

Opoho Signal

July 2020

via email

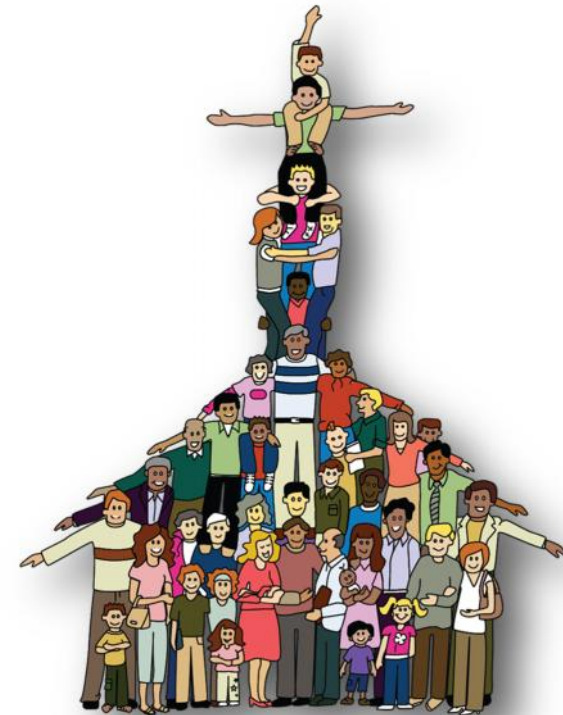
Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



July 2020

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Editorial



My apologies ~ this has not been the easiest of editorials to write, and probably won't be the easiest to read due to the complexity and dryness of the subject. Please stick with it to the end and ask me to clarify anything of concern.

June is the last month of the church's financial year and the Property and Finance Committee will start work shortly on the budget for the next 12 months. This will be presented at our Annual Meeting in October. Meanwhile, following the retirement of the Rev. Margaret Garland, a group called the Ministry Settlement Board has been meeting in a Covid-interrupted way and working through the slow process of discerning our ministry needs. A significant part of this is considering our financial viability. That is an area of concern!

It is timely to highlight a few things.

1. Where do we get our income from? Answer: from all of us. Parishes receive no external funding from the national church body. We are totally reliant on the giving of us all, the Opoho

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parishioners, boosted by a tiny bit from garage and hall rental, a diminishing amount from interest on investment after the sale of the manse, and fund-raising (a big contributor for the last three years – thank you all!). Giving by parishioners during the Covid-19 lockdown did, as expected, drop 10% due to the loss of Sunday offerings in the plate, but we will still be close to our target (budget was \$72,000) for this financial year.

2. On the expenses side, apart from paying levies to the national church (PCANZ) through the Assembly levy and the Southern Presbytery to the tune of \$6,000 each year, our main expenses are the paid ministry of around \$82,000 per annum, rates/insurance/power of \$10,500 pa, and then the impact of various maintenance projects. Our expenses average \$100,000 per annum without additional major maintenance projects, and of course each year they rise.
3. Our largest outgoing is paid ministry and we have to fund it ourselves – entirely!
4. Ten years ago our offerings were falling, and parishioner offerings of \$52,000 was a good year but this at least covered the cost of a full-time minister back then. In an editorial five

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years ago, I posed the challenge of us either lifting our offerings or accepting the prospect of a carefully managed closure of the Opoho Church. Things have improved but, without using reserves, we are still \$12,000 short of a break-even budget, and this does not allow for larger maintenance projects such as the much-needed rewiring the church.

Many questions emerge from the above snapshot of the finances.

Firstly, is it reasonable now to raise the historical notion of giving of 10% to church/charitable causes? See Deuteronomy 14.23 re this concept of tithing. Wow – how was that ever possible even just a few decades ago?! Or would it be reasonable to promote giving per income earner or family of perhaps 5% of pre-tax income, or more realistically, 6.5% of after-tax income shared not only to church but also other important organisations such as Enliven, Night Shelter etc.? The good news is all these donations are tax-deductible with a third being refunded. I am fairly sure if that level of giving was possible across most of the congregation, we would have a financially secure ministry.

The alternative is to look at our expenses. Although paid ministry is the major one, the cost of human time and money in maintaining the large buildings is also significant, especially when we consider deferred maintenance and the clear need for rewiring and improved heating in the church. Who are the buildings for?

In Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus tells the parable of the three servants, and amongst other points, suggests that it is not enough to sit on our gifts, including money, and not use them. This point surely raises many important questions, including what is the best use of the offerings of God's people of Opoho. Indeed one could ask, does God's mission in Opoho require this set of buildings? Does the Opoho Church have a missional responsibility for maintaining an appealing well-maintained set of buildings that can be used by the community and if so, are the building and grounds fit for purpose and is the cost in maintaining them justified? Are our buildings a wonderful legacy, or a millstone absorbing much of our energy and money?

Maintaining full-time ministry with such a tenuous financial base has been challenging but has been the ongoing desire of our congregation. To put it bluntly, to maintain full-time ministry our income from offerings needs to increase by 16% per annum (\$12,000). In order for this to happen each of us will need to review our committed giving and, where appropriate, consider quite a big uplift. This ideally needs to happen with the new financial year, i.e. now!

These financial issues are part of what the Ministry Settlement Board (and later on the congregation) will have to consider, along with the many questions of what style of ministry we will seek. Wouldn't it would be a wonderful thing if giving can rise to meet our expenses and we can say, "Yes, we can definitely afford a minister, full-time, thank you!"

I would love to discuss these issues with anyone, field questions and suggestions, and have feedback about the above. Please talk to me.

Mark Bevin

Mark has been at Opoho Church since 1988 and was the Church Treasurer for four years in the early 1990s when the church insurance was less than \$800 (now \$6000). Currently he sits on the Property and Finance Committee and Parish Council, but is happiest when sitting behind the piano.

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### *Parish Council and Church News*

#### *Opoho People News*

Congratulations to Megan Somerville, Ben, Eliza and Finn on the birth of Jack, in Palmerston North on 23 May. They are all well, including the happy grandparents, Philip and Shona, who went up to meet Jack shortly after his birth.

#### *Opoho Church News*

We are delighted to be able to worship together again after the lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The first Sunday service since 22 March was held on 7 June, just before we finished Level 2. Now that we are in Level 1, we no longer need to keep a

register of who attends services. However, there are a few things we still need to bear in mind following Government and PCANZ advice:

- ❖ Come to church only if you are well, and stay home if you have a cold or are unwell.
- ❖ If you need to sneeze, please do so into your elbow.
- ❖ Please remember to hand wash or sanitise your hands regularly.
- ❖ Please keep a record of where you have been.

It was lovely to be able to plan ahead when we met as a Parish Council in person this month. We look forward to a pot-luck lunch after worship on Sunday 5 July, a Sustainability Week later in September and our annual meeting on 18 October.

Could the people on morning tea please remember to turn the heating on in the hall and Morrison Lounge before the service starts on Sunday mornings during winter and other cooler days.

The Ministry Settlement Board has resumed its monthly meetings. It is focusing on preparing the Parish Profile and looking at ministry options for the next phase of Opoho's journey together.

We have a mystery that we would like to solve. There is a plaque on the back of the big chair with arms behind that communion table that says: *In loving memory of a child*. Does anyone know the story behind the plaque? If you know or can find something about it, can you please let me know.

The PCANZ, through AllChurches Services Ltd, has Member Benefit Discount Cards that give discounts at businesses such as Office Max, Placemakers and Noel Leeming. If you would like one, please take one off the pile on the back pew of church.

There is a table in the hall foyer with lots of kitchen-related things that have been left in the kitchen over the last or so. They were put there at the working bee just before lockdown. Could you please check and take anything that is yours.

Presbyterian Support Otago sent us a letter thanking us for our ongoing support of their foodbank. They wrote *Many of the people who receive assistance from our foodbank have never thought that*

*one day they would be in the position of asking for help. With support from you and others in the community we are able to meet their immediate needs and give them hope in a period of struggle. Thank you.*

### *Wider Church News*

The Rev. Cameron Sinclair, who has been minister at NEV Blue Lagoon congregation for 15 years is finishing in June. Cameron continues his ministry as Hospital Chaplain in Dunedin.

The Rev. Wayne Te Kaawa, who has been minister of St Mark's Pine Hill, is concluding this ministry in July to assume a teaching role at the University.

The Southern Presbytery has received the *Theological Education and Lay Training Work Group Report* with a covering letter from the Council of Assembly. Presbytery plans to arrange a few video conferences about this in the week of 20-25 July and invites anyone in the South who wishes to participate to join these discussions. For the report and more information about the video conferences go to:

[www.southernpresbyterians.nz/news/TELT-Report-19-Jun-2020](http://www.southernpresbyterians.nz/news/TELT-Report-19-Jun-2020)

**Presbyterian Support Otago's OCTACAN** is going ahead of Thursday 30 July. Due to COVID-19 they are seeing extra large numbers of families experiencing hardship for the first time and are now finding there is suddenly a gap where the food money should be. Can you help OCTACAN fill that gap? Please join them in the Lower Octagon from 7.00 a.m. until 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 30 July.

**Tui Bevin**

### *Midwinter Shared Lunch*



Bring something to share on Sunday 5 July for a midwinter lunch. Help to set up/pack up tables and sort the food will also be needed on the day.

## Opportunities for Service, July - August 2020

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

| Sunday             | Morning Tea                     | Door Duty                        | Readers          | Prayers            | Music        | Hall<br>Cleaning | Church Cleaning              |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>July 2020</b>   |                                 |                                  |                  |                    |              |                  |                              |
| 5 Jul              | Smith / Spencer                 | Gregor Macaulay<br>Benjamin Thew | Jane Bloore      | —                  | David Murray | Mulders          | Michael Ovens                |
| 12 Jul             | Shona & Philip<br>Somerville    | John & Mary Somerville           | Hamish Spencer   | Andrew Smith       | Mark Bevin   | Mulders          | Michael Ovens                |
| 19 Jul             | Bronwen Strang<br>Marian Weaver | Shona & Philip Somerville        | Andrew Smith     | Abby Smith         | Gaynor Haig  | Meegan Cloughley | Chris Young                  |
| 26 Jul             | Jane Bloore<br>Christine Cleugh | John Stenhouse<br>Marian Weaver  | Shona Somerville | Benjamin Thew      | Music Group  | Meegan Cloughley | Chris Young                  |
| <b>August 2020</b> |                                 |                                  |                  |                    |              |                  |                              |
| 2 Aug              | Rodda / Hamilton                | Smith / Spencer                  | Marian Weaver    | —                  | David Murray | Jane Bloore      | Shona & Philip<br>Somerville |
| 9 Aug              | Smith / Spencer                 | Jane Bloore<br>Jenny Bunce       | Gaynor Haig      | John<br>Roxborough | Mark Bevin   | Jane Bloore      | Shona & Philip<br>Somerville |
| 16 Aug             | Shona & Philip<br>Somerville    | Andrew Smith<br>Gregor Macaulay  | Jenny Roxborough | Marian Weaver      | Gaynor Haig  | Fiona Stirling   | Benjamin Thew                |
| 23 Aug             | Bronwen Strang<br>Jane Bloore   | Michael Ovens<br>John Stenhouse  | Andrea Johnston  | Abby Smith         | Mark Bevin   | Fiona Stirling   | Benjamin Thew                |

*Property and Finance Update*

This month's editorial reminds us that we are entirely self-funding in our operation on the hill and, although the vacancy allows us some breathing space, the discernment of the Ministry Settlement Board in looking at a call for a new minister will include a critical consideration of our finances. Historically, parishes worked from a base of pledges made at the start of the financial year, giving a clear indication of what the income might be, and families would commit up to 10% of income to the church or other charitable causes. It is perhaps hard to believe in these days of families needing two incomes just to cover mortgage or rental payments.

Our financial year finished at the end of June and a new budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting in October. Offerings dropped 10%, as expected during Covid-19 lockdown, due to the loss of the Sunday plate and this is a good reminder that setting a regular payment via internet banking avoids that problem.

Meanwhile we can announce that we will soon have a change of Treasurer. Brian Cunningham who has carried the role for the past 20 years will be taking a well overdue break and we welcome Judy Rodda as the new Treasurer. Brian has made a massive contribution in his various roles on Property and Finance and Parish Council over the last 30+ years and, in particular, the role of Treasurer has been a very critical and responsible one. We might just notice his broad grin when he hands over the reins. Well done and thank you Brian, have a week or two off, and then ... ?

On Sunday 14 June the church reached the not-so-balmy level of 12.5° C by the end of the service. This is not good enough and we are seeking quotes for rewiring and heating solutions. The heating arrangements in the hall are wonderful compared to the past when all heaters had to be left on overnight with curtains drawn to enable us to run winter holiday programmes. We hope we can achieve the same in the church.

**Mark Bevin**



*Supporting Support*

We have received the following message from Presbyterian Support Otago ...

*Invitation to join our database*

We trust you enjoyed hearing from our CEO Jo Rowe recently. While preparing for this visit, and planning to mail advice of this upcoming talk to those on our database who are associated with Opoho Presbyterian Church, the need to update our database was realised.

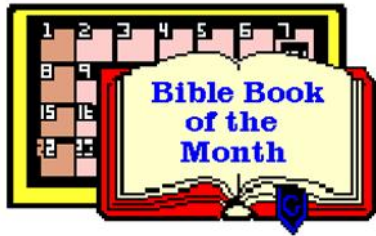
We would like to invite you to join our database and have Opoho Presbyterian Church as your parish association, or to link you to Opoho Presbyterian Church if you are already on our database.

Being on our database will ensure you receive our regular newsletters, updated information on what's happening at PSO and notification of our speakers coming to you.

You can join by either emailing [carolyns@psotago.org.nz](mailto:carolyns@psotago.org.nz) or ringing 477 7115 and asking for Carolyn Sims.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in the work of Presbyterian Support Otago.





This month we will be looking at Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 2 July at 129 Signal Hill Road. 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**

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Urgently Required...



... a home to rent in Opoho for 4-6 months.

Needed for Chris Young as her present home is being pulled down to build a new one.

Phone 473 9390 (try this number first) or 027 390 0257.

Granny flat, motor home, anything will do!

Operation Cover Up



This year marks the 20th anniversary of this project. We have completed five blankets over the last year. Thanks to all who have sent in squares. This is an ongoing project and winter is a good time for knitting. The need for donations of squares and wool

and of sewing-up time is ongoing.

Any questions, let me know weavermariane@gmail.com or 027 473 6026

Marian Weaver

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*Interfaith Matters*

An Interfaith Walking Group has begun on the third Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. Its aim is "to foster friendships and understanding between people of different faiths, while encouraging us all to enjoy the beauty of Dunedin's natural world together" (from the Facebook page). The first walk, in May, was to Second Beach at St Clair and June's was in conjunction with the Manaakitanga Refugee Hikoi, after prayers from different faiths in the Octagon and then walking to the Peace Pole near the Museum. Where to meet is found on the Dunedin Interfaith Council Facebook page or ring Bronwen.

Regarding the internet, I will mention a YouTube site to access. We recently had an excellent presentation by Hilda Hughson of the Matariki story and it was suggested for respect for Maori spirituality we become more informed. A way to do this is to access presentations by Dr Rangi Matamua on YouTube, in particular a public lecture from 2007 – this is well worth it.

**Bronwen Strang**

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The Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy

Dunedin Hospital Chaplaincy 2020 Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistant Training

Do you feel God calling you to become a part of the Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry?

This is a ministry of presence and not evangelism.

A training course for Voluntary Chaplaincy Assistants will be held this year at Dunedin Hospital. You are invited to a taster and information evening on **Wednesday 1 July, 7.30 - 8.30 p.m.** in the Dunedin Hospital Chapel.

RSVP to Joy.Hamilton-Jones@southerndhb.govt.nz or office answerphone 474 0999 ext. 58135.

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

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Lectionary readings, 5 July - 16 August 2020 in Year A, the Year of Matthew			
Sunday 5 July - 5th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45: 10-17 or Song Sol 2: 8-13	Rom 7: 15- 25a	Mt 11: 16-19, 25 -30
Sunday 12 July - 6th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 25: 19-34	Ps 119: 105-112	Rom 8: 1-11	Mt 13: 1-9, 18-23
Sunday 19 July - 7th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 28: 10-19a	Ps 139: 1-12, 23-24	Rom 8: 12-25	Mt 13: 24-30, 36-43
Sunday 26 July - 8th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 29: 15-28	Ps 105: 1-11, 45b or Ps 128	Rom 8: 26-39	Mt 13: 31-33, 44-52
Sunday 2 August - 9th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 32: 22-31	Ps 17: 1-7, 15	Rom 9: 1-5	Mt 14: 13-21
Sunday 9 August - 10th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10: 5-15	Mt 14: 22-33
Sunday 16 August - 11th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 45: 1-15	Ps 133	Rom 11: 1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Monday 20 July

Please send all material for the *Opoho Signal* to:
Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011
Email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

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**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in  
July and early August 2020**

| <b>July 2020</b>         |                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 July ~ Wednesday       | 7.30 p.m.: Ministry Settlement Board, 129 Signal Hill Road                                                                     |
| 2 July ~ Thursday        | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>2 Thessalonians</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road                                              |
| 5 July ~ Sunday          | 10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro, followed by Shared Lunch                                          |
| 8 July ~ Wednesday       | 8 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, 64 Cannington Road                                                                     |
| 9 July ~ Thursday        | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge<br><i>Sharing lockdown thoughts and New Zealand's history of infectious diseases</i> |
| 12 July ~ Sunday         | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby                                                                                          |
| 16 July ~ Thursday       | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge                                                                                     |
| 19 July ~ Sunday         | 10 a.m.: Worship, Jane Bloore                                                                                                  |
| 20 July ~ Monday         | Deadline for August <i>Opoho Signal</i>                                                                                        |
| 26 July ~ Sunday         | 10 a.m.: Worship with Music Group, the Rev. Anne Thomson                                                                       |
| 29 July ~ Wednesday      | 6.30 p.m.: Psalm Writing with BYO takeaways, 129 Signal Hill Rd                                                                |
| <b>Early August 2020</b> |                                                                                                                                |
| 2 August ~ Sunday        | 10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro                                                                    |
| 5 August ~ Wednesday     | 7.30 p.m.: Ministry Settlement Board, venue TBC                                                                                |
| 6 August ~ Thursday      | 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>1 Timothy</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road                                                    |
| 9 August ~ Sunday        | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Hilary Smith                                                                                        |

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