morning Tea
4 May	Rosemarie Dawson	Lynn Carter	Rosemarie Dawson	Lynn Carter	Jocelyn Collinge & Dale Kerr
11 May	Robin Baxter	Garry Pash	Garry Pash	Robin Baxter	Lynn Carter & Linda Buckthought
18 May	Community Breakfast				
25 May	Barbara Wesley	Rachel Hurr	Barbara Wesley	Rachel Hurr	Elizabeth Wong & Robin Baxter

*Serving elders for communion: Pauline Fish, Rachel Hurr, Helene Muller, Barbara Wadams

Thank you for everything you do, team!

Eco Church Activities

Join us every **first Sunday of the month** for our **Eco Church Activities!**  

Together, we'll care for creation through meaningful, eco-friendly initiatives. Everyone is welcome!

Let's make a difference—one Sunday at a time!  

May Eco Kids Event

ECO KIDS EVENT!

Sunday 4 May 2025

Meet 9:30am @OCC, 172 Hinemoa (1 hour)



EARTH AVENGERS: SCAVENGER HUNT



Come on an **adventure!** Discover environmental and community treasures in our neighbourhood.

Enjoy a **free** hot chocolate.

Round 2 Kids Photo Comp: **Win** a \$30 Paper Plus Card



Building Compassionate Communities – Understanding ADHD & Autism

BUILDING COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES
AUCKLAND NORTH COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT
MOTU BUILDING COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES PUBLIC EVENT

UNDERSTANDING ADHD & AUTISM

**AWARENESS
IMPACT
SUPPORT**

A Building Compassionate Communities event

Friday 9 May 2025 | 10 am to 12 noon

Cash: \$20 per person
Tea and coffee served

Venue: Onewa Christian Community,
172 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead.
Street parking only; accessible building and toilets.

Register by going to [Humanitix.com/nz](https://humanitix.com/nz) and typing in the topic title above.

PRESENTER: Fione Winfield (ADHD and Executive Function Coach)

- What is ADHD?
- How ADHD impacts our executive function and daily life.
- Where to get support.

PRESENTER: Jo Sutton (National Educator and Outreach Advisor, Autism New Zealand)

- What is autism/neurodiversity?
- Diagnosis and support in Aotearoa.
- Tips to better understand and support an autistic person.

Onewa Christian Community

AUCKLAND NORTH COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT
By Strategic Management Unit of the Onewa Christian Community

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