

# Ōpoho Signal

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



**February 2025**

**Minister: The Rev. Clare Lind**

cellphone: 021 0276 1962 email: [opohominister@gmail.com](mailto:opohominister@gmail.com)

**Parish Clerk: Hamish Spencer**

cellphone: 021 279 7986 email: [opohoclerk@gmail.com](mailto:opohoclerk@gmail.com)

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

## **Editorial**

I led the service at Opoho on the morning of Sunday 29 December. It was based around a compilation of seven hymns and songs suggested by some of the oldest and some of the youngest members of the congregation (Val Williams, Maurice and Gisela Andrew, Simon and Marion Rae, and the Ranby and Mander families).

The hymns and songs were as follows (in the order they were sung):

We love the place, O God, wherein thine honour dwells  
Fancy Noah sailing in the ark (the 'rainbow' song)  
One more step along the world I go  
He came singing love  
The great love of God is revealed in the Son  
In heavenly love abiding  
May the mystery of God enfold us

I am not aware that there was any collusion amongst those who chose the hymns – although it is possible that the Andrews and Raes might have discussed their choices in their respective households – yet a remarkable pattern emerged from their selections that gave a serendipitous coherence to the service. Together, the hymns and songs covered the Advent-candle themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. As we prepared to step out into a new year in a world suffering from war and tyrannical leaders (modern Herods), disasters both natural and man-made, and the effects of climate change, the hymns reminded us of the fellowship and support within our congregation, the rich variety of people in our community and around the world, Jesus' message of faith and hope and love and peace, and, above all, of the continuing providence of God, who enfolds us in his care.

*Gregor Macaulay*

## **Parish Council News**

The Parish Council had a speedy meeting on 19 December (the only substantive decision was that the parish would, if necessary, underwrite the costs of running future Community Christmas Dinners) before joining the. Property and Finance Committee for dessert and conversation.

At the time of writing the Council was about to hold a retreat (on the afternoon of Saturday 25 January) to plan for 2025 and in particular to consider responses to the Our Place Handbook, as requested by the 2024 Annual Meeting.

*Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council*

## Donations to Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

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

ANZ bank, Opoho Presbyterian Deacons' Court;

Account Number: 06 0909 0010868 000.

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

As well as regular outgoings there are maintenance items on the building and grounds which we will be seeking to raise funds for over the next few years. If you are interested in supporting these, please be in touch.

We acknowledge that people's circumstances are personal, and that they vary over time and with things that happen in our lives. It is important to know that there will be times when it is appropriate to reduce your giving to the church, and you do not need to apologise for doing that.

The income and expenditure of the church is examined each month by the Property and Finance Committee and reported to the Parish Council. The church's financial year runs to the end of June and an annual budget is presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. Thank you.

### *Property and Finance Committee*

## Abby's Jam Palace

The Jam Palace has become a (small) permanent fixture in the hall. Please feel free to take what you need and arrange a bank transfer, or just find Abby and hand over the cash. I will re-stock as the seasons move along, so remember to check out what's new, and enjoy fresh local seasonal preserves! Direct deposits go to Abby, but rest assured I do hand over all the cash to Opoho, so it's a good fundraiser.



As regards jars, I only need nice clean ones with lids and no labels, thanks.

*Abby Smith, Jam Maker*

## **Garden Update** from Miriam (the happy gardener)

Our herb garden is flourishing and being enjoyed by locals. We welcome our neighbour Angela in the Signal Hill Road house (next to the garage and the old manse), who has cleared and planted flax on our boundary behind the garden shed. Emptying our compost bins has been halted as we have a bumble bee colony nesting. Below left – LaDonna Loo



Thank you to Opoho resident Elizabeth Thompson for donating an azalea plant which has been planted in the Signal Hill Road garden. Very pleasing to see that the soil is so welcoming to new plants and we are planning to put in some ground cover plants under the rhodos and azalea bushes. Thank you to Brian Cunningham who trimmed the ivy hedge and tidied shrubs to improve access. Miriam continues to do creative lawn mowing (above right). The Weaving Group let us know how much they enjoy meeting in the Morrison Lounge and are appreciative of the garden – so nice to get community feedback. Every week our green waste bin is going out full to the brim – thank you to Evelyn Brass from Fellowship Group for supporting the provision of waste bins.

## **Christmas Wreaths**

One of the activities for members of the congregation during the service on the second Sunday in Advent (8 December) was the making of Christmas wreaths. Here are the finished products:



## Christmas Decorations

On the afternoon of Sunday 5 December, a team of volunteers packed away the various Christmas trees and other decorations from the church, Morrison Lounge, and hall – until Advent 2025.



## Church Rosters

- The thought-provoking service led by Marian Weaver on Sunday 19 January focussed on the many and varied gifts or talents we have, and how these work together within the church. At Opoho, we are blessed by the amazing contribution of many highly-talented people. But there are also opportunities for helping in work that needs time and/or energy, rather than special skills, and this is the case for most of our rostered duties.
- The start of a new year might be a good time to think about what contributions of talents or time you would like to make to the church over the next few months – Would you like to try something new, or maybe you would be happy to do more than your share of turns on a particular roster? Maybe circumstances have changed and you need to withdraw from all or some rosters, or maybe you would like to offer your time and talents in other, non-rostered ways. Whatever the case, please remember changes can be made at any time by contacting me, Jenny Bunce.
- I plan to include information about individual rosters in the next newsletter, but it may assist initiating and reviewing your commitments to be aware that, at the moment, the roster most under pressure is morning tea, while reading in church is so popular that turns come round only two or three times a year.

**Jenny Bunce** [jenny.bunce@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.bunce@gmail.com);

022 658 1710 (texts/calls); 473 8526 (calls/voice messages).

## Fellowship Community Christmas Lunch

34 people attended the dinner: members of Fellowship Group, Steady as You Go, Weaving Group, and the local community. Marian Weaver's Harmony Chorus choir opened the gathering with fabulous sounds and guests were treated to a sumptuous Christmas feast. This year we emailed the menu to three Opoho residents who were able to make their food selections, and a home delivery by Benjamin enabled them to participate.





The preparation of this event was as much part of the gathering as was the actual lunch. Many church members and others in the community offered produce from their gardens and donation support. Members of Opoho Church (Allison, Susan, Benjamin, Meegan, Michael, John, Fiona) all helped with set up, serving and clean up. We are already planning for 2025!

*Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler*

## **Keeping in Touch at Opoho Church**

Opoho 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](http://www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch)

This newsletter is emailed to all who have requested to receive it this way. If you wish to be added to (or deleted from) the email list, or **if you receive an emailed copy and don't need a physical copy as well**, please send an email to the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

## Operation Cover Up

Knitting continues for Mission Without Borders to provide woollen blankets and clothing to cold parts of the world where such goods are not readily available.

As usual we need knitters to make squares – there's lots of wool available.

Any queries please contact me at 027 473 6026 or [weavermariane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com)



*Marian Weaver*

## Interfaith Matters

Every year the UN celebrates "World Interfaith Harmony Week" and it is no different this year – Tuesday evening in the first week of February. Everyone is welcome!

*Bronwen Strang*

dunedininterfaith@gmail.com'."/>

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

**Celebration of Harmony Dinner**

**4th February 2025 - 6:30 pm**

**TUESDAY**

**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)**



## Lectionary for February and March 2025

<b>Sunday 2 February – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany</b>			
Jer 1: 4-10	Ps 71: 1-6	1 Cor 13: 1-13	Lk 4: 21-30
<b>Sunday 9 February – 5th Sunday after Epiphany</b>			
Is 6: 1-8 (9-13)	Ps 138	1 Cor 15: 1-11	Lk 5: 1-11
<b>Sunday 16 February – 6th Sunday after Epiphany</b>			
Jer 17: 5-10	Ps 1	1 Cor 15: 12-20	Lk 6: 17-26
<b>Sunday 23 February – 7th Sunday after Epiphany</b>			
Gen 45: 3-11, 15	Ps 37: 1-11, 39-40	1 Cor 15: 35-38, 42-50	Lk 6: 27-38
<b>Sunday 2 March – Transfiguration</b>			
Ex 34: 29-35	Ps 99	2 Cor 3: 12-4: 2	Lk 9: 8-36, (37-43a)
<b>Lent</b>			
<b>Wednesday 5 March – 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 9 March – 1st Sunday in Lent</b>			
Deut 26: 1-11	Ps 91: 1-2, 9-16	Rom 10: 8b-13	Lk 4: 1-13
<b>Sunday 16 March – 2nd Sunday in Lent</b>			
Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18	Ps 27	Phil 3: 17-4:1	Lk 13: 31-35 <i>or</i> Lk 9: 28-36
<b>Sunday 23 March – 3rd Sunday in Lent</b>			
Is 55: 1-9	Ps 63: 1-8	1 Cor 10: 1-13	Lk 13: 1-9
<b>Sunday 30 March – 4th Sunday in Lent</b>			
Josh 5: 9-12	Ps 32	2 Cor 5: 16-21	Lk 15: 1-3, 11b-32

### 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) Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

## Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church February and March 2025

2 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 February ~ Thursday	Waitangi Day – public holiday
9 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew
11 February ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
12 February ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
13 February ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
16 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 February ~ Thursday	Material due for March <i>Ōpoho Signal</i> 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
23 February ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Harvest Thanksgiving
2 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
9 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Gregor Macaulay <i>Psalm 23</i>
12 March ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
13 March ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
16 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
20 March ~ Thursday	Material due for April <i>Opoho Signal</i>
23 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Meegan Cloughley
24 March ~ Monday	Otago Anniversary Day
27 March ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge (a week later than usual)
30 March ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind

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

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