

*Opoho Signal*

*November 2019*

*via email*

# Opoho Signal

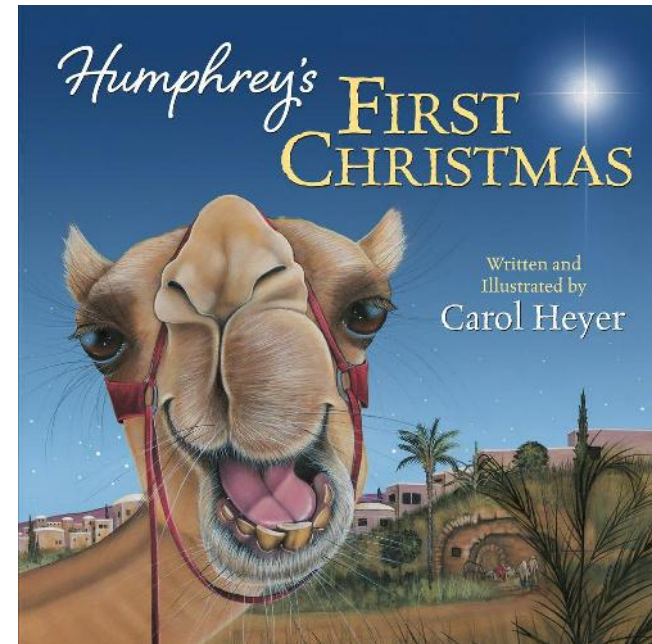
**Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church**

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email: [marg.garland@gmail.com](mailto:marg.garland@gmail.com)

website: [www.opohochurch.org](http://www.opohochurch.org)

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*see Editorial*

**November 2019**

**Minister: The Rev. Margaret Garland**

**phone: 03 395 6129 - cell phone 027 757 2367**

**Parish Clerk: Tui Bevin phone: 03 473 8677**

***Worship Services at Opoho:***

**Every Sunday at 10 am**

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

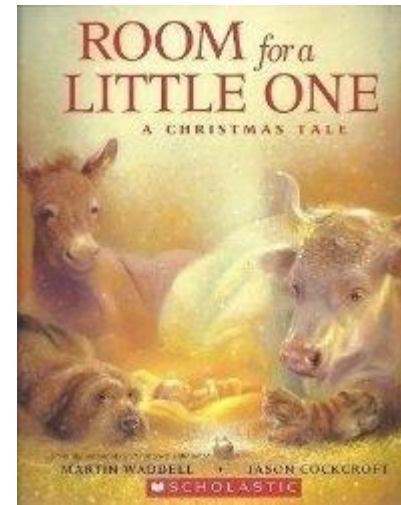
## Editorial

Here we are already in November, the last month of our church year. Advent is just around the corner. It might seem a bit early to think about Advent, but I hope you'll bear with me as I find it easier to reflect on Advent before I'm caught up in the busyness of a New Zealand Advent with Christmas fast approaching.

What do you think of when you think of Advent? As well as Advent calendars, to-do lists, deadlines, services, carols, cooking, food and presents, in recent years I've realized how much reading children's Christmas books has become an important part of my Advents. I love to read and reading helps me slow down. Advent is after all, a time of slowing down in order to wait and prepare for the birth of the Christ Child, and the length of children's stories suits my attention span in Advent.

Each Advent I put my basket of kids' Christmas books in the lounge where I can sit in the summer afternoon sun with a cuppa and read. Most Christmases one or two more books are added to my collection – ones I've either found myself or have been given as gifts. This tradition has crept up on me over the last 30 or so years since our children were young and I enjoy the inscriptions or cards

glued into them, such as that in *The Nativity*, that I inscribed 28 years ago, "For Helen from Mummy and Daddy 10/91." This book therefore doesn't really belong to me but I'm looking after it for Helen in the meantime.



I'm a bit choosy about which books are worthy of being in my collection, but even so the books I have are quite diverse. Many books such as *Humphrey's First Christmas* and *Room for the Little One* are about the birth of Jesus of from the point of characters that don't appear in the Biblical stories of Christmas, yet they offer new insights. I have half a dozen or so New Zealand books including *Hettie's Christmas Gift*, an inspired story set in a contemporary, summery, New Zealand Christmas about the point of Christmas.

Most of these books are picture books and, as well as the words, the illustrations can be a source of reflection offering; as Thomas

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Moore put it, “subtle nuances that address the imagination and not just the rational mind”. Take *Humphrey*, for example, with its glorious faces of a self-pitying cantankerous camel that can’t but help take me along with him. He reminds me that transformation can happen to people (and camels) in the most unlikely ways; and the “illuminations”, script and let alone the story of *Brother Egbert’s Christmas* remind me that the Christmas story has been told – and needs to be retold – for people and places down through the ages. A few, such as *The Nativity* illustrated by the Australian Julie Vivas (complete with angels in workboots and Joseph helping a heavily pregnant Mary onto the donkey) and Pienkowski’s *The First Christmas* are simply straight tellings of the Biblical story of the birth of Jesus, but with different and original illustrations that bring new perspectives on the Nativity story and bring it to life.

I also have a few adult books about Christmas on our shelves, including Thomas Moore’s *The Soul of Christmas* (2016). I like how he talks about Christmas being for all people, not just Christians, since Jesus and Christmas are both about love, community, friendship, hope and the opportunity to try out a new and different way of life. I find this helpful as our society increasingly secularises and sidelines Christmas from Christmas festivities and holidays.

When discussing reading during Advent, Moore reflects on paintings of Mary the mother of Jesus in which she is holding a book, as she is told by the Angel Gabriel that she is to become the mother of the son of God (although I’m pretty sure Mary doesn’t have a book in the Biblical story). As he says, reading can help us prepare, to be “spiritually pregnant” and he has realised that, for him, “[i]f some new life possibility is going to be born in me, it will probably happen when I am reading.”

When I come to think of it, most of the books in my collection are about people (or occasionally camels or cats or wombats) having experiences at Christmas that transform their worldview, whether or not they are Christian, or understand what Christmas is about. And they are stories of hope, that precious commodity that is much needed in our world.

Reading children’s Christmas stories remind me that there are endless ways of finding meaning, if only I would slow down. I think I could go so far as to say that reading kids’ Christmas books has become a type of spiritual practice for me. It makes me wonder what others might do during Advent to help themselves slow down and prepare for Christmas. I do hope you’ll tell me.

I wish you a reflective Advent as we wait once more for the birth of the Christ Child.

***Tui Bevin***

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### ***Parish Council Report***

#### ***Opoho People News***

- ❖ We offer our sympathy to Marion and Simon Rae on the recent tragic death of Marion’s sister Jan at Opotiki, and to Mike and Margaret Garland on the recent death of Mike’s sister Joan in Australia. Please keep these families in your prayers.
- ❖ Congratulations to Mary Somerville on completing her studies for the Postgraduate Diploma in Chaplaincy.
- ❖ Congratulations to Hilary Calvert for being the second-highest -polling candidate for the Otago Regional Council.
- ❖ Congratulations to Abby Smith on being awarded the 2019 Miriam Dell Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring by the Association for Women in the Sciences for her work encouraging diversity and inclusiveness.
- ❖ Congratulations to Hamish Spencer for being appointed to a Poutoko Taiea, a Sesquicentennial Distinguished Chair, at the University of Otago.
- ❖ Congratulations to Helen Bevin (who now lives in Auckland where she plays for the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra) and Kevin Lee on their engagement. We wish them well as they plan for their future.

- ❖ There are many in the parish facing health, employment and other issues at this time. Please keep them in your prayers.

*Opoho Church News*

- ❖ What a treat it was to have children help serve communion on World Communion Sunday. The looks on their faces showed they understood they were participating in something special and sacred.
- ❖ Thank you to Gregor Macaulay for leading worship on 13 October while our minister Margaret was on leave. The service was based on the hymns of John Mason Neale and Catherine Winkworth, who each translated into English or composed around 400 hymns. Some of these are still well known today, such as *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, translated by Neale, and *Now Thank We All Our God*, translated by Winkworth.
- ❖ Thank you to Andrea Clarke who has just finished on the Christian Development Committee after more than eight years. Her contribution has been much appreciated.
- ❖ The Christian Development Committee is looking at how we can best meet our young children’s needs on a weekly basis.
- ❖ The proposed discussion night on the End of Life Choice Bill at Opoho was not able to go ahead.
- ❖ The national church has a Child Protection Policy with a warrant of fitness training programme for all those who work with young people under the age of 18. Judy Rodda has already taken this, and others from Opoho will do so in due course. This training is available online and it is hoped that Opoho will host a training session using the online material in the near future. Judy Rodda and Mary Somerville have been jointly appointed as Child Safety Officer. They will be the “go to” people for ongoing practice and any suggestions or concerns.
- ❖ The Parish Council has appointed John Somerville as Church Safety Officer to make sure that health and safety matters are properly attended to (it is a requirement from the national Church for every parish to have such an officer).

**Tui Bevin**

*Children and Church*

The Christian Development Committee has been discussing ways in which our children could be helped to feel more involved with services each Sunday.

People on door duty are encouraged to invite children (provided their parents agree) to help as appropriate with handing out orders of service and bringing up the offering (that might involve asking a child to come back from the front of the church after Chat Time, or inviting them to help when you get to the front). When the Bible is brought up it would be good to have one of the children light the candle at the same time.

Are there other ways that children could take an active part in services? Let me know if you have any suggestions.

**Gregor Macaulay**



*Property and Finance Update*

I said I would report every three months on giving and have the happy news that offerings are just above the budget line for the first time in 10 years. This may partly be a timing aberration with some larger offerings coming in, and time will tell, but for the moment we can celebrate!

Looking around the property, we keep on finding more things that need attention, although some recent achievements have been

- ❖ the repair and painting of the wall in the hall previously occupied by the bowling club signs;
- ❖ a start made to a garden plot next to the garage with a request to the congregation for sponsors for some sleepers (already two spoken for out of three needed) and soil;
- ❖ a productive working bee in September.

We have begun to look at what we might do to reduce the steady loss of grit from the roof tiles (which then fills the spouting),



improving drainage at the back of the hall, taking a modem into the back of church, and painting the hall ceiling and church dormers. Repairs to the rotten areas of the south-facing church windows are to be undertaken by a builder.

Lastly, we are getting to grips with documentation and policies around health and safety and will be looking for a nominated person to take the role of Health and Safety Officer with the responsibility to do a monthly check of a small list of important things – e.g. exit doors not obstructed, chemicals out of reach of children, etc. More on that later.

In the meantime, thanks to all who contribute in so many ways to keeping things ticking over

For people wishing to start regular giving, bank details for direct credit and internet payments are:

ANZ Branch: Otago University, P.O. Box 6374, Dunedin North 9030

Name of Account: Opoho Presbyterian Deacon's Court Inc

Account Number: 06 0909 0010868 00

If you do set up a new automatic payment, or if you experience any problems, please contact Brian Cunningham, phone 473 7204 or email: [briancunningham@xtra.co.nz](mailto:briancunningham@xtra.co.nz)

**Mark Bevin**

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### *Obsolete Words in Case They're Useful One Day*

**abbey-lubber** ~ a slothful loiterer in a religious house

**Christmas-Lord** ~ the Lord of Misrule appointed to be in charge of Christmas revelries

**dittology** ~ a double reading or twofold interpretation, as of a Biblical text

**gospel gossip** ~ someone who's overzealous at lecturing neighbours on religious matters

**holy-dabbies** ~ shortbread cakes once used as communion bread

**hymnicide** ~ tinkering with or "murdering" hymns by changing the wording

**Judas-hole** ~ a small hole cut into a door to enable a person to see into a room without himself being seen

**latitudinarian** ~ someone who allows themselves great liberties in religious matters

**melancholia religiosa** ~ melancholy from religious despair

**neck-verse** ~ the verse formerly read to entitle a person to the benefit of clergy (to save them from the gallows), said to be the first verse of Psalm 51.

**pewfellow** ~ a person who sits in the same pew, a companion

**yule-hole** ~ the hole needed to move the belt to after someone's eaten a large meal

Sources:

*The Word Museum* by Jeffrey Kacirk (2000) and various websites

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### *Remembering Parihaka – Seeking Peace in a Troubled World Hikoi of Peace – Sunday 3 November*

Meet at the top carpark at the Botanic Garden with walking shoes, and an umbrella if it's wet. The Hikoi will begin at 12.30 p.m. with a short walk through the bush to the headstone in the Northern Cemetery.

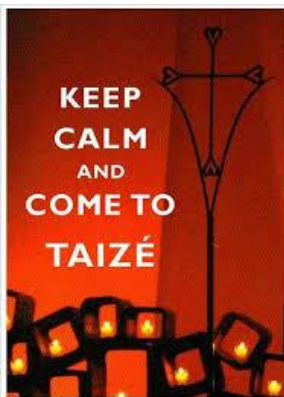
A group will also walk to the top gardens from the Rongo Stone (corner of Portsmouth Drive and Shore Street, Andersons Bay). If you want to join this hikoi meet at the Rongo Stone at 11 a.m.

During the hikoi there will be stories about Parihaka, waiata and karakia, and a planting project at the Parihaka Memorial. A koha will be taken which will go towards the Dunedin Night Shelter.

from **Flagstaff Community Church**

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### *Taizé Visitor – Brother Michael*



A Brother from the Taizé Community in France will be in Dunedin in late November and involved with events at three venues.

#### **Wednesday 20 November:**

4 p.m.: Workshop with musicians and liturgists

7 p.m.: Evening Prayer Mosgiel Presbyterian Church,  
11 Church Street

Contact: The Rev. Rachel Judge (03) 489-6890

[rachel.judge@mosgielchurch.org.nz](mailto:rachel.judge@mosgielchurch.org.nz)

#### **Thursday 21 November**

12 noon: Midday prayer and lunch

1.15 p.m.: Workshop with Young People

5.30 p.m.: Community Dinner

St Patrick's Basilica and Mercy Community Centre

32 Macandrew Road, South Dunedin

Contact: Gerry O'Farrell 027-542-491 [gerry.tracey@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gerry.tracey@xtra.co.nz)

#### **Thursday 21 November**

7 p.m.: Evening Prayer

All Saints' Anglican Church, 786 Cumberland Street

Contact: Fr. Michael Wallace (03) 477-8300

[vicar@allsaintsdsn.org.nz](mailto:vicar@allsaintsdsn.org.nz)

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### *Interfaith Matters*

We now begin Interfaith meetings with the host faith teaching us a little from their tradition.

Although October's meeting was held at the Baha'i Centre, the Hindu Temple Society was the host. Consequently Sriyan opened with a prayer in Sanskrit, which he also gave in English. Luxmanan Selvarasan then explained that the Hindu Temple Society in Dunedin has been set up by Hindus from various places, so different branches have come together "under one roof" with the freedom to celebrate their own beliefs and to learn and to teach. In Lux's words "Dunedin is small so we can do a revolution", not possible "at home".

Links between peace and spirituality are the important basis of Hinduism with peace and love being the key words. Because as yet the Hindu group doesn't have a physical temple, the Baha'i Centre has lent their place of worship, important for the celebration of Puja (prayer ritual). The Baha'i community regard themselves blessed to be able to do this. Lux's talk was followed with questions and comments.

A question about the swastika symbol clarified for us that the Hindu symbol is the opposite way around from the Nazi symbol, and it is very early – even in ancient Babylonia – so has no links with the Nazi one.

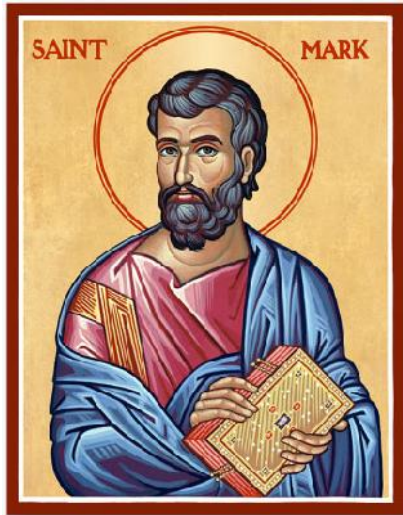
Hinduism does have links with both Hari Krishna and Brahma Kumari, who, respectively, focus on Krishna and Shiva. Diversity within Hinduism is important as is diversity within India – one could say the question is not "do you believe in God?" but rather "which God do you believe in?" I find it hard to decide whether to use a capital G or a small g – but therein lieth the question of diversity.

**Bronwen Strang**

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*Icons*

When Gregor Macaulay took the service on 13 October, the children's talk was about icons, the pictures of saints or Biblical characters or events that are seen in Greek and Russian Orthodox churches. For sound reasons, Protestants do not normally go in for icons – they can become a focus for superstition – but they are often beautiful works of art and can be a reminder of our forebears in faith. Gregor handed out copies of various modern icons to children and adults in the congregation who shared names with the saints depicted, and some generic pictures to those whose names don't have a matching saint.



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*Bible Book A Month Discussions*

The November Bible discussion will be on 2 Corinthians. We meet at the Bevins' home, 129 Signal Hill Road at 7.30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. It is helpful, but not essential, to have read the month's book first.

Everyone is welcome.

If you have any queries about this please ask Margaret (the minister) or John Stenhouse.

7 November ~ 2 Corinthians

5 December ~ Galatians

**Tui Bevin**

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*Operation Cover Up*

Any time of the year is the right time to make knit squares and/or sew them into blankets.

Please use wool, not synthetic, as wool has more warmth.

Cast on 40 stitches in double knitting, knit 40 rows (or 20cm) in garter stitch and cast off. For other wool weights adjust to make 20 x 20cm squares.

A bag at the back of the church is topped up with wool if you need some.

Money for shipping costs also gratefully accepted.

Contact Marian: [weavermariane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com) 027 473 6026

**Marian Weaver**

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*Christmas Craft Fair at Opoho Church Hall*

Saturday 7 December ~ 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Sunday 8 December ~ 11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Hand-made goodies and gifts for sale just before Christmas.

Opoho folks are encouraged to think about what they could make for sale -- for example: knitting, painting, wood-working, drawing, crocheting, weaving, baking, jam-setting, curd-making, baking, ANYTHING that you can make yourself.

For people whose art/craft is their income, we are happy to make a deal where an artist/craftsperson sells her/his wares with a donation to Opoho at the end. Tell your crafty friends!

I am looking for a few helpers to make cups of tea/coffee during the Saturday fair.

If you have questions or great ideas, please contact Abby on 027-606-3552 or [abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com](mailto:abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com)

**Abby Smith**

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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.

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 either to Andrea [andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz](mailto:andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz) or to Margaret [marg.garland@gmail.com](mailto:marg.garland@gmail.com)

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| <b>Early December 2019</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The calendar for November is on the back page |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1 December ~<br>Sunday                        | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Margaret Garland, Advent 1, Holy Communion.<br><br>11.30 a.m.: Pastoral Care and Community Committee meeting in the Minister's Study. |
| 4 December ~<br>Thursday                      | 7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee in the Morrison Lounge                                                                                                |
| 5 December ~<br>Thursday                      | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Galatians</i> at 129 Signal Hill Road                                                                                     |
| 8 December ~<br>Sunday                        | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Margaret Garland, Advent 2, Family Service                                                                                            |

| <b>Lectionary readings, 3 - 24 November 2019<br/>in Year C, the Year of Luke</b> |                                    |                           |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Sunday 3 November - 21st Sunday after Pentecost</b>                           |                                    |                           |              |
| Hab 1: 1-4,<br>2:1-4                                                             | Ps 119: 137-<br>144                | 2 Thess 1:<br>1-4, 11-12  | Lk 19: 1-10  |
| <b>Sunday 10 November - 22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b>                          |                                    |                           |              |
| Haggai 1: 15b-<br>2: 9                                                           | Ps 145: 1-5,<br>17-21 or Ps<br>98  | 2 Thess 2: 1-<br>5, 13-17 | Lk 20: 27-38 |
| <b>Sunday 17 November - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b>                          |                                    |                           |              |
| Is 65: 17-25                                                                     | Is 12                              | 2 Thess 3:<br>6-13        | Lk 21: 5-19  |
| <b>Sunday 24 November - Reign of Christ</b>                                      |                                    |                           |              |
| Jer 23: 1-6                                                                      | Lk 1: 68-79                        | Col 1: 11-20              | Lk 23: 33-43 |
| <b>1 - 15 December 2019 in Year A, the Year of Matthew</b>                       |                                    |                           |              |
| <b>Sunday 1 December - 1st Sunday in Advent</b>                                  |                                    |                           |              |
| Is 2: 1-5                                                                        | Ps 122                             | Rom 13:<br>11-14          | Mt 24: 36-44 |
| <b>Sunday 8 December - 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>                                  |                                    |                           |              |
| Is 11: 1-10                                                                      | Ps 72: 1-7,<br>18-19               | Rom 15: 4-13              | Mt 3: 1-12   |
| <b>Sunday 15 December - 3rd Sunday of Advent</b>                                 |                                    |                           |              |
| Is 35: 1-10                                                                      | Ps 146: 5-10<br>or<br>Lk 1: 46b-55 | James 5:<br>7-10          | Mt 11: 2-11  |

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

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

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)



**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in  
November 2019**

|                                             |                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 November ~<br>Sunday                      | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Margaret Garland, Holy Communion                                                                                                             |
| 7 November ~<br>Thursday                    | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, 2 <i>Corinthians</i> at 129 Signal Hill Road                                                                                        |
| 10 November ~<br>Sunday                     | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Margaret Garland, with Sunday School                                                                                                         |
| 13 November ~<br>Wednesday                  | 6.30 p.m.: Psalm writing with takeaways, 129 Signal Hill Road                                                                                                           |
| 14 November ~<br>Thursday                   | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group in the Morrison Lounge                                                                                                                         |
| 16 November ~<br>Saturday                   | 2 p.m.: Worship Leaders' Workshop in the Morrison Lounge                                                                                                                |
| 17 November ~<br>Sunday                     | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Margaret Garland.                                                                                                                            |
| 21 November ~<br>Thursday                   | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council discussion meeting in the Morrison Lounge                                                                                                     |
| 23 November ~<br>Saturday                   | 2 p.m.: Pastoral Carers' meeting in the Morrison Lounge                                                                                                                 |
| 24 November ~<br>Sunday                     | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Margaret Garland with Music Group.<br>5 p.m.: Children's Service for Christmas with light tea                                                |
| 27 November ~<br>Wednesday                  | 2 p.m.: Community Advent Service, the Rev. Margaret Garland, with Liberton Christian School Music Group<br>7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee meeting, venue TBC |
| 30 November ~<br>Saturday                   | 2 p.m.: Worship Leaders' Workshop in the Morrison Lounge                                                                                                                |
| The calendar for early December is on P. 14 |                                                                                                                                                                         |

*Opoho Signal*

*November 2019*

*via email*

## Opportunities for Service, November - December 2019

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

| Sunday          | Morning Tea                        | Door Duty                        | Readers          | Prayers       | Music        | Flowers          | Hall Cleaning    | Church Cleaning           |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Nov 2019</b> |                                    |                                  |                  |               |              |                  |                  |                           |
| 3-Nov           | Smith / Spencer                    | Mary & John Somerville           | Daniel Larsen    | —             | David Murray | Allison Mulder   | Michael Ovens    | Mulders                   |
| 10-Nov          | Tui Bevin<br>Jane Bloore           | Michael Ovens<br>John Stenhouse  | Jane Bloore      | Marian Weaver | Mark Bevin   | Allison Mulder   | Michael Ovens    | Mulders                   |
| 17-Nov          | Shona & Philip Somerville          | Smith / Spencer                  | Jenny Roxborough | —             | Gaynor Haig  | Shona Somerville | Bronwen Strang   | Shona & Philip Somerville |
| 24-Nov          | Bronwen Strang<br>Meegan Cloughley | Shona & Philip Somerville        | Gaynor Haig      | Andrew Smith  | Music Group  | Shona Somerville | Bronwen Strang   | Shona & Philip Somerville |
| <b>Dec 2019</b> |                                    |                                  |                  |               |              |                  |                  |                           |
| 1-Dec           | Marian Weaver<br>Christine Cleugh  | Gregor Macaulay<br>Benjamin Thew | Andrea Johnston  | —             | David Murray | Fiona Stirling   | Benjamin Thew    | Fiona Stirling            |
| 8-Dec           | Smith / Spencer                    | Mary & John Somerville           | Christine Cleugh | —             | Mark Bevin   | Fiona Stirling   | Benjamin Thew    | Fiona Stirling            |
| 15-Dec          | Tony Parry<br>Jenny Roxborough     | Andrew Smith<br>Jane Bloore      | John Stenhouse   | —             | Gaynor Haig  | Allison Mulder   | Meegan Cloughley | Mulders                   |

### **Request for help! Sunday 22 December to Sunday 12 January**

Are you able to help over the Christmas / New Year period?

Please let me know if you will be available to help with any of Door Duty, Reading and Morning Tea, and if so, on which of the following Sundays:  
**22 and 29 December, 5 and 12 January.**

On **Christmas Day**, we need people for Door Duty, and someone to read. Again, please let me know if you will be available.

I will do my best to include only people who have volunteered!

Many thanks, Andrea. 021-516-275 or [andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz](mailto:andrea.johnston@columba.co.nz)