

Newsletter for Onewa Christian Community

Northcote and Birkenhead Presbyterian Church



SEPTEMBER 2021

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Haere Mai, Aere mai, Hwan-Yeong, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Afio mai, Ulu tonu mai, Talofa Lava, Foon Ying, Selamat Datang, Vitajte, Bula, Welkom, Welcome

From the Minister

It is difficult for me to know the pain of lockdown here in NZ when work and income are sustained for myself, our families and many others I keep in contact with.

Lockdown is made easier when you almost feel the earth breathe easier, my carbon footprint minimised, and keeping in touch is not difficult with modern technology. Life in the country with farming being an essential service is reasonably normal, and long before COVID, 'isolation' was a disease in its own right for farmers.

I get a picture of NZers' pain through the media: struggling businesses, greater support for food parcels, rise in domestic violence and lockdown fever! With gratitude, I read the good news stories of innovation in keeping connected, social enterprise and families having

quality time energised by having to look after each other for long periods. Dads particularly taking more time to engage, listen, and interact where before it was quick sound bites of engagement. Policy decisions made from good science and experience of other countries, a society built on Judeo-Christian values, manaakitanga and whanaungatanga means we have caring and kind communities.

In absentia, the most pain I feel is for a friend we made in India in February 2019, weeks before the outbreak was termed a pandemic. Vikash and his family are from and live in Varanasi. He was our guide but gave us more than the usual attention as we spent days wandering, watching and listening. Vikash and I would visit an assortment of 'cafes' with ranging conversations always coming back to politics. Vikash explained to me how in times of crisis, India's *middle class* struggled when others didn't. The *lower class*, whose work is manual labour, knows how to survive on 'nothing'. They pick up scraps of work and seem to be tougher physiologically. The *upper class*, comparatively few, mostly super-rich, nothing much changes for them. Vikash was the first University graduate in his family, graduating with History honours. His family businesses we visited (we might call it horse-trading, that definition is a bit harsh) I termed it 'family first' were respected and provided a good middle-class life. Vikash chose to be a Tourist Guide where the income was giving them advantages beyond their businesses. However, as we can only imagine, Varanasi's now a very different place from COVID. Three of the Vikash family have died, with a number seriously ill. Vikash will do anything to provide for his family, but with soft hands and the fact of being middle class, he has been turned away from labouring jobs. There are no tourists to guide, and locals are not buying from their family businesses. Money spent to keep his father alive in hospital means their two girls cannot afford online schooling. The list goes on. I can't imagine the stress. Varanasi has had severe flooding in recent months, and a bustling market we walked through is now decimated by COVID and washed away by the floods. Varanasi - a world away from Tomarata.

Peace to you all, Colin

From Onewa Christian Community Church Council

Onewa Christian Community Church Council held their August meeting by Zoom; we appreciate the technology and expertise that makes such meetings possible even while we are in lockdown.

- Mission Teams We discussed the need for Teams to carry out the mission of Onewa Christian Community and our support for existing teams run by people who have the passion and commitment to achieve specific mission initiatives. Church Council is ultimately responsible for pastoral care, both within our church community and further afield. We will establish a Pastoral Care Team to coordinate this and report to church council, while recognising that we are all responsible for pastoral care, welcoming visitors and showing hospitality. This Team will also review and update our membership roll. Other Teams discussed were mainly music; Thursday Drop-In Group; Come to Quiet; Floral Affair; Annual Concert; Matariki; Dinner Club. If you have thoughts about Mission teams, please share them with one of the members of Onewa Christian Community Church Council or with Colin.
- Music Church Council agreed to continue the appointment of Robyn Allen-Goudge who is adding so much to our music during worship, both with the music group and with her harp playing. More people are needed for the music group; please consider joining it if you like to sing. Robyn has been asked to run a workshop prior to Christmas for Christmas music, particularly New Zealand Christmas songs. This would be open to people from other churches as well as Onewa Christian Community – more details later; we will keep you informed about this exciting proposal.
- Resource and Risk Committee Special thanks was given to the Resource and Risk Committee whose members have been doing a

great deal of work on both financial and property matters. Among other things they have developed a Budget for 2021/2022, are working on registering Onewa Christian Community as a Charity, working to establish a new bank account, and developing hire arrangements for buildings on both sites. In addition much maintenance work has been carried out. We appreciate all that you are doing.

- Health and Safety Rachel Hurr has been appointed Health and Safety Officer for Onewa Christian Community. Thanks to Rachel and her team.
- Church Phone a mobile phone has been purchased for the church and is being used by Colin. The number is **021 0919 7097**.
- Website Barbora and Edmund are developing a proposal on the website content and structure and the url www.onewacc.org.nz has been secured. It is not yet active, but we hope it soon will be.
- Farewells to our 'old' parishes. It had been decided that 'final' services of thanksgiving would be held for both Saint Andrews and Saint Aidans, inviting former members and friends to the service, and sharing food together. Saint Andrews people were planning their special service with a shared lunch for September 12th, but it is now unlikely that this date will be possible. Saint Aidans were planning around October Café service on October 17th. We will keep you posted on these events.
- Floral Affair Saturday 13th November from 2 p.m. at Onewa Road building of Onewa Christian Community. The theme this year is Show Time. Save the date – this is always a very enjoyable event.

Keep safe and well, and please ask one of us from Church Council or anyone from the Church family if you need help during lockdown, even if you just want someone to chat with.

**Nan for Onewa Christian Community
Church Council**

PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord and our saviour.

Once more we find ourselves facing the storm of Covid-19 only this time we are shaken further by the Delta variant that is far more transmissible than any before.

Please do not feel helpless in the face of this immense problem and the trouble it brings to us individually, as a Church, community and country. Lean on your faith and each other. Together we will overcome.

"I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love, because you have seen my affliction." Psalm 31:7.

Take care of yourself and your family. We need more than ever to stay in our bubbles and follow the requirements to stay home if we are not essential workers. To our wonderful essential workers we say thank you for the risk you take in service to us all.

Daily at 1pm we have heard sad news of an increasing number who have the Delta variant, and of thousands of close contacts waiting anxiously to see if they have the virus. Join me in keeping all those affected, and their worried family and friends, in our prayers. Let us not downplay the seriousness, this variant can and does kill, but we can be hopeful and trust that in the coming weeks it will be contained.

In these distressing times there are things we can do to lighten the load. If your church has suspended Sunday service due to lockdown and has not gone online, please consider how you can reach out to your congregation safely and bring them comfort that they are known by God and always connected with their church community.

"Keep going, do not be tired of doing good." 1 Peter 3:13.

We know that some supermarkets are overwhelmed and that some people cannot access groceries, medicine or get to doctor appointments. Can I ask you to please do what many of you are already – reach out to your congregations and your communities by phone, text, email, social media and make sure everyone can get what they need. Do not put yourself at risk or break lockdown rules but help put people in touch with those who can assist in your community. Let people know that although they are isolated for a time they are not alone, never alone. You are thinking of them, we are all praying for them.

Jesus said, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age". Matthew 28:20.

For those of us in Auckland, we know we may face more lockdown in the weeks ahead. It may be hard emotionally and financially. Be strong, we will help protect the country by our sacrifice. We will come through this together as a community. Remember that you are seen by God, you are appreciated, valued and loved. Take refuge in God.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13.

Blessings
Fakaofu

Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio

Moderator

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

E moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

Something to send your spirits soaring from Grace.

As people weren't allowed to sing in church because of Covid-19 this is what they came up with. A digital project bringing together live and recorded performances of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus – in spectacular pandemic style. 350 singers from Spain and Portugal together with professional musicians, in the magnificent Gothic Basilica of St Mary by the Sea in Barcelona. Videos were projected onto various surfaces inside the Church.

Look this up on YouTube < [Yo-Canto Hallelujah](https://youtu.be/NXFhkmyVRgM)
<https://youtu.be/NXFhkmyVRgM>

NOTICES

Dinner Club

Dinner Club meets on the third Saturday each month so pencil in September 18 if Covid Levels allow. Contact Dale on 021 02345087 or adalekerr@gmail.com .



Jazz Vespers

featuring the
**The Ben Fernandez Jazz Trio
and Choir**

Sunday 12 September 7pm

Takapuna Methodist Church, 427 Lake Road, Takapuna

A donation to cover costs would be appreciated

All welcome

THE FOOD BANK

September 2021

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I noticed this in the *Neighbourly* notices this week.



2 days ago

FOOD BANK

[Lorraine Brooks](#) from [Glenfield](#)

Don't forget our food bank is still open. Need assistance just phone
09 441 2554 opt2

This is where the contributions you bring to church services go. While we are at Level 4 you can still make donations via their website at www.foodbank.org.nz
In the meantime if you are shopping and want to get something for a future donation remember they always appreciate:

- **toiletries** especially deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and razors
- **cleaning products** eg dishwash liquid and laundry detergent
- **UHT milk**

Getting to know you

8

September 2021

Some of you will have seen David and Rosemarie at Church one Sunday dressed in white shirt and trousers and navy jackets.... Well there is a back story.

David is a Rotarian. For many years he has been a member of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR). This is an organisation of some 3,700 Rotarians who have an interest in things boating. They are scattered around the world and grouped into 'Fleets'. There are two such Fleets in New Zealand. Each Fleet arranges activities with a nautical theme and they all have the over-riding mantra of 'fun, fun, fun'.

In the last six years David has held a variety of international governance roles with the Fellowship. Early in the morning (1am) on the last Sunday of June, a few members of the hierarchy in New Zealand gathered with David and Rosemarie for the change-over of governance roles at the international AGM which was held by Zoom. On this occasion David was inducted as the International Commodore. This is a position he will hold for two years.

Did you know that Colin and Pat Reid are also members of the Auckland IYFR Fleet.



Pat and Colin have spent two weeks in Wanaka for Colin to keep up his skiing. Though it is the fastest growing town in the country Wanaka is still a delightful holiday venue with many cycle or walking tracks. They spent several days walking along the Hawea and Clutha Rivers and enjoying the majestic scenery. During these walks they saw 'The Wave', artificial waves for surfers in the fast flowing Hawea River and experienced a swing bridge they had not found before. 45

centimetres of fresh snow was unfortunately unable to be enjoyed by Colin due to the lockdown and it was necessary to make a sudden flight home after a most refreshing holiday and the renewing of friendships in the holiday lodge.

MEET ANOTHER MEMBER

Happy Birthday, Betty Finlay

Betty celebrated her 92nd birthday at *The Orchards* on Saturday 7 August 2021.

Betty was born up north at Whangarei in 1929, the second child of six children, five of whom still live in Auckland, and Northland. Her father was a share-milker for a while, and then became a sheep farmer, so the family shifted around quite a bit. The children had to walk some distance to the local schools, but later they did lessons by correspondence, in between running off to swim in the sea which was an attraction close by! Betty always helped with the milking in the shed and later, when the family had half a dozen house cows for their family, she managed those as well while her father was working.



Betty with Blackie her cat.

Her father, David Carson, originally came from County Down in Ireland, and through a family connection back home, Ed Finlay came

out to stay and see NZ. On his return to Ireland he wrote to Betty frequently, and then came back to Northland and asked Betty to marry him. Ed found work at the wharf in the City and their son Michael was later born while they were living in Pt Chevalier. Three years later, after shifting to Fairclough St, Beach Haven, their twins, Anne and Robert, were born.

Betty attended St Philips Church, and was active in the APW. Sadly Ed died when the twins were 12 and Michael was 15 years old. The family all went to the local schools, and then onto University. After the family married and left home Betty moved to Sunnyfield St in Glenfield, opposite to where Ena Milroy* lived. They have been good friends for many years, and enjoyed visiting each other.

For many years Betty knitted booties for the new babies at mainly music, and also knitted strips for the blankets for Mission without Borders. She is now knitting baby jumpers for the 'fish& chip' babies who are found wrapped in newspaper in poorer countries.

Betty is enjoying living at *The Orchards* Retirement Home in Glenfield, and happily remembers her early years, and life with her fun-loving Irish husband, Ed.

We hope you enjoyed your birthday, Betty, on Saturday 7th. Your friends wish you many more happy returns of the day to enjoy your six grandchildren who are now, themselves, studying at University, College, and local Intermediate Schools. BJW

*Featured in August 2021 Newsletter.

My First Blackbird.

This morning, August 24th, just as it was coming light, I heard the first Blackbird of the season, singing his daybreak song. A song of joy, a song full of knowledge that Spring is on its way, a song to let the other birds know that this is the place where he will soon build his nest and start his family.

I always have two Blackbird families in my garden, one in the back garden and one in the front. They don't have anything to do with one another. The back garden Blackbirds have the advantage of the bird bath and Mrs Black tries to keep all other birds out of it, especially the front garden Blackbirds. She will soon be too busy raising her family to chase the other birds out of it however. Mrs Black is actually brown and young Blackbirds are brown, but Mr Black is looking black and beautiful after his Winter rest.

I can remember back to the first Blackbird I became aware of. I was four years old and was in our back garden in Greymouth where my Mum was hanging out the washing. A very young Blackbird made a short low flight and alighted on the lawn. My half grown Scots Terrier pup Hamish tried to pounce on it. The little thing took to the air and made a low flight towards the road. Hamish recalled the knowledge that his kind had been trained to hunt badgers in the Scottish Highlands and he was off, through our neighbours garden towards the road. I ran too, around our house and out to the road.

I saw him straight away, a very young exhausted Blackbird sitting in the long grass on our berm. No one mowed berms in those days, the Council mowed them once a year. The bird was cowering in the grass frightened of me. I was too frightened to pick it up and then I saw Hamish tearing out of the neighbour's gate and running towards us.

I walked into the grass and picked up the frightened little thing and held it high above my head, just as Hamish leaped into the air with his teeth snapping as near to my hands as he could get. I was screaming at him and after he had settled down I opened my hands to see that the little bird was dead.

Whether I had gripped him too tightly in my fright or whether it was all too much for him I don't know. With all my screaming my Mum and Dad had come running and the boy next door came to have a look and went home to make a small coffin. Later I heard a Blackbird singing beautifully. My Mum said "He's saying thank you to you for trying to save his baby." It didn't make me feel much better though.

Margaret Larsen.

A laugh... from the last day before this lockdown

The trees is dangerous

Email received at the Church 17 August

Hello. I live at 31 Brett Street, CH418DP. I am your neighbor at the back of the building. I am writing to tell you that the trees that growing up behind your

church are not only more than 2 meters above our garden, but also damaged the fence. Please, intervene as soon as possible. The fence



can tip over at any time because it is being pushed by your trees. Please reply as soon as possible if you do anything about it and when. I sending attach photos.

Kind Regards

Email from Rev Colin to Chair, Resource and Risk Committee and others

David could you sort this out please ??? Jump in your wagon take the chainsaw some napalm sort the trees out sort the neighbour out. Rachel could you give David an OHS brief before he leaves or better still go with him and console the St Andrews Neighbour. Rosemary you know St Andrews best you might want to just check if the trees are actually

ours? Nan you're a national neighbour and could rub salt into the wound please make sure we have a full detailed report on what progress is being made. Rosemarie an invoice should be prepared at the neighbours expense or advise the caring individual something about COVID restrictions.

Peace to one and all

Colin

Email from David, Chair Resource and Risk

Hi Colin, It would take me more than 24 hours to get there and then MIQ is full until after late this year. A long break to cut down some greenery - in Birkenhead UK.

Cheers

Email from the aforementioned Rachel – she who is responsible for Health and Safety

I'd be happy to accompany you David and when we get out of MIQ we could buy some equipment but it may be cheaper to get a local in the UK to trim a few trees.

Has anyone replied to this poor gentleman?

Email from David to Darius N

Hi Darius, your email has reached us at Birkenhead Presbyterian but I don't think we can be of much assistance, since we are in the city of Auckland, New Zealand.

I hope someone from your local church has responded to address your concerns.

Here's the church with the offending trees. Poor chap, the internet says that the church founded in 1905 is now closed.

Salem Chapel, Birkenhead, Presbyterian (Welsh)



Note: I have visited this city in the UK, opposite Liverpool, it has a wonderful square and gardens but the rest is a bit drab. Ed

7 Blunders of the world that lead to violence:

1. Wealth without Work.
2. Pleasure without Conscience.
3. Knowledge without Character
4. Commerce without Morality
5. Science without Humanity
6. Worship without Sacrifice
7. Politics without Principle

Published by Mahatma Gandhi in his weekly newspaper *Young India* 22/10/1925. He was given them by a friend, presumably Anglican priest F.L. Donaldson who had the same list in a Westminster Abbey sermon delivered 3/3/1925. Gandhi's comment was "Naturally the friend does not want the readers to know these things merely through the intellect but...also through the heart so as to avoid them.

Rosters for September 2021

Date	Elder	Reading	Prayer
Sept 5	Rosemarie D	Barbara Wadams	Rosemarie
Sept12	Jocelyn Collinge	Robin B	Jocelyn C
Sept 19	Rachel Hurr	Mary Boyd	Rachel Hurr
Sept 26	Pauline Fish	Nan Inkson	Pauline

Donations and Offerings

For those who want to use their internet banking to make donations. Please use the following bank numbers until a new account for OCCC is available.

Both accounts are at BNZ Birkenhead.

Please be sure to put "donation" as the reference and your name if you wish to have a receipt.

St Aidans: 02-0112-0024699-00

St Andrews: 02-0112-0024701-00

DATES FOR September 2021.....

are in Limbo on account of Level 4 Lockdown. See weekly Bulletins or the website for any updates.

