

Opoho Signal

February 2021

via email

Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



The Gate of the Year

February 2021

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters

cell phone 027 637 9818

Acting Parish Clerk: Philip Somerville phone: 03 473 8862

email: psomer39@gmail.com

Worship Services at Opoho:

Every Sunday at 10 am

Other services are listed in the Calendar on the back cover.

Editorial

Last year, 2020, was a year of disruptions and challenges as we endured lockdowns and the suspension of normal activities both as individuals and as a congregation. Opoho has an extraordinarily high proportion of parishioners with close relatives and friends in countries where Covid-19 is far from contained and their wellbeing continues to be of concern. However, with vaccination becoming available – and a change of political leadership in the United States – we have begun the new year with growing hope for the future. Our Christian faith is grounded in concepts of deliverance, fresh beginnings, and hope for a time when “there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying” (Revelation 21:4).

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At another time of crisis, King George VI included the following extract from *God Knows*, a poem written in 1908 by Englishwoman Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957, above), in his 1939 Christmas broadcast, and it remains relevant to us today:

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
 "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."
 And he replied:
 "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of
 God.
 That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known
 way."*

Gregor Macaulay



Parish and Parish Council News

The Parish Council largely aestivates (look it up!) in December and January but did have a brief meeting in December. It noted that Presbyterian Support Otago had written to thank the parish for its continuing contributions to the PSO Food Bank. Bringing a grocery item or two to church each Sunday is an easy and practical way to help those in need in the Dunedin community. The Council also noted that the venue for the PCANZ General Assembly in 2021 had been changed from Hastings to Christchurch.

The journey towards Christmas at Opoho began with the Community Advent Service on 25 November and we thank Marian Weaver for coordinating arrangements, Mary Somerville for leading both that service and the Family and Children’s Advent Service at 5 p.m. on 29 November, and all others who helped to make all the other Advent and Christmas services happen. Planning is now in train to ensure that we have people to lead worship each Sunday in the coming months.

On 10 January we had our first service where the music was led not by a pianist but by singers (Abby Smith and Marian Weaver) and guitarists (John Stenhouse and Kirk Hamilton) and we thank them for their willingness to help in this way (normally on the second Sunday each month).

Thank you also to Hamish Spencer for organising the ‘people-moving’ at the hospital chapel service on 17 January.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

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*Ministry Settlement Board Update*

The MSB is meeting with a minister we have approached who is interested in learning more about our church and continuing the conversation with the Settlement Board. Please pray for the MSB and the minister considering ministry with us.

***Rachel Judge, MSB Convener***

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World Day of Prayer

A World Day of Prayer service for North End churches will be held in Opoho Church on Friday 5 March, beginning at 7 p.m.

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*Church Fair for 2021*

We plan to have a fair this year, probably in **early May** as usual. Miriam Vollweiler, Bronwen Strang, Shona Somerville, and Fiona Stirling will confirm the date once we know when the *Valley Voice* comes out.

So please begin sorting and saving all the saleable things – especially clothes and books – that you no longer need.

If you need them ‘gone’ sooner put them under the hall stage.

If you need help to get them there contact Fiona (027 483 2028). Thank you!

***Fiona Stirling***

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A Letter from Tui Bevin

Dear Friends at Opoho Church

It is already a few months now since I cut back my commitments at Opoho Church. I know this may have come out of the blue for many of you, however it wasn't a kneejerk decision. Certain challenges had been building up for me for some time and when I realised something needed to change, significant time out seemed my best option. Having said that, it hasn't been an easy time and I've very much appreciated (and needed) the love and support from friends at Opoho Church.

I'm enjoying carrying on with the Bible Book of the Month group. Our small group will finish its 6½ year quest when we discuss Revelation in September.

My pulling back from commitments and church doesn't mean I intend to disappear completely from Opoho Church. I hope to catch up with people as time goes on and hold the church in my prayers. I don't know what the future holds, but Opoho Church has been, and will always hold a special place in my heart.

Tui Bevin

*Prayers Psalms and Poems – an Opoho writers' group*

Taking off where the former Psalm-writing group left off, but including a wider range of writings. If you'd enjoy reading and listening to each others' writing in a safe friendly space, do come along. Tuesday 23 February, 7 p.m. (tea and cookies/biscuits provided), Abby Smith's house, 50 Grey Street. For more information, please contact Abby Smith: 027 606 3552, abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com

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*Psalm of Blank Pages*

Creator God,

the blank pages  
of my coming year wait  
empty, scary, hopeful

you are the God of new beginnings  
you made all that is from nothing  
you created the seasons

you sent Jesus as a baby  
you forgive us our sins  
you offer life everlasting

if only we would accept it  
if only we would love and live  
as you would have us do

how is it you stay hopeful for us  
when we feel unworthy?

how is it we deserve still more  
when we cannot see what we have?

how is it you do not give up on us  
when we give up on ourselves?

Creator God,

I give thanks  
for new beginnings  
and pray that with your help  
I will fill the pages of my year  
with colour, joy and love

Amen

**Tui Bevin**

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Opportunities for Service February - March 2021

For the week leading up to, and including, Sunday:

	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Music	Flowers	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
February								
7 February	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	Jane Bloore Benjamin Thew	Bronwen Strang	—	David Murray	Allison Mulder	Michael Ovens	Mulders
14 February	Bronwen Strang Marian Weaver	Hamish Spencer Michael Ovens	Julie-Ann Fleming	Andrew Smith	Singers and Guitarists	Allison Mulder	Michael Ovens	Mulders
21 February	Daniel Larsen Jane Bloore	Mary and John Somerville	Andrew Smith	Marian Weaver	Gaynor Haig	Jane Bloore	Chris Young	Bronwen Strang
28 February	Meegan and Pam Cloughley	Andrew Smith Marian Weaver	Lena Henderson	Mark Ranby	Music Group	Jane Bloore	Chris Young	Bronwen Strang
March								
7 March	Bronwen Strang Marian Weaver	Abby Smith Hamish Spencer	Jane Anderson	—	David Murray	Judy Rodda	Meegan Cloughley	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton
14 March	Abby Smith Hamish Spencer	Mark Ranby Daniel Larsen	Lena Henderson	John Roxborough	Singers and Guitarists	Judy Rodda	Meegan Cloughley	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton
21 March	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	John Stenhouse Jane Bloore	Maurice Andrew	Daniel Larsen	Gaynor Haig	Jenny Roxborough	Benjamin Thew	Chris Young
28 March	Daniel Larsen Jane Bloore	Jenny Bunce Shona Somerville	Marian Weaver	Abby Smith	Music Group	Jenny Roxborough	Benjamin Thew	Chris Young

Thank you so much to all who contribute now, and have contributed in the past, to these activities.

If you find you are unable to do your rostered duty, please arrange for someone else to take your place. Let Gregor know of the change, so that he can update the Order of Service and contact the right people for readings and prayers.

Morning Tea: Please arrange for one person to bring milk, and to take it home again afterwards. There are biscuits in a drawer in the kitchen. Home baking is welcome, too.

Door duty: Before you leave, please make sure all the doors are locked; all the lights are turned off; and any candles have been put out.

fellowship GROUP

Thursday 11 February

2 p.m., Morrison Lounge

As with everywhere around the world, last year certainly did not go according to plan for Fellowship Group! After a four-month break, we all very much valued being able to meet in fellowship from July until December.

Many of you will know that interesting speakers were a regular feature of monthly Fellowship Group meetings in previous years. However, in the latter months of 2020, we talked among ourselves, and talked, and talked (and talked!), enjoying the different format in such different times. We also enjoyed sharing the delicious baking provided by Miriam Vollweiler and Chris Young.

At each meeting we contribute our 'Least Coins' to the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and a gold coin or two to the Koha bowl. The latter goes to Opoho Church, with thanks for the use of the Morrison Lounge each month. We are delighted that Miriam and Chris will continue their planning, and their baking, in 2021.

Our first Fellowship Group meeting for 2021 is at 2 p.m. on **Thursday 11 February**, in the Morrison Lounge.

This will be a chance to catch up, and to talk over ideas for future meetings – speakers? general conversations? conversations on specific themes? what else?

Everyone is very welcome to come along, there is always room for more people, and for more ideas!

Andrea Johnston



Abby's Jam Palace

Abby's Jam Palace will next be convened at the Opoho Presbyterian Church Fair in May. If you have excess fruit of any kind, do let me know.

I don't need jars unless they are extra-pretty, clean, and have lids. Thanks for your support

Abby Smith



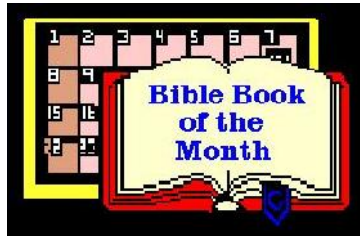
Interfaith Matters

As mentioned in the last issue of the Signal, the Interfaith Harmony Dinner (pot-luck vegetarian) will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Fenton Crescent, St Clair) 6.30 - 8.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 3 February. (**N.B.** the day and date were wrong in the last *Signal*).

The speakers will include our own Simon Rae. Various groups will provide entertainment. This event, celebrating the harmony amongst the different faith groups, is always a delightful evening, and will not be a late night.

Bronwen Strang





This month we will be looking at *James*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 4 February at 129 Signal Hill Road. Ideally people should have read the book beforehand, but it isn't essential.

For more information please contact John Stenhouse at john.stenhouse@otago.ac.nz or Tui Bevin at 473 8677 or email mark.bevin@gmail.com

Tui Bevin



Knitting Support

If you aren't sure why your knitting isn't coming out right, please let me know and we can have a tutorial. Also I have some patterns for different ways to knit squares for "Operation Cover-Up" blankets.

Abby Smith
027 606 3552

Used Stamps are Useful!

Although the Christmas season has passed, it is still worth remembering to save any used postage stamps from cards, letters and parcels!

We deliver our collections of used stamps to Presbyterian Support. The stamps are then sold to philatelists, and the revenue is used for PCANZ Global Mission outreach.

Cut the stamps from envelopes and packages, leaving a 1 cm margin of paper around the stamps. Bring them to church, and put them in the box in the foyer. Thank you!

Remembering Vetia's annual message

Andrea Johnston

Presbyterian Support Food Bank



This time of year is always busy for the Food Bank, so please give thought to giving a few items – standard grocery items and/or special seasonal treats.

Tinned or dry goods only please – nothing frozen or perishable.

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Saturday 20 February 2021

Please send all material for the *Opoho Signal* to:

Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011

Email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

Keeping in Touch

Do you know...

Opoho Church has a website, www.opohochurch.org

On the website 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

Copies of the Parish Directory, with contact details of parishioners, are available on the back pew in the church.

This newsletter is emailed to all who have requested to receive it this way. If you are not already on the email list, and would like to be, please send an email to Andrea andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz

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| Lectionary readings, 28 March 2021 (cont.)<br>in Year B, the Year of Mark |                                         |                         |                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 28 March - Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday                           |                                         |                         |                                                                                                                     |
| None or<br>Is 50: 4-9a                                                    | Ps 118: 1-2,<br>19-29 or<br>Ps 31: 9-16 | None or<br>Phil 2: 5-11 | <b>Palm</b><br>Mk 11: 1-11<br>or<br>Jn 12: 12-16<br><b>Passion</b><br>Mk 14: 1- 15:<br>47 or Mk 15:<br>1-39 (40-47) |

| Lectionary readings, 7 February to 28 March 2021<br>in Year B, the Year of Mark |                                |                         |                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 7 February - 5th Sunday after the Epiphany                               |                                |                         |                                |
| Is 40: 21-31                                                                    | Ps 147: 1-11, 20c              | 1 Cor 9: 16-23          | Mk 1: 29-39                    |
| Sunday 14 February - Transfiguration                                            |                                |                         |                                |
| 2 Kings 2:<br>1-12                                                              | Ps 50: 1-6                     | 2 Cor 4: 3-6            | Mk 9: 2-9                      |
| Season of Lent                                                                  |                                |                         |                                |
| Wednesday 17 February - Ash Wednesday                                           |                                |                         |                                |
| Joel 2: 1-2,<br>12-17 or<br>Is 58: 1-12                                         | Ps 51: 1-17                    | 2 Cor 5: 20b -<br>6: 10 | Mt 6: 1-6,<br>16-21            |
| Sunday 21 February - 1st Sunday in Lent                                         |                                |                         |                                |
| Gen 9: 8-17                                                                     | Ps 25: 1-10                    | 1 Peter 3: 18-22        | Mk 1: 9-15                     |
| Sunday 28 February - 2nd Sunday in Lent                                         |                                |                         |                                |
| Gen 17: 1-7, 15-<br>16                                                          | Ps 22: 23-31                   | Rom 4: 13-25            | Mk 8: 31-38<br>or<br>Mk 9: 2-9 |
| Sunday 7 March - 3rd Sunday in Lent                                             |                                |                         |                                |
| Ex 20: 1-17                                                                     | Ps 19                          | 1 Cor 1: 18-25          | Jn 2: 13-22                    |
| Sunday 14 March - 4th Sunday in Lent                                            |                                |                         |                                |
| Num 21: 4-9                                                                     | Ps 107: 1-3,<br>17-22          | Eph 2: 1-10             | Jn 3: 14-21                    |
| Sunday 21 March - 5th Sunday in Lent                                            |                                |                         |                                |
| Jer 31: 31-34                                                                   | Ps 51: 1-12 or<br>Ps 119: 9-16 | Heb 5: 5-10             | Jn 12: 20-33                   |
| Sunday 28 March - Harvest Thanksgiving                                          |                                |                         |                                |
| Deut 26: 1-11                                                                   | Ps 126                         | Gal 6: 6-10             | Mt 13: 1-13,<br>18-23          |
| Sunday 28 March - Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday<br>See P. 14                    |                                |                         |                                |



**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in  
February and March 2021**

|                        |                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February               |                                                                              |
| 4 February ~ Thursday  | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>James</i> ,<br>129 Signal Hill Road   |
| 7 February ~ Sunday    | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro,<br>Communion                        |
| 11 February ~ Thursday | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge                                    |
| 14 February ~ Sunday   | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Professor Paul<br>Trebilco                        |
| 18 February ~ Thursday | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison<br>Lounge                                |
| 20 February ~ Saturday | Material due for March <i>Opoho Signal</i>                                   |
| 21 February ~ Sunday   | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Peter Wishart                                     |
| 23 February ~ Tuesday  | 7 p.m.: Writers' Group, 50 Grey Street                                       |
| 28 February ~ Sunday   | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson                                      |
| March                  |                                                                              |
| 4 March ~ Thursday     | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month:<br><i>1 Peter</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road |
| 5 March ~ Friday       | 7 p.m.: World Day of Prayer service, in the<br>church                        |
| 7 March ~ Sunday       | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro,<br>Communion                        |
| 11 March ~ Thursday    | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge                                    |
| 14 March ~ Sunday      | 10 a.m.: Worship, a service of hymns<br>selected by Parish Councillors       |
| 18 March ~ Thursday    | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison<br>Lounge                                |
| 20 March ~ Saturday    | Material due for April <i>Opoho Signal</i>                                   |
| 21 March ~ Sunday      | 10 a.m.: Worship, <i>The Christian Year</i> ,<br>Gregor Macaulay             |
| 28 March ~ Sunday      | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson<br><i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i>       |

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