

Opoho Signal

May 2021

via email

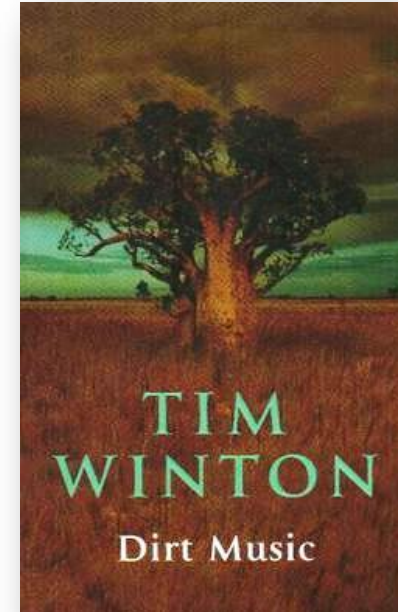
Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



May 2021

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters
cell phone 027 637 9818

Parish Clerk: Philip Somerville phone: 03 473 8862
email: psomer39@gmail.com

Worship Services at Opoho:
Every Sunday at 10 am

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

Editorial

Hamish Spencer's words in the April edition of the *Signal* emphasised our sociality playing a key part in our current Covid-free status. My thoughts that follow flow on from his theme and focus on how we connect and relate.

It has been a real joy for Sarah, Thomas, Fergus, and me to have Grandad Paul close to us each time he has journeyed south to take a service at Opoho Church. A sincere thank you to the parish for approaching Grandad Paul and making this possible. For me personally it has been a deeply affirming experience and connection to a person I describe in my dissertation *The Wisdom of the Desert Reawakened: Theology in Tim Winton's Dirt Music* as one of my first neighbours. Growing up as a boy I often recall Dad talking about the

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etymology of words when he was preaching, and I was not surprised when I looked up the definition of the verb *connect* to find its Latin roots speaking of binding together.

I opened my dissertation with these words:

Our life and our death is with our neighbour. If we win our brother, we win God. If we cause our brother to stumble we have sinned against Christ.

This pithy saying of Anthony the Great, one of the earliest Desert Christians, identifies one of the central tenets of the Christian faith, that through relationship with the other we are able to experience the renewal and rebirth of ourselves, reawakened to what a full human life is. John Zizioulas writes,

A person is an identity formed through a relationship. We are persons because our distinct identity is given by our various relationships, biological relationships with our parents, natural relationships with our environment, and a vast complex of other social and political relationships. All these make us the person we are.

It is this essential nature of interaction with others and the power of relationships that shape us that constitute one of the major themes in *Dirt Music*. Winton demonstrates an acute understanding of the power and nuances of relationships in a wide range of encounters contained within the novel. The importance of relationships in providing encounters where we can experience others reaching out in loving ways that both support and challenge who we are, echo the love of the Other encouraging us toward a greater understanding of ourselves. These encounters are the very places where the renewing Spirit of God is revealed.

I feel extremely blessed that my first neighbours – my parents, Paul and Margaret, and my sister Philippa – related to me in a way that aspired to be love in action or love in flight. This lived experience has

engendered in me a desire to replicate that aspiration in my relationships.

I was heartened to hear from the team behind our Opoho Church Fair about the opportunity to connect and relate with our local neighbours on 15 May. I am looking forward to experiencing my first Opoho Church Fair and the opportunity for connection with our local community. I hope you are able to embrace this opportunity. See you there!!

Mark Ranby

[*Dirt Music* is a 2001 novel by Australian author Tim Winton (born 1960). A 2002 Booker Prize shortlisted novel and winner of the 2002 Miles Franklin Award, it has been translated into Russian, French and German. The harsh, unyielding climate of Western Australia dominates the actions and events of this thriller, a story of love, betrayal, revenge, and survival, in which Winton brings his human and environmental themes together in ways that are always intensely realised and touching.]

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*Parish Council and Church News*

All parishioners are urged to be at church on 9 May when the Rev. Clare Lind will preach with a view to a call to ministry at Opoho, and again on 16 May when a congregational meeting will be held after worship to consider whether to call Mrs Lind to be our minister (on the basis of 80% of standard terms of call).

Unusually, the Parish Council did not meet in April – there were no reports or committee minutes to consider. However, there should be plenty to discuss at the meeting set down for 20 May.

**Gregor Macaulay**

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Introducing Clare Lind



The Rev. Clare Lind BA(Hons) BD has been invited to take the service and preach at Opoho at **10 a.m. on Sunday 9 May** with a view to a call to ministry in our parish.

In addition, an informal ‘meet and greet’ function will be held from **3 to 4 p.m. on Saturday 8 May** in the Morrison Lounge (and/or the hall and/or the lawn, depending on numbers and the weather) to give parishioners an opportunity briefly to meet

Clare and her husband (Don) over a cup of tea.

The following weekend, on **Sunday 16 May, after worship**, a congregational meeting will be held to consider whether to call Clare to be our minister (on the basis of 80% of standard terms of call).

Clare has kindly provided the following information about herself by way of introduction.

Hello Opoho.

The Ministry Settlement Board has asked me to write a few paragraphs of introduction for you before we meet on the weekend of 8-9 May. I was born and brought up in Dunedin. Our family home was in Glenross, Kaikorai Valley. I was educated at Brockville Primary School, Kaikorai Valley High School, and then the University of Otago. At university I studied English and Classics. I was a bit of an arts purist and thought that the only justification that learning needed was learning itself. I have quite a few dead languages in that degree. I’ve become a bit more applied over time.

After university I moved north to work for Tertiary Students’ Christian Fellowship. I met Don when I was working in Hamilton

and we married in 1985. We were living in Auckland. I finished up with TSCF and worked for Whitcoulls. I was working part-time and studying part-time at St John's, Trinity (the Anglican and Methodist theological college) for an Otago Bachelor of Divinity degree, majoring in both Old Testament and New Testament.

Our elder son, Andrew was born. Don's work brought us to Wellington, and I became a candidate from there for the Presbyterian ministry. I did my training through the Community Based Ministry Training programme. The arrival of our younger son, Simon, added a year to the process. In 1998 I was ordained as a part-time Assistant Minister to Miramar Uniting Church in Wellington, with responsibility for children and families. When my colleague retired I became the sole-charge minister there. It was a two-thirds position.

At the beginning of 2010 we moved all the way from one end of Wellington to the other, when I took up a full-time position at Tawa Union Church. My sons learned how to cook that year. I was minister there for 10 years and was Moderator of Wellington Presbytery through its merger with Presbytery Central. Part way through 2019 Don's work as a financial adviser brought him to Dunedin. I arrived down here at the beginning of 2020 once I had finished at Tawa. We were relieved to stop commuting. Now that I think about it, it was merciful timing that we were not still trying to work out of two different places during last year's Covid disruptions.

For the last year I have been attached to the Leith Valley Presbyterian Church's staff team on a voluntary basis. I have taken services in different churches and I am the interim moderator for Kaikorai Presbyterian Church. During the lockdown period I was responsible for the SUNDAY resource that was distributed weekly through Southern Presbytery.

I look forward to meeting you all.

Grace and peace,

Clare Lind



A Letter from Oakland

Many readers will recall **Kristine Snell**, who worshipped at Opoho before returning home to California. She wrote as follows on 5 April:

Thank you for this very newsy Newsletter! As I read about the good works going on at Opoho Church, the dedication to all the tasks that make this a welcoming place, I visualized each person listed in their task and offer a thanksgiving for your work and the pleasure it had been to know each, and to know a place for all to gather is being so lovingly cared for.

I attend First Presbyterian Church (Oakland, California) by Zoom now, an equally loving congregation but I really miss the physicality of being in a dedicated space for worship and gathering. Hope is the message of Easter and so we will all hope for all the doors of all the churches around the world to be open again one day soon!



Saturday 15 May

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Opoho Church

Two Prayers

The following prayer by **Abby Smith** was used in the Harvest Thanksgiving service on Palm Sunday, 27 March.



Thank you Lord for this our harvest world.

Thank you for right here and right now, the warm church, the sun pouring in, the life-giving rain last night, for the rainbow of flowers, the welcoming people, the music, the harvest offering, the tea and coffee and fellowship to come.

Thank you for autumn, misty mornings, bright leaves and high blue skies.

Thank you for Opoho and tepoti, the round hills and silver harbour, roses blooming in gardens, pears bending the branches down, pink dawns and glorious sunsets.

Thank you for the mighty albatross Toroa, the flighty fantail Piwakawaka and the grey warbler Riroriro singing his heart out in the mornings.

Thank you for Aotearoa New Zealand and the people of all kinds who live here.

Thank you for our world, and our lives.

Thank you for the hope and joy of Easter coming.

We are keenly aware that some people don't have so much to be thankful for.

People are waiting for spring from houses they haven't left for more than a year.

People are desperate for news of family sick, dying, alone.

People have left home and everything they know, hoping for a better life among strangers.

People have no hope for tomorrow, next week, or ever.

Enslaved and ground down, people are sick, sad, exhausted, scared, hopeless, and miserable.

We pray for them.

Speak your words of comfort to them, as you have to us.

Say to them "Be not afraid."

Tell them "I am the light of the world."

Remind them "My steadfast love endures forever."

Reassure them "I will give you rest."

Tell everyone across the whole Earth, every slave, every refugee, every prisoner,

all those scared and sad, sick and exhausted, hopeless and miserable.

Let them hear your word, singing its heart out.

Let them feel your love in the dawn.

Let them lift up their eyes to the hills and seas and skies.

Let them see your spirit all around them like shining autumn leaves.

Even as we pray for others, let us also find ways to help them.

Let us share our plenty.

Let us give strength and joy and certainty to those who are seeking it.

Let others see and hear and feel your grace and mercy, through us.

Lord hear our prayer.

Amen

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## Opportunities for Service 2 May - 27 June 2021

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

|             | Morning Tea                       | Door Duty                        | Readers           | Prayers            | Music             | Hall Cleaning                  | Church Cleaning             |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>May</b>  |                                   |                                  |                   |                    |                   |                                |                             |
| 2 May       | Bronwen Strang<br>Daniel Larsen   | Andrew Smith<br>Daniel Larsen    | Gregor Macaulay   | —                  | David Murray      | Bronwen Strang                 | Judy Rodda<br>Kirk Hamilton |
| 9 May       | Marian Weaver<br>Jane Bloore      | Mark Ranby<br>Shona Somerville   | Julie-Ann Fleming | Abby Smith         | Music Group       | Bronwen Strang                 | Judy Rodda<br>Kirk Hamilton |
| 16 May      | Meegan and Pam<br>Cloughley       | Abby Smith<br>Hamish Spencer     | Jenny Bunce       | Andrew Smith       | Gaynor Haig       | Mulders                        | Benjamin Thew               |
| 23 May      | Judy Rodda<br>Kirk Hamilton       | Jane Bloore<br>Jenny Bunce       | Hamish Spencer    | Daniel Larsen      | David Murray      | Mulders                        | Benjamin Thew               |
| 30 May      | Abby Smith<br>Hamish Spencer      | Gregor Macaulay<br>Michael Ovens | Mark Ranby        | John<br>Roxborough | Guitars and Voice | Jane Bloore                    | Andrew Smith                |
| <b>June</b> |                                   |                                  |                   |                    |                   |                                |                             |
| 6 June      | Bronwen Strang<br>Jane Bloore     | John and Mary<br>Somerville      | Lena Henderson    | —                  | David Murray      | Jane Bloore                    | Andrew Smith                |
| 13 June     | Meegan and Pam<br>Cloughley       | Andrew Smith<br>Benjamin Thew    | Daniel Larsen     | Mark Ranby         | Guitars and Voice | Meegan Cloughley               | Michael Ovens               |
| 20 June     | Sanel and Rudie<br>Tomlinson      | Daniel Larsen<br>Mark Ranby      | Abby Smith        | Benjamin Thew      | Gaynor Haig       | Meegan Cloughley               | Michael Ovens               |
| 27 June     | Daniel Larsen<br>Shona Somerville | Jane Bloore<br>Gregor Macaulay   | Benjamin Thew     | Abby Smith         | Music Group       | Shona and Philip<br>Somerville | Chris Young                 |

**Thank you** so much to all who contribute now, and have contributed in the past, to these activities.

If you find you are unable to do your rostered duty, please arrange for someone else to take your place. Let Gregor know of the change, so that he can update the Order of Service and contact the right people for readings and prayers.

**Morning Tea:** Please arrange for one person to bring milk, and to take it home again afterwards. There are biscuits in a drawer in the kitchen. Home baking is welcome, too.

**Door duty:** Before you leave, please make sure all the doors are locked; all the lights are turned off; and any candles have been put out.

The second prayer is by **Mark Ranby** and was included in the service led by his father, Paul, on 11 April.

In the stillness of this moment on a spectacular autumn morning we cry out O Lord with our prayers for others and ourselves.

We pray and give thanks once more for our frontline, health, border and MIQ workers who continue to protect us from the Covid-19 pandemic. Uplift them as they continue to implement and enhance the procedures and processes to contain the virus.

We pray for Kiritapu Allen, the Member of Parliament for the East Coast. Surround her with your aroha as she embarks on a course of treatment to combat her cancer diagnosis. We also hold near other people, friends known to us who are amidst their own health battles. May your light illuminate and assuage their fears and comfort them in the dark days.

We pray for people who have had unpleasant experiences with systems that make it hard for them to engage and access the support they need. Breathe hope into their world through compassionate people who are prepared to listen, support and encourage them.

We pray for people living in lands where tension and conflict are a constant reality. Soften the hardened hearts and minds of people that look to impose their will over others. Embrace and comfort those people who endure persecution and abuse. May your love provide hope for a different future.

Finally, we pray for those who are closest to us. Those partners, spouses, parents, siblings, children who know us intimately and journey with us often glimpsing us when we are not at our best and often are more aware of our shadow than we are. We give thanks

that they accept us and lovingly remind us of the light within when we get lost in the dark.

We offer up these prayers to you as we pray the words you have given us.... [the Lord's Prayer]

Amen



*Church Fair*

*Saturday 15 May 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.*

The fair is almost upon us. There is still time to bring saleable things that you no longer need. Just put them in the hall. If you need help to get them there contact Fiona Stirling (027 483 2028). Thank you!



*Fellowship Group*

**2 p.m. on Thursday 13 May in the Morrison Lounge.**

At our April meeting, we listened, enthralled, as Val Williams told us about her life. We were delighted to welcome Val's daughter, Gillian Wright, who lives in Lauder.



*Val and Gillian*

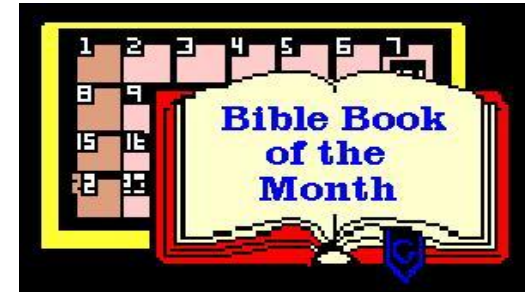
Fellowship Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. in the Morrison Lounge (13 May this month). You are all very welcome to come along.

After a time of conversation, we have a cup of tea or coffee, accompanied by delicious baking (thank you Chris and Miriam), at around 3 p.m., and we finish by 4 p.m.

***Andrea Johnston***

***DON'T FORGET!!***

|                                     |                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 8 May<br>3 - 4 p.m.        | Meet and Greet the Rev. Clare Lind and her husband, Don             |
| Sunday 9 May<br>10 a.m.             | Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind                                        |
| Saturday 15 May<br>11 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Opoho Church Fair                                                   |
| Sunday 16 May<br>10 a.m.            | Worship, the Rev. Silvia Purdie, followed by Congregational Meeting |



This month we will be looking at *1 John*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 6 May 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***



*The Rubbish Challenge:  
10 Steps to Less Waste in 10 Months*

A resource for churches and whanau by the Rev. Silvia Purdie

More material and videos at

[www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html](http://www.conversations.net.nz/rubbish-challenge.html)

**Step 4) May:** Disposables

**Bible verse:** Romans 12:2

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

**‘Big Idea’**

Cheap and convenient is not always good! If we take into account the long-term cost of plastic waste, cheap disposable items are actually very costly. They do harm to creation. Doing what we know is wrong is sin, and damages our relationship with God.

**Question** – *for reflection and discussion*

How do you respond to the challenge that buying cheap throw-away things is wrong, even a sin?

**Action Steps for May**

Review what single-use items you buy.

When do disposables seem a good option?

- > for large numbers of people
- > for picnics and outside events
- > for hygiene reasons

Explore alternatives.

Choose to stop buying throw-away items such as cups or plastic cutlery.

**Prayer**

Lord have mercy – we confess to you:  
we like what is easy and convenient.

Christ have mercy – we ask of you:  
renew our lives to live your way.

Lord have mercy – we offer to you  
all we value and choose and buy  
to the praise of your glorious grace.

Amen.



Silvia Purdie will be leading a training seminar, *People in Place: Environmental Sustainability in Social Service*, intended as professional development for community, youth and social workers, counsellors and agency leadership, at Leith Valley Presbyterian Church, 267 Malvern Street, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday 17 May. See [www.place.net.nz/training.html](http://www.place.net.nz/training.html) for details.

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11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saturday 15 May



Keeping in Touch

Do you know...

Opoho Church has a website, 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

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

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Thursday 20 May 2021

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

Lectionary readings, 2 May to 20 June 2021 in Year B, the Year of Mark			
Sunday 2 May - 5th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 8: 26-40	Ps 22: 25-31	1 Jn 4: 7-21	Jn 15: 1-8
Sunday 9 May - 6th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 10: 44-48	Ps 98	1 Jn 5: 1-6	Jn 15: 9-17
Thursday 13 May - Ascension			
Acts 1: 1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1: 15-23	Lk 24: 44-53
Sunday 16 May - 7th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26	Ps 1	1 Jn 5: 9-13	Jn 17: 6-19
Sunday 23 May - Pentecost			
Acts 2: 1-21 or Ezek 37: 1-14	Ps 104: 24-34, 35b	Rom 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15
Sunday 30 May - Trinity			
Is 6: 1-8	Ps 29	Rom 8: 12-17	Jn 3: 1-17
Sunday 6 June - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost			
1 Sam 8: 4-11 (12-15), 16-20 (11: 14-15)	Ps 138	2 Cor 4: 13-5:1	Mk 3: 20-35
Sunday 13 June - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost			
1 Sam 15: 34-16: 13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5: 6-10, 14-17	Mk 4: 26-34
Sunday 20 June - 4th Sunday after Pentecost			
1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49	Ps 9: 9-20	2 Cor 6: 1-13	Mk 4: 35-41

Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

May	
2 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Communion
6 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>1 John</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
8 May ~ Saturday	3-4 p.m.: 'Meet and Greet' with the Rev. Clare Lind and her husband, Don, Morrison Lounge (and/or hall and/or lawn, depending on numbers and weather)
9 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind.
13 May ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 May ~ Saturday	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Church Fair
16 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Silvia Purdie followed by Congregational Meeting
18 May ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
20 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
23 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
30 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Russell Thew
June	
6 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Communion
7 June ~ Monday	Public holiday - Queen's Birthday
10 June ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month: <i>2 and 3 John</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
13 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson
17 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver Material due for July <i>Opoho Signal</i>
27 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson

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