

# Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



See the Editorial!

**June 2024**

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

## **Editorial: Change the World**

One of my favourite songs from the late 1970s is (*Wish I Could Fly Like Superman* by the Kinks. It contains these lyrics: “I'd really like to change the world; Save it from the mess it's in. I'm too weak, I'm so thin; I'd like to fly but I can't even swim.”

Sometimes at church or even when reading the news, I become inspired to action, and I feel like I'm wasting my life. I want to make a difference. I want to heal this broken burning world. I want to save refugees. I want to fix the climate. I want to teach peace and truth and kindness. Clearly, I need to quit my job and leave my home – but to do what? Run for office? Become an influencer? Make a podcast? Write a book? Put on a cape? Get real.

I really feel for the guy who knows he isn't Superman.

Forty-four years after that song came out, we still understand it. We want to make a difference, we want to be super. But all we are is regular normal people, living our lives.

But then I think about Jesus. Born in poverty, raised by a manual labourer, a guy who owned nothing and had no platform, no authority, no jewelled cape. He changed the world, not by being Superman, but by being a human. He fed people. He helped people. He invited people in. He had wisdom that he shared. One bit of that wisdom is just what I need to hear:

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. (Matthew 25: 35-36)*

Maybe the kingdom of Heaven doesn't come in big sweeping gestures. Maybe it doesn't need kings and prime ministers, superstars, billionaires. Maybe it just needs us. Picking up rubbish off the beach, carrying a heavy bag for someone, smiling at a stranger on the way to work, holding someone as they cry, baking for a friend in trouble, buying an electric car, wearing a mask on the bus, making jam out of windfall fruit, listening to an upset student.

Little kindnesses, by everyone, everywhere -- that is what will change the world. Actually, we're all Superman.

*Abby Smith*

## Parish Council News

The Council met on Wednesday 23 May.

It was observed that:

1. the Talking with Taonga study sessions led by Mark Ranby have been well received;
2. Daniel Larsen led a successful workshop on active listening which was guided with great skill and care;
3. the restoration of the central stained-glass window has been completed and the window is looking nearly new;
4. a successful fire drill was held on Sunday, 19 May (Pentecost!) and that the congregation were all able to “escape” the church in well under 3 minutes; and
5. that there are a number of wonderful events planned as indicated by the “coming events” listed in the tables in this newsletter.

*Julie Mander*

## Property and Finance Committee Update

The repair and care of our stained-glass windows is progressing and Peter Mackenzie has been enjoying conversations with passersby stopping to talk with him while he was on the scaffolding. Weather permitting, this project should be completed in a month’s time.

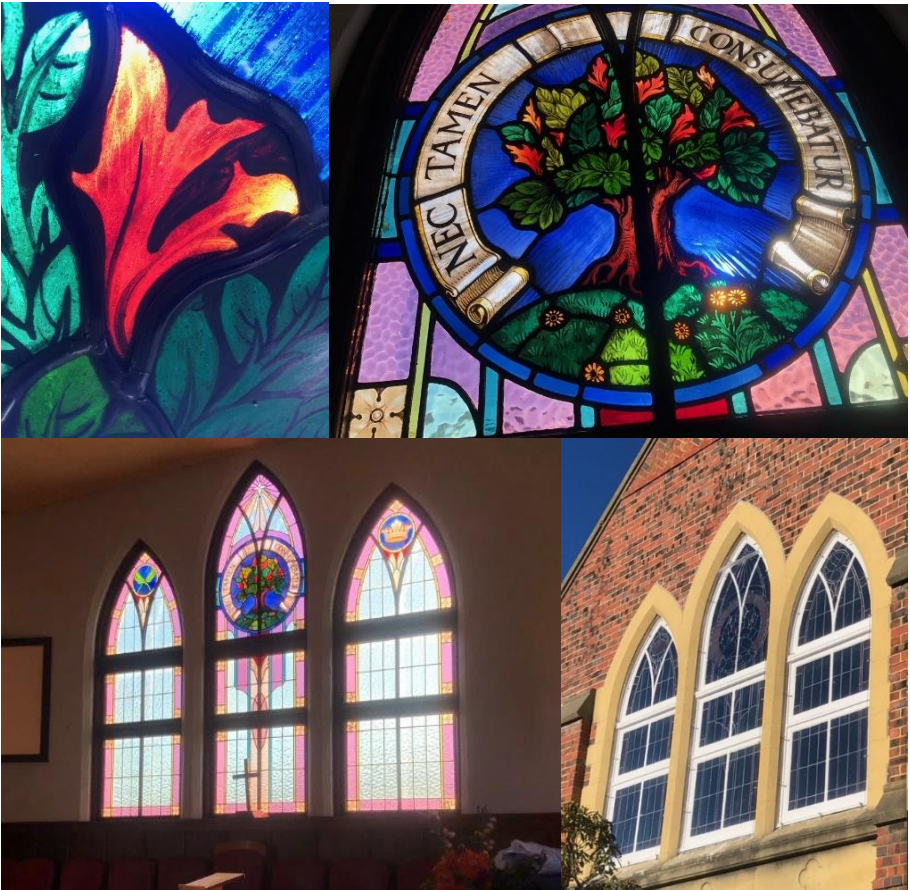


We are proceeding with getting quotes for window painting both internally and externally as well as exploring a more robust borer treatment plan.

Thank you to those that have brought issues to our attention. You will see improved disability access signage on the toilets and a reminder to affix the hall entrance door bolt in place (if not, this causes the glass door to stick and require force to open).

We are now going to focus on the hall entrance way to make it inviting and bright and a feature for communicating environmental and other news to the community groups. Discussion is commencing on paint colours etc. and we will update ideas and plans for input.

*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, Opoho 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](mailto: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*

## 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](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com)

*Marian Weaver*

## 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](http://www.pstotago.org.nz)

Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

## Fellowship Group

On 9 May, 13 of us joined Fiona Stirling as she shared her journey to visit her son and family in Bolivia – a landlocked country which has many economic, political, and geographical differences from our New Zealand lives. We celebrated Gaynor's forthcoming birthday and discovered that next month we are celebrating three birthdays. It's a great excuse for an extra special afternoon tea.

Our June meeting has Fiona Knudson (Simon and Marion's daughter), a librarian at our DCC library, coming to share the secrets/highs and lows of her work.



Planning is under way for our winter “soup kitchen” lunch in July.

*Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler*

## Interfaith Matters

Entry is free, though we will be pleased to accept a koha (donation) in support of the programme. Important message: The next monthly Dunedin Interfaith meeting, Sunday 16 June, will take place at “our place” in the Morrison Lounge, Ōpoho, 2.30 – 4.30 p.m. The spiritual theme is “responding to darkness”. It would be lovely to have a few of us there.

*Bronwen Strang*

## Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose – Ōpoho Writers' Group

Tuesday 11 June, 7 p.m.

Marine Science tea room,  
first floor, 310 Castle Street.



Please bring something to read to the group.

It could be by you, or by someone else. It could be new or old. It could be finished or still in draft form. It could be poetry, psalm, prose, prayer, or something else. You could bring one or two (or even three) items to share. We try to be flexible and kind, providing only the feedback you ask for. We are an open group. Anyone can join us if what we do would be fun or useful or helpful. Though we are a bit churchy.

### *Directions*

310 Castle Street is a square brick building (the old nurses' home) located almost on the corner of Frederick Street and the one-way south, between Cumberland and Hayward Colleges. You can park (legally!) in the spots between Cumberland and Marine Science. There is an entry on the south side of the building, facing Cumberland's front door. A large propellor is stuck to the wall next to it, so you can't miss it!

**I will meet you by the propellor at 7 and let you in.** Margaret, Andrew, and I often run a car-pool from the northern end. We try to be finished by 8 p.m.

The tea room has cups, plates, a few spoons, tea, Milo, coffee-like powder, three kinds of milk, sugar, and hot water. Sometimes someone brings a small plate of something yummy to share. Don't worry if that's not your thing, there will be enough.

You can reach me on 027 606 3552 if there is any problem or question.

*Abby Smith*

## **Waste Minimization Update**

Thank you to all the contributors to our waste collection boxes in the hall foyer and to Abby for the information signs. A number of regular hall users are bringing in items. Information on other recycling initiatives around Dunedin is available with this Newsletter.

*Miriam Vollweiler*

## **Finding New Favourites: a hymn-book sing-along**

Ōpoho Presbyterian Church owns numerous hymn-books full of good music that we just don't know and we never sing. To find new favourites, we propose to sing our way through the Aotearoa New Zealand hymnbook "Faith Forever Singing" in a series of evening singalongs this winter.

All ages and all voices, all levels of musical ability, church members and non-church people are all very welcome.

We will have some experienced singers among the crowd, to help keep us on track. We will provide the hymn-books you need; we'll even feed you!

### **MEET TO SING TOGETHER ON SUNDAY EVENINGS THIS WINTER**

Sunday 16, 23, 30 June and 7, 14, 21 July 2024

Ōpoho Presbyterian Church, Signal Hill Road (the heaters will be on, we'll provide the music)

- Gather at 6pm to start singing at 6:15
- Break for soup and bread together at 7
- Sing some more from 7:45 to 8:15
- Discuss our favourites from this session
- Finish about 8:30

PIANIST: David Murray

LEADER: Abby Smith

CONTACT with questions: Abby at 027 606 3552

## **Come Join Us Singing in Winter's Dark!**



Entry is free, though we will be pleased to accept a koha (donation) in support of the programme.



## Coming Events: June 2024

2 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
3 June ~ Monday	King's Birthday – public holiday
9 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver After church: <i>Talking with Taonga</i> study series
11 June ~ Tuesday	7 p.m.: Writing Group, Marine Science tea room, first floor, 310 Castle Street
12 June ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
13 June ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
16 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: <i>Talking with Taonga</i> study series 2.30-4.30 p.m. Dunedin Interfaith meeting, Morrison Lounge 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
20 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge Material due for July <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
23 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
28 June ~ Friday	Matariki – public holiday
30 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church

### Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Thursday 20 June

Gregor Macaulay is away until early July, so please send all material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to: Julie Mander at [juliemander@outlook.com](mailto:juliemander@outlook.com)

## Coming Events: July 2024

7 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
10 July ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 July ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
14 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
18 July ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 July ~ Saturday	Material due for August <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
21 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
27 July ~ Saturday	Quiz night in hall, details to come
28 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: Abby's Jam Palace in hall

### Advance Notice

The Ōpoho Church Fair will be held in October 2024, and Abby Smith is organising it. If you have bright new ideas, old favourites, things to offer or things to request, let Abby know.



## Lectionary for June and July

<b>Sunday 2 June – Pentecost 2</b>			
1 Sam 3: 1-10, (11-20)	Ps 139: 1-6, 13- 18	2 Cor 4: 5-12	Mk 2: 23-3:6
<b>Sunday 9 June – Pentecost 3</b>			
1 Sam 8: 4-11 (12-15), 16-20 (11: 14-15)	Ps 138	2 Cor 4: 13-5:1	Mk 3: 20-35
<b>Sunday 16 June – Pentecost 4</b>			
1 Sam 15:34- 16:13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5: 6-10 (11- 13), 14-17	Mk 4: 26-34
<b>Sunday 23 June – Pentecost 5</b>			
1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32- 49	Ps 9: 9-20	2 Cor 6: 1-13	Mk 4: 35-41
<b>Sunday 30 June – Pentecost 6</b>			
2 Sam 1:1, 17- 27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8: 7-15	Mk 5: 21-43
<b>Sunday 7 July – Pentecost 7</b>			
2 Sam 5: 1-5, 9- 10	Ps 48	2 Cor 12: 2-10	Mk 6: 1-13
<b>Sunday 14 July – Pentecost 8</b>			
2 Sam 6: 1-5, 12b-19	Ps 24	Eph 1: 3-14	Mk 6: 14-29
<b>Sunday 21 July – Pentecost 9</b>			
2 Sam 7: 1-14a	Ps 89: 2-37	Eph 2: 11-22	Mk 6: 30-34, 53- 56
<b>Sunday 28 July – Pentecost 10</b>			
2 Sam 11: 1-15	Ps 14	Eph 3: 14-21	Jn 6: 1-21

## Keeping in Touch at Ōpoho Church

Ōpoho Church has a website, [www.opohochurch.org](http://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.

Ōpoho Church also has a Facebook page (you don't need to belong to Facebook to see the page) [www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch](http://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](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

