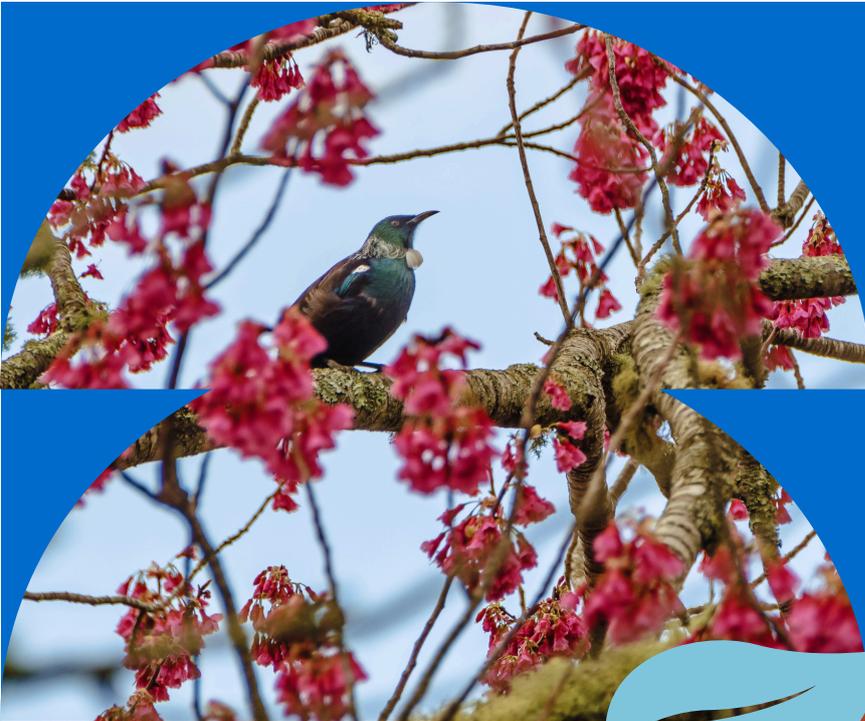


OCC NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter of Onewa Christian Community



Inside:

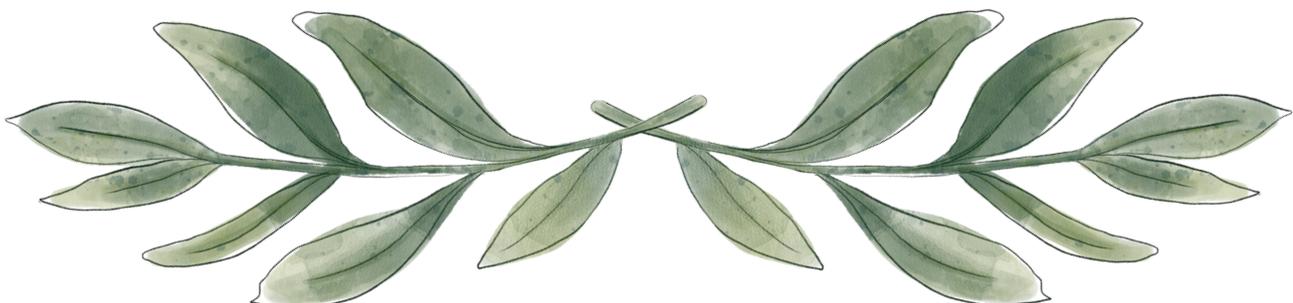
- Season of Creation
- When the Boys came home
- Fiona's Flapjack Recipe
- Bible Talk Suppers
- What's on this month?
- Why volunteering is good for you

Minister's Message

SEASON OF CREATION 2025: PEACE WITH CREATION

Each year, from September 1 to October 4, we join in celebrating the Season of Creation. Every year brings a special theme; this year it is Peace with Creation. As part of our Eco Church journey with A Rocha, we want to mark this season mindfully, week by week. Rev. Dr. Jordan Redding, convenor of the Assembly Emissions Reductions Workgroup, has written a thoughtful message on behalf of the PCANZ Moderator.

Rev. Jin Sook Kim



A message to the Church on behalf of the PCANZ Moderator from Rev Dr Jordan Redding, Convener of the Assembly Emissions Reductions Workgroup.

This September, churches around the world will once again unite to celebrate the Season of Creation¹ — a month-long opportunity, from 1 September to 4 October, to renew our commitment to care for God’s creation.

This year’s theme is “Peace with Creation” drawing from the promise found in Isaiah 32:14–18. In this powerful passage, Isaiah offers a vision of deep restoration — not only between people, but also between humanity and the rest of creation. Across Aotearoa and around the world, ecosystems are groaning under pressure. Yet this scripture extends a hopeful invitation: to become active participants in God’s healing work through justice, humility, and faithful action.

Seeking “peace with creation” is not passively achieved. We must actively pursue peace. I’m mindful of places like the Denniston and Stockton Plateaus on the West Coast, which are home to a rich and diverse ecosystem including kiwi, kākā, and a nationally endangered indigenous giant snail found nowhere else in the world. These plateaus are at risk because of plans to significantly expand a coal-for-export mine.

The issues are complex, especially when jobs and livelihoods are bound up with unsustainable planet-heating industries. Seeking “peace with creation” must go hand-in-hand with a just transition for people, who stand to be affected by a shift towards a sustainable and green economy. Local organisations, including Christian movement Common Grace Aotearoa², are exploring what a restored earth looks like; a world in which God’s people “will abide in peaceful habitation” with creation and there will be justice for people and planet alike.

Meanwhile, on the 25th anniversary of the Jubilee Debt Project, Caritas International has launched the “Turn Debt into Hope”³ campaign. Supported by

the Season of Creation team, the campaign advocates for stronger financing to help poorer countries (which have contributed the least to climate change) to respond to the challenge of a heating world. These are just two examples of what it means to pursue “peace with creation” within our complex economic and social realities.

There are many ways to be intentional and active during the Season of Creation — as a church and in your local community. The International Season of Creation Guide⁴ is full of ideas and inspiration, and you’ll also find a wide array of resources on the A Rocha Aotearoa⁵ and Eco Church⁶ websites to equip your church for meaningful involvement.

Here are a few ways to get started:

- Host a Season of Creation service using the Season of Creation guide, or a bible study using the Pacific Conference of Churches Bible Study guide.⁷
- Invite a speaker - A Rocha and the Eco Church network have many people across the country available to speak at services or events
- Join the Eco Church network - or take the next step if you're already on the journey
- Plan a local action - such as tree planting, a rubbish clean-up, or a kai-sharing event
- Advocate for change – support the Caritas “Turn Debt to Hope” campaign, and the campaigns of Common Grace Aotearoa.

On behalf of the PCANZ Moderator

Rev Dr Jordan Redding

Convener of the Assembly Emissions Reductions Workgroup

minister@sthelierscentre.org.nz

1. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

2. <https://www.commongrace.nz/creation-and-climate-justice>

3. <https://www.caritas.org.nz/season-of-creation-2025>

4. https://drive.google.com/file/d/10Oorr0z_GrFfYaqVpQ1nS_knnTe9nzrv/view

5. <https://arocha.org.nz/>

6. <https://www.ecochurch.org.nz/season-of-creation>

7. <https://sthelierscentre.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Bible-Study-Season-Of-Creation-2025-PDF-.pdf>

Fiona's Flapjacks

Fiona Railton has kindly shared this recipe for Flapjacks. Anyone who tried them at the last Community Breakfast will attest to their deliciousness! This recipe makes a large batch for sharing, so quarter it if you only want some for home.

Ingredients

200g porridge oats - ground

400g butter

300g crushed cornflakes

50g soft brown sugar

6-7 tbsp golden syrup

200g plain flour

pumpkin seeds to taste.

Method:

Heat oven to 180 degrees.

Melt butter & sugar gently on the stove in a large pan. Stir in the remaining ingredients and mix well.

Pour into two shallow baking/brownie trays. Press down and bake for 20 minutes.

Cut into squares whilst warm and leave to cool in the tins before removing to a container.



When the Boys Came Home

By Margaret Larsen

This year marks 80 years since the end of WWII and September 2nd is 80 years since V-J day which marked the end of the war globally. Margaret Larsen shares her memories of that time.

1945. The end of the war, and the boys started coming home. For my Aunty Annie in Wellington, whose five sons had gone to war and all five came home, it was a time for great rejoicing and thankfulness.

My grown up girl cousins in Auckland were not so fortunate. Their brother Les, was one of the thousands of New Zealanders who didn't make it. The ship Aunty Francie's son Ron was Lieutenant on was torpedoed by the Japanese when she was racing to Australia after the Battle of the Coral Sea.

For me, aged seven, these big cousins who had been away for most of my life, were just names. I remembered the man from the sweetie shop though. He sold squares of Hokey Pokey covered in chocolate and other delights. One of my earliest memories was of sitting in my pushchair, munching Hokey Pokey contentedly and suddenly being aware that my mother was having a struggle to get the pushchair up the kerb. Owing to the high rainfall, the kerb in Greymouth is higher than most.

Dear Uncle Harry from Wellington, took me for a walk to the sweetie shop and bought me an extravagance of sweet delights. My mother wasn't too impressed when I was sick on reaching home. I was dismayed to find the front of the shop boarded up shortly after and a sign painted on it. My Mum said it read "Gone to the War." It stayed like that for years and then was replaced by a new house, so I guess that was another nice man who didn't come back home.

The grocers delivery boy got his old job back. He walked in the back door with our box of groceries and my mother looked at him and said, "Oh John, what have they done to you?" Half his face had been blown away. They stood there weeping, their arms about each other.

My next soldier boy was on the train coming home to Greymouth from Christchurch. My Mum said, "Don't you bother that soldier boy, he will be too tired to want to bother about you." However, when I grinned at him, he grinned back and beckoned me to sit

next to him and we had a pleasant time with me chattering away, until my Mum said, Come on Margie, this young man needs to rest now.”

My third soldier boy was rather special. He taught me English in my first year at College. He got us all to read *The Wind in the Willows*, which, he said was compulsory reading for all third formers, because it was a favourite of his. This was followed by Kiplings *Kim*, *King Solomons Mines*, and *Aesops Fables*. Then we had to write a fable. I wrote about our cold white wind, the Barber, who lathered up the Twelve Apostles Range every Winter. Mr Hooper wrote at the end, This has the ring of a true fable. I was so pleased and grinned at him remembering the time I had first seen him, at the end of the war.

We were coming home to Greymouth from our bach at Pororari after school holidays and a soldier in uniform was coming home from the war on the Westport to Greymouth Service Car. John Burns, our driver, stopped the bus just North of Greymouth and went outside to open the luggage compartment at the back of the bus. The soldier followed and hoisted his kit bag onto his shoulder. This area is called Coal Creek Flats, and is flat green dairy farming country.

There was a farmhouse set back quite a way from the road and while the driver and the soldier were at the back of the bus I saw the farmhouse door open and an elderly man came running out. The soldier saw him and as the bus started off again in a swirl of dust from the unsealed road, I saw them both running as fast as they could towards the best sight in the World, for both of them!

Margaret Larsen.

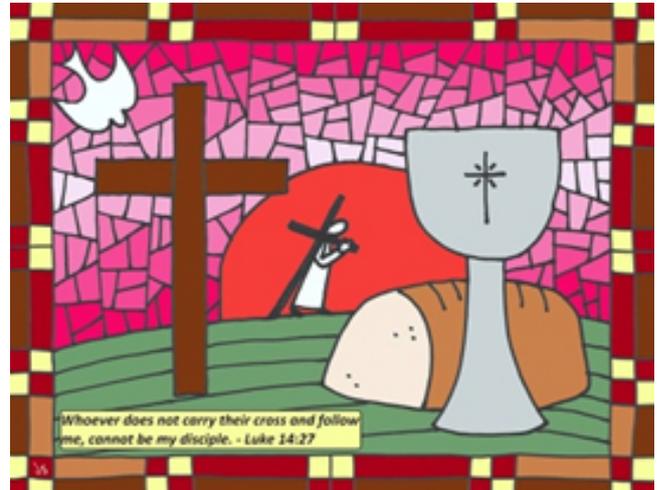


**V-J Day in
Auckland**



Bible Talk Suppers with Bible 52 – September reading plan

BTS will meet at 5 pm on 28th September (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.



Week 1 (29) – Luke 1

Additional Readings – Genesis 14:18-22, 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Memory verse: Luke 1:49-50

Week 2 (30) – Luke 2

Additional readings – Isaiah 58:6-12, John 19:25-30 and Galatians 4:4-6

Memory verse: Luke 2:14

Week 3 (31) – Luke 4

Additional readings – Deuteronomy 9:6-11, Psalm 91, Hebrews 2

Memory verse: Luke 4:43

Week 4 (32) – Matthew 6

Additional readings – Matthew 5, 7, 1 Chronicles 29:11-13, 1 John 2:28-29

Memory verse: Matthew 6:9-13

****BTS will meet at 5 pm on 28 September (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**

What's happening at OCC this month?

Saturday 6 September	Meet the Local Council Candidates	Saturday 13 September	Working Bee - 97 Onewa Rd
Sunday 14 September	Eco Kids: Caring Kitchen	Mondays	9.30am Coffee and Games
20th September - 5 October	School holidays (mainly music & Friendship Group break)	Saturday 20 September	Dinner Club See Dale for more info
Sunday 21 September	Community Breakfast: speaker Vincent Marie from Takapuna Hospice	Monday 22nd September	The Adaptation Game 3-6pm
Friday 26th September	The Adaptation Game 3-6pm	Sunday 28 September	Communion Service & Bible Talk Supper

MEET THE CANDIDATES

@OCC, 172 Hinemoa Street,
Saturday 6th September, 9.30am

Hear from the North Shore Ward & Kaipātiki
Local Board candidates & ask your questions.



Eco Kids Event!

Caring Kitchen: Junior Eco Masterchef!



Join us to cook some **Easy Recipes** whilst
learning about how to be **sustainable in the
kitchen!**

Enjoy a **Free Hot Chocolate.**

PLUS Round 6 of our kids **Eco Photo Comp.**

Win a \$30 Paper Plus Gift Card!



FREE

Community Breakfast

All Welcome



**Sunday 21st Sept,
9.30am**

Speaker:
Vincent Maire
Harbour Hospice
Spiritual Carer

.....
Onewa Christian Community

172 Hinemoa Street,
Birkenhead



Onewa
Christian
Community

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

The purpose of life is to discover your gift.

The work of life is to develop it.

The meaning of life is to give your gift away.

David Viscott

Many of you are keen volunteers at OCC and have been for many years. But did you know volunteering is good for you?

Volunteering offers a wide range of personal benefits, starting with the deep sense of connection it fosters. By giving your time to a cause, you become part of something larger than yourself, building meaningful relationships within your community. Whether you're supporting local families, caring for animals, or lending a hand to a grassroots organisation, volunteering lets you meet people who share your values and interests. These experiences can also strengthen your social and networking skills, helping you grow more confident in new environments.

Beyond connection, volunteering is also a powerful boost for your personal wellbeing. Taking time to help others can reduce stress, ease symptoms of depression, and improve your overall mood. It's been shown that giving your time can activate feelings of happiness and satisfaction, simply because generosity is deeply wired into human nature. And don't forget – volunteering can be a lot of fun! It gives you the chance to explore new interests, pursue old passions, and discover joy and fulfilment in ways you might not expect. What's your favourite thing about volunteering?



GARDENING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you help?

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER
9AM-12.30PM
97 ONEWA ROAD

**BRING GARDENING TOOLS AND
GLOVES.**

**SPARES WILL BE AVAILABLE IF
YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR OWN.**

SAUSAGE SIZZLE AFTERWARDS.

**LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING
BY EMAILING**

SARAH@ONEWACC.ORG.NZ



IF YOU MISSED OUT ON PLAYING THE ADAPTATION GAME THE FIRST TIME AROUND, YOU MIGHT LIKE TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

KAIPĀTIKI COMMUNITY – WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

JOIN US TO PLAY A CLIMATE
RESILIENCE CHALLENGE BOARD GAME -
BASED ON OUR LOCAL AREA !



Picture this: A wildfire starts in one of our local reserves. Spot fires are starting & smoke is being blown across our homes, visibility on roads is affected, and your neighbours need help. What would you do? How would our community pull together?

**WHERE & WHEN? MONDAY 22ND SEPT, 3PM-6PM
172 HINEMOA STREET**

INTERESTED? EMAIL SARAH@ONEWACC.ORG.NZ

VISIT WWW.WEATHERINGTOMORROW.CO.NZ FOR MORE INFORMATION



Roster for the month – September 2025

September 2025 Roster

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Prayer	Reading	Morning Tea
7 th September	Rosemarie Dawson	Karen Davies	Rosemarie Dawson	Karen Davies	Jocelyn Collinge & Linda B
14 th September	Rachel Hurr	Garry Pash	Garry Pash	Rachel Hurr	Pauline Fish & Robin Thornton
21 st September	Community Breakfast – led by John Railton				Fiona Railton & more helpers needed please
28 th September	Rosemary Bold	Robin Baxter	Rosemary Bold	Robin Baxter	Lynn Carter & Barbara Wesley

Serving Elders for 28th September Communion:

Robin Baxter, Rosemarie Dawson & Barbara Wesley

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



Get in touch

Minister: Rev. Jin Sook Kim minister@onewacc.org.nz / Ph 021 0295 2589

Community Engagement Lead: Sarah Thorne community@onewacc.org.nz

Ph 021 0919 7097

Admin: Pauline Soo admin@onewacc.org.nz

Giving

BNZ account

Account name: ONEWA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Account number: 02-0112-0168422-000

Something to share?

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

E-mail all articles to Sarah (sarah@onewacc.org.nz)

by 25th of the month

Digital Seniors

If you need any help with your laptop or phone or any other digital device, there are volunteers nearby who can help. The list below shows when the friendly volunteers from Digital Seniors are at various locations. Go along, tell them what you want to do and they'll show you how to do it, in your own time and at your own pace.

If you've got an old phone, you might want to check it'll survive the 3G shutdown later this year. You can do this by texting the number & letter 3G to 550.



**TEXT '3G'
TO 550**

To find out if your phone will be impacted by the 3G network shut-down

WWW.DIGITALSENIORS.CO.NZ 0800 373 646



**FREE ONE-ON-ONE DIGITAL COACHING
FOR SENIORS IN OUR COMMUNITY**

DEVONPORT LIBRARY Mondays 10am-12pm	EAST COAST BAYS LIBRARY Tuesdays 10am-12pm	ALBANY VILLAGE LIBRARY Wednesdays 1pm-3pm
GLENFIELD LIBRARY Wednesdays 10am-12pm	WHANGAPARĀOA LIBRARY Wednesdays 10am-12pm	HOBSONVILLE POINT HEADQUARTERS Wednesdays 12pm-2pm
NO. 12 GREENHITHE RD (International Friends) 2nd Tuesday of the month 10am-12pm	BIRKENHEAD LIBRARY Thursdays 12pm-2pm	TAKAPUNA LIBRARY Saturdays 10am-12pm

WWW.DIGITALSENIORS.CO.NZ 0800 373 646