

Opoho Signal

April 2022

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



In this familiar place ...

April 2022

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Editorial

I spend up to eight hours a day looking at a computer screen on working days, therefore I am not keen on going through the web during my non-work time to find news and information. I tend to get news from the ODT, Radio NZ, sometimes Stuff, the Spinoff and TV.

When tragedies happen around the world – news reports are about the latest tragedy. For weeks we have had reports about what is going on in Ukraine – and yes, it is appalling and the world needs to know – but, before that, there was a devastating volcanic eruption in Tonga where such terrible damage was done. I had to really hunt around to find out what is happening over there, and it turns out that they have got a serious problem trying to rebuild the place; not newsworthy apparently.

Similarly, I spent some time on the web trying to find out what is

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happening in Afghanistan. It turns out that some educational opportunities are opening up for some women and girls again but there is widespread famine, partly because of the frozen funds and actions taken by other countries. The USA is currently trying to get \$7M of aid into Afghanistan but doing it by bypassing the Taliban who are reported as siphoning off aid monies that for their own personal use. To be fair there was an article that said journalists there (that is, the ones who were not murdered) had to flee from the country which explains how it is difficult to get news from there. It is an ongoing mess.

There are some awful things happening in the Congo and other African countries with very bloody civil wars or fights between warlords where the civilians get caught in the crossfire. This has been going on for some time and I am assuming that it is no longer worth headlines because it has been going on for years, or because it is Africa or ????

Something that mainstream Fourth Estate is waking up to is the movement based on disinformation and misinformation; some of which we saw in Wellington with the occupation of Parliament grounds and environs. In the USA, Trump is attracting a wide following with his assertions that the last election was rigged; and his mantra to make America great again. This is on the back of investigations and court cases about the election where no evidence was found to show foul play. There are stadiums filled with people at his rallies. In Arizona, a Governor candidate is Kari Lake who firmly believes what Trump is saying. She has a considerable following.

Commentators are fearful that if Trump runs for president again, there will be a serious civil uprising if he loses the election; and on the other hand, if he wins, he will take a wrecking ball again to democracy, international agreements, and progressive social and economic practices.

On the edge of that are a number of super-far-right men who make a living live streaming their rhetoric (anti-Jew, anti-anyone not white, and anti-women) where followers make donations

during streaming. Nick Fuentes an American who is 22 is an example – he has around 10,000 people following his live streams. The chilling thing about Fuentes is that he says he is Christian. I don't know if what he says is just about making money, but his followers believe what he says and pay for it. It must be stressful thinking hateful thoughts every day.

My beliefs and mindset concerning Jesus Christ and God must be viewed as weird and based on misinformation to many who either don't believe in God or never give it any thought. But I can have my belief and thoughts without needing to deride others.

Mainstream media controls what we see and hear as news, but I am grateful that I don't have to go searching for news. If we want to delve deeper and follow up on things that have happened, we must get on line and search. What can be found there is seldom good, and can leave me feeling sick and powerless to help. Maybe that's why I don't like spending much time online.

When "the world" crowds in, my mind turns to one of my favourite Colin Gibson hymns:

*In this familiar place I know the mystery of your grace.
For the love that I receive, for the truth that I believe,
I praise and thank you for this here and now. (AA72)*

That is my truth.

Marian Weaver

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**Parish Council and Church News**

The Parish Council met on 17 March.

It was agreed that a service of readings would be held in the church on Good Friday (15 April) at 10 a.m.

The parish remains pretty much Covid-free, and so normal services are continuing. We are monitoring the situation and will let everyone know promptly if anything needs to be changed (e.g. cancellation of communion).

The Property and Finance Committee has done a thorough church grounds and building review and has identified 29 matters that need attention or consideration and is working to sort out an order of priority for action.

**Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council**

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Opoho Church Grounds
Saturday 30 April 9 a.m. - 12 noon

You are invited to be part of a working bee in the grounds

There will be a list of specific jobs that need doing.

Bring gardening tools and gloves.

Any queries contact Benjamin Thew 021 049 4264
benthew3@gmail.com



Kia ora koutou,

Consider the words of Psalm 133

- 1. *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live in unity!*
- 2. *It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.*
- 3. *It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.*

It inspiring to join with Christians around Aotearoa who are striving to restore God's beautiful creation

News

Some churches are investigating the instalment of solar panels on their roof. Chartwell Church (Hamilton) say they would welcome other churches to partner with them

Stories

Tawa Anglican has been an eco-church less than a year. They started by a big discussion and decided to have 'second thought Sunday' when they would revisit the topics and give more people an opportunity to contribute. They are concentrating on the trips to and from church in a bid to reduce road pollution.

St Alban's Church (Anglican, Pauatahanui, Wellington) is a heritage church and, with a partner church, conducted a full assessment of their existing ways of worship. They contacted the Regional Council for traps for the local vermin and have been using them. Native bush restoration has begun. At Matariki, they invited a member of their local M ori community to speak at the service. There is also a weekly co-op for crops, surplus food etc. at the church. One parishioner compiled a Low Carbon Cookbook, which is being sold in aid of Covid vaccines for developing countries. A beach clean-up was held during Sunday service time.

Jane Anderson



Fellowship Group

2 p.m. on Thursday 14 April n Morrison Lounge

Fellowship Group will meet in its usual venue, the Morrison Lounge. You are all very welcome to come along. Please wear your mask and sign in – we will have a sign-in sheet available.



Busy Fellowship members in January: Evelyn with her 29 peggy squares, and Val with cuttings she is propagating.

Our March meeting was cancelled, in light of the high transmission rates of Covid. We are looking forward to meeting again this month, with the focus on getting to know each other.

An important part of Fellowship Group meetings is our participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin, as we bring along our least coins each month.

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



To make a cash donation for the Food Bank, visit www.psotago.org.nz



Operation Cover Up



Please keep making peggy squares out of wool or a warm wool mix, 20cmx20cm, and drop them off at the church. We send the blankets off in July so we have a few months left to get a good number ready. Three blankets have been completed so far.

Wool and instructions are in the bag on the back pew. Contact me if you need help at 027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com

Marian Weaver



Poems Prayers Psalms Prose - a friendly writing group



For writers of all kinds from Opoho and beyond
Tuesday 12 April at 7 p.m.
Zoom link 92395184583
Password 403627
For more information, please contact
Abby Smith: 027 606 3552, abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com



A New Satellite



We tend to take the satellites that fly high above us for granted, but one that has recently joined them may interest you. *Sentinel-6 Martin Freilich* (named after a former technical director at NASA) was put up by NASA and its European counterpart to be the most accurate measurer of sea levels. There have been such satellites for the last 30 years and this one is the latest in a line of them.

Measuring the sea levels is very important from the view of Climate Change. First, we must know what the sea level should be based on, what it has been for some time. Then, if the level rises due to climate change, melting icepack, warmed up glaciers etc. the fact that it has risen and by how much will be measured, making it possible to project forward. A dramatic number of the developments of our civilisation are by the sea, just as we are.

Jane Anderson



Jam Jam Jam



Jam Stall last Sunday of the month after church in the hall.
If you have spare fruit or spare jars, ring Abby or send her an email.

Abby Smith 027 606 3552, abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com



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

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

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

### **Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Wednesday 20 April 2022**

Please send all material for the next *Opoho Signal* to:

Andrea Johnston (Gregor Macaulay is away until early June)

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

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Lectionary readings, 24 April to 22 May 2022			
Sunday 24 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter			
Acts 5: 27-32	Ps 118: 14-29 or Ps 150	Rev 1: 4-8	Jn 20: 19-31
Sunday 1 May - 3rd Sunday of Easter			
Acts 9: 1-6, (7-20)	Ps 30	Rev 5: 11-14	Jn 21: 1-19
Sunday 8 May - 4th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 9: 36-43	Ps 23	Rev 7: 9-17	Jn 10: 22-30
Sunday 15 May - 5th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 11: 1-18	Ps 148	Rev 21: 1-6	Jn 13: 31-35
Sunday 22 May - 6th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 16: 9-15	Ps 67	Rev 21: 10, 22-22: 5	Jn 14: 23-29 or Jn 5: 1-9

Lectionary readings, 3 to 17 April 2022 in Year C, the Year of Luke			
Lent			
Sunday 3 April - 5th Sunday in Lent			
Is 43: 16-21	Ps 126	Phil 3: 4b-14	Jn 12: 1-8
Sunday 10 April - Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday			
None or Is 50: 4-9	Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29 or Ps 31: 9-16	None or Phil 2: 5-11	Palm Lk 19: 28-40 Passion Lk 22: 14-23: 56 or Lk 23: 1 -49
Holy Week			
Monday 11 April			
Is 42: 1-9	Ps 36: 5-11	Heb 9: 11-15	Jn 12: 1-11
Tuesday 12 April			
Is 49: 1-7	Ps 71: 1-14	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Jn 12: 20-36
Wednesday 13 April			
Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12: 1-3	Jn 13: 21-32
Thursday 14 April - Maundy Thursday			
Ex 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11: 23-26	Jn 13: 1-7, 31b-35
Friday 15 April - Good Friday			
Is 52: 13 - 53: 12	Ps 22	Heb 10: 16-25 or Heb 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9	Jn 18: 1- 19:42
Saturday 16 April - Holy Saturday			
Job 14: 1-14 or Lam 3: 1-9, 19-24	Ps 31: 1-4, 15- 16	1 Peter 4: 1-8	Mt 27: 57-66 or Jn 19: 38-42
Easter			
Sunday 17 April - Easter Dawn			
Ex 14: 10-31, 15: 20- 21	Ps 114	Rom 6: 3-11	Lk 24: 1-12
Sunday 17 April - Easter Day			
Acts 10: 34-43 or Is 65: 17-25	Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24	1 Cor 15: 19-26 or Acts 10: 34- 43	Jn 20: 1-18 or Lk 24: 1-12

Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

Physical gatherings may be subject to Covid alert level restrictions.

3 April ~ Sunday	DayDaylight saving ends – clocks go <i>back</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
10 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Palm Sunday
12 April ~ Tuesday	7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms Prose – a friendly writing group, via Zoom (see elsewhere in this issue of <i>Signal</i> for link)
13 April ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
14 April ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 April ~ Friday	Good Friday – public holiday 10 a.m. Service of readings, the Rev. Clare Lind
17 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Easter Sunday
18 April ~ Monday	Easter Monday – public holiday
20 April ~ Wednesday	Material due for May <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 April ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
24 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, <i>Psalms Spoken and Sung</i> , Judy Rodda and other Parish Councillors
25 April ~ Monday	ANZAC Day – public holiday
30 April ~ Saturday	9 a.m.-12 noon: Working bee in church grounds
1 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
5 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
11 May ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
12 May ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
19 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 May ~ Friday	Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
29 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver; Jane Bloore preaching

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Opportunities for Service 3 April - 22 May 2022

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

	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Sound and Data Projector	Music	Flowers	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
April									
3 April	Marion Weaver Jane Bloore	Michael Ovens Mark Ranby	Gregor Macaulay	—	Sanel Tomlinson	David Murray	Judy Rodda	Fiona Stirling	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton
10 April	Abby Smith Shona Somerville	Daniel Larsen Gregor Macaulay	—	—	—	Gaynor Haig	Judy Rodda	Fiona Stirling	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton
17 April	Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson	Marian Weaver Jane Bloore	Aileen Conboy	Andrew Smith	John Roxborough	Singers and Guitarists	Jenny and John Roxborough	Andrew Smith	Meegan Cloughley
24 Aprilh	Meegan and Pam Cloughley	Jenny Bunce Shona Somerville	Janre Anderson	Daniel Larsen	Abby Smith	Music Group	Jenny and John Roxborough	Andrew Smith	Meegan Cloughley
May									
1 May	Christine Cleugh Daniel Larsen	Mary and John Somerville	Shona Somerville	—	Sanel Tomlinson	David Murray	Winter Flowers	Allison and Will Mulder	Christine Cleugh
8 May	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	Rudie Tomlinson Daniel Larsen	Sanel Tomlinson	Benjamin Thew	Kieran Somerville	Gaynor Haig	—	Allison and Will Mulder	Christine Cleugh
15 May	Christine Cleugh Bronwen Strang	Shona and Philip Somerville	Andrew Smith	Joihn Roxborough	Daniel Larsen	Singers and Guitarists	—	Benjamin Thew	Shona and Philip Somerville
22 May	Marian Weaver Jane Bloore	Benjamin Thew Abby Smith	Abby Smith	Mark Ranby	Benjamin Thew	Music Group	—	Benjamin Thew	Shona and Philip Somerville

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.