

# Ōpoho Signal

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

*The Church is wherever God's  
people are praising*



## February 2026

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

## **Editorial**

There's no doubt that many thoughts and emotions are swirling around as the calendar page turns. The beginning of a new year brings with it all kinds of hope and possibilities and a little bit of anxiety.

Maybe you had similar thoughts at the start of the last new year. But then, not too far into January, most of us realised that not much was different from the previous year.

While there were undoubtedly some amazing moments for all of us that happened last year, perhaps the hopes and possibilities you began the year with didn't quite pan out as you thought they might.

Then, there were the hard things that happened that took your breath away. Those events left you confused as to why they happened at all.

“Lord, didn’t you hear my prayer?” “God, where were you?”

We can get jumbled with those questions, and life can become complicated.

Most hope that as the new year begins, some circumstances will be different, and lingering questions will be answered. We hope we'll have a reason for more joy and appreciation for God's goodness.

In Hebrews 13:8 we learn that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever, even when life shifts and circumstances change.

One circumstance that we as a parish are adapting to, is worshipping in the hall after the discovery of asbestos before Christmas. Clare referred to it as “a camping Christmas”. We have adapted to change from the usual norm.

What is worship? For some, worship is about sacred time in a sacred place. Whether that place is a historic building, marked by colourful windows, or a simple hall, may we continue to be God's light on the hill, whatever that may look like.

*The Church is wherever God's people are praising,  
knowing we're wanted and loved by our Lord.*

*The Church is where we as Christ's followers are trying  
to live and to share out the good news of God.*

(words by Carol Rose Ikeler, CH4 522)

***Benjamin Thew***

## Parish Council News

The Parish Council had a very brief meeting on 18 December before joining the Property and Finance Committee for dessert and conversation. The most significant matter was the reception of reports on the state of play of the roofing project and on the newly-discovered asbestos problems in the church, but in neither case was it possible to make any immediate decisions.

At the time of writing the Council was about to hold a retreat (on the morning of Saturday 31 January) to plan for parish activities in 2026.

*Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council*

## Property and Finance Committee Update

We ended 2025 with quite a challenge for the new year! The church is currently closed and we expect to be worshipping in the hall for some time, sharing the use of the hall with the many groups now using it between Monday and Friday each week.

When the obsolete heaters were removed from under the church pews, asbestos insulation between the heaters and the pews was discovered and it was not possible to remove it completely. Since it had been disturbed, and some remained stuck to the underside of the pew seats, examination and air testing by an asbestos testing company was arranged. This took place on 17 December and found that there was still some asbestos dust and debris on the floor and carpet throughout the church as well as that still under the pews.

As a result, it was necessary to close the church building immediately and signs were erected on all doors. As Clare advised by email, Sunday services of worship will now be held in the hall until after this work is done. A great deal of activity occurred in order to get our hall / church in action for the Christmas services. We are very appreciative of our congregation's flexibility – it is as if we are having an unplanned camping experience!

It will not be possible to open the church until all contaminated surfaces have had a thorough environmental clean. This is a significant operation. As soon as businesses reopened after the Christmas and New Year break, on 12 January we contacted relevant companies to obtain quotes and gain an understanding what is involved in the decontamination process along with time frames involved.

At this stage we are working on a provisional timeframe of the church building becoming available again for services in a few months. We have delayed the scheduled borer treatment meantime.

Use of the hall, Morrison Lounge, and kitchen is unaffected except that with groups recommencing their classes in February we will have to pack down the hall each Sunday after morning tea and set it up again on the Friday or Saturday. Thank you in anticipation of your help with this!

We will update you as soon as we have more information and welcome your questions.

*Miriam, Benjamin, Judy, John, Clare, Meegan*

## **Note on New Rosters**

From mid February, rosters have been compiled from the database set up from the sheets people filled in late last year. There were numerous invitations to human error and machine challenges in the process, so please check to make sure your entries are consistent with what you signed up for.

To the one or two people who have yet to complete their “pinkies”, and to anyone else who needs or wants to make a change, or try out something new, it’s never too late! And of course new people are very welcome at any time. Please pick up a pink form and information sheet from the back of the church (or hall!) or from me, Jenny Bunce.

For people who are new to some of the major rosters, you may find it helpful to consult the list of door duties (in the pew by the door at the back of the church/hall), cleaning notes in the hall foyer, and kitchen notes on the kitchen wall. Oldies might also like to refresh their memories and let us know of any gaps or changes needed.

For other rosters, people who can help should:  
**sound and data projector**, consult John Roxborogh  
**flowers**, talk to any of the other people on the roster;  
**prayers and/or readings**, consult the Minister.

*Jenny Bunce, Roster Compiler*

## Donations to Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

Thank you to all those who participate in the life of our church and help make it possible to support its work. If you are not already an electronic donor through online banking and would like to donate in this way, the details are:

ANZ bank, Ōpoho Presbyterian Deacons' Court;

Account Number: 06 0909 0010868 000.

Please put your name and the word Donation in the data fields. It would be helpful if you could let our Treasurer, Judy Rodda, know, so that receipts for charitable donations can be sent to you. Her email is Judith L Rodda [opoho\\_pcbusiness@gmail.com](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 [weavermarijane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermarijane@gmail.com)

***Marian Weaver***

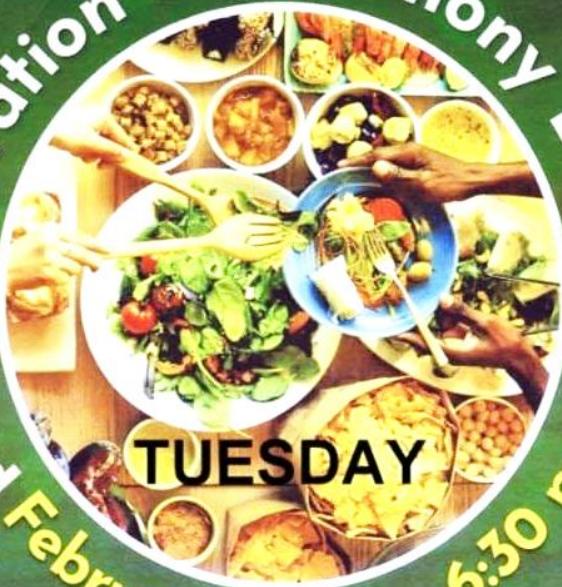
Here is recent photograph (by Gaynor Haig) of squares knitted by residents of Summerset at Bishopscourt Retirement Village:





**WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK**  
The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February

# Celebration of Harmony Dinner



**TUESDAY**  
3rd February 2026 - 6:30 pm

**VEGETARIAN POTLUCK:** Bring a vegetarian meal or dessert to share

**WHANAU-FRIENDLY:** Face-painting and other activities will be provided

**FEATURING:** Musical items, guest speakers readings, and more.

*Everyone is Welcome!*

Organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council.

**Venue : St Peters Anglican Church Hall, Hillside Rd,  
Caversham. Info : [dunedininterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:dunedininterfaith@gmail.com)**

## Lenten Book Club: *God, AI, and Us*

The Hewitson Library has recently added dozens of titles on the subject area of artificial intelligence (AI) and theology. Please see

<https://hewitson.mykoha.co.nz/cgi-bin/koha/opac-shelves.pl?op=view&shelfnumber=165&sortfield=itemcallnumber> .

You are invited to join other Presbyterians from around the country in a six-part series of short book club discussions via Zoom. These will be held from 7.30 to 8.10 on the Monday evenings in Lent, 23 February to 30 March. We will read a chapter each week, taken from six books that the Library now holds on the AI topic. We can learn and grow together, in our knowledge of how AI will affect theology in particular and our world in general.

Please contact Jay Robinson (Director, Presbyterian Research Centre) at [jay.robinson@prcknox.org.nz](mailto:jay.robinson@prcknox.org.nz), by **Monday 26 January** so that getting out the readings in advance can be organised.

## 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 Food Bank via their website [www.psotago.org.nz](http://www.psotago.org.nz)

## Jam Palace



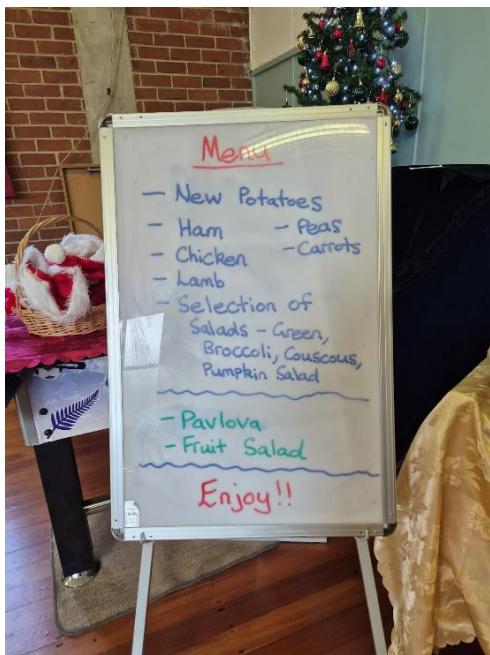
The Jam Palace is open every day in the Hall Lobby – you'll find jams, jellies, preserves, and chutneys. Just help yourself and follow the instructions for paying.

## Fellowship Community Christmas Dinner

Fifty people sat down to a stunner of a Christmas meal on 11 December – people from our church, the community and various groups who meet during the week all enjoying a relaxed gathering. Members of the Ukulele Group (our most recent group which meets once a week in the Morrison Lounge) opened the lunch with a medley of Christmas songs. This year we added in four home deliveries. The wonderful kitchen crew and the support of food items from church members and the community make this a very special event.

*Thank you from Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler.*









## 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.

The church also has a Facebook page (you don't need to belong to Facebook to see the page) [www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch](https://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)

## Lectionary for February 2026

<b>Sunday 1 February – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany</b>			
Micah 6: 1-8	Ps 15	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Mt 5: 1-12
<b>Sunday 8 February – 5th Sunday after the Epiphany</b>			
Is 58: 1-9a (9b-12)	Ps 112: 1-9 (10)	1 Cor 2: 1-12 (13-16)	Mt 5: 13-20
<b>Sunday 15 February – Transfiguration</b>			
Ex 24: 12-18	Ps 2 <i>or</i> Ps 99	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Mt 17: 1-9
<b>Wednesday 18 February – Ash Wednesday</b>			
Joel 2: 1-2 12-17 <i>or</i> Is 58: 1-12	Ps 51: 1-17	2 Cor 5: 20b-6: 10	Mt 6: 1-6, 16-21
<b>Sunday 22 February – 1st Sunday in Lent</b>			
Gen 2: 15-17 3: 1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5: 12-19	Mt 4: 1-11

## Lectionary for March 2026

<b>Sunday 1 March – 2nd Sunday in Lent</b>			
Gen 12: 1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17	Jn 3: 1-17 <i>or</i> Mt 17: 1-9
<b>Sunday 8 March – 3rd Sunday in Lent</b>			
Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5:1-11	Jn 4: 5-42
<b>Sunday 15 March – 4th Sunday in Lent</b>			
1 Sam 16: 1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5: 8-14	Jn 9: 1-41
<b>Sunday 22 March – 5th Sunday in Lent</b>			
Ezek 37: 1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8: 6-11	Jn 11: 1-45
<b>Sunday 29 March – 6th Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday <i>or</i> Passion Sunday</b>			
None <i>or</i> Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29 <i>or</i> Ps 31: 9-16	None <i>or</i> Phil 2: 5-11	<i>Palm</i> Mr 21: 1-11 <i>Passion</i> Mt 26: 14-27:66 <i>or</i> Mt 27: 11-54
<b>Monday 30 March</b>			
Is 42: 1-9	Ps 36: 5-11	Heb 9: 11-15	Jn 12: 1-11
<b>Tuesday 31 March</b>			
Is 49: 1-7	Ps 71: 1-14	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Jn 12: 20-36

### Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Friday 20 February

Please send all material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to  
Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011,  
email [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)



## Coming Events: February and March 2026

1 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 February ~ Friday	Waitangi Day – public holiday
8 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew
10 February ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 February ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
12 February ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 February ~ Friday	Material due for March <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
22 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Harvest Thanksgiving
26 February ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
1 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
6 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
8 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Meegan Cloughley
11 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
15 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 March ~ Friday	Material due for April <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
22 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
23 March ~ Monday	Otago Anniversary Day
26 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
29 March ~ Palm Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith

## Church Fair Postponed



The church fair, originally planned for 14 March, has been postponed to springtime. Further details to come. Keep on saving those goodies for selling!