

Opoho Signal

The newsletter of Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010



The Resurrection (1969)

by Hans Feibusch (1898-1998), Chichester Cathedral

April 2023

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

Editorial

Easter, though marked by the death of Jesus Christ, is also viewed by many as the beginning of a new era, as it was for Christianity. The Easter egg and Easter bunnies appear to be the main feature of Easter along with hot cross buns and two statutory holidays to mark Easter for a large part of our population. Both eggs and bunnies have the strong signal of new life and growth.

Our planet needs a new era where collectively humankind acknowledges the damage that is being done to it with plastics infiltrating soil, oceans, air, fresh water, and nearly every living thing. We also have mountains of solid waste to deal with, and the legacy of old landfills. Climate change is a whole other discussion.

When the Bible was written the human global population was so small that the environmental issues we face just didn't exist.

All Councils are charged with dealing with amongst many other things – solid waste, and waste water. This is a massive task for large and small Councils alike – larger Councils have the sheer volume of waste to cope with, that requires lots of forward planning and massive infrastructure.

Smaller Councils have the problem of having to supply waste water services to lots of small towns, where the cost of setting up each scheme for a small amount of waste compared with large Councils requires huge initial expense. Small Councils now typically collect solid waste at transfer stations for disposal at a regional landfill. South of the Waitaki we have large landfills at Green Island, Mt Cooee (Clutha), a landfill in the mountains near Queenstown, and one private landfill.

Councils are also dealing with the legacy of landfills (or as they used to be known “tips”) that were placed in what turn out to be not very good locations. Landfills close to eroding coasts now have to be moved, and we saw what happened on the West Coast when part of a landfill ended up in the sea.

One of Dunedin's earlier landfills is now Forrester Park – that for a while was leaking leachate into Lindsay Creek. An expensive remedy was put in place for that.

The Dunedin City Council has for decades had its landfill in the Kaikorai Estuary. A very complex project that includes massive pumped drains to keep

leachate out of the estuary. The landfill is almost full. Now they have selected a site south of Brighton for a new landfill that, not surprisingly, Brighton people don't want.

Every Council has a waste person who promotes minimising waste, recycling and composting, and this is to minimise the amount of solid waste that goes to landfill.

There is a conflict in trying to minimise landfill waste and the economic drive for growth, that includes making clothes, furniture, appliances, and technology items that are designed to have a short life, and not be repairable so that they are discarded and a new item bought. Advertising invites us to upgrade our carpet/kitchen/bathroom/furniture/appliances and wardrobe to the latest colour, fashion, and technology. The clothing industry in particular is responsible for a huge amount of fabric that contains synthetics going to landfill where it can take more than 100 years to break down.

There has been a swing to more sustainable appliances, and some countries are requiring them to be designed such that they can be repaired. This is a very positive move. Op shops are becoming increasingly popular for clothing and this is a very positive trend. Not so good for clothing retailers who have struggled in recent years. Trade Me and similar on-line sites keep a lot of goods in circulation that might otherwise go to landfill.

As for all huge environmental problems, we can feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of the issues. What we can do (cliché, cliché) is act locally and think globally.

Recycling is desirable but even more effective is not creating waste in the first place. Bin Inn is a place where you can take your own containers to purchase cleaners, oils, and dry foods. Supermarkets now have small bottles of concentrated cleaner refills. I am looking forward to the day when we can take our own containers to purchase perishable foods as well. Avoid buying vegetables and fruit wrapped in plastic. They usually have their own wrapper! Recycling is the next best thing to not generating waste, and apart from our kerbside recycling we can leave polystyrene at Mitre 10. It is turned into house insulation at a local plant. Tetrapacks and similar packages can be left in the box in the church hall foyer and they are sent to a plant that turns them into wall boards. Unfortunately, soft plastic recycling in Dunedin is on hold for now; soft plastics are being turned into fenceposts.

Think about refurbishing something instead of getting a new one; furniture can be reupholstered, wooden furniture can be sanded and repolished. This might be more expensive than buying new imported furniture but, once refurbished, might last a long time.

Organic waste can be composted, and if you don't have much outdoor space, an indoor Bokashi system will take care of kitchen scraps.

Flax and cabbage tree leaves that cannot be composted can be folded and pushed through a cardboard toilet roll inner, dried and used to light a wood burner. If you don't have a wood burner, give them to someone who does.

I suggest we have a waste minimisation/recycling heading in the *Signal*, so that if you have knowledge of something we can do to avoid waste or recycle something, that information can be shared.

Marian Weaver

[A **Waste Minimisation/Recycling** item can easily be added as a regular feature in the *Signal*. However, there needs to be information under the heading. Contributions please! Ed.]

Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 16 March.

Hamish Spencer reported that he had received an effusive message of thanks from the Rev. Dr Kerry Enright for the use of our facilities and the hospitality (especially the food) for the Southern Presbytery's Dunedin-North Otago Group's meeting in the hall on 14 March. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who helped with that function.

The Council noted with gratitude that Jenny Bunce had kindly volunteered to take over the compilation of our duty rosters from Andrea Johnston. Thank you to both Jenny for taking on the task and Andrea for her service in that role over several years.

The Council agreed that the policy of encouraging people to wear masks at church services should continue for the time being.

The matter of parish fairs was discussed and a notice about that appears elsewhere in this edition.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

Another enjoyable and hardworking meeting on 8 March with Sanel Tomlinson beaming in from Auckland – it felt like she was there with us until we headed off to inspect an external door and some electrics.



We plan to improve electrical switches in the Minister's office, to install a garden tap in the back garden (which will allow us to develop and care for plantings), and also to replace a rotten external door in the children's room.

We are also looking at getting quotes for maintenance painting. Thanks to eight hardy souls who came to our March working bee – we achieved a great deal despite the rain.



Please let us know if you have any ideas, health and safety or security concerns

Miriam Vollweiler (Committee convener)

Donations to Opoho 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 opohopcbusiness@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.L.Rodda@opohopcbusiness@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

Maps and Way Markers

The following, the first in a series of Lenten Stories, was presented at the service on 26 February.

Burns Reserve is an unknown wilderness, an 87-hectare native bush public reserve stretching across Signal Hill above Dunedin's West Harbour suburbs of Ravensbourne, Maia, Burkes and St Leonards. This is where retired University of Otago chemistry professor Jim McQuillan leads people on guided walks. I went with a group and explored the reserve without any problems. Jim mentioned to us that once we knew where to go, we could show other people the reserve.

So, over Waitangi Weekend, on a clear sunny day, I wanted to take a friend to show him the mature rimu, totara and miro trees that Burns Reserve offers and the magnificent views up and down the harbour when you get to your destination.

This time I was the leader, I was not following a professor who knows this area well. I knew where to go, or so I thought. Just follow the yellow way markers attached to the trees! How hard could that be?! After walking along a couple of private roads, the track starts by climbing over a couple of stiles. This was my first stumbling block. I slipped and got caught up in a barbed wire fence. A first aid kit? Well, that was back in the car, I wasn't going to turn back and get it. I was determined to carry on!

The track goes through long grass before descending into thick bush. No exotic foliage has been cut to make the track through the bush, it is a rough track with yellow way markers attached to trees to lead the way.



We were making good progress through the bush, until we came across this sign – which reads “Dangero

us tree, use bypass”. The sign is in front of a great big tree which is leaning over the track and could fall in a strong wind. The sign has an arrow pointing to the right. The words on the sign sound like they come from a board game – take a detour! The sign wasn't there when I went on the guided walk, so it threw me a bit.

We noticed yellow way markers going to the right of the tree, so we followed them until the way markers ran out. I found myself in an area that I wasn't familiar with, yet I was determined to keep going and find the lookout. After about two hours of walking in the wrong direction, we decided to backtrack and head back to the car.

We eventually found the track we were supposed to be on, but as it was late afternoon, the destination would have to wait until another day. We discovered that instead of walking around the dangerous tree, we took a detour around the whole forest! Even though we were frustrated by this, we were amazed at the flora that the forest had to offer.

Detours are anything but convenient. They take longer than you originally planned for. We get to experience more on the detours than we ever would have expected. God will take us on a detour because he is constructing something in our lives as well. God is more interested in our development than our arrival.

Benjamin Thew



Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose – Opoho Writers’ Group

Wednesday 17 May, 7 p.m.

Marine Science tea room,
first floor, **310 Castle Street.**

Directions:

310 Castle Street is a square brick building (the old nurses’ home) located almost on the corner of Frederick Street and the one-way south, between Cumberland and Hayward Colleges. You can park in the spots between Cumberland and Marine Science. There is an entry on the south side of the building, facing Cumberland’s front door. A large propellor is stuck to the wall next to it, so you can’t miss it!



I will meet you there at 7 and let you in. Margaret, Andrew and I often run a car-pool from the northern end.

The tea room has cups, plates, tea, coffee-like powder, milk, sugar, and hot water. Maybe bring a small plate of something to share.

You can reach me on 027 606 3552 if there is any problem or question.

Abby Smith

A Call for Volunteers



Following on from the Parish Council's retreat in February, the March meeting of the Council agreed that it would like to have something in the way of church fairs this year. The most recent full-scale fair, although highly successful, was both very crowded and very onerous for the organisers, who did a wonderful job. What is suggested for this year is that any fairs be scaled back to smaller, more specialised events.

Who in the congregation would like to take on the job of recruiting and coordinating a small team to organise a mini-fair with a specific theme or combination of themes? Possible themes might be books and toys; clothing; white elephant; cakes, sweets, jams and chutneys – but suggestions for new themes or different combinations would be welcomed. Anyone who would be able to be an organiser and/or has suggestions for the types of fair – or fairs – that we might have (and possible dates) is asked to contact Hamish Spencer (opohoclerk@gmail.com).

Fellowship Group

Margaret Dando from Age Concern joined us for the March meeting and discussed how we can prevent having falls in our home environment with safety ideas and tips for each room. Some spare resource material is in the Morrison Lounge. This was followed by a taster exercise session that will be part of the *Steady as You Go* strength and balance class that a number of our group began on 17 March. A current affairs discussion had us sharing our census experiences, our views on mayoral portraits, and language used by Invercargill Mayor Nobby Clark. As usual, an excellent afternoon tea and catch up of life and times of us all.

We continue to meet on the second Thursday on the month at 2 p.m. in the Morrison Lounge and all are welcome.

Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler

Harvest Thanksgiving and Presbyterian Support Food Bank



Thank you to everyone who contributed any of the 75 items for the Harvest Thanksgiving service on 26 February. They have been given to Presbyterian Support Otago along with \$25 for the fresh produce that was part of the display. And thank you to Benjamin Thew for organising the bales of pea straw and the arrangement of goods.



The need for donations for the PSO Food Bank is of course ongoing. 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. And non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

Lectionary for April and May

Sunday 2 April - 6th Sunday in Lent, Palm Sunday <i>or</i> Passion Sunday			
None <i>or</i> Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29 <i>or</i> Ps 31: 9-16	None <i>or</i> Phil 2: 5-11	<i>Palm</i> Mr 21: 1-11 <i>Passion</i> Mt 26: 14-27:66 <i>or</i> Mt 27: 11-54
Monday 3 April			
Is 42: 1-9	Ps 36: 5-11	Heb 9: 11-15	Jn 12: 1-11
Tuesday 4 April			
Is 49: 1-7	Ps 71: 1-14	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Jn 12: 20-36
Wednesday 5 April			
Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12: 1-3	Jn 13: 21-32
Thursday 6 April - Maundy Thursday			
Ex 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11: 23-26	Jn 13: 1-17, 31b-35
Friday 7 April - Good Friday			
Is 52: 13- 53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10: 16-25 <i>or</i> Heb 4: 14-16; 5:7- 9	Jn 18: 1-19:42
Saturday 8 April - Holy Saturday			
Job 14: 1-14 <i>or</i> Lam 3: 1-9, 19-24	Ps 31: 1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4: 1-8	Mt 27: 57-66 <i>or</i> Jn 19: 38-42
Sunday 9 April - Easter Dawn Sunday			
Ex 14: 10-31; 15:20-21	Ps 114	Rom 6: 3-11	Mt 28: 1-10
Sunday 9 April - Easter Day			
Acts 10: 34-43 <i>or</i> Jer 31: 1-6	Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24	Col 3: 1-4 <i>or</i> Acts 10: 34-43	Jn 20: 1-18 <i>or</i> Mt 28: 1-10
Sunday 16 April - 2nd Sunday of Easter			
Acts 2: 14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Peter 1: 3-9	Jn 20: 19-31

Sunday 23 April - 3rd Sunday of Easter			
Acts 2: 14a, 36-41	Ps 116: 1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1: 17-23	Lk 24: 13-35
Sunday 30 April - 4th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 2: 42-47	Ps 23	1 Peter 2: 19-25	Jn 10: 1-10
Sunday 7 May - 5th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 7: 55-60	Ps 31: 1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2: 2-10	Jn 14: 1-14
Sunday 14 May - 6th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 17: 22-31	Ps 66: 8-20	1 Peter 3: 13-22	Jn 14: 15-21
Thursday 18 May - Ascension			
Acts 1: 1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1: 15-23	Lk 24: 44-53
Sunday 21 May - 7th Sunday of Easter			
Acts 1: 6-14	Ps 68: 1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11	Jn 17: 1-11
The Season of Pentecost			
Sunday 28 May - Pentecost			
Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11: 24-30	Ps 104: 24-34, 35b	1 Cor 12: 3b-13 <i>or</i> Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 20: 19-23 <i>or</i> Jn 7: 37-39

Abby's Jam Palace



The Jam Palace will be open for business after church on 30 April and 28 May.

Abby Smith abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com 027 606 3552

Operation Cover Up

Thanks to those who keep knitting squares and donating wool. So far seven blankets have been completed since July which is great. Please keep knitting those squares. Donations of wool gratefully accepted too. Contact me if you have any questions at 027 473 6026 or

weavermariane@gamil.com



Marian Weaver

Interfaith Matters



can come from any angle you like – about God.

In April the Dunedin Interfaith meeting is to take place in the Morrison Lounge on the Sunday after Easter (16 April) from 2.30 until 4 p.m., followed by a shared afternoon tea finishing around 4.30 p.m. Anyone and everyone is welcome.

The spiritual theme is perhaps bigger and more full-on than usual – God. Yes, simply God. You don't need to contribute here, but if you do wish to, keep it reasonably short and you

Interesting to meet a group you may not come in contact with in your everyday lives. I would very much enjoy a few of us being there.

Bronwen Strang

Art-Based Contemplation Series

You are invited to join a group who will explore and contemplate four pieces of art from our local Dunedin Public Art Gallery. Focusing on our own personal responses to the work you need not have any previous experience or knowledge of art. All are welcome!



This series will run after church on consecutive Sundays from 23 April to 21 May. The final session will involve a visit to the Dunedin Public Art Gallery to view the pieces in situ.

There will be space following the service to grab a bite to eat and something to drink, however, we will look to get under way as close to 11.15 as possible!

Mark Ranby

The image above is of *Head and Shoulders of a Bearded Saint* (circa 1380) by Antonio Veneziano (Italian, active 1369-1419), tempera and gold on wood

Keeping in Touch at Opoho Church

Opoho Church has a website, 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

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 the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* – Thursday 20 April

Gregor Macaulay is away until late May,
so please send all material for the next *Opoho Signal* to
Julie Mander at juliemander@outlook.com

Coming Events at Opoho Presbyterian Church

2 April ~ Sunday	Daylight saving ends – clocks go <i>back</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion – Palm Sunday
7 April ~ Friday	Good Friday – public holiday
9 April ~ Easter Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
10 April ~ Monday	Easter Monday – public holiday
12 April ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
13 April ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
16 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind 2.30 p.m.: Dunedin Interfaith Council, Morrison Lounge
20 April ~ Thursday	Material due for May <i>Opoho Signal</i> 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
23 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson 11.15 a.m.: Art-Based Contemplation Series
25 April ~ Tuesday	ANZAC Day – public holiday
30 April ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Jane Bloore After church: Abby's Jam Palace 11.15 a.m.: Art-Based Contemplation Series
6 May ~ Saturday	Coronation of King Charles III
7 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion 11.15 a.m.: Art-Based Contemplation Series
10 May ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 May ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
14 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Russell Thew 11.15 a.m.: Art-Based Contemplation Series
17 May ~ Wednesday	7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms and Prose – a friendly writing group, 310 Castle Street
18 May ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 May ~ Saturday	Material due for June <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind 11.15 a.m.: Art-Based Contemplation Series
28 May ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind After church: Abby's Jam Palace