

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (<https://ebird.org/species/shtsan>)

September 2023

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

Editorial

As many of you will know, I am a keen birdwatcher. There are several reasons: it is a great excuse to enjoy the great outdoors; birds are beautiful; interacting with other birdwatchers is fun, and, on occasion, you get to go to new and exciting places. But one fabulous and essential aspect that I sometimes fail to recognise is that birdwatching is unpredictable. You can never be sure what you are going to see. And, so what you see really matters.

OK, if you go to the coast anywhere in Aotearoa New Zealand, you can be pretty certain of finding a Tarāpunga/Red-billed Gull (although their numbers are declining). They may be common (still), but the sight of the deep red bill contrasting with the white head feathers never fails to give me a thrill.

You can be less sure that a trip to Aramoana, say, will provide Kuaka/Bar-tailed Godwit, although there is usually a small flock there, even in winter (when most of them are breeding in Siberia and Alaska). As for Pohowera/Banded Dotterel, they are probably present, but may take a bit of searching.

A treat like a Kohutapu/Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (see front cover), however, requires good luck and a good eye. Abby and I saw one last year, which was there for several weeks, but it was not immediately obvious: we needed to search diligently.

In some ways, birdwatching is a little like the joys of Ōpoho Church. You can never be quite sure what you are going to find, but it is always rewarding. It may be the reassurance of something standard, like a gull. That would be like the friendly welcome that greets you when you walk in on a Sunday. It is always there, but it always lifts you. Its everyday (or everyweek) nature doesn't make it any less wonderful.

Other things are like the godwits, usually there, but not quite so obvious. Maybe the beauty of the music we hear each Sunday is in that category. You have to wait for it, but it is probably there. And, sometimes, like the godwits, it may be a little distant, only present for a fleeting moment.

The equivalent of the dotterels is, perhaps, a resonating message in a sermon, a prayer or a hymn. You have to look; it requires some effort, but it is worth it. Its value comes, in part, from that effort, the listening, the wondering, and, of course, the “aha!” moment. Paradoxically, if it were too straightforward to see, it wouldn't be as special.

But perhaps my favourite things about Ōpoho are the completely unexpected: the throw-away line that someone drops at morning tea, the unconscious loving gesture that you observe between a married couple, the unprovoked smile that lights up a child's face. You never knew these moments were coming and they may never come again. But like the sharp-tailed sandpiper in its unpredictability, you remember them for ages.

Hamish Spencer

Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 17 August.

The Council was joined by Sanel Tomlinson for discussion about the budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting on 15 October and about ways in which more informative descriptions and statistics about parish activities could be included in the Statement of Performance included in the financial reports in the Annual Report.

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday and many of our usual musicians will be unavailable over the Christmas period. It has been decided that on 24 December there will not be a morning service and the only service on that day will be the 11.30 p.m. candlelight service. There will be a brief Christmas morning service at 10 a.m. on Monday 25 December. There will be Community Carol Singing on the afternoon of Sunday 17 December, effectively replacing the Community Advent Services of past years.

The Council noted expert advice on Covid risks and precautions and agreed that it was no longer necessary actively to encourage people to wear masks at church, although anyone who wishes or needs to wear a mask for any reason will of course be welcome to do so. We will also revert to using all the pews in church rather than alternate rows.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Wanted: a cleaner for vacuuming, and to clean the kitchen, bathroom and toilet. Once a fortnight at 127 Signal Hill Road: Gizella 473 8423, or maurice.e.andrew@gmail.com.

Property and Finance Committee Update

A highlight of our meeting on 9 August was being able to connect to the internet in the Morrison Lounge, to have Sanel beaming in from Wellington, and to work on the TV screen direct entering figures into our draft budget. Thank you to John for the work he has done investigating wifi and to Judy and Sanel for gathering and presenting budget figures in a way that helped us to have a robust and practical discussion re budget plans. We look forward to presenting this plan to Parish Council and to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.



Sanel and John



Clare, John, and Michael – with Sanel on the screen

We are waiting for the builder to begin repairing the back door in the children's room. Thank you to Benjamin and Bronwen who planted bulbs in the front garden behind the noticeboard. Our noticeboard is being used for both church and community notices. We have the Steady as You Go class using the hall on Tuesdays, a weaving group using the lounge every Wednesday, and a yoga class beginning on Monday morning at the end of August.

Please let us know if you have any ideas, issues or health/safety/security concerns- talk to anyone on our committee: Miriam, John, Michael, Sanel, Benjamin

And here (right) is a photo of our upcycled outdoor table donation from Anna Parker who posted this on the Opoho Facebook page. Ready for summer outdoor coffees.

Miriam Vollweiler
(Committee convener)



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

Donations to Ōpoho 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 opoho_pcbusiness@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

Operation Cover Up

This initiative is run by Mission Without Borders and we are part of a New Zealand-wide programme to provide woollen blankets and clothing to cold parts of the world where such goods are not so available.



For the 2022-23 year, we from OPC handed in our 11 large blankets two cot blankets, and two hats. These were combined with other contributors from Dunedin to make the following total for the past year:

large blankets	84	scarves	36
cot blankets	54	slippers/socks	111
hats	390	jerseys	218

The knitters included people from the Fellowship Group, Somerset retirement village, and several others who are not members of the church.

I am pleased that people continue to knit for the 2023-24 year, and there is some wool in the bag in the church that folk can take for more squares. Wool only please (no acrylic). Any queries please contact me at 027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com

Marian Weaver

An Opoho After Church Discussion Short Series



JOURNEY TO NEW EDINBURGH

Toitū has put out a series of eight short films about the establishment and early years of the Otago Settlement. They are narrated by the curator of the museum, Sean Brosnahan. Andrew can enlighten you on the PCANZ Archives contribution to them, and the voice of Peter Mathieson can be heard reading from some of the primary documents. All of the films can be accessed from the Toitū website.

We are planning to show the first two of the films after morning tea on a Sunday morning, and to have a discussion around them. John Stenhouse has kindly agreed to be around, so we will have someone with a good knowledge of the subject material.

Journey to New Edinburgh

27 August	1. Genesis
3 September	2. An Ideal Settlement

The second film is longer than the first, so we might share a wee bit of broth and a bap together after that one.

Further information? Ask Clare. opohominister@gmail.com

Fellowship Group

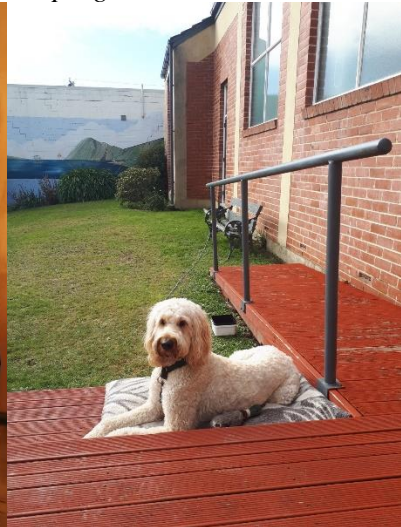
Our Soup Kitchen meeting on 10 August at 1 p.m. was perfectly timed for a classic winter day gathering. We dined on pumpkin, leek and potato, chicken and corn, and vegetable soup while sharing and swapping recipes. We celebrated Pam Cloughley's forthcoming birthday along with admiring Tinks the dog looking longingly at us all through the deck doors. This has to be an annual Fellowship event.



Soup Kitchen in progress



Pam Cloughley



Tinks



Jenny and John Roxborough tucking in

Fellowship meets again at 2 p.m. on Thursday 14 September.

Miriam Vollweiler and Chris Young

Easy Roast Pumpkin Soup

adapted from a Chelsea Winter recipe in her book *Eat*.

This rich creamy soup was a favourite with the Fellowship Group.

- Turn on oven to 180 degrees.
- Cut a large pumpkin in half and scoop out the seed flesh – on the rounded base cut a bit off so it sits flat on roasting tray.
- Place flesh side up on tray and
 - put 25 grams of butter in each half
 - put 3 chopped garlic in each half
 - season well with salt and pepper
 - cover pumpkin with tin foil
- Cut onion in half and drizzle with oil. Wrap in foil.
- Cook pumpkin and onions on baking tray for 1 hour or until pumpkin soft and tender.
- When cooked, tip melted butter and garlic plus onion into big soup pot.
- Scrape pumpkin flesh out into soup pot.
- Add 4 cups of vegetable stock.
- Cook for 20 minutes and use stick blender to mix.
- Add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cream and squeeze of lemon juice.
- Season with salt and pepper as required.



I reckon the secret was to let the soup cool and leave for eating until the next day and the flavours were enhanced. Makes a huge pot of soup. Freezes well.

Miriam Vollweiler

Interfaith Matters



The Dunedin Abrahamic Interfaith Group's Annual Lecture is on Thursday 21 September at 6.45 p.m. The speaker is Dr Jenny Te Paa-Daniel (Te Mareikura, National Centre Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago, teacher and writer on race politics, public theology, social justice, Co-Chairperson. Christian). The annual lecture is always a rich experience and very worthwhile attending – but at the time of writing

this I am sorry I don't know where this will happen. I will inform you later.

Bronwen Strang

Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose – Ōpoho Writers' Group

Thursday 14 September, 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

At the shared lunch after church on 20 August



Christmas Craft Fair at Opoho, 2-3 December

It may seem like Christmas is in the far distance, but actually there are only 120 days! Or thereabouts.

We plan a Christmas Craft Fair for early December, with handmade, homemade, special crafts and art.

If you or someone you know would like to sell their art/craft with us, please get in touch with Abby Smith abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com or 027-606-3552.

We will be in touch later on to ask for help with other bits and pieces (wrapping, cups of tea, background music).

Abby Smith

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Strength and Balance Class

Tuesdays at 1.30 pm, Opoho Church hall

Join us to improve your strength and balance. Falls are not a natural part of ageing. Falls ARE preventable! Steady As You Go© has been shown to provide continuous improvements in strength, balance, mobility, flexibility, and coordination.

When: Tuesdays @ 1:30 PM

Where: Opoho Presbyterian Church, Signal Hill Road

Cost: \$3 per class (*you are welcome to just turn up!*)

Want more information: text Chris on 027 3900257

Lectionary for September and October

Season of Creation 1 September-1 October			
Sunday 3 September – 14th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 3: 1-15	Ps 105; 1-6, 23-26, 45b	Rom 12: 9-21	Mt 16: 21-28
Sunday 10 September – 15th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 12: 1-14	Ps 149	Rom 13: 8-14	Mt 18: 15-20
Sunday 17 September – 16th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 14: 19-31	Ps 114 <i>or</i> Ex 15: 1b-11, 20- 21	Rom 14: 1-12	Mt 18: 21-35
Sunday 24 September – 17th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 16: 2-15	Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45	Phil* 1: 21-30	Mt 20: 1-16
Sunday 1 October – 18th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16	Phil 2: 1-13	Mt 21: 23-32
Sunday 8 October – 19th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 20: 1-4, 7- 9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3: 4b-14	Mt 21: 33-46
Sunday 15 October – 20th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 32: 1-14	Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23	Phil 4: 1-9	Mt 22: 1-14
Sunday 22 October – 21st Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 33: 12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1: 1-10	Mt 22: 15-22
Sunday 29 October – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost			
Deut 34: 1-12	Ps 90: 1-6, 13-17	1 Thes 2: 1-8	Mt 22: 34-46

Presbyterian Support Food Bank



Winter can be a tough time for some, with additional heating costs on top of normal household expenditure. 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.

Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

3 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion After church: <i>Journey to New Edinburgh</i> – see separate article
10 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
13 September ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
14 September ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge 7 p.m.: Writing Group, Marine Science tea room, first floor, 310 Castle Street
17 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Dr Kerry Enright
20 September ~ Wednesday	Material due for October <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 September ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
24 September ~ Sunday	Daylight saving begins – clocks go <i>forward</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
1 October ~ Sunday	8.30-9.30 a.m.: Pastoral Visitors' breakfast, Morrison Lounge 10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, World Communion Sunday
8 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby
11 October ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
12 October ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
19 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 October ~ Friday	Material due for November <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
23 October ~ Monday	Labour Day – public holiday
29 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Wednesday 20 September

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