

FEBRUARY 2026

OCC NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter of Onewa Christian Community



Minister's Message

The Work of the Church in the Year of the Red Horse (Fire Horse)

In Chinese astrology, each year is represented by one of twelve animals and one of the five elements: wood, fire, earth, metal, or water. In 2026, the horse is paired with fire, creating the powerful Fire Horse combination, last seen in 1966. Fire is traditionally associated with the colour red, so 2026 is also known as the Year of the Red Horse.

In many traditions, this image symbolises vitality, movement, and strong energy. Yet when we turn to Scripture, particularly Revelation 6:1–8, the colour red evokes a very different vision.

Here, the seer John witnesses the opening of the seals, and among them the appearance of the white and red horses. While interpretations vary, the white horse is often understood as a symbol of conquest and deception – power that imitates righteousness while aligning more closely with the Beast than with the Lamb. The red horse that follows is unmistakable in its meaning: it represents war, violence, and the taking of peace from the earth.

Together, these horses confront us with enduring human realities. Deception and war are not new. They arise from humanity's desire for control, domination, and self-preservation at any cost. Over time, such desires are normalised, even justified, as necessary evils. Yet Scripture exposes their true consequence: spiritual, moral, and communal devastation.

As we enter this new year, these images speak with renewed urgency. We live in an era saturated with deception – not only through false narratives and distorted truths, but also through unseen systems that quietly steal our identities, manipulate our fears, and shape our loyalties without our awareness. In such a world, spiritual warfare is not primarily fought with force, but with discernment.

The work of the church in the Year of the Red Horse, then, is to strengthen its identity. Anchored in the Word of God, whose only weapon is the sword that comes from Christ's mouth (Revelation 19:15), the church learns to recognise deception without becoming captive to fear. We may stumble, and we may fall – often together – yet we do so with the hope of rising again, formed not by conquest or violence, but by the truth and peace of the Lamb.

Rev Jin Sook Kim



This Sunday!



Eco Kids Event!

WATER SCIENCE FUN

Sunday 1st February 2026
Meet 9.30am @OCC,
172 Hinemoa Street



Come along and have fun with water experiments including a weather cycle in a jar, creating giant bubbles and building a natural water filter. Enjoy a **Free drink too!**

Register by emailing sarah@onewacc.org.nz.
Parents need to attend.



www.onewacc.org.nz

Onewa Christian Community Church Council Report – January 2026

Church Council held their first meeting for the year on 20 January 2026. It was wonderful to unite together in our purposes after the Christmas season.

Continued Ministry and Community Engagement

We continue to look forward to **A Day Away** being held on 21 March 2026. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together as a congregation. The Council discussed the ongoing ministry of the Church and planning continues for a Youth group, with further discussions underway and a youth planning meeting scheduled for late January. Council again expressed appreciation for Sarah Thorne's excellent work in community engagement and Eco Church initiatives. Sarah continues to work collaboratively with others, including with Jin Sook in exploring support for youth ministry. Jin Sook and Sarah are finalising Church Welcome Packs for new members to our Church.

Eco Church and Eco Kids

Eco Church remains an integral part of our community engagement, with environmental initiatives continuing across OCC. Council is grateful for the ongoing leadership and creativity in this area. The first Eco Kids event for the year is to be held on Sunday 1 February 2026.

mainly music and Friendship Group

mainly music held a lovely party to break up at the end of last year and will restart in the second week of February after a lovely end-of-year celebration. Friendship Group enjoyed a festive singalong, Christmas quiz, special lunch, and gifts to close the year.

Congregational Review

Our Congregational Review is scheduled for May. Further information will be shared with the congregation in due course.

Community Care

Council heard an update on care for people experiencing homelessness on the North Shore. This is a collaborative initiative based at Glenfield Salvation Army continues to provide practical support, including food, showers, laundry facilities, and access to services. Council remains interested in how OCC can stay connected with this important work.

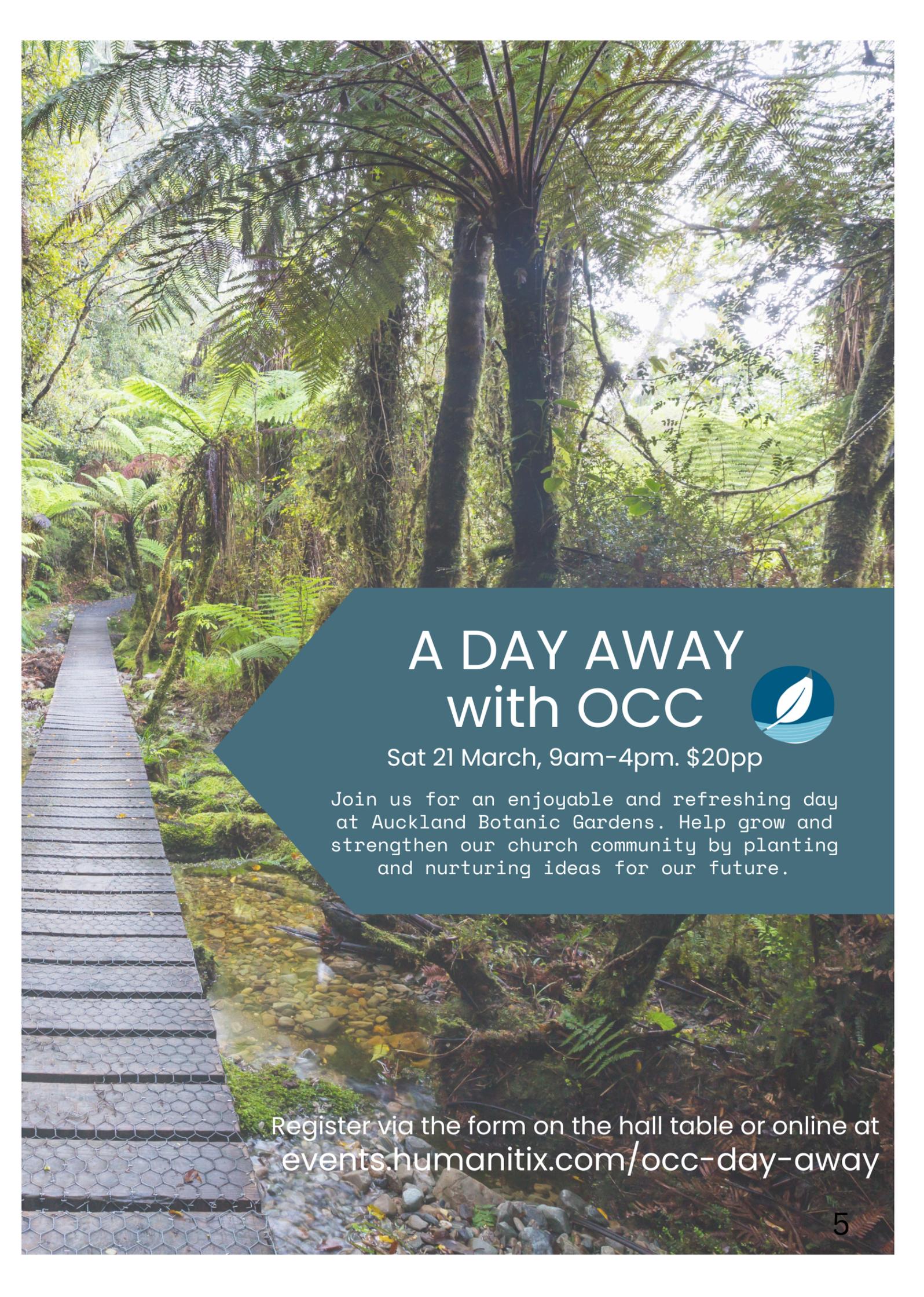
In Memoriam

Council acknowledged with sadness the passing of Beth Yarnton, a long-standing member of St Andrew's, and Jocelyn Williams, a long-standing member of St Aidan's. We give thanks for their lives, faith, and many contributions to our church community, and hold their families in prayer.

Pastoral Care

Council noted the pastoral needs of a number of people within our church community and encourages continued prayer and care for one another.

For Onewa Christian Community Church Council



A DAY AWAY with OCC



Sat 21 March, 9am-4pm. \$20pp

Join us for an enjoyable and refreshing day at Auckland Botanic Gardens. Help grow and strengthen our church community by planting and nurturing ideas for our future.

Register via the form on the hall table or online at events.humanitix.com/occ-day-away

A 'Day Away' with the Onewa Christian Community

As an Eco Church, we're always looking for ways to reconnect—with creation, with one another, and with God's renewing presence. So what could be more fitting than a full day set among the beauty and quiet of the Auckland Botanic Gardens?

At our recent community breakfast, the idea of a retreat sparked real enthusiasm. Since then, plans have been unfolding, and we are delighted to invite you to join us on Friday, 21 March for a refreshing and purposeful day together. Please add this date to your diary.

We Need Your Creativity to name the day!

We're looking for a catchy, meaningful name for our day—something that reflects our eco identity, the spirit of renewal, and the natural setting of the gardens. Please share your ideas with Rev Jin Sook or Sarah.



Why This Day Matters

Gardeners nurture their plots with intention—planting, pruning, and planning for each new season. As an Eco Church, we're called to do the same: to tend our community, nurture new growth, and ensure a vibrant, diverse future. Diversity strengthens a garden—and it strengthens OCC. Every voice matters. With your insight and presence, we can grow not into an old kauri forest threatened by dieback, but into a thriving, regenerating forest full of strong young saplings.

What to Expect

Our programme (soon to be finalised) will include:

Thought-provoking discussions about our shared future

Engaging and enjoyable interactive sessions

Time to reflect, connect, and simply enjoy being together

Morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea in beautiful surroundings

The Practical Bits

Arrival: 9:00–9:30am, with tea and coffee waiting

Programme starts: 9:30am

Finish: 4:00pm

Cost: \$20 per person (OCC is subsidising the day)

Transport: Carpooling will be arranged

We truly hope you'll join us. This promises to be an inspiring, refreshing, and energising day for our whole community.

Holiday in a Mud Castle - Barbara Wesley

When Glenys and Kevin first saw the triangle of land they were to clear and to build their dream home at 640 Neudorf Road, Upper Moutere, Nelson, little did they know what lay ahead of them. As they excavated the land to lay the foundations, they were told that the famous Nelson clay, mixed with straw, made excellent bricks. Three and a half years later, and a lot of back-breaking work making 10,000 bricks, they had created the Mud Castle out of the very Nelson clay on which it stood. They also had a home that would show off all the antiques that Glenys had been collecting for over 20 years.

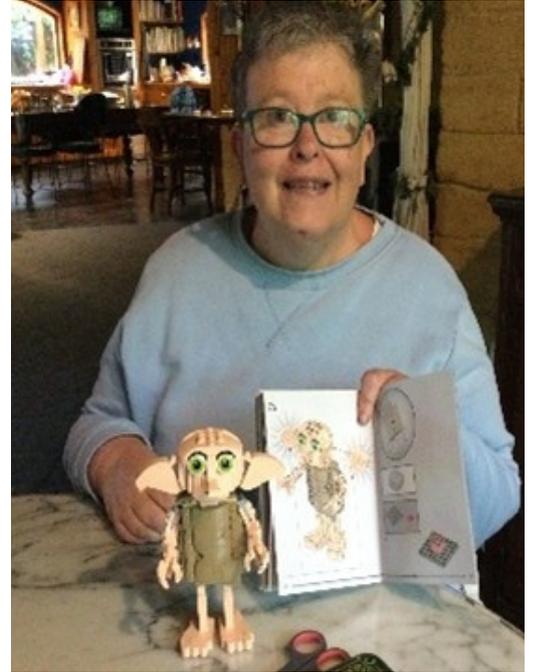
This was the very place chosen for the extended Wesley family to have their annual Christmas holiday in 2025. Sleeping up to 16 people this exclusive castle in the beautiful Nelson countryside, was also a popular wedding and conference venue creating long-lasting memories for all who stay. Richard and Elodie had allocated the various bedrooms according to the agility of the family. Our own private residence was on ground level with ensuite, outdoor bath and small bathing pool. The turrets at the top of the castle were for the younger grandchildren and their active parents. Various aunts were housed in between. The in-laws from Paris were allocated another private ensuite by the gatehouse. Their bathroom was down a spiral staircase which required great agility.

There were secluded lounges, a large entertaining room, well equipped kitchen with cutlery and dinner sets for 120 people, a grand piano, and a white honky-tonk piano for anyone to have a go on. There were also copious antiques decorating all the nooks and crannies, tables for playing games, doing jigsaws or playing chess. Keir was able to help Kay with her Lego Christmas present of Dobby (of Harry Potter fame) while others got on with preparing the meals, or chatting around the kitchen table.

All ages were catered for with only short drives to Heritage Houses, Fun Park, Nelson Car Museum, Canyoning, Founders Museum, Suter Art Gallery, Ngarua Caves and the large Heritage Park and Village to explore. A visit to the Cinema to see My Brothers Band, plus a fun Games Morning with relay races and other family competitions resulted in the presenting of Special Olympics ribbons and medals to all as they competed. A nephew, Paul, and Tina, from Nelson, also popped in and took part in the Games. We also had a niece and nephew from Sydney with us so there was considerable competition.

But the best thing of all was the chance to enjoy each other's company, enjoy another beautiful venue, and have a very happy 10th Family Christmas Holiday in a different part of NZ. ***Photos of the holiday can be seen on the following pages.***

Photos from the Wesley Christmas adventure at Mud Castle





Special Olympics National Games in Christchurch 10 – 15 December 2025 by Barbara Wesley

“No person is too disabled to take part in Special Olympics. Each competes as well as they can, and no result is too small, or no time is too slow.”

These words were spoken by Eunice Kennedy Shriver at the First International Special Olympics Games held on 19 & 20 July 1964 in Chicago, USA. It all began in the 1950s and early 1960s, when Eunice Kennedy (sister of J.F Kennedy) saw how unjustly and unfairly people with intellectual disabilities were treated. She could see how her own disabled sister, Rosemary, could ski, run, swim and ride horses as well as her eight brothers and sisters. She decided to take action and organise some competitions between other disabled young people in USA and Canada. The Games in 1964 were so successful that in December 1968, just four years later, Special Olympics International became an official non-profit organisation.



Special Olympics New Zealand owes its existence to Grant and Wendy Quinn who led a community effort to establish a NZ branch of the world-wide sports movement. The first Special Olympics International Games were held in Lower Hutt in 1985. The branches have grown so fast that there are now more than 5.5 million athletes in over 193 countries taking part in weekly training, and regular competitions throughout the

world. Kay Wesley has been part of this Organisation for over 30 years, first in swimming, and then in Ten Pin Bowling, and now in Indoor Bowls. She has competed in many Ribbon Days (competitions for athletes with regional teams at Thames, Tauranga, Whangarei, etc) where athletes are awarded ribbons for first to eighth place. Last December 2025, 1200 athletes and 800 volunteers went to Christchurch for the 8th National Games in NZ. Kay was in the Bowling Team for fours and pairs and Barbara went as a volunteer to help where needed. The North Harbour Team of 48 people stayed at the Residential Halls of Canterbury University. The flight down to the South Island was an exciting adventure for many, especially when the plane couldn't land at the last minute due to strong winds, and we all had to fly to Wellington to refuel before going

back for another try at landing. We missed half of the Opening Ceremony but everyone enjoyed the extra flight just as much! Everyone clapped and cheered when we arrived late as they wondered where we had got to. Jason Gunn (TV personality) was the MC, and he had many jokes to share with the audience. We also had a speech from Scott Barrett who got many claps and cheers from the All Black supporters.

The Canterbury Indoor Bowling venue was superb. The teams had the first day to play 7 ends and 4 games, and then on Friday the Pairs played 7 ends and 7 games. North Harbour came 5th, while in the Fours on Saturday they came 2nd and won the silver medal. Everyone was very excited and made good friends over the three days of play. The closing ceremony on Sunday was more casual with a buffet dinner, and disco, and more fun from Jason Gunn. The flight home was uneventful, and all were tired but pleased with their performances. The basketballers, ten-pin bowlers, swimmers, athletic team and equestrians also won medals and ribbons so the fundraising for the necessary \$60,000 was all very worthwhile.



The North Harbour Indoor Bowling Team
(l. to r.) Ethan, with Lorraine (coach) Kay, Andrew, Alexander and Barbara as assistant manager.



FREE

Community Breakfast

All Welcome



**Sunday 15th February,
9.30am**

Speaker:
Jessica Niemack
from Utilities Disputes

.....
Onewa Christian Community
172 Hinemoa Street,
Birkenhead

Bill complaints?

Other Issues?

**Facing
disconnection?**



**Onewa
Christian
Community**

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World Day of Prayer

Friday 6 March 2026

“I Will Give You Rest: Come”

A service prepared by WDP Nigeria

**You are invited to join in
worship and fellowship
at OCC, 97 Onewa Rd,
Friday 6th March at 10am**



KAIPĀTIKI Repair cafés

REUSE ♥ REPAIR ♥ CONNECT

2026 Date	Location	Start Time	Finish Time
Saturday 14 February	Glenfield Community Centre, Glenfield	10:00am	1:00pm
Saturday 7 March	Birkdale Community House, Birkdale	10:00am	1:00pm
Saturday 11 April	Onewa Christian Community Hall, Birkenhead (*)	1:00pm	3:00pm
Saturday 2 May	Bayview Community Centre, Bayview	1:00pm	3:00pm
Saturday 6 June	Glenfield Community Centre, Glenfield	10:00am	1:00pm
Saturday 4 July	Birkdale Community House, Birkdale	10:00am	1:00pm
Saturday 1 August	Onewa Christian Community Hall, Birkenhead (*)	1:00pm	3:00pm
Saturday 5 September	Bayview Community Centre, Bayview	1:00pm	3:00pm
Saturday 3 October	Glenfield Community Centre, Glenfield	10:00am	1:00pm
Saturday 7 November	Beach Haven Community House, Beach Haven	10:00am	1:00pm
Saturday 5 December	Bayview Community Centre, Bayview	1:00pm	3:00pm

(*) run by Highbury House

Free Counselling

I am a student counsellor from MIT (Manukau Institute of Technology). As part of my third-year practicum, I am offering free, confidential counselling sessions on Wednesdays (97 Onewa Rd), or by appointment online.

**To book, or for more information
contact Kim on :**

 0274 190 134

 counsellingwithkim@yahoo.com



Activity starting dates

	First Session
mainly music	10 th Feb
Friendship Group	12 th Feb
Scrabble	19 th Jan
Eco Kids	1 st Feb
Embroidery group	16 th Jan

BIBLE TALK SUPPERS

Meet on Every 4th Sunday
5pm at church



February Roster

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Prayer	Reading	Morning Tea
1 st Feb	Jocelyn C	Cathy Fraser	Jocelyn C	Cathy Fraser	Jocelyn & Linda <u>Buckthought</u>
8 th Feb	Rosemarie D	Garry Pash	Garry Pash	Rosemarie D	Elizabeth W & Barbara Westra
15 th Feb	Community Breakfast				
22 nd Feb	Rachel Hurr	Pauline Fish	Rachel Hurr	Pauline Fish	Barbara Wadams & Robin Baxter

Contact us

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

