

MARCH 2026

OCC NEWSLETTER

Monthly newsletter of Onewa Christian Community



Minister's Message

Close to Midnight – Yet Not Without Hope

On 27 January 2026, the Doomsday Clock was set to 85 seconds to midnight—the closest it has ever been since it was first created in 1947 by scientists from the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Midnight symbolises a world made uninhabitable by human actions.

The scientists point to a growing list of dangers: nuclear risk, the climate crisis, biological threats, and powerful new technologies such as artificial intelligence. They also warn about the spread of misinformation and conspiracy theories that erode trust and cooperation. More recently, another concern was added. On 4 February, the treaty limiting nuclear weapons stockpiles between the United States and Russia expired. For the first time in over half a century, there may be nothing preventing a new nuclear arms race.

When we hear such news, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. Humanity seems to face problems that have no quick solutions. Yet this sense of living on the edge of crisis is not new.

Christians have faced moments like this before—moments when the future seemed uncertain and faith was tested.

Nearly 1,900 years ago, the seer John of Patmos wrote what we now know as the Book of Revelation. In his visions he saw war, destruction, and the consequences of human pride and injustice. The world of the early Christians was full of uncertainty under the power of the Roman Empire. But Revelation was not written to terrify believers. It was written to give them hope. The visions do not end with destruction. John is shown a new future—a new Jerusalem where God’s presence fills the city:

“The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.” (Revelation 21:24–25)

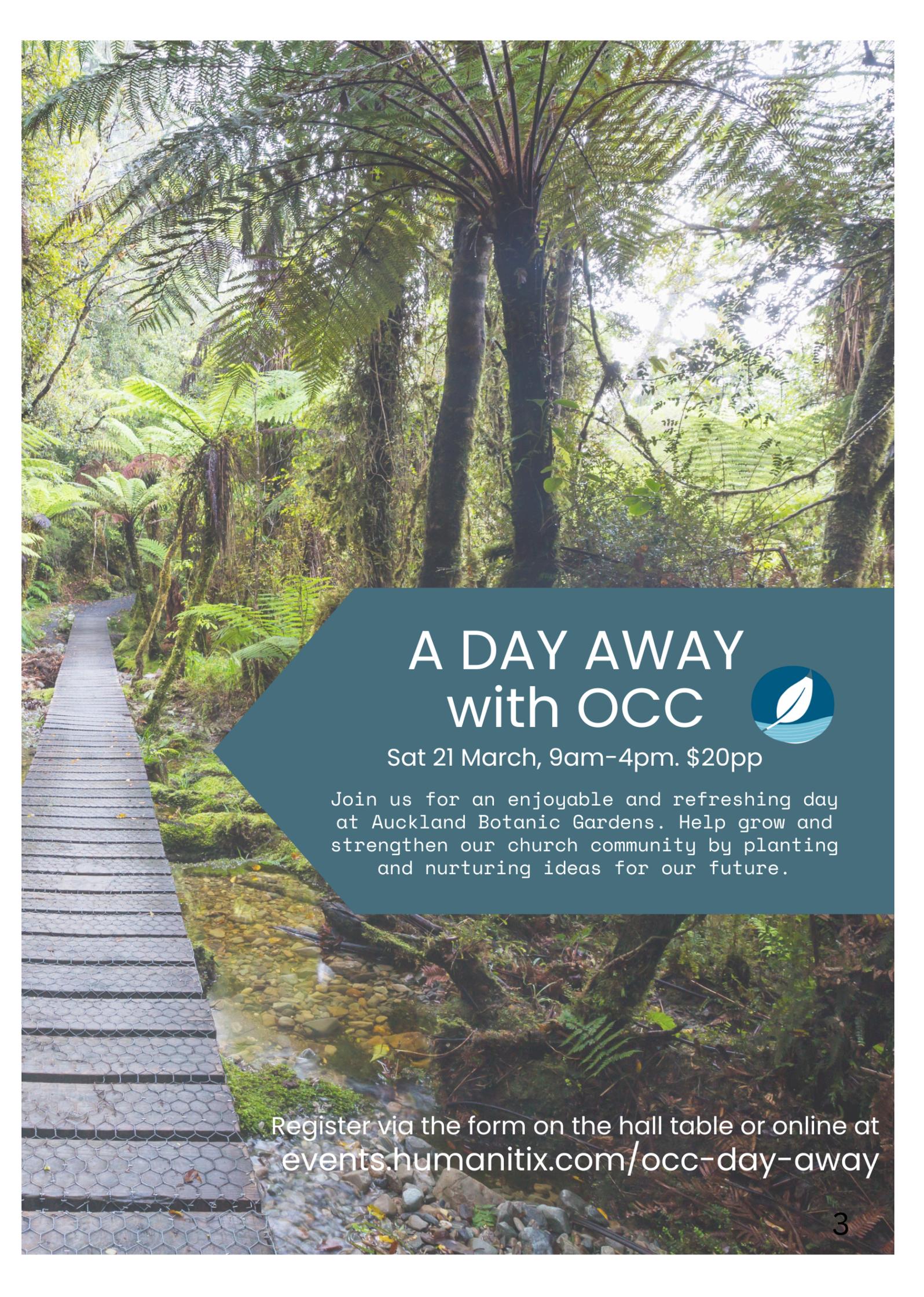
In other words, God has not lost control of history. Evil is real, but it is not ultimate. The future does not belong to destruction but to God.

The Doomsday Clock reminds us how fragile our world has become and how urgently humanity must change course. Yet Scripture reminds us that the final hour does not belong to human fear or folly. It belongs to God.

So while the world may feel close to midnight, Christians live by a different promise. In Christ, the light has already begun to shine. We refuse despair, not because the dangers are small, but because our hope is greater.

And so we pray, we act with wisdom, and we place our trust in the God who leads history not toward darkness, but toward a new dawn.

Rev Jin Sook Kim



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.

A happy story (from Laurie Wesley)

About the year 2010 I wrote a text book called Fundamentals of Soil Mechanics for Sedimentary and Residual Soils, It got published by J Wiley and Sons of New York, the leading publisher of such books in the USA. I translated it into Indonesian and I got it published by a company called Andi-Publisher in Jogjakarta in central Java, It is quite a substantial book with about 450 pages and about 400 diagrams. The American one is hard covered and sells for US\$110 while the Indonesian one is soft covered and sells for the equivalent of US\$9. Most Indonesian text books are priced at not more than US\$9. Last year while in Indonesia I called on Andi-Publisher as it was about five years since I had been in touch with them. They (the senior staff) were very pleased to meet me. They were surprised that I was still around and in good health. The photo shows me with Andi-Publisher staff, near the entrance to its office and workshop. I am holding a book titled Mekanika Tanah Edisi Baru (Soil Mechanics New Edition) by L.D.Wesley. There is no English version of this book or its original, which I wrote in 1972. I wrote them both directly in Indonesian The reason for the new edition was that my friends in Indonesian Universities told me that my new book was a fine book but was too long and contained too much material that is not suitable for undergraduate classes.



A happy story (from Laurie Wesley) continued

Now for the main point of this story. Beginning in 2005 I taught at the University of Chile in Santiago for 3 months every second year. Among my students the first time I taught was Omar Nunez. He was a fine student and we became firm friends. About five years ago Omar decided to produce a Spanish version of my book, which was commendable as Spanish is the language of Chile and all the other countries in South America except Brazil. Translating the book and finding a publisher took longer than expected. However, two days ago a parcel arrived containing two copies of the Spanish version of my book. I was very delighted and got Barbara to take a photo of me with the book to send to Omar. Here I am, holding the Spanish book with the English and Indonesian versions on my left (right for the reader). Isn't my wife a good photographer !



Amazing Tasmania - Sarah Thorne

My husband Richard and I were lucky enough to be invited along by parents on their holiday to Tasmania in February. They have visited often and knew we would love it too. We took a direct flight to Hobart on 1st February and drove in our hire car to Beauty Point which is located on an inlet on the North Coast of Tasmania. We based ourselves there and enjoyed day trips for a winery tour; to a Platypus and Echidna experience; to a strawberry farm and a lavender grower and a wonderful day out in Launceston. Richard and I also visited the local Mens Shed and the village of Grindelwald which is like stepping into a Swiss village with less snow and more wallabies.

From Beauty Point, we drove to Cradle Mountain and spent a fantastic couple of days walking and having our dinners cooked by the chef owner of the Air BnB where we were staying. The views on the drives are stunning and there are fun placenames like 'Nowhere else' and 'Lower Crackpot' so we really didn't mind the time in the car. After our energetic adventures at Cradle Mountain, it was back in the car with a drive to Swansea on the coast for a night. This beautiful village is full of gorgeous old houses with stunning gardens. There was one for sale dating back to 1860 with a garden full of heritage fruit trees and we had fun pretending that we could move there and also buy the local Tapas bar.

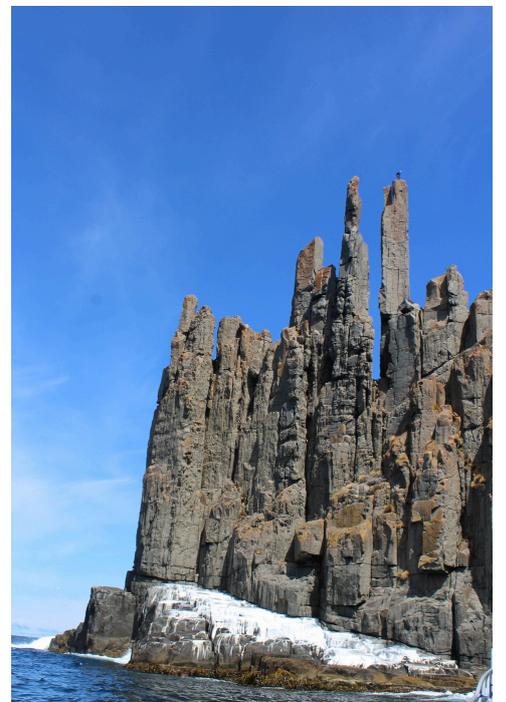


Holiday in Tasmania continued

From Swansea, we drove to Port Arthur where we explored the historic convict settlement and then took a boat tour out to Cape Raoul. The boat tour was a highlight of the trip: dolphins, seals and albatross were in the middle of a feeding frenzy as we neared the cape. Above us, climbers stood atop the huge dolerite columns. It was a truly special experience.

That night, we drove to Primrose Sands; also on the East Coast and within driving distance of Hobart. We were entertained within hours of arriving by a couple of dolphins playing in the water not far from the deck of our accommodation. The next few days were a little more relaxing as we wound down the end of our holiday but we did take a trip into Hobart and enjoyed one of the bus tours. Sadly, Mona was closed on the days we were in Hobart but it does give us a good excuse to go back!

All in all, it was a wonderful holiday and I'd highly recommend it!





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

Start your Sunday with us!



FREE!

Community Breakfast

All Welcome

Sunday 15th March

9.30am



**172 Hinemoa St,
Birkenhead**

SPEAKER

Maria Jimenez

Aged care specialist, Dovidia NZ

On falls prevention and other related matters.

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



BIBLE TALK SUPPERS

Meet on Every 4th Sunday
5pm at church





Eco Kids Event!

Back to school fun!

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



Come along and make your own Bees Wax Wrap to keep your school lunch fresh without plastic wrap! We'll be making flax bag tags too.

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



www.onewacc.org.nz

March roster

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Prayer	Reading	Morning Tea
1 st March	Barbara Wesley	Robin Baxter	Barbara Wesley	Robin Baxter	Lynn Carter & Linda <u>Buckthought</u>
8 th March	Helene Muller	Rosemary Bold	Helene Muller	Rosemary Bold	Elizabeth & Dale Kerr
15 th March	Community Breakfast				
22 nd March	Margaret Lawson	Nan Inkson	Margaret Lawson	Nan Inkson	Jocelyn C & Robin B
29 th March	Birkenhead Methodist Church				
Serving elders: Jocelyn, Karen, Cathy and Robin B					

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



