

Opoho Signal

April 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



April 2021

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Ed Masters

cell phone 027 637 9818

Acting 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

This time a year ago, Abby and I, as well as an American colleague of mine, Diane, were sitting on our deck enjoying the afternoon sun, talking about a scary new disease, COVID-19, which was spreading rapidly around the world. Little did we suspect that within two weeks, we would be subject to an unprecedented lockdown, confined to our homes in single-household “bubbles,” allowed out only for essential single-person trips to the supermarket or doctor and exercising around the neighbourhood. Diane “escaped” back to Boston on one of the last flights out of Auckland, and we all learned how to use Zoom, marvelling at how much better it was than Skype. Abby’s family instigated weekly video calls; ironically, we ended up knowing more about the family’s day-to-day doings than we ever did before, just as they become substantially less exciting!

Fast-forward to today, and the world is a very different place, but not at all what I had foreseen. I had expected people on our street to be sick, relying on neighbours for supplies. I had not expected New Zealand to have largely eliminated the virus, especially after there

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were active cases right here in our city. I hadn’t expected vaccines to be developed so fast or so successfully.

We have much to be grateful about in our country, for we really have avoided the worst of it. Diane caught COVID last November and was seriously ill. Some members of Abby’s family have not touched another person for weeks at a time. Another of my American colleagues describes her and her husband’s house as “messy, possibly even dirty”, even though there is ample time to make it spotless; they do not have the motivation to do anything. And, of course, millions around the world have died, often in quite awful circumstances, forcibly isolated from family and friends.

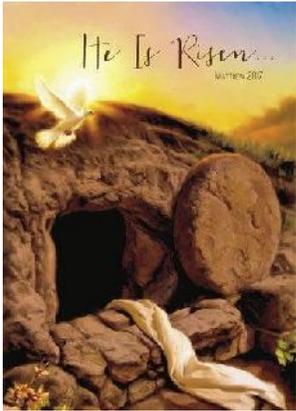
All the same, we are not unscathed. We all have this constant threat hanging over us, that the virus might break through our border and run rampant through our communities. The economic impacts of lockdowns have been severe for many people, although, as so often happens, it seems the rich have become richer. The flood of horrifying news from overseas is depressing and seemingly unstoppable.

In all of this, the support of friends and our wider community has been critical. Our church community has been a lifeline for many of us. We all have stories like mine above (and, indeed, possibly worse) that sharing somehow makes more bearable. Humans are social animals and the impact of COVID on our social lives is felt by every one of us. It is interesting that some of the most successful messaging around prevention (“Be kind”) emphasises this sociality, rather than anything to do with the infectivity of the virus.

And what happens now depends so much on societal decisions. The effectiveness of the vaccine depends critically on a social contract: we need the majority of the population (at least 70%, I read) to be vaccinated in order to stop the pandemic and protect those who cannot be vaccinated (say because of a compromised immune system). Margaret Thatcher once said that there was no such thing as society; I remember being unconvinced at the time, but it is oh-so-clear today that she was flat wrong.

Hamish Spencer





Stones

The stones in Jordan's stream
Perceived the dove descend
In its lily of light:
That glory entered
Their interminable dream.

The stones in Edom's wilderness
Observed the fiend
Take five of their number
And build a cairn thereof,
And beckoning to Jesus
He pointed to the stones and said:
Make bread.
But because of his great love
For the uniqueness of created things,
The confraternity in disparity
Of plant and rock, of flesh and wings,
Jesus would not translate the stones
Out of their immobile immortality
Into that dynasty of death,
Decaying bread:

The stones upon Golgotha's hill
Took the shadow of the cross
Upon them like the scorch of ice:
And they felt the flick of dice
And Jesus' blood mingling with his mother's
tears;
And these made indelible stains:
And some of them were taken up
And with curses thrown
At that rejected throne,
And others felt the clamorous butts of
Roman spears:.

And the pity, horror, and love within them
pent
Welled out and shook the earth.
And the veil was rent.

The great stones of the tomb
Enfolded Jesus' body
In silence and deep gloom.
They had him to themselves alone,
That shard of him, sinew and bone,
Transient dust on their immortality.
And now their inanimate heart
Yearned over that shrouded form:
And while three midnights passed
They made of that tomb
A womb:

The fragile bones renewed their strength,
The flesh trembled and moved,
The glory of the dove
Re-descended from above
And with the break of day
The door was rolled away:
The function of the stones was done:
His second birth
Achieved on earth,
Jesus walked into the sun.

William Jeffrey

Scottish poet William Jeffrey was born in 1896 at Kirk of Shotts, Lanarkshire, the son of a colliery manager. He was educated at Wishaw High School and attended the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh before his education was interrupted by service with the Royal Artillery during World War I. After being gassed on the Western Front, he turned to journalism in 1920, working for the Glasgow Evening Times and later the Glasgow Herald as a leader-writer and drama critic. He died in 1946.

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*Parish Council and Church News*

Congratulations to Gisela Andrew, who celebrated her 90th birthday on 18 March.

The World Day of Prayer service on 5 March has been described (by someone who has attended many many World Day of Prayer services) as “the best I have ever attended.” Thank you to Fiona Stirling for coordinating and leading the service, to David Murray for the music, and to Mary Somerville, Bronwen Strang and Christine Cleugh who all took part.

Thank you to everyone who turned up for the garden working bee on 6 March.

The Parish Council met on 18 March and received with regret the resignation from the Council and the Christian Development Committee of one of the more active and busy members of the congregation. Mary Somerville is stepping down from the Council and the Committee but staying heavily involved with her other responsibilities and leadership roles. We appreciate all the work to which she is committed.

The Rev. Silvia Purdie sent out an open letter to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand about climate change. It is something that Opoho Parish Council and congregation are thinking about, and we are grateful that Jane Anderson reports back to the parish on our behalf. Silvia has been invited to take our Sunday service on 16 May.

Our OK Kids is a small group now and we value all our children and families who attend.

Parish Council decided to recognise the arrangement with Philip Somerville and Gregor Macaulay as Parish Clerk and Associate Parish Clerk respectively, and will review the arrangement six months after the appointment of a minister to the parish. Not every parish has a Gregor who handles minute taking and administrative detail and we are grateful for that luxury!

Parish Council has received the suggestion that Community Time could be rotated amongst members of Parish Council. Many

members of the congregation are involved in our weekly worship with music, children’s talks and notices.

Giving is down and it may be that many people are at their maximum with faithful donations.

The Ministry Settlement Board reports that they are in conversation with a potential candidate for ministry to Opoho Church and progress is being made.

The Parish Council considered the papers for the nomination of the Moderator-Designate of General Assembly from the Assembly Executive Secretary and decided to put no name forward.

The Council meets again on Thursday 15 April.

**Andrew Smith**

***BREAKING NEWS***

On the recommendation of the Ministry Settlement Board, the Parish Council has agreed to invite **the Rev. Clare Lind** to preach **on Sunday 9 May** with a view to a call to ministry at Opoho, and to call a **congregational meeting for the following Sunday, 16 May**, to consider whether to call Mrs Lind to be our minister (on the basis of 80% of standard terms of call).



*Church Fair*  
*Saturday 15 May*



Now is the time to begin sorting and saving all the saleable things – especially clothes and books – that you no longer need.

If you need them ‘gone’ sooner put them under the hall stage. If you need help to get them there contact Fiona Stirling (027 483 2028). Thank you!

**Fiona Stirling**



## Opportunities for Service 4 April - 23 May 2021

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

|          | Morning Tea                  | Door Duty                     | Readers           | Prayers       | Music                  | Flowers          | Hall Cleaning  | Church Cleaning             |
|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| April    |                              |                               |                   |               |                        |                  |                |                             |
| 4 April  | Shona and Philip Somerville  | Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton      | Jane Bloore       | —             | David Murray           | Jane Bloore      | Andrew Smith   | Jane Bloore                 |
| 11 April | Meegan and Pam Cloughley     | Mary and John Somerville      | Gaynor Haig       | Mark Ranby    | Singers and Guitarists | Jane Bloore      | Andrew Smith   | Jane Bloore                 |
| 18 April | Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton     | Gregor Macaulay Marian Weaver | Shona Somerville  | Benjamin Thew | Gaynor Haig            | Shona Somerville | Michael Ovens  | Shona and Philip Somerville |
| 25 April | Abby Smith Hamish Spencer    | Michael Ovens Benjamin Thew   | Andrea Johnston   | Marian Weaver | Music Group            | Shona Somerville | Michael Ovens  | Shona and Philip Somerville |
| May      |                              |                               |                   |               |                        |                  |                |                             |
| 2 May    | Bronwen Strang Marian Weaver | Andrew Smith Daniel Larsen    | Gregor Macaulay   | —             | David Murray           | Winter Flowers   | Bronwen Strang | Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton    |
| 9 May    | Daniel Larsen Jane Bloore    | Mark Ranby Shona Somerville   | Julie-Ann Fleming | Abby Smith    | Singers and Guitarists | Winter Flowers   | Bronwen Strang | Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton    |
| 16 May   | Meegan and Pam Cloughley     | Abby Smith Hamish Spencer     | Jenny Bunce       | Andrew Smith  | Gaynor Haig            | Winter Flowers   | Mulders        | Benjamin Thew               |
| 23 May   | Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton     | Jane Bloore Jenny Bunce       | Hamish Spencer    | Daniel Larsen | Music Group            | Winter Flowers   | Mulders        | Benjamin Thew               |

**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.



*Interfaith Matters*

I was really looking forward to attending the talk by Dr Najib Lafraie on Islam Today at Mornington Methodist Church, but unfortunately I wasn't able to. Dr Lafraie was a former cabinet minister in Afghanistan and then a lecturer in Political Studies at the University of Otago. Consequently I have requested instructions about how to access this talk in digital or recorded form. If anyone else wishes to access it, please get in touch with me.

**Bronwen Strang**

*Fellowship Group*



Fellowship Group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m., in the Morrison Lounge.

An important part of Fellowship Group meetings is our participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The lotus image at left, formed of praying hands from around the world, is a symbol of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

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.

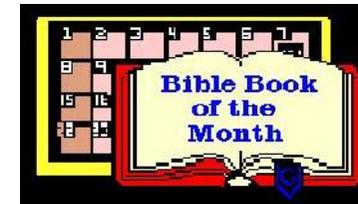
**Andrea Johnston**



*Abby's Jam Palace*

Abby's Jam Palace will next be convened at the fair on 15 May. If you have excess fruit of any kind, do let me know. I don't need jars unless they are extra-pretty, clean, and have lids. Thanks for your support!

**Abby Smith**



This month we will be looking at *2 Peter*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 8 April 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**





### *Poems Prayers Psalms Prose – an Opoho writers' group*

Next meeting is Tuesday 20 April, 7 - 8.30 p.m., at the Salmond College Chapel, 19 Knox Street. All welcome.

For more information, please contact Abby Smith: 027 606 3552, [abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com](mailto:abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com)

### *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 3) April:** Recycling

(Information on Step 1) *Consider* and Step 2) *Measure* is on the table in the Morrison Lounge.)

**Bible verse:** 1 Corinthians 15:50. *What I am saying is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*

#### **'Big Idea'**

God designed all of Creation to be perishable, but modern manufacturing has created millions of objects that are effectively imperishable. Plastic is designed to degrade so slowly to be almost immortal. True immortality is found only in God. All else is idolatry. Objects that do not decompose harm the environment. Recycling reduces this harm.

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

What do we do with objects whose life span is much longer than ours?

#### **Action Steps for April**

Help your City Council recycle as much as possible:

- know what can go into the yellow recycling bins (find out from your City Council)
- don't put anything else in the recycling bins
- don't wrap recycling in plastic bags
- clean recycling first.

Buy less stuff in plastic bottles – refill and re-use.

Ask for no plastic packaging when you buy products (such as polystyrene).

Get creative. What ideas do you have for re-using stuff?

#### **Prayer**

Risen Christ, all glory to you.

In you is everlasting life!

Conquer the idols in our world.

Give us wisdom, courage and creativity as we recycle.





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



### *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)

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

#### **Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Tuesday 20 April 2021**

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)

### Lectionary readings, 1 April to 9 May 2021 in Year B, the Year of Mark

| <b>Maundy Thursday - 1 April</b>              |                       |                                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Ex 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14                     | Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19    | 1 Cor 11: 23-26                             | Jn 13: 1-17, 31b-35                |
| <b>Good Friday - 2 April</b>                  |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Is 52: 13 -53:12                              | Ps 22                 | Heb 10: 16-25 or<br>Heb 4: 14-16,<br>5: 7-9 | Jn 18: 1 -<br>19:42                |
| <b>Holy Saturday - 3 April</b>                |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Job 14: 1-14 or<br>Lam 3: 1-9,<br>19-24       | Ps 31: 1-4,<br>15-16  | 1 Peter 4: 1-8                              | Mt 27: 57-66<br>or<br>Jn 19: 38-42 |
| <b>Easter Dawn - Sunday 4 April</b>           |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Ex 14: 10-31,<br>15: 20-21                    | Ps 114                | Rom 6: 3-11                                 | Mk 16: 1-8                         |
| <b>Easter Day - Sunday 4 April</b>            |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Acts 10: 34-43<br>or<br>Is 25: 6-9            | Ps 118: 1-2,<br>14-24 | 1 Cor 15: 1-11 or<br>Acts 10: 34-43         | Jn 20: 1-18<br>or<br>Mk 16: 1-8    |
| <b>Sunday 11 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter</b> |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Acts 4: 32-35                                 | Ps 133                | 1 Jn 1: 1-2: 2                              | Jn 2: 19-31                        |
| <b>Sunday 18 April - 3rd Sunday of Easter</b> |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Acts 3: 12-19                                 | Ps 4                  | 1 Jn 3: 1-7                                 | Lk 24: 36b-48                      |
| <b>Sunday 25 April - 4th Sunday of Easter</b> |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Acts 4: 5-12                                  | Ps 23                 | 1 Jn 3: 16-24                               | Jn 10: 11-18                       |
| <b>Sunday 2 May - 5th Sunday of Easter</b>    |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Acts 8: 26-40                                 | Ps 22: 25-31          | 1 Jn 4: 7-21                                | Jn 15: 1-8                         |
| <b>Sunday 9 May - 6th Sunday of Easter</b>    |                       |                                             |                                    |
| Acts 10: 44-48                                | Ps 98                 | 1 Jn 5: 1-6                                 | Jn 15: 9-17                        |

## Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

| April                            |                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 April ~ Easter Sunday          | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Communion.<br>End of Daylight Saving (clocks go <i>back</i> one hour)                                              |
| 8 April ~ Thursday               | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge<br>7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month:<br><i>2 Peter</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road                                   |
| 11 April ~ Sunday                | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby                                                                                                                       |
| 15 April ~ Thursday              | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge                                                                                                                  |
| 18 April ~ Sunday                | 10 a.m.: Worship, Mary Somerville                                                                                                                           |
| 20 April ~ Tuesday               | 7-8.30 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms Prose –<br>an Opoho writers' group, Salmond College<br>Chapel, 19 Knox Street<br>Material due for May <i>Opoho Signal</i> |
| 25 April ~ Sunday<br>(ANZAC Day) | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson                                                                                                                     |
| 26 April ~ Monday                | Public Holiday                                                                                                                                              |
| 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:<br><i>1 John</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road                                                                                 |
| 9 May ~ Sunday                   | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind.                                                                                                                      |
| 13 May ~ Thursday                | 2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge                                                                                                                   |
| 15 May ~ Saturday                | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Church Fair                                                                                                                               |
| 16 May ~ Sunday                  | 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Silvia Purdie<br>11.15 a.m. Congregational Meeting                                                                               |
| 18 May ~ Tuesday                 | 7.30 p.m.: Christian Development<br>Committee, Morrison Lounge                                                                                              |
| 20 May ~ Thursday                | 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge<br>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                                                                                                                     |

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