

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



March 2025

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Opinions expressed in the *Ōpoho Signal* are those of individual authors, unless stated otherwise.

Editorial

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Romans 12:4–5

Over a year ago I was asked by a friend why Opoho Presbyterian Church means so much to me. I still haven't fully answered that question for her, and don't think I will be able to any time soon. It was a good question, one that I cannot succinctly answer. However, it opened a door to conversation with her. This friend, let's call her Ob (O B), has had a lot of negative interactions with 'Christians' in the past who judged her, berated her, belittled her, and told her she is going to hell because she does not attend church.

As we got to know each other, my Christianity was a sticky point. For a long time she was waiting for me to judge her wanting, for me to preach at her, or throw the Bible at her (I pointed out she lives in Australia and I would rather spend the postage on something else). When none of those happened, she then asked the question, 'Why is your church so important to you?'

Is that a question you can easily answer? I know I can't. OPC is more than just a building, It is its members, it is its architecture, its hall, its lounge and kitchen, its gardens and grounds and even the slightly perturbing hall entry and toilet area. When the stained-glass windows were repaired last year I got on a video call with her and showed her, her breath was taken by the beauty, both of the actual window, but also the act of someone having them repaired.

She now likes to hear about the events that are held there, has opened up to talks about God, Jesus and the Bible. She told me that she has started to pray again. Opoho helped her find her faith again, helping her to open her heart and her mind to Christianity.

I still haven't answered the question, I don't know if I have enough words to explain to her that it is so much more than just a building and people. The thought of losing OPC fills me with fear. Oh I know that isn't going to happen any time soon; we are planning a future for the building, and working on ways to invite more community on to the grounds. IF I could, I would share with all the hope, the peace, the comfort and the love that OPC gifts me each time I enter the grounds.

There is a bright future to OPC, one that I will share with OB, will walk her around the space showing her the areas my Dad and I worked on, the multitude of places we stood arguing. I hope to introduce her to some of the members and get her to help me with some projects I am plotting. She feels a connection to OPC now, and it has strengthened our connection to each other.

So, what does Opoho Presbyterian Church mean to you? I look forward to hearing your answers, maybe they can help me answer my own.

Meegan Cloughley

Parish Council News

The Parish Council had lunch and a retreat on the Morrison Lounge on Saturday 25 January to plan for 2025 and to consider responses to the Our Place Handbook. Planning and consideration of responses are continuing.

The first formal Council meeting of the year was held on 20 February. It was noted that the Minister would be away for three Sundays in March, that the Parish Directory would be updated shortly, that a quiz and dessert evening was proposed for later in the year, and that thought was being given to improving the Statement of Performance included in Annual Reports,

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

Our finances are tracking as per budget. We are pleased to have had the painting of building windows inside and outside completed in December – a challenge with the weather. Borer treatment has been completed and will be scheduled annually over the next three years. You may notice that the hall is having a furniture rearrangement – this is to enhance space utilisation and make it welcoming and comfortable for the user groups. The back room is being cleaned out of obsolete equipment. We are in the process of installing additional handrails to facilitate ease of access from church through to Morrison Lounge. The foyer recycle station is well utilised and every week our church waste bins go out for collection, making life a lot easier for all. The pea straw to be used for harvest festival will be going onto our garden.

Facility Users Update: We have had some enquiries about rental from another group for weekly use and look forward to this progressing.

Yoga has recommenced on Mondays at 10 a.m. with increased numbers.

Steady as You Go on Tuesday is at 1.30 (Chris Young is a leader) and also has increased numbers attending.

Pilates has recommenced and changed to Tuesdays at 4 p.m. with a beginners' class followed by an advanced class.

The *Weavers' group* meet all Wednesday in the Morrison Lounge and can often be spotted lunching in the church garden.

We have been reviewing all the electrical plug sockets as a few are damaged and will arrange for repair. Our sink taps are also on the list for repair. Our application to Synod for funding for the roof replacement was lodged in October 2024 and we will hear the outcome late May. So, lots of things on the agenda and plan. We have a great team on our committee- and ask you to please give us your ideas, anything you have identified as needing repair and report any incidents, accidents, or security issues.

Miriam Vollweiler (Committee convener)

Donations to Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

Thank you to all those who participate in the life of our church and help make it possible to support its work. If you are not already an electronic donor through online banking and would like to donate in this way, the details are:

ANZ bank, Ōpoho Presbyterian Deacons' Court;

Account Number: 06 0909 0010868 000.

Please put your name and the word Donation in the data fields. It would be helpful if you could let our Treasurer, Judy Rodda, know, so that receipts for charitable donations can be sent to you. Her email is Judith L Rodda opoho pcbusiness@gmail.com

As well as regular outgoings there are maintenance items on the building and grounds which we will be seeking to raise funds for over the next few years. If you are interested in supporting these, please be in touch.

We acknowledge that people's circumstances are personal, and that they vary over time and with things that happen in our lives. It is important to know that there will be times when it is appropriate to reduce your giving to the church, and you do not need to apologise for doing that.

The income and expenditure of the church is examined each month by the Property and Finance Committee and reported to the Parish Council. The church's financial year runs to the end of June and an annual budget is presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Thank you.

Property and Finance Committee

Abby's Jam Palace

The Jam Palace has become a (small) permanent fixture in the hall foyer. Please feel free to take what you need and arrange a bank transfer, or just find Abby and hand over the cash. I will re-stock as the seasons move along, so remember to check out what's new, and enjoy fresh local seasonal preserves! Direct deposits go to Abby, but rest assured I do hand over all the cash to Opoho, so it's a good fundraiser.



As regards jars, I only need nice clean ones with lids and no labels, thanks.

Abby Smith, Jam Maker

Keeping in Touch at Ōpoho Church

Opoho Church has a website, www.opohochurch.org, where you will find (among other things) links to recent sermons, downloadable copies of the Orders of Service for the two most recent Sundays, downloadable versions of the newsletter, and an on-line version of the Church Calendar.

The church also has a Facebook page (you don't need to belong to Facebook to see the page) www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch

This newsletter is emailed to all who have requested to receive it this way. If you wish to be added to (or deleted from) the email list, or **if you receive an emailed copy and don't need a physical copy as well**, please send an email to the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

Presbyterian Support Foodbank



You can bring goods (nothing frozen or perishable) to church on any Sunday or you can make a cash donation for the Food Bank via their website www.psootago.org.nz Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

Operation Cover Up

Knitting continues for Mission Without Borders to provide woollen blankets and clothing to cold parts of the world where such goods are not readily available.

As usual we need knitters to make squares – there's lots of wool available.

Any queries please contact me at 027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com



Marian Weaver

Fellowship Group

Eleven of us gathered together for our last meeting in November 2024 before the successful Christmas lunch in December. It seemed appropriate to have a theme “*the good, the bad and the ugly – what’s been happening for you over this time.*” We shared our news and one highlight was Sue Gow telling us of her new dog Skamp who was rehomed with her from One By One Rescue (Skamp’s owner died last year). Sue’s dog of many years died last year so Skamp, who is 12 years old, was the best Christmas gift ever. Skamp will be joining us at our March meeting.

As a group, we are reviewing the fundraising commitment that has always been part of our monthly meeting where we have been contributing to the Fellowship of the Least Coin and our March meeting will be an opportunity for us to discuss this further. As usual, there will be an excellent afternoon tea and great company.



Evelyn’s 30 peggy squares



Sue Gow with her dog

Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

*Love of God
and love of the Neighbour*



*Love of the Good
and love of the Neighbour*

**The Official UN Observance in the First Week of February
(1-7 February 2025)**

World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February, since its UN General Assembly designation in 2010. The Assembly pointed out that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace and established World Interfaith Harmony Week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith.

Recognising the need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people, the Assembly encourages all countries to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, on a voluntary basis and according to their own religious traditions or beliefs.

Here in Ōtepoti Dunedin, a Celebration of Harmony Dinner was held at St Peter's Anglican Church, Caversham on Tuesday 4 February. It was organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council. The community came together to enjoy a vegetarian meal and to have fun. Between courses we were treated to a variety of performances by people with special talents, the Tongan Choir filled the hall with their fine voices, and Dunedin City Councillors, Christine Garey and Marie Laufiso attended the event with Christine being the guest speaker. She reminded us of the Christchurch Mosque attacks and the importance of respecting other faiths. A highlight of the evening was a song by Namakau Nalumango, a Zambian woman who attends Interfaith gatherings. The song was a statement on harmony through love that starts with ourselves, regardless of the other parties. We can still find love within ourselves by understanding the other person's actions towards us. This is one of the verses of the song:

Thank you all of you
who stand together
in happy times or tribulations
no matter what

We can all stand together in harmony, knowing that Christ stands beside us.

Benjamin Thew

Lectionary for March and April 2025

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| Sunday 2 March – Transfiguration | | | |
| Ex 34: 29-35 | Ps 99 | 2 Cor 3: 12-4: 2 | Lk 9: 8-36, (37-43a) |
| Lent | | | |
| Wednesday 5 March – Ash Wednesday | | | |
| Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 <i>or</i> Is 58: 1-12 | Ps 51: 1-17 | 2 Cor 5: 20b-6: 10 | Mt 6: 1-6, 16-21 |
| Sunday 9 March – 1st Sunday in Lent | | | |
| Deut 26: 1-11 | Ps 91: 1-2, 9-16 | Rom 10: 8b-13 | Lk 4: 1-13 |
| Sunday 16 March – 2nd Sunday in Lent | | | |
| Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18 | Ps 27 | Phil 3: 17-4:1 | Lk 13: 31-35 <i>or</i> Lk 9: 28-36 |
| Sunday 23 March – 3rd Sunday in Lent | | | |
| Is 55: 1-9 | Ps 63: 1-8 | 1 Cor 10: 1-13 | Lk 13: 1-9 |
| Sunday 30 March – 4th Sunday in Lent | | | |
| Josh 5: 9-12 | Ps 32 | 2 Cor 5: 16-21 | Lk 15: 1-3, 11b-32 |
| Sunday 6 April – 5th Sunday in Lent | | | |
| Is 43: 16-21 | Ps 126 | Phil 3: 4b-14 | Jn 12: 1-8 |
| Sunday 13 April – Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday | | | |
| None <i>or</i> Is 50: 4-9 | Ps 118: 1-2, 19- 29 <i>or</i> Ps 31: 9-16 | None <i>or</i> Phil 2: 5-11 | Palm Lk 19: 28-40 Passion Lk 22: 14- 23: 56 <i>or</i> Lk 23: 1-49 |
| Holy Week | | | |
| Monday 14 April | | | |
| Is 42: 1-9 | Ps 36: 5-11 | Heb 9: 11-15 | Jn 12: 1-11 |
| Tuesday 15 April | | | |
| Is 49: 1-7 | Ps 71: 1-14 | 1 Cor 1: 18-31 | Jn 12: 20-36 |
| Wednesday 16 April | | | |
| Is 50: 4-9a | Ps 70 | Heb 12: 1-3 | Jn 13: 21-32 |

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| Thursday 17 April – Maundy Thursday | | | |
| Ex 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14 | Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19 | 1 Cor 11: 23-26 | Jn 13: 1-7, 31b-35 |
| Friday 18 April – Good Friday | | | |
| Is 52: 13 - 53: 12 | Ps 22 | Heb 10: 16-25 <i>or</i> Heb 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9 | Jn 18: 1– 19:42 |
| Saturday 19 April – Holy Saturday | | | |
| Job 14: 1-14 <i>or</i> Lam 3: 1-9, 19-24 | Ps 31: 1-4, 15-16 | 1 Peter 4: 1-8 | Mt 27: 57- 66 <i>or</i> Jn 19: 38-42 |
| Easter | | | |
| Sunday 20 April – Easter Dawn | | | |
| Ex 14: 10-31, 15: 20-21 | Ps 114 | Rom 6: 3-11 | Lk 24: 1-12 |
| Sunday 20 April – Easter Day | | | |
| Acts 10: 34-43 <i>or</i> Is 65: 17-25 | Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24 | 1 Cor 15: 19-26 <i>or</i> Acts 10: 34-43 | Jn 20: 1-18 <i>or</i> Lk 24: 1-12 |
| Sunday 27 April – 2nd Sunday of Easter | | | |
| Acts 5: 27-32 | Ps 118: 14-29 <i>or</i> Ps 150 | Rev 1: 4-8 | Jn 20: 19-31 |

Our Newest Elder

The communion service on 2 February was a happy family occasion for the Ranbys when Mark was ordained and inducted as an elder. In addition to Sarah and sons Tom and Ferg, both Mark's and Sarah's parents were present. The opportunity was taken for a family photograph:



Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church March and April 2025

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| 2 March ~ Sunday | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion |
| 9 March ~ Sunday | 10 a.m.: Worship, Gregor Macaulay <i>Psalm 23</i> |
| 12 March ~ Wednesday | 7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge |
| 13 March ~ Thursday | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge |
| 16 March ~ Sunday | 10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith |
| 20 March ~ Thursday | Material due for April <i>Opoho Signal</i> |
| 23 March ~ Sunday | 10 a.m.: Worship, Meegan Cloughley |
| 24 March ~ Monday | Otago Anniversary Day |
| 27 March ~ Thursday | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge (a week later than usual) |
| 30 March ~ Sunday | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind |
| 6 April ~ Sunday | Daylight saving ends – clocks go <i>back</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion |
| 9 April ~ Wednesday | 7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge |
| 10 April ~ Thursday | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge |
| 13 April ~ Sunday | 10 a.m.: Worship, Jane Bloore |
| 17 April ~ Thursday | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge |
| 18 April ~ Friday | Good Friday – public holiday |
| 20 April ~ Easter Sunday | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind Material due for May <i>Opoho Signal</i> |
| 21 April ~ Monday | Easter Monday – public holiday |
| 25 April ~ Friday | ANZAC Day – public holiday |
| 27 April ~ Sunday | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind |

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Thursday 20 March

Please send all material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to
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