

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church
50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



*Church members work together to make a tree
during Chat Time on 13 October*

November 2024

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

Editorial

Recently I have found myself reflecting and appreciating the people that make up our church community here at Ōpoho. The rich and unique stories that we each contain and continue to make.

I give thanks for being a part of this body of people and while God knows each of us intimately, I am enjoying the revelation of wonder and light through a conversation over a cuppa, a person's involvement in a service, sharing of taonga and their stories, and erecting a collapsable cricket gazebo at the Church Fair, to name but a few.

I'm slowly learning that faith requires a combination of cultivating space, letting go and being curious by listening and present to what is revealed. Writing for me is a faith practice and the process of writing this editorial is a case in point.

It often takes me time, and far too often a flirtation with a deadline (apologies Gregor) to cultivate the space physically, mindfully, and spiritually to prepare to write. To not hold too tightly to what has been happening to me or has happened to me and in this loosening and space-making notice what starts to emerge.

I am beginning to trust that starting, whether it be a list of words that may at first not be connected or whole sentences is totally fine, and it is often quite revealing to how they fit into the final form.

Rereading the opening paragraph above the word *communion* came to me. Remembering my father's practice of digging into the etymology of a word I brought up an online dictionary. I am not sure why I felt so joyous or surprised at what I discovered that the Latin origins of the word speak of mutual participation, something being of a common or humble nature, service and gift.

All these words speak to me of what we are striving to do and doing at Ōpoho Church, our beautiful fair being the latest example. I have felt and continue to feel the wonder and light through our communion. Thank you to each of you for who you are and what you bring.

Love and Light,
Mark Ranby

Annual Meeting Report

The annual meeting, held after worship on 6 October, was no mere formality but discussed important matters concerning the future of our buildings and the life of the parish.

The usual financial statements and budget and committee reports were received. There was also considerable discussion about proposals to replace the roofs of the church, Morrison Lounge, and hall. Approval was given for proceeding with the project, and for applying to the Synod of Otago and Southland for a grant for 50% of the overall costs – likely to be of the order of \$200,000. However, no definite contracts for the work will be signed without specific approval from a further meeting of the congregation, and likewise any increase in the estimated budget will require congregational approval. We are moving, but cautiously and prudently.

The meeting also received the report of the Our Place Task Group, which has produced the *Identity and Mission in Practice – Ōpoho Presbyterian Church Our Place Handbook 2024*. The meeting commended the Handbook to the Parish Council and other committees to help guide their decision-making about worship, Christian education, use of facilities, property, and finance. The Parish Council, in particular, has been charged with developing an action plan for responding to the recommendations in the Handbook and to review the governance of the parish. The Handbook is intended to be a ‘living document’ and suggestions for revisions for future editions will be welcomed by the Parish Council.

Gregor Macaulay and David Murray were reappointed to the Parish Council for three-year terms and Daniel Larsen, a former member who has taken a break for a few years, has also been reappointed. And Parish Council members Julie Mander and Mark Ranby have been elected to be ordained and inducted as elders.

The meeting noted that Philip Somerville was stepping down after more than 30 continuous years of sterling service on the Session and Parish Council, including time as Parish Clerk.

Gregor Macaulay, Associate Parish Clerk

Parish Council News

Daniel Larsen was welcomed back as a member of the Parish Council (after a six-year break) when it met on 17 October, and Philip Somerville's formal resignation was received.

The Council formally endorsed the decisions of the Annual Meeting concerning the reroofing project – necessary for applications to funding bodies.

Much of the meeting was taken up with discussion of the Handbook prepared by the Our Place Task Group and commended to decision-makers by the Annual Meeting. The Group itself has now been disbanded and it is now up to the Council and the Property and Finance Committee to work through the various recommendations the Group has made. Members of the Council have been given homework, to think about and comment on the recommendations. Their responses will be collated and discussed at future meetings and/or a Council retreat early next year.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

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

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 Foodbank via their website www.pstotago.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

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

Fair Report

I think it's fair to say the 2024 Opoho Church Fair was a raging success! We were very lucky that the weather allowed us to use our lovely outside spaces. At least 40 church members were busy setting up, selling things, and cleaning up, and many more helped out before and after in various ways.

Particular thanks go to Dunedin Cricket and Margaret Garland for lending us tents, to Fiona Stuart for coming along and making us all coffees, to Geoff Markby who donated a bunch of rhododendrons, to Michael

Ovens who wasn't there but bravely lent me his truck, to Gisele and Maurice Andrew for donating their lovely rug for auction, to Philip who sourced the white paper, to Mark Ranby who donated a pile of sausages, to Ruth Tansley for some lovely embroideries, to Miriam who sorted out the spaces with our "paying guests". Those adorably felted cats made by Clare were snapped up quickly. Special mention to Ben who found, delivered, and set up the racks for clothes, the trestle tables for books, the umbrella for morning tea, and probably many more things.

At the end of the Saturday, we had raised over \$5300, and then on Sunday at least another \$500 came in.

For those who like stats:

- Plants/Produce (Marian, Don) \$298
- BBQ/Sausages (John, Mark, Lena, David) \$317
- Clothes (Christine, Fiona, Allison, Pat, Bron) \$552
- Baking/Morning Tea (Sanel, Clare, Jane, Bill, and a lot of bakers) \$571
- Books/Puzzles/DVDs (Julie and family, Simon, Ruth, Kieran, others) \$777
- Jam/Crafts/Jellybean Guessing (Abby, Hamish, Meegan and craft makers) \$1070



- White Elephants/Toys (Sarah, Mark and family, Kirk, Daniel, Brian, Andrew) \$1223

There were also floaters who helped out where they saw a need, at least Gretchen, John S, John R.

Set-up and clean-up teams are especially amazing, I couldn't believe the speed and efficiency of the teams, ably led by Ben: Brian, Kate, Susan, Russell, Daniel, Will and Allison, Chris, Christine and Jeff, Marian, Judy, Kirk, Nathan, Fiona.

The names in this report are pretty much the church directory. So many people helped and donated and made the day a success.

Thank you all very very very much.

Abby Smith

P.S. If you loved Fiona and her coffee cart *Total Recaffeination*, you can find her weekdays 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. just outside Ross Home on North Road.

Manaakitanga Community Engagement Pōwhiri

Greg Hughson has forwarded an invitation to this event at the Araiteuru Marae, 24 Shetland Street on 9 November – 10.30 a.m. for an 11 a.m. start.

The Ko Ngā Rourou Manaaki/organising group welcomes everyone to this pōwhiri which builds connections in the local community and is always a lively and dynamic occasion.



They are in need of volunteers to help on Friday 8 and Saturday 9 November. There are many ways to help including food preparation and setting up on Friday from 3.30 to 6 p.m. and helping in a variety of ways on Saturday from 9.30 to 2-3 p.m. If you are able to help for some or all of the time they would be very happy to see you. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Barbara Johnston at barbro.johnston@gmail.com

Interfaith Matters

Please read these words in a quiet attitude of meditation:

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust,
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
May peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.



They are words from the 50th Week of Prayer for World Peace committee. They cause me to wonder how different the world would be if all took them on board.

At the Dunedin Quaker Centre, 13 October, we had thoughtful comments and prayers from (in order): Christian Science, Baha'i, Christian, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Dunedin, Fijian Indian community Hindu group, Tongan Methodist Choir, Buddhist, Jewish, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day

Saints, Scientology, Brahma Kumari, Muslim, Hare Krishna, and Quaker. (The Christian contribution was given in the form of three meaningful haiku by Kirsteen McLay from Knox Church with Opoho connections – granddaughter of the McLays who lived in my house, 40 Signal Hill Rd, and the Pollards,; Evan Pollard was an important Knox Theological Hall Professor of New Testament Studies. Thank you Kirsteen.)

Then the floor was passed over to anyone with a further contribution - guess who responded? One Benjamin Thew, with the Gaelic Blessing *A Deep Peace*:

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on yo.u
Deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

This was a very special message to go out into the night with. Thank you, Andrew and Benjamin, for being there with me.

Bronwen Strang

Lectionary for November and December

Friday 1 November – All Saints			
Wis Sol 3: 1-9 <i>or</i> Is 25: 8-9	Ps 24	Rev 21: 1-6a	Jn 11: 32-44
Sunday 3 November – Pentecost 24			
Ruth 1: 1-18	Ps 146	Heb 9: 11-14	Mk 12: 28-34
Sunday 10 November – Pentecost 25			
Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17	Ps 127	Heb 9: 24-28	Mk 12: 38-44
Sunday 17 November – Pentecost 26			
1 Sam 1: 4-20	1 Sam 2: 1-10 <i>or</i> Ps 16	Heb 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25	Mk 13: 1-8
Sunday 24 November – Reign of Christ			
2 Sam 23: 1-7	Ps 132: 1-12, (13- 18) <i>or</i> Ps 93	Rev 1 4b-8	Jn 18: 33-37
Sunday 1 December – 1st Sunday in Advent			
Jer 33: 14-16	Ps 25: 1-10	1 Thes 3: 9-13	Lk 21: 25-36
Sunday 8 December – 2nd Sunday in Advent			
Bar 5: 1-9 <i>or</i> Mal 3: 1-4	Lk 1: 68-79	Phil 1: 3-11	Lk 3: 1-6
Sunday 15 December – 3rd Sunday in Advent			
Zeph 3: 14-20	Is 12: 2-6	Phil 4: 4-7	Lk 3: 7-18
Sunday 22 December – 4th Sunday in Advent			
Mic 5: 2-5a	Ps 80: 1-7	Heb 10: 5-10	Lk 1: 39-45, (46-55)
Tuesday 24 December – Christmas Eve			
Is 9: 2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Lk 2: 1-14, (15-20)
Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Dawn			
Is 62: 6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3: 4-7	Lk 2: (1-7), 8-20
Wednesday 25 December – Christmas Day			
Is 52: 7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1: 1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1: 1-14
Sunday 29 December – 1st Sunday after Christmas			
1 Sam 2:18-20, 26	Ps 148	Col 3: 12-17	Lk 2: 41-52

Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church November and December 2024

3 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
10 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith, Remembrance Sunday
13 November ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
14 November ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
17 November ~ Sunday	8 a.m.: Pastoral visitors' breakfast, Morrison Lounge 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 November ~ Wednesday	Material due for December-January <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
24 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, John Roxborough and Gregor Macaulay
1 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
8 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Julie Mander and Opoho children; followed by Jam Palace in hall
12 December ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 December ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
15 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Nine Lessons and Carols 2 p.m.: Community Carol Singing in church (TBC)
21 December ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, venue TBC
22 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
24 December ~ Tuesday	11.30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service, the Rev. Clare Lind
25 December ~ Wednesday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Christmas Day
29 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Wednesday 20 November

Please send all material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to
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email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com