



Newsletter for Onewa Christian Community Northcote and Birkenhead Presbyterian Church



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OCTOBER 2021

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

We might be “over” a lot of things, but when was the last time you sat and talked, really talked, ‘over a cup of tea’?

This year I attended a discernment weekend, we were asked to recall a childhood memory. I remembered taking the billy of tea out to the orange pickers. It wasn’t just a cup of tea. There was the basket of scones with butter, jam and sugar in little porcelain crocks. The tea and scones were a welcome sight after an early start on a dewy September morning. Orange picking usually lasted two weeks. That was the school holidays. The billy was our authentic, camping tramping billy with a blackened exterior and well dented. The cup of tea was a welcome relief; however, the making of the tea was as crucial for the welcomed taste and refreshment. Tea leaves were used, and the tea was brewed. If

you are old enough to know what ‘brewed & not stewed’ means, I take it that you are a connoisseur of tea. Milk was a given; sugar was an option.

During this ‘lockdown’, I have enjoyed making a pot of Chai every other day, be careful not to say ‘Chai tea’ because Chai is tea. I was inspired to make Chai with raw ingredients rather than using manufactured powder or chai (tea)bags. I still use tea leaves, sometimes I take the time to ‘brew the tea’, but always it has time to draw, allowed to sit. In Alice Springs, one of our local caf es made a fresh pot of Chai every day, legendary for it. You could smell the aroma of the Chai as you walked down the alley to the caf e. It was my favoured takeaway when leaving Alice for a pastoral visit that would keep me out of town away from home for 3-5 days at a time. However, lockdown chai. Peppercorns, cardamon pods, cloves, raw ginger bruised and then brewed with cinnamon quills for 10min, tea is added and allowed to ‘draw’ for 10min, the tea is extracted, milk (oat milk, in our case) is added with a required taste of sugar and brewed for another 10min.

We live in a bubble of four. Family members Mitch and Sibel live in the ‘shearers quarters’. Sibel is Turkish; they have travelled the world, so they know how to sit and have Chai. They turn up a cup in hand every other day, so my Chai can’t be too bad.

As important as it is to make a ‘good cuppa’, what I have learnt and valued is the instilled behaviour of sitting with other and talking ‘over a cup of tea’. The book ‘three cups of tea’ explains it like this, “The first time you share tea with a Balti[Pakistani tribe], you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honoured guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family”.

Sunday mornings, you have seen some of my pictures and heard brief stories of people in Afghanistan; it was there, as, in other places along with childhood experiences, those abiding relationships were formed over a cup of tea.

So I encourage you to make your favoured brew, ring someone and share it with them in the meantime.

Colin

Ministry Settlement Board report to Church Council

Church Council received a very full and exciting report from the Ministry Settlement Board. As you are aware, the Ministry Settlement Board is the group made up of members of our congregation and members of Presbytery who, under Rev Martin Fey as Convener, have been given the task of preparing a ministry plan and finding suitable people to serve our new church, Onewa Christian Community.

The Ministry Settlement Board has considered the Mission, Vision and Values of Onewa Christian Community and has also noted that the strategic priorities over the next few years will be 'to significantly increase:

- the community profile of Onewa Christian Community
- meaningful two way engagement with the local community
- community mission initiatives
- the number of children, young adults and young families engaged with the congregation
- the cultural diversity of the current congregation to better reflect the community'

Both Saint Aidans and Saint Andrews have had full time Ministers in recent years and this has not successfully progressed the above objectives. The Ministry Settlement Board has therefore discerned that more of the same will not advance the strategic priorities and that a change in strategy is required. **The report to Church Council therefore proposed a team ministry for Onewa Christian Community.**

This team would consist of a part time ordained Minister to 'provide spiritual leadership, guidance, supervision, support, mentorship and be a resource to the team and contribute to congregational life'; a full time Director of Community Engagement 'to provide

community-focussed leadership that supports Onewa Christian Community to carry out its Mission in meaningful ways and move towards its Vision, while also contributing to congregational life'; and a part time Music Director.

Robyn Allen-Goudge is already in the role of Music Director. The Ministry Settlement Board is working to identify and recruit suitable people for the other two very important positions.

At present 'mainly music' is a very valuable community outreach of Onewa Christian Community. Another proposed member of the team ministry is a Play Group leader to run a Play Group Centre as part of the church activities, say 2 days per week and incorporating 'mainly music'. The final member of the team ministry as proposed at present is a part time administrator whose role would be 'to enable both the team and the church to function efficiently'.

Church Council members spent some time considering the proposed ministry plan which they, and the Ministry Settlement Board realise is a significant change from what the congregation has known in the past. Members expressed approval for this radically different approach to ministry with the emphasis on building relationships in the community, and noted that it signalled an exciting step forward for the church. It was noted that Onewa Christian Community Resource and Risk Committee has prepared a budget to meet the cost of the proposed team ministry. There will no doubt be further questions and possible changes, but **Church Council at its meeting gave approval to the team ministry as proposed by the Ministry Settlement Board.** Church Council also showed thanks and appreciation for all the work that the Ministry Settlement Board has done and is continuing to do.

If you have any comments or questions about this new ministry plan, please ask any member of Church Council or of the Ministry Settlement Board.

Report of September meeting of Onewa Christian Community Church Council

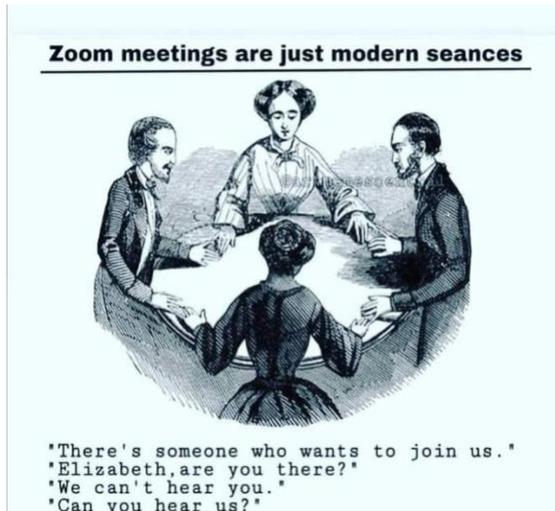
Onewa Christian Community Church Council held their September meeting by Zoom. Thank you to Colin who organises this, and to members who participate, sometimes with somewhat challenging technology.

- Earlier starting time for services You will remember that we previously agreed that when we moved to daylight saving we would revert to a 9.30 a.m. start for worship services. So – **from Sunday October 3rd services will start at 9.30 a.m.** While we are still using zoom for services that will mean that our pre-service chat time, which many people thoroughly enjoy, will start at 9.00 a.m.
- Registration as a Charity We were delighted to learn that Onewa Christian Community has now been registered as a Charity by Charities Commission. This means that the Resource and Risk Committee can now make further progress with organising our new bank account and other financial matters. We thank Rosemarie and the R and R Team for the work that they have done, and are continuing to do.
- AGM Church Council agreed that our Onewa Christian Community AGM will be held on **Sunday November 21st** after café service.
- Farewells to our ‘old’ parishes. We still have no dates for our ‘final’ services of thanksgiving to be held for both Saint Andrews and Saint Aidans, inviting former members and friends to the service, and sharing food together. They WILL happen, but not until we are able to safely worship together in person again.
- Floral Affair **Saturday November 13th** 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.

- Christmas Crafts afternoon This will take place on **Friday 19th November** in the Kaipatiki Community Trust Hall. Keep an eye out for more information about this activity and how you might be able to help.

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



NOTICES

Dinner Club

Dinner Club meets on the third Saturday each month. It is a very good opportunity to meet others informally and to get to know some local cafes you might not otherwise have tried. Why not join us? You just need to let Dale know a little in advance of the date so that she can confirm numbers.

For this month *pencil in 16 October* and we'll see what happens!

Contact Dale on 021 02345087 or adalekerr@gmail.com .

THE FOOD BANK

Because we are not meeting at the church building during lockdown we haven't had our usual collections for the Glenfield Salvation Army although the need is definitely still there especially for hygiene products.

We will have a

SPECIAL OCTOBER COLLECTION

- **toiletries** : soap,deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, razors, sanitary products
- **cleaning products** eg dishwash liquid and laundry detergent

Drop them off to 193 Hinemoa Street opposite the church (box on the porch)
or ring Rachel 0211042817 or Barbara Westra 021395824 for a contactless pickup.

Also you can donate on line.

Websites are:

foodbank.org.nz for the Sallies or

psn.org.nz/donate for Presbyterian Support Northern

PACK A SHOEBOX FOR CHRISTMAS

Every year Samaritan's Purse, a Christian aid agency, sends out millions of shoeboxes to children all over the world for Christmas. St Andrews and it's mainly music families have been filling boxes for about 6 years now and October is the time to start packing again. October is known as Operation Christmas Child month and there are boxes available at both St Aidans and St Andrews.

Harder to get to the shops this year but if you are one of the smart people who shop online you may be able get started now. I will have the boxes available soon so please start thinking about how you will fill yours

When packing a box remember to include items from these categories:

- Something to play with – cars, balls, dolls, games
- Something to wear – hats, t shirts, shorts, socks
- Something hygienic – soap, flannel, hair ties, combs, brushes
- Something for school – pens, pencils, colouring books, writing pads
- Something special – jewellery, cuddly toy, torch (include batteries)
- Include \$10 to cover delivery costs etc.

Decide if you want to buy for a boy or girl and a particular age group – 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. On the brochure is a label which you need to tape on your box and tick the relevant boxes. Boxes need to be returned to church by the first week in November.



If you want to know more talk to me sometime. Pauline

St Aidan's Presbyterian Property Trust

With the recent resignation of Tim Wood, the Trust is looking for a new chairperson. Do you, or does anyone you know, have legal and/or governance experience and would therefore be able to help run the Trust that looks after the cottages beside St Aidan's?

We would also like some new Trust Board members. At the moment there are seven of us - we are a small, friendly group and the work is not arduous - we meet about four times a year.

If you can help or would like more information please contact Rachel (021 104 2817) or Cathy (0273 865 920).

More Marmalade Sandwiches for your Hat?



A wise bear always keeps a marmalade sandwich in his hat in case of emergency, according to Paddington Bear. The bittersweet zing of a good marmalade can be the common flavour of your breakfast year round, whether it's orange, lemon,

lime or grapefruit marmalade.

Traditionalists may argue that Seville marmalade, made from the orange associated with southern Spanish city, is the best of the bunch. Otherwise known as the bitter orange, this citrus fruit wasn't always part of the Spanish eco-system. In fact, the origin story of all oranges and citrus fruits brings us to the foothills of the Himalayas.

According to the findings of scientists who analysed the genomic data of more than 60 different varieties of citrus fruits, published in the scientific journal *Nature*, if you were craving a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice 8 million years ago the only place you could have got it was the foothills of the Himalayas.

However, today, you can have freshly made grapefruit and lemon marmalade for \$3 jar from Barbara Wesley.

It can be delivered to your home, or collected from 193 Hinemoa Street, by phoning 480 9123, or barbarawesley21@gmail.com



The money raised is given to the Rehabilitation Centre in Jogjakarta, Central Java, Indonesia, a mission our church has been involved with for many years

OBITUARY

Kath Kidd

who was a long term member of St Aidans, died on Wednesday 23 September at Middlemore Hospital after an illness of one week. Kath and her husband Jim were very good members of St Aidans. During their time at St Aidans, Kath sang in the church choir, helped with flowers for the Floral Afternoon, always did baking for functions, and was one of the first members of the Embroidery Group. Jim became a good friend with Cliff Walton and together they belonged to the Auckland Pioneer Society. Jim was very active in the Pioneer Society, writing stories of his family and his war service, including when he was a Prisoner of War in Italy.

Kath and Jim Kidd sold their farm in Northland in 1967 due to Jim experiencing ill health. They moved to Northcote at that time and lived in Sylvia Road until moving to Maraetai in 2005, staying with their daughter Barbara while their house was built in the same street as Barbara and her husband. When their daughter Margaret retired 7 years ago, she moved to live next door to Kath where she was able to give Kath the care that she needed at that time.

A small funeral service was held on Tuesday 28th September and Robin and Colin and Pat feel fortunate that they were able to view that service. It was a moving service taken by Rev Mark Chapman. Kath's daughters Barbara and Margaret (who 50 years ago taught in St Aidans Sunday School) told the most interesting story of Kath's long life.

Pat Reid





★It's our Birthday!

mainly music
est. 1990

mainly music had its first meeting at St Andrews in October 2001 as a result of many weeks of research and preparation by a small group of enthusiastic people. Christine McKinlay was the main instigator assisted by Grace Hibbs, June Graham and Peter Lockhart. Peter and June had both seen the programme in action at other churches and attended by their own grandchildren.

The first meeting was held in the side room (now known as the pram park), led by Catherine Bogue and attended by about 6 children and their caregivers. Music consisted of well-known children's songs and nursery rhymes produced by tapes on someone's borrowed tape player. The church had given some money and a selection of toys had been purchased for playtime.

By about week 4 word had spread and the sessions moved into a corner of the hall and by the end of the year the full hall was being utilised to accommodate the increased numbers. The following year when Catherine went to study at AUT Natalie Stewart, one of the original Mums took over as upfront leader. Her vibrant style and enthusiasm soon meant there were so many people attending and by the 3rd year there were 2 sessions operating each Tuesday morning. Kate de Groot came on board to run the 2nd session.

In 2005 Natalie decided to take her skills further and went off to teachers' college. Pauline Fish took over from her with help from Kate and other Mums. Rosemary Bold later joined the team as an upfront person. Christine McKinlay had kept the programme running very efficiently from its beginning and left a big gap when she and John decided to move to Dunedin in about 2007.

Right from the beginning members of the church have been available to help deliver the programme every week and this continues still. There has been a succession of willing ladies producing morning teas,

greeting families as they arrive and depart, doing banking, keeping rolls, shopping for necessities, interacting with both children and carers and being upfront in delivering the music each week. The majority of the current team have been part of the group for at least 10 years and it is these people that have ensured that mainly music has kept going for the past 20 years.

When we are able to meet again there will be a chance to celebrate with the current families, to have fun and to thank God for all his blessings to us over the past 20 years. This programme is a wonderful outreach to our local community and over the years we have met with and shared in the lives of many families. We praise God for the opportunities he has given us to be his voice here in Birkenhead and pray for a continuation of this for the next 20 years.



Amazing achievement!

This church has presented
mainly music sessions for **20 years!**

What a legacy of time spent
enjoying music and, delighting
in the moments shared by the
families who have attended.



Henry James Robinson
From the team of mainly music
New Zealand Trust



creativity, connection, celebration, generosity, honour

Happy Birthday, Glenys!

Glenys Skudder celebrated a significant birthday on Sunday 8 August with a Family Dinner at the RSA, Birkenhead.

The following Ladies Lunch she had known the large cake to candles a card.



day she celebrated with a with old friends most of whom for over 40 years! She cut up share around, and blew out the hygienically with the swish of

Glenys is truly a North Shore person as she was born at *The Gables*, Birkenhead, lived her life at Alfred Street, Northcote, went to Northcote Primary, and Northcote College, before working in the Office at Tanner Couch in Onewa Road. She married “the boy next door”, Greg Skudder, in 1963, and went to live firstly in a flat at Castor Bay, and then Bayswater, before moving to their present house at 7 Catrina Avenue. They had four children, Odette, Aaron, Helen and Diane, all of whom live on the North Shore with their families. They also have an adopted daughter, Elizabeth, whom came back with them from Rarotonga where Greg worked for a year in 1976. Glenys & Greg have been stalwarts of St Andrews Church for over 50 years. Glenys has taught Sunday School, helped with Busy Bees, been on all the rosters, done the weekly church banking, helped at mainly music, been a valued member of the Resource Committee and an Elder on the Church Council, mostly while working full time in their printing business at Reprographics.

We wish you many Happy Returns of the Day, Glenys, and many more happy years ahead of you to enjoy your seven grandchildren all of whom luckily live on the North Shore, too!

READERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Josh Dear,

This is a strange thing that happened to my dear friend Margaret-up-the-road.

You remember, Margaret, who plays the piano in Church.

Margaret, who found endless little books for me to read to you.

Margaret, who loaned us the case full of little smurf men, that we built homes for out of blocks, with doll's house furniture

Little smurf men, who rode in your boat in the bath.

Little smurf men that rode in the trucks we spent hours racing down my steep drive. You had the big truck that always won and I had the little truck that came second. Those trucks sped so fast that the little men all jumped out of the cab windows.

Margaret, who had found those trucks for us in the Council's inorganic collection.

Margaret, who woke one night to hear her African Ridgeback dog, Jonah, barking excitedly. She thought he must have a hedgehog or something, but later she went to have a look.

Someone was curled up sound asleep beside Jonah. He was wrapped up in Jonah's blanket. At first she thought her son had gone to see to Jonah and ended up sleeping beside him. Then she realised it was a stranger asleep on her back porch. The gate to the road was locked so he must have climbed over the fence.

Then her son came to have a look. He was concerned and thought they should ring the police and say that they had an intruder.

The police woman on the phone couldn't stop laughing. She said "and what's the intruder doing now?"

Margaret said, "Well, he's still sleeping."

The policewoman said "and what's the dog doing?"

Margaret said, "Well he's asleep too."

When the police arrived they woke the intruder and took him away.

Dear Margaret felt a bit sorry for him. I do hope she and her son

had a nice hot cup of tea and went back to bed.

Margaret Larsen.

A Different Birthday Celebration

> It was a long time since I had been involved in a Family Zoom session. Jill's 60th birthday occurring during Lockdown seemed the perfect chance for us to get together.

> Rick set it up and had everyone, both in NZ and in N.S.W., ready in the evening.

> One by one family members keyed in, saw each other and chatted, from grand-parent to children to grand children to g.grand children!! Quite a number! Quite exciting! Some hadn't seen one another for months.

> Jill's 60th was a happy time for us all - family and friends -tho we couldn't get together for her party, nor could we order flowers as usual. She had a lovely surprise when her Clevedon friends drove alongside her residence in a motor-cade and drank her health in champagne !! A beautifully decorated birthday cake decorated with real flowers AND a bouquet of fresh flowers were produced by magic.

> The rain held off so nobody got wet and we had a lovely time seeing one another. A very exciting 60th Birthday for Jill despite Lockdown .

> Edith Fyfe, Northbridge

A Buddhist Experience



In late July a group of people from our garden club visited the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple in Flat Bush. We were met by a young man called Nick a deacon at the temple and a volunteer as are all the people involved in running the place. The first stop was their café. Unfortunately we were only there for morning tea but the warm muffins and coffee were delicious. The vegetarian café is open to the public, and as midday approached it was full of locals coming for lunch.

The main courtyard was lined with cherry blossom trees which bloom in November and are celebrated with a festival. Although the courtyard is paved in concrete, there are rows of mondo grass between the paving stones so that the students have something soft to sit on as they attend classes and pray. Camellias and other trees feature in well-kept gardens around the perimeter of the courtyard. Facing us was an enormous bell which is rung each morning to wake the residents and prepare them for the day. On the other side is an equally large evening drum which is beaten to close the day. Between these is the main temple with a large gold Buddha at the front. This is the most sacred place and reflected peace and tranquillity.

There were also 2 galleries, one featuring a photographic exhibition of NZ scenery and buildings and the other full of lights and posters of activities that have been carried out and wise sayings depicted in posters.

The whole place gave us a feeling of being welcome, being respected and feeling peaceful. The people interacted with us, handed out rolled up sayings that were just pure common sense and at no time did they try and force their beliefs upon us.

I think we all came away feeling that it had been a most worthwhile and pleasant experience.

Rosters for October 2021

Date	Elder	Reading	Prayer
Oct 3	Helene Muller	Jocelyn	Helene
Oct 10	Barbara Wesley	Andre Miuller	Barbara Wesley
Oct 17	Rachel Hurr	Colin Reid	Rachel Hurr
Oct 24	Margaret Larsen	David Hansen	Margaret L
Oct 31	Combined Zion Hill	Laurie Wesley	

Donations and Offerings

To use your internet banking to make donations please use the following bank numbers in the meantime until an OCCC account is fixed up.

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 October /November 2021

Sun 3 Oct	9.30	Eucharist Service		Zoom
Sun 10 Oct	9.30	Service		Zoom
Sun 17 Oct	9.30	Café Service breakfast	Cafe Team	Zoom
Sun 24 Oct	9.30	Contemplative	Rev Colin Gordon	Zoom
Sun 31 Oct	9.30	Combined Service		Zoom
Sat 13 November		Floral Affair		Onewa Road Church
Fri 19 Nov		Christmas Crafts afternoon		Kaipatiki Community trust Hall
Sun 21 November		AGM	After Cafe Service	

NB Sunday School, is the now wonderful regular 'time zone' for young'uns on a Sunday morning, beginning with Worship altogether and moving out to a 'fun and learning time' with a growing dynamic team. Please feel encouraged to bring children of all ages, grandchildren, neighbours children, children's friends ... personal invitations and the company of friends is the best way of being together. Meeting again when we return to in person worship.