

Opoho Signal

May 2020

via email

Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

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May 2020

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Editorial

People-watching has always been interesting; watching how we interact with each other at normal times has at times left me feeling rather sad at the lack of patience and love that is shown towards our fellow humans. Even though it is a lot harder to people-watch now, I have still found myself doing it when I have been out at the supermarket or on a walk and what I have had the privilege of witnessing is truly uplifting.

When out walking with Mum, we have often come across other people out walking, gardening, washing their vehicles, or doing some yard work. Each time they have made eye contact from a distance and smiled and said hello. It seems insignificant, but to me it is huge. All too often I have seen people in a hurry to get to where they are going and paying no attention to anyone around them. Now, with the enforced slowdown it seems that we have all had to take a breath and take notice of our surroundings. I have had more random chats in the last four weeks than I have had in a very long time.

At the supermarket, seeing many people being aware of how their actions are affecting others is amazing to watch, seeing people show kindness to each other, showing patience at the queues, recognising that supermarket workers are human and thanking them for their work are all actions that may seem so minimal but these are actions that I think may have been shown infrequently prior to the lockdown.

There will always be some who are rude, who treat others as if they are less than, but that feels like it is in the minority now – maybe my optimistic side is showing.

I once wrote an editorial about random acts of kindness, and each time I see kindness being shown to those around them I almost want to shout:

Do not let kindness and truth leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart. *Proverbs 3: 3*

I am hoping that, even after the lockdown is over and life returns to some sort of normality, the way that we treat each other now doesn't change too much, that we still choose to show kindness towards

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others, show patience and respect. That we will look into people's eyes and smile: this is a small action but one that can brighten someone's day and give them a moment of joy.

Meegan Cloughley

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### *Parish Council and Church News*

#### *Opoho People News*

- ❖ Congratulations to Marion Weaver, who has become a grandmother. Her daughter, Lydia, gave birth to Ida Georgina Wood in Berlin earlier in April.
- ❖ Congratulations to Chris Young who has become a grandmother again, with the birth of Marlie Rose, daughter of Matthew and Nicole in Dunedin, born on 21 April.

#### *Opoho Church News during Lockdown*

Parish Council has met over Zoom this month to discuss what we are doing during lockdown. Our focus at the moment is on pastoral care and keeping people connected, communication, and offering opportunities for spiritual nourishment. As a smaller church without a minister, we are mindful of ensuring what we can do is within our capacity.

While we are a church during a period of lockdown, our church as a body of people has not locked down. Life and church carry on, albeit differently with no physical gatherings and our church buildings are inaccessible. Meanwhile, during this lockdown, Parish Council will conduct its business by email and or by meeting over Zoom when that is required.

During lockdown for example, I am aware that many people contribute to the ministry of our church on the hill from their bubbles, including:

- ✓ all of you who keep in touch with others by phoning, texting, emailing, messaging and writing letters;
- ✓ all of you who support and pray for others;
- ✓ Miriam who has been keeping an eye on our buildings;

- ✓ Brian and Mark who keep an eye on our finances;
- ✓ Philip who oversees and supports our pastoral care team;
- ✓ David who oversees our Facebook and website;
- ✓ Meegan who has initiated an online Zoom gathering time;
- ✓ Gregor and Andrea and the many contributors who together produce the *Opoho Signal*;
- ✓ Simon, Graeme and John who all have written reflections for us;
- ✓ Gregor who has liaised with those he had previously organised to take services in the next months and then once we move out of lockdown he will liaise again with those who are going to take services;
- ✓ the Rev. Rachel Judge (of Mosgiel Church) and the Ministry Settlement Board who are working by email and will meet by Zoom as necessary;
- ✓ the Rev. Ed Masters (of First Church), our Interim Moderator, who keeps an eye on all we are doing, is there for support for me and Parish Council, and moderates our Parish Council as we meet by email or Zoom or in person;
- ✓ and those of you who are thinking ahead to when you can get back into the church garden and buildings or otherwise resume jobs and responsibilities.

It is risky listing people as it is easy to inadvertently miss someone, but I can assure you that everyone's efforts are needed and much appreciated. Thank you, thank you, to all.

If you have any concerns or requests for prayer, please contact me or your elder or visitor or any parish councillor.

#### *Wider Church News*

The Presbyterian Support Food Bank has asked that we do not collect and drop off items for the food bank while we are in lockdown; however financial support is very much needed. In the latest PSO News there was a link to Autumn Appeal and one of the

options is to target your donation to the foodbank.

See [www.psotago.org.nz/get-involved/donate/](http://www.psotago.org.nz/get-involved/donate/)

The PCANZ General Assembly was to have been held in Hawkes Bay in October, but the decision has been made to postpone it until September/October 2021. As well, the election for Moderator scheduled for this year has been postponed until 2021.

Synod postponed its annual meeting, which was to have been held in Gore in April. They plan to have a replacement meeting once the current problems are over and the current restrictions removed. They have said they will transact necessary business in the meantime, including the recommended allocations so that allocation recipients are not disadvantaged.

*A final note*

One of the delights of this lockdown for me has been all the teddy bears and fern fronds and hearts and Easter eggs and messages of goodwill adorning windows, hedges, fences, car windows, and footpaths around Opoho. They make going for my daily walk much more interesting and lift my spirits.

I read in the UK's Guardian news online that New Zealand is credited with beginning the global movement of putting teddy bears in windows during this pandemic time of lockdowns. What a lovely thing for New Zealand to be famous for!

**Tui Bevin**

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Update from Opoho Ministry Settlement Board

As convenor of the Ministry Settlement Board (MSB) I bring you greetings from the Board in this strange, new environment.

The work of the Board is continuing between meetings, with members being in touch with neighbouring churches as we are encouraged to do, and working on sections of the Parish Profile which we are compiling. This profile will be sent to any minister we approach to consider a call to ministry at Opoho.

We are not yet at this stage, but compiling this profile is an important step on the way. This will include background information about our church, our patterns of worship and our Christian foundations, our children's ministries, our fellowship and social activities and our involvement in the wider community. This profile will come to our congregation for endorsement in due course.

We will meet again as the MSB in May, either via technology, or physically.

Rachel Judge

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*Property and Finance Update*

During this difficult time of alert level 4 Covid lockdown, many of us may have had a big change in our financial circumstances, now or soon to come. Although our church finances are largely dependent on the regular and committed giving of you all, it is understood by your parish council that for some a reduction might be necessary. Please be reassured that your church will cope should you make an adjustment.

Although a vacancy is a time when we try to do deferred maintenance and rebuild the reserves, it is also a time of relative cushion and you should be aware of that. We will monitor the situation and let you know if we are noticing a big drop in giving.

Our circumstances can change quickly, and for some the reduced spending in lockdown may have improved their situation with perhaps an option to increase giving. If you normally make your offering at the Sunday service, you might consider making an occasional direct donation to the church bank account instead? If this is a good time to review things and if you require details of the church bank account number, please contact Mark Bevin 473 8677 or email [mark.bevin@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bevin@gmail.com)

The Night Shelter Trust was recently sent a donation of \$690.80, this being the contributions for the last 12 months in the Sunday offerings. This and our food donations have ceased during lockdown, but the need, especially at Presbyterian Support, carries

on. They would appreciate any financial donation towards the purchase of food essentials, at this time:

[www.psotago.org.nz/get-involved/donate/](http://www.psotago.org.nz/get-involved/donate/)

The 21 March working bee happened despite the weather. Plenty was done and there is still more to do but the lockdown has put an end to anything other than a security check around the premises.

The keys have been removed from the lockboxes.

**Mark Bevin**

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An ANZAC Day Message from the Moderator of the General Assembly



Love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends. (John 15:12-14)

The words of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ring and echo loudly in our situation today.

In fact, as we all attest to this truth in life, it is the sound of Jesus' words that permeate our being as we move from Easter toward Anzac Day. Easter was very different this year, with the crowds and gatherings, worship and fellowship, meals of fish and bread, communion – all carried out using digital communication. This is an unprecedented situation due to unusual times affecting the whole

world. What stands out for me each and every year is: "Jesus died on the Cross, for you and me".

ANZAC Day appropriately follows Easter on our calendar. The underlying theme of the Cross is echoed by the soldiers that died for "God, King and country". Their lives, their commitments, their sacrifices were for you and me, which is commemorated on ANZAC. It is poignant, significant and sacred.

Many lives were lost. We are forever indebted to the brave men and women who died on the frontier of the battlefields for our freedom, for all that we have. We will never forget them. We remember and recall ANZAC every year, and we educate our children about this alliance. We will remember them: they are our heroes, our champions, our "game-changers".

Today, in our world and in our country, we have new heroes, champions and "game-changers". These new heroes are the many men, women and children who have stepped up, arisen, "taken the bull by the horns" and made a difference in the lives of many during the Covid-19 crisis. To all the essential workers (police, nurses, doctors, firefighters, rest home carers, orderlies, supermarket workers, chaplains... the list is long), thank you. Bless you.

Your service for the masses, for our country, is both courageous and brave. You are valued and loved, appreciated and cherished. You risk your lives every day against an unseen enemy – Covid-19. Your work is in the same order of sacrifice as our Lord Jesus on the Cross and the soldiers on the battlefields. Your lives are on the line every time you step up and step out. We salute you and keep you and your loved ones in our prayers. We will not forget you.

Jesus said, *I came that you may have life, life in all its fullness.* (John 10:10)

Fakaofu Kaio

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

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### *Psalm for Ash Wednesday*

It is Ash Wednesday

The words convey a sense of loss, of something gone

Something sullied

A smudge of dirt, a dark thumb print

It is also the beginning of my teaching year.

Lord, all these things! All these tasks! All these people!

But when I lean back and gaze and think (for a moment only):

so small, so minor

Ants scurrying about their tiny determined businesses

On the one hand, it all matters.

When you live your life, you want to do it well.

Try to do the right thing

Make the world a better place

Be Christ's hands and feet

On the other hand, it couldn't matter less.

Little tiny make-work busy jobs, worksheets to keep the children quiet.

Nothing of real significance, nothing that will last

We are less important than a pebble.

Blip we're gone.

Except, - and here is the revelation I was looking for - except love.

I hold in me the love of my father and mother, which they got from theirs.

I give it to my children, and they will love too, after me, on and on.

The golden chain of meaning and purpose and why.

Lord, on Ash Wednesday, let me smear little thumbprints of love all around me.

Amen

**Abby Smith**

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The Queen's Easter Message

This year, for the first time, the Queen issued an Easter message, recorded on Good Friday.

Many religions have festivals which celebrate light overcoming darkness. Such occasions are often accompanied by the lighting of candles. They seem to speak to every culture, and appeal to people of all faiths, and of none. They are lit on birthday cakes and to mark family anniversaries, when we gather happily around a source of light. It unites us.

As darkness falls on the Saturday before Easter Day, many Christians would normally light candles together. In church, one light would pass to another, spreading slowly and then more rapidly as more candles are lit. It's a way of showing how the good news of Christ's resurrection has been passed on



from the first Easter by every generation until now.

This year, Easter will be different for many of us, but by keeping apart we keep others safe. But Easter isn't cancelled; indeed, we need Easter as much as ever. The discovery of the risen Christ on the first Easter Day gave his followers new hope and fresh purpose, and we can all take heart from this. We know that Coronavirus will not overcome us. As dark as death can be – particularly for those suffering with grief – light and life are greater. May the living flame of the Easter hope be a steady guide as we face the future.

I wish everyone of all faiths and denominations a blessed Easter.

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### *The Paschal Moon*



Did you notice the full moon around Easter? It is not a coincidence that there is one then. As you will be aware, the date of Easter varies from year to year, unlike Christmas, saints' days, and secular commemorative days such as Waitangi Day and Anzac Day. For ancient historical reasons, related to the way that the date of the Jewish Passover was determined, the date of Easter Sunday is determined as

the first Sunday after the "Paschal full moon" that falls on or after 21 March (the approximate date of the Spring Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere).

Because 12 lunar months of 28 days each don't add up to a full solar year of 365 days, the date of Easter varies from year to year – although there have been attempts in the past to get agreement on a fixed date.

The earliest that Easter Sunday can fall is 22 March (that last happened in 1818 and will next occur in 2285) and the latest is 25 April (that last happened in 1943 and will next occur in 2038).

Both Passover and Easter are springtime festivals in the Northern Hemisphere, so a lot of the associated symbolism (not all of it particularly Christian in the case of Easter) doesn't make much sense for us in the middle of Autumn.

Like Judaism, Islam uses a lunar calendar, but there are no 'leap months' added (as is done in Judaism) to keep it in sync with the solar year. Islamic months begin when the first crescent of a new moon is sighted. That means that Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, also changes from year to year. Each year, Ramadan begins about eleven days earlier than in the previous year. In 2000, it ran from 28 November to 28 December but by

2016 it had moved to 6 June to 5 July, and this year will be from 23 April to 23 May. In comparison, sorting out Passover and Easter and knowing (roughly) when they fall is simplicity itself.

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How it was.....

We didn't meet on Maundy Thursday.

We sent a photo of the children sharing bread and juice to the grandparents.

They sent it to the neighbours.

The neighbours were also sharing bread and juice.

Our church was empty on Easter Sunday.

Our computer was turned on.

The sounds of the 3-year-old playing with duplo didn't disrupt the service.

Communion of crackers and blackcurrant juice seemed perfect to the 6-year-old.

We didn't drive to Tairaroa Heads for Easter Sunday lunch.

We stayed home.

We decorated our footpath with chalk drawings and cornflour paintings.

The albatross flew even though we weren't there to see it.

It was a different Easter.

Kirsten Beyer

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***Good Friday Poem***

It's Friday and there's a cold wind blowing  
 ...a small  
 It's Friday and it's scary being all alone  
 ...kind  
 It's Friday and I can't see in the dark  
 ...voice  
 It's Friday and we are caught and caged  
 ...says  
 It's Friday and confusion is everywhere  
 ...softly:  
 It's Friday and I'm hungry  
 ..."Be not  
 It's Friday and we're lost in the fog  
 ...afraid.  
 It's Friday and pain is all around  
 ...Sunday  
 It's Friday and everything good is dying  
 ...is  
 It's Friday and nothing matters anymore  
 ...coming."

***Abby Smith******My COVID-19 Easter***

My Easter has always been a sandwich time. The weeks approaching and following have usually been shortened by other holidays such as Otago Anniversary Day, and Anzac Day, and the usual general practitioner workload has had to be squeezed into a smaller timeframe.

In the middle comes the illusory promise of a break, the autumn garden beckons, the sometimes wonderful weather suggest many distractions, but the reality is a full church calendar and just a few short days to think about the to-do list. Along with the many joys of

belonging to our Opoho Church, comes the responsibility and burdens of providing music and contributions to Eastertide services.

This Easter I will remember as the one where a semi-retired GP with a reduced workload due to COVID-19 limitations had unexpected free time, had time to reflect, relax and pray, and, ever so strangely, was not required to sort out music and play! The garden was also happy, I had time to breathe and it was wonderful.

***Mark Bevin******The Plan and the Reality***

The plan!

According to my calendar for Holy Week 2020, I would attend worship on Palm Sunday; attend the Maundy Thursday service at Opoho; possibly attend a service on Good Friday somewhere in Dunedin; celebrate Easter Day with the people of Opoho.

But the best-laid plans were no match for Covid-19.

The reality!

Palm Sunday. At home. Julie shared cabbage leaf crosses she and the children made. Thank you Graeme for your reflection.

Maundy Thursday. At home. Thank you Simon, for your reflection.

Easter Day. At home. Thank you Jenny Roxborough, for sharing your flower arrangement. Thank you Ed Masters, for your Easter Day reflection.

Thank you too to the children who sang so beautifully for us. Thank you to everyone who has shared pictures and messages in the Opoho Church Community group on Facebook. Thank you Tui for your emails, and to everyone who contributed prayers and reflections. There was plenty of activity, and plenty of connectedness, and yet the silence is what I will remember longest. It was during Holy Week that I realised I could 'hear' the absence of the underlying sound of the city, and I was surprised to realise how long it had taken for that silence to register. Food for thought!!

***Andrea Johnston***



### *How the Virus Stole Easter*

by Kristi Bother, with a nod to Dr Seuss

'Twas late in '19 when the virus began  
 Bringing chaos and fear to all people, each land.  
 People were sick, hospitals full,  
 Doctors overwhelmed, no one in school.  
 As winter gave way to the promise of spring,  
 The virus raged on, touching peasant and king.  
 People hid in their homes from the enemy unseen.  
 They YouTubed and Zoomed, social-distanced, and cleaned.  
 April approached and churches were closed.  
 "There won't be an Easter," the world supposed.  
 "There won't be church services, and egg hunts are out.  
 No reason for new dresses when we can't go about."  
 Holy Week started, as bleak as the rest.  
 The world was focused on masks and on tests.  
 "Easter can't happen this year," it proclaimed.  
 "Online and at home, it just won't be the same."  
 Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the days came and went.  
 The virus pressed on; it just would not relent.  
 The world woke on Sunday and nothing had changed.  
 The virus still menaced, the people, estranged.  
 "Pooh pooh to the saints," the world was grumbling.  
 "They're finding out now that no Easter is coming.  
 "They're just waking up! We know just what they'll do!  
 Their mouths will hang open a minute or two,  
 And then all the saints will all cry boo-hoo.  
 "That noise," said the world, "will be something to hear."  
 So it paused and the world put a hand to its ear.  
 And it did hear a sound coming through all the skies.  
 It started down low, then it started to rise.  
 But the sound wasn't depressed.  
 Why, this sound was triumphant!  
 It couldn't be so!  
 But it grew with abundance!

The world stared around, popping its eyes.  
 Then it shook! What it saw was a shocking surprise!  
 Every saint in every nation, the tall and the small,  
 Was celebrating Jesus in spite of it all!  
 It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!  
 Somehow or other, it came just the same!  
 And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine  
 Stood puzzling and puzzling.  
 "Just how can it be?"  
 "It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,  
 It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money."  
 Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.  
 "Maybe Easter," it thought, "doesn't come from a store.  
 Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more."  
 And what happened then?  
 Well....the story's not done.  
 What will YOU do?  
 Will you share with that one  
 Or two or more people needing hope in this night?  
 Will you share the source of your life in this fight?  
 The churches are empty - but so is the tomb,  
 And Jesus is victor over death, doom, and gloom.  
 So this year at Easter, let this be our prayer,  
 As the virus still rages all around, everywhere.  
 May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.  
 May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.  
 May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,  
 May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.  
 May 2020 be known as the year of survival,  
 But not only that -  
 Let it start a revival.

***Thanks to Judy and her mother Beth Rodda for sharing  
 this with us.***

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Voucher Website to Help Cafés after Lockdown

A website called SOS Café has been set up to 'pay it forward' to hospitality businesses by buying vouchers online in the hope of keeping them afloat once the lockdown has been lifted. Through the site, people can buy vouchers or gift cards for their local café and restaurant, which can be redeemed at a later date. Wherever you are in New Zealand, the idea is to support your local café where you used to buy your daily coffee and muffin from.

If you're in a position to help, it may help them survive through this tough time. Consider 'buying' your daily coffee, or having that weekly night out at a restaurant – paying now and getting later. Vouchers are valid for a year from date of purchase or six months after we return to normal. All the money excluding credit card fees goes straight to the cafés, but there is a risk: if a business is not able to reopen, there is the risk that no refunds will be given.

For more information, go to www.sosbusiness.nz

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### *Interfaith Matters*

I have found the last few days difficult. In the air there seems to be hope, anger, angst, worry, unknowing, patience, impatience... You add more, and hopefully more positive ones.

I was looking through my Interfaith file and came upon the International Prayer for Peace which is part of our yearly Week of Prayer for World Peace. I know we are not at war and yet we are. I certainly need peace in my spirit, and maybe you do too. So here it is:

#### *The International Prayer for Peace*

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

**Bronwen Strang**

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What to do when there's no church

Our pattern of Sunday church attendance is being disrupted for an indeterminate time, but you needn't abandon all spiritual practices. The lectionary readings detailed elsewhere in this newsletter are a systematic selection of Bible passages that you can read for yourself.

Even if you haven't been involved with the Bible Book of the Month discussions, you can read your own way through the successive books of the Bible.

Missing the music at church? Try turning on *Praise Be* on TV1 each Sunday morning at (or soon after) 8 a.m. (or 9 a.m. on TV1+1) for a selection of hymns sung by New Zealand congregations and choirs. And on radio, RNZ Concert has *Hymns on Sunday* at 7.30 a.m. each Sunday. If you have internet access, you can search for sermons, Bible commentaries, and Christian music, ranging from mediaeval chants to oratorios, familiar hymns, and modern worship songs.

Ed Masters, our Interim Moderator, will be recording weekly podcasts and devotions. These are available on the First Church website at www.firstchurchotago.org

Please pray for all adversely affected by the COVID-19 crisis and the lockdown, and remember that if you have any concerns, suggestions or good news stories to share, please get in touch with Tui Bevin or your parish visitor.

2 Corinthians 1: 3-4: *What a wonderful God we have – he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort God has given us.*

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*Food Bank and Night Shelter*

If you wish to continue supporting the Presbyterian Support Food Bank and the Dunedin Night Shelter while our Sunday services are suspended, you can do so as follows:

*Food Bank*



It is easy to make monetary donations online using the following details:

**Account Name:** Presbyterian Support Otago

**Account Number:** 06 0901 0005597 00.

**Particulars:** Your Last Name and Initials

**Code:** FBDONATION

**Reference:** Opoho Church

Most supermarkets have donation bins at their exits for donations to various food banks in the city.



**Night Shelter Trust**

*Night Shelter*

The following is copied from the website of the Dunedin Night Shelter Trust.

You can make a one-off donation to the operation of the shelter via bank transfer, cheque – please see details below.

Visit the Friends of the Night Shelter page

[www.dunedinshelter.co.nz/friends-of-the-night-shelter](http://www.dunedinshelter.co.nz/friends-of-the-night-shelter) to find out how you can support the shelter on an ongoing basis through a regular donation. Any contribution you can make is very much appreciated.

Dunedin Night Shelter bank account details:

Westpac, Moray Place

For operational funding: 03 0905 0279202 00

Please send us a short email with your deposit details and please include your name, address and phone number

[info@dunedinshelter.co.nz](mailto:info@dunedinshelter.co.nz)

or cheques can be sent to:

Dunedin Night Shelter Trust, PO Box 5906, Dunedin 9054.

Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

or use your credit card on our givealittle page:

[www.givealittle.co.nz/org/dnshelter](http://www.givealittle.co.nz/org/dnshelter)

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Morning Tea Fellowship by Zoom

Everyone is invited to join a fortnightly Sunday Morning Tea Fellowship for parishioners on Zoom from 11.15 am to 12.05 pm. We met for the first time on Sunday 26 April and will continue fortnightly. The next two meetings will be on Sundays 10 and 24 May.

It is a good idea to download Zoom to your device (PC, tablet, or smartphone) before the gathering time.

Details for joining the Zoom meeting are included in the parish Sunday email, or you can contact Meegan at 027 815 4827 or meegs.c@gmail.com

Meegan Cloughley

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## *Keeping in Touch*

Do you know...

Opoho Church has a website, [www.opohochurch.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch)

Copies of the Parish Directory, with contact details of parishioners, are available on the back pew in the church (or will be when we reopen!)

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](mailto:andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz)

## *Operation Cover Up*

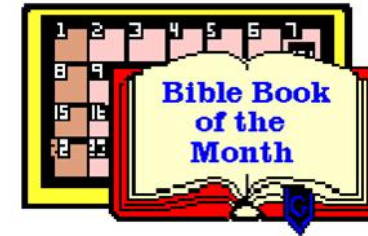


In these days of social isolation, maybe some of you will have more time to knit squares for Operation Cover Up? I have only two blankets made so far this year and would like to get to at least five...

Cast on 40 stitches in double knitting, or using two four-ply strands. Knit 40 rows (or 20cm) in garter stitch and cast off. For other wool weights adjust to make 20 x 20cm squares.

While we have no church services, please collect wool and drop squares off at my place or get in touch and I can deliver and/or collect: [weavermariane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com) 027 473 6026

***Marian Weaver***



This month we will be looking at Paul's letter to the Colossians at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 7 May via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please get in touch with me beforehand and I will send out the Zoom link for the meeting. 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](mailto:john.stenhouse@otago.ac.nz) or Tui Bevin at 473 8677 or email [mark.bevin@gmail.com](mailto:mark.bevin@gmail.com)

***Tui Bevin***

## *The Roster and Coming Up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church*

With no services or other meetings or group activities in the next few weeks our duty roster and diary of coming events are also suspended.

## *And finally ...*

Did you see the *Ask a Scientist* column in the *Otago Daily Times* on 24 April? Florian Beyer answered a question about what happens to a bullet that is fired by someone called James from a rifle on a high-speed train, watched by his friend Rosalie from beside the railway tracks. We wonder where Florian got the names James and Rosalie from ...

| Lectionary readings, 3 May - 7 June 2020<br>in Year A, the Year of Matthew |                    |                                 |                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 3 May - 4th Sunday of Easter</b>                                 |                    |                                 |                             |
| Acts 2: 42-47                                                              | Ps 23              | 1 Peter 2: 19-25                | Jn 10: 1-10                 |
| <b>Sunday 10 May</b>                                                       |                    |                                 |                             |
| Acts 7: 55-60                                                              | Ps 31: 1-5, 15-16  | 1 Peter 2: 2-10                 | Jn 14: 1-14                 |
| <b>Sunday 17 May - 6th Sunday of Easter</b>                                |                    |                                 |                             |
| Acts 17: 22-31                                                             | Ps 66: 8-20        | 1 Peter 3: 13-22                | Jn 14: 15-21                |
| <b>Thursday 21 May - Ascension</b>                                         |                    |                                 |                             |
| Acts 1: 1-11                                                               | Ps 47 or Ps 93     | Eph 1: 15-23                    | Lk 24: 44-53                |
| <b>Sunday 24 May - 7th Sunday of Easter</b>                                |                    |                                 |                             |
| Acts 1: 6-14                                                               | Ps 68: 1-10, 32-35 | 1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11       | Jn 17: 1-11                 |
| <b>The Season of Pentecost</b>                                             |                    |                                 |                             |
| <b>Sunday 31 May - Pentecost</b>                                           |                    |                                 |                             |
| Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11: 24-30                                              | Ps 104: 24-34, 35b | 1 Cor 12: 3b-13 or Acts 2: 1-21 | Jn 20: 19-23 or Jn 7: 37-39 |
| <b>Sunday 7 June - Trinity Sunday</b>                                      |                    |                                 |                             |
| Gen 1: 1-2:4a                                                              | Ps 8               | 2 Cor 13: 11-13                 | Mt 28: 16-20                |

*Opoho Signal*

*May 2020*

*via email*

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

**Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Wednesday 20 May**

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

Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011

Email [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

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