

Editorial

I do not have creative skills for writing or much else but can get ideas from one aspect of life and apply them to other things. Hence pictures of a kiwi and a whale have ended up on my granddaughters' jumpers. Being creative with a vivid imagination is something that I wish I had, but we all have different gifts, and for me it is singing. But singing is for everyone.

Music has been an important part of every human culture, both past and present. It can play a part in brain development, learning, mood, and even your health. One of the most common effects music has is that it can alter our mood and feelings, by stimulating the formation of certain brain chemicals. This applies to singing music and listening to music that you enjoy.

I started singing as a child when I lived in Earnscliffe on an orchard, and it was a walk along the road to catch the school bus. As no one (except maybe a bird or a rabbit) was listening, I would sing as much as I could. Being hopeless at sport, at high school I became involved in school choir, school musicals and the church choir at St Enoch's that was run by a very musical Brian Buchanan.

I came back to singing at Saturday Morning Music classes in 1993 then joined Dunedin Harmony Chorus in 1994 and have sung with them ever since. For 10 years I was the musical director of Highland Harmony Chorus, the male barbershop chorus in Dunedin.

What fascinated me, with both choruses, was the number of people who had been told, at some point in their lives, that they could not, and should not sing. Children learning to play instruments are usually encouraged to continue, even after playing a wrong note. Children learning to sing are often told to give up if they sing a few notes flat. Prominent in these adult people who were told as children that they can't sing were those with low voices, that we treasure in harmony singing. I guess they just couldn't hit the high notes, but wow, their low notes are wonderful.

There is a true joy singing with others, and it is no wonder that singing has become an important part of worship. Many of the songs we sing are truly uplifting, and we have the benefit of some excellent lyricists (including in the Bible) and melody creators.

If you don't think you are a singer, it may be from some wrongful historic assessment of your ability. You may find that you *can* sing, especially in a group. Do it anyway, and do it with gusto and enthusiasm, and often, as you will find that it assists with worship, prayer, and mood, and when you sing with others you can give your voice a good workout.

So the next time Abby calls for choir members, give it a go. You may be surprised.

Marian Weaver

Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 27 March. Much of the business concerned routine administrative matters but we also agreed to become financial supporters of Eco Church (\$50 per year) and to amend the Parish's Mission Statement to include a phrase about "working for the care of God's creation" – although we have to check if that also needs approval from a congregational meeting. We also heard that a photograph of the burning bush in our stained-glass window was going to be used on the front of a report being produced by the national church, and that there was the possibility that we might get funding for our skink protection project.



Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Parish Council Planning Retreat Summary

In late January, the Parish Council held its annual planning retreat. The afternoon began with lunch followed by a simple lectio divina exercise reflecting on 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31 using three questions

- 1) What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit drawing your attention to?
- 2) Where in your life does this passage take you?
- 3) What is God showing you, or inviting you to, through this passage?

Facilitated by Julie, we then split into three groups and worked through the Parish review questionnaire from the appendices to the *Our Place Handbook*, that was circulated to everyone with the papers for last year's Annual Meeting. That questionnaire is based on the section about the functions of a congregation in the Presbyterian Church's Book of Order. It was an opportunity for us to check how we are going and how our structures are serving us. Under new rules for charities, it is a requirement that we do this at least every three years.

We then looked at the goals we had set ourselves at our 2024 retreat. It was heartening to see that we, through our committees and keen individuals, had attempted or achieved quite a few of them and that there were good reasons why we hadn't managed others.

At the end of the afternoon we finished by setting ourselves some goals for 2025. A full copy of the notes from the retreat is pinned to the Morrison Lounge notice board. Here is the section on the 2024 goals and the new goals for 2025.

- **Looking Back – Review of 2024 goals**

- A couple of Christian Education series. *Both series valued. Comment that it was good that each session was self-contained, and that people could come and go. Served pastoral as well as spiritual growth. Big thanks to Mark and Abby and David.*
 - a. An evening series where we sing our way through one of the New Zealand Hymnbook Trust books, increasing our worship repertoire – *David and Abby. Finding New Favorites six-week series singing through Faith Forever Singing over winter with a stop for soup each time.*
 - b. Mark run another series on art / literature? *Talking With Taonga. Run after church.*
- Test the waters with a Holiday programme for intermediate aged children in one of the school holidays. *Abby and Clare. Didn't happen because Abby and Clare couldn't find time to fit it in.*
- Miriam's idea of a low-key craft group (bring along whatever you are working on) meeting on Mondays after Yoga in the hall. *Also didn't happen.*
- Building community. Need more social activities than we have been holding – barbecue, pot-luck meal, quiz night, Tumai visit. Hold barbecue after church on Sunday 17 February. *Barbecue went well and so did Quiz Night. David and Abby happy to run another quiz night.*
- Abby has offered to organise a church fair. Yes please. Need to watch that we don't get dangerously overcrowded. *Fair went brilliantly well. A successful fundraiser and an excellent community day.*
- Community seed bank cupboard to be set up by Signal Hill Road gate. Has been delivered. Children will paint it up. *Up and running. Article in The Valley Voice about it.*
- Clare will approach Pine Hill School to see whether there is a possibility of Opoho Church partnering with them in a few things – maybe seeing whether they would like a couple of us going up to listen to children's reading. *Approach made but declined. Have since strengthened a relationship with Opoho School. Haiku for Matariki, Bell ringing to welcome albatross (article in ODT), and their usual senior leavers' disco.*
- A Pastoral training event for church visitors. Philip working on date etc. that suits Daniel. *Daniel and Bron led this. Much appreciated by attendees.*
- Doing Church – interactive all age services. Use labyrinth and other participative activities. An interactive service/ worship event involving

walk in Tannock Glen/Rhododendron Dell? *Palm Sunday and the Children's end of year service interactive. Haven't got to the gardens yet.*

On Gardens – Do we know anyone connected with the Botanical Gardens? Worker/volunteer? *Marian Weaver knows someone who looks after the rock garden and pond. The person is a member of Mornington Presbyterian Church.*

- *All Saints' series service theme Celtic saints. We did this through November.*

Apart from these, (and no doubt there are things missing from this list as well):

The Our Place Group presented their report – The Opoho Church Handbook.

We agreed at our Annual Meeting to move forward on replacing the church and hall roofing. We have put in an application to Synod for permission and financial help to do this.

The Property and Finance Committee has had the church and hall windows and the Morrison Lounge deck painted.

We rededicated our newly renovated stained glass window, John Allen's memorial seat and the seed cupboard.

In collaboration with others, we held A Place to Be – a pastoral service in response the findings of the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care in State and Faith-based Institutions

We had another good community carol singalong (Sing Your Heart Out).

We had a great community Christmas lunch that brought together people from our regular user groups and neighbourhood, and also attracted offers of help and food from the community. Miriam and Chris the driving forces behind this.

Following a Season of Creation interview with Professor Alison Cree, we used the back of our fair flyer for a 'let's pick up killer waste' notice, to improve the survival chances of the southern grass/ tussock skink in the suburb.

- **Looking Forward – some goals for 2025**

- (Picking up from the Our Place Group recommendations) getting the Accessibility Advocate and Grant's Officer roles up and running.
- Improving our reporting on volunteer hours.
- Find a graceful way of including care of creation into the Opoho Church Statement.
- Replacing the roof
- Two more Christian Education series – Finding New Favourites 2 (with *Hope is Our Song*) Abby and David
A lectio divina series after church Clare and Mark
- Social activities – a potluck lunch on 23 February , another quiz night (David), restart a practice of regular shared lunches after church using fifth Sunday months as a trigger (e.g. fourth Sunday of a fifth Sunday month), a visit to Tumai? Clare to check with Fiona)
- Local body election meetings
- Pastoral Care team breakfasts
- See whether we can come up with a future project to help to give the Southern Grass Skink a brighter future.
- The Annual Bird Count (maybe we could challenge the children of some other Presbyterian churches to get involved too.
- Continue to build our connections with Opoho School
- Support and encourage the growth of the Fellowship's Christmas Dinner

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

Property and Finance Committee Update

A trip down memory lane with an unusual supper accompanied our monthly meeting on 12 March (Sanel missing out due to beaming in from Auckland via Teams).

There is a new mixer tap in the kitchen, the foyer recycling collection has been upgraded and new noticeboards have current community information displayed. The Jam Palace is



highlighting new flavours and sales have increased. We have removed a number of the foyer wall hooks (the days when all church members arrived with hats

and coats seems to have gone) and these will be for sale. The hall looks more spacious with the reallocation of items for storage. Check out the women's toilet with a special repair of the tap – John has used a button from Jenny's collection.



A report on electrical fittings, completed by John and Benjamin,

highlights the need to address both safety and improvement issues. We are obtaining quotes for this work and this will be a priority focus for our April meeting. We look forward to May when we expect to hear the decision from Synod on our application for funding towards the rood replacement project.

Miriam Vollweiler (Committee convener)

Want to own a piece of Opoho history? There is always a need for an additional hook!

A box of hooks is in the Morrison Lounge – available to buy for a gold coin donation to Opoho Church (if they haven't all been snapped up already).



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

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

Autumn is coming ... first mushrooms from church lawn



Fellowship Group

Finally – perfect warm weather for our March meeting. John Roxborough (right) shared cool stuff about his life that included fascinating information about Speight’s brewery along with a Russian belt taken from a soldier (below). The discussion over afternoon tea included members of the group making connections with John’s family members. Simon Rae pointed out that John was well known for improving the sound system in all the churches he worked/ministered in.



We welcome you to come to our monthly meetings and in April welcome back Rowan Cook from EnviroWaste who will update us on how waste system changes are settling in for Dunedin – an opportunity to ask questions.



Afternoon tea!

Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler

March Interfaith Meeting

An Interfaith Meeting was held at the Christian Science Church Centre in York Place on Sunday 16 March.

We discussed the topic of “Home” and what it means to us. The idea that home should be safe and welcoming were familiar comments around the group.

I found this a challenging topic as I am fortunate to have a roof over my head, yet there are many people who are not so fortunate. People in war-torn countries have had their homes turned to rubble and there are people in our own country and our city who are homeless. After the topic was discussed, the meeting moved on to talking about how to spend money that was raised by the Interfaith group to help the homeless in our city.



My contribution towards the “Home” topic was reading the first verse and the chorus of the hymn written and composed by Marty Haugen (b. 1950) (CH4 198). The words “safe” and “welcome” are reflected in the hymn:

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive;
built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
*All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

The date of the April meeting is Sunday 13 April at 2.30 p.m. at St Patrick’s Catholic Basilica, Macandrew Road. All are welcome.

Benjamin Thew

Perth Connection to Opoho Church – finding out about “Mr Opoho”

Jane Treloar from Perth, Western Australia, granddaughter of George and Elsie Morrison and daughter of Roy Morrison, visited Opoho Church in March along with her daughter and son-in-law, Melissa and Kenn Flatt. While they were aware of the connection to Opoho Church, it is Norman Sheat’s *Light of the Hill* publication which highlights the impact the Morrisons had in Opoho Church. Page 18 is titled *Mr Opoho* and the next five pages explain why. “No history of the parish could ever be complete without some extended reference to the Morrison family in general and Mr George Morrison in particular...a person who dedicated a life of service to the church in New Zealand and to Opoho Church in particular. ... it could be said that he has been the heart and soul of the community because there has been none more genuinely concerned for the true welfare of the people of Opoho and for the support of every institution that would foster goodwill or happiness.”



Melissa Flett and Jane Treloar
in the Morrison Lounge



Lectionary for April and May 2025

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			
Is 50: 4-9	Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29 <i>or</i> Ps 31: 9-16	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
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
Sunday 4 May – 3rd Sunday of Easter			
Acts 9: 1-6, (7-20)	Ps 30	Rev 5: 11-14	Jn 21: 1-19
Sunday 11 May – 4th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 9: 36-43	Ps 23	Rev 7: 9-17	Jn 10: 22-30
Sunday 18 May – 5th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 18: 1-18	Ps 148	Rev 21: 1-6	Jn 13: 31-35
Sunday 25 May – 6th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 16: 9-15	Ps 67	Rev 21: 10, 22-22: 5	Jn 14: 23-29 <i>or</i> Jn 5: 1-9
Thursday 29 May – Ascension			
Acts 1: 1-11	Ps 47 <i>or</i> Ps 93	Eph 1: 15-23	Lk 24: 44-53

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 Foodbank via their website www.psotago.org.nz

Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church April and May 2025

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 10 a.m.: Good Friday service, the Rev. Clare Lind
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
4 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 May ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
7 May ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 May ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
11 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
15 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 May ~ Tuesday	Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
25 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Sunday 20 April

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