

# Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



**July 2025**

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

# Editorial

## Hope in Troublesome Times

*Troublesome times are here, filling men's hearts with fear*, is the opening line of a well-known hymn, often associated with the Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) hymnal, and titled “Jesus is Coming Soon”. It’s a song that speaks of the end times, the second coming of Christ, and the hope of eternal life.

*Hope in troublesome times* ... how do we sustain hope when circumstances can sometimes overwhelm us, crushing initiative, and often lead to a sense of despair?

It can be difficult, but Christians believe that hope is not merely wishful thinking, but a confident expectation and assurance based on God’s faithfulness and promises. It’s a steadfast trust in God’s character and His ultimate plan for believers, even amidst trials and suffering. Biblical hope is rooted in faith in Jesus Christ and the promise of eternal life, offering comfort, strength, and motivation to live a godly life.

The writer of the Book of Psalms sums up his reason for hope in Psalm 56:9–11: “This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, ... in God I trust; I am not afraid.” The person who believes and trusts in God has far less fear because he or she senses God’s presence, care, and protection. In the Scriptures, hope is visualised as an anchor. By hope we are anchored to Christ, so we don’t go adrift. He comes to us spiritually to be our anchor amid the storms of life.

Hope as an anchor. It’s a compelling image, and one that Kiwis, living as we do on an island nation, can readily appreciate.

Another striking image for hope may be found in the poem *Hope is the thing with feathers* a poem by the American author Emily Dickinson. I have only recently discovered her work and can see why this particular poem has garnered much praise. Dickinson uses the metaphor of a bird, a small, resilient creature, to represent hope. The bird “perches in the soul”, sings “without words”, and “never stops at all”, even “sweetest in the gale”. The poem suggests that hope is an enduring force that can withstand the storms of life.



## Hope is the thing with feathers

Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.



The phrase “perches in the soul” emphasises for me that hope is a deeply personal and intrinsic part of a person’s being. It is not something that is external or fleeting, but rather a fundamental aspect of our inner life.

Dickinson’s poem is a powerful meditation on the nature of hope. It suggests that hope is a persistent and resilient force that can carry us through even the most difficult times, reminding us that we are never truly alone.

## Romans 15:13

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

***Jane Bloore***

## Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 26 June. Many of the matters discussed are dealt with in other reports and notices in this issue, but the Council also confirmed the appointment of Kirk Hamilton as convener of the Pastoral Care and Community Committee (succeeding long-serving convener Philip Somerville) and gave approval to making an application to the City Council’s Heritage Fund towards the cost of replacing the roof of the church and hall.

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

## **Property and Finance Committee Update**

### *Pre meeting briefing*

Our June Meeting was notable in that everyone apart, from Miriam, was breath tested en route to the meeting. All passed with a clean slate and the irony is that Miriam, the convener, had enjoyed 2½ glasses of a very nice pinot gris and walked to the meeting.

### *The Meeting*

We are battling our way through insurance, earthquake DCC further assessment requirements, and accessing specialist assistance for the roofing project. This is taking up a lot of our time. The electrical project improvements are under way and this work has identified other areas that need further investigation, prioritisation, and costing. We hope you have noticed the improved lighting in the kitchen, Morrison Lounge, and hall and church entrance.

### *Hall Bookings*

We have line dancing and a ukelele group as new regular bookings

### *General*

Please let us know if you have bright ideas or any safety/ incidents and security issues. We welcome your input. **Miriam Vollweiler** (Committee convener)

## **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, Ōpoho 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](mailto:opoho_pcbusiness@gmail.com)

As well as regular outings 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***

## **Finding New Favourites: a hymn-book sing-along**

Opoho Presbyterian Church owns numerous hymn-books full of good music that we just don't know and we never sing. To find new favourites, we are singing our way through the Aotearoa New Zealand hymnbook *Hope Is Our Song* in a series of evening singalongs this winter.

### **SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU**

Singing releases good brain chemicals: dopamine, serotonin, and endorphins, that make you feel happy and release anxiety – it can even reduce chronic pain. Singing is an aerobic activity that leads to improved circulation and lung function.

Singing also helps to improve mental alertness and memory.

Singing together builds community and helps you to make friends.

Singing is a great way to express yourself and grow in confidence.

### **SINGING IS FOR EVERYONE**

Everybody has a voice, and everybody can sing!

You don't have to be trained or musical or able to read music in order to enjoy singing together.

All ages and all voices, church members and non-church people are all very welcome

### **SINGING TOGETHER IS EASY**

Church music is designed to be easy to sing

Most hymns have several verses so you can learn the music and then sing along

We will have some experienced singers among the crowd, to help keep us on track

We will provide the hymnbooks you need; we'll even feed you!

### **WE WILL MEET TO SING ON SUNDAY EVENINGS THIS WINTER**

We met on four Sunday nights in June and continue on 6 and 13 July.

Opoho Presbyterian Church, Signal Hill Road (the heaters will be on)

- Gather at 6pm to start singing at 6.15
- Break for soup and bread together at 7
- Sing some more from 7.45 to 8.15
- Discuss our favourites from this session
- Finish about 8:30

PIANIST: David Murray

LEADER: Abby Smith

CONTACT with questions:

Abby at 027-606-3552



## **Come Join Us Singing in Winter's Dark!**

Entry is free, though we will be pleased to accept a koha (donation) in support of the programme.

# My Cup

I over-filled it, not paying attention, thoughts elsewhere  
I am carefully carrying it, but a little tea slops onto the carpet  
And I'm about to grumble, curse myself, curse the world, but...

The sunlight is making my roses glow and  
A soft breeze is fluttering by and  
The riroriro in the flax sings and sings and sings.

As I put the cup down I spill a bit on the tablecloth  
The special cloth, the one my mother loved, it was once white and now it's stained  
And I start to almost cry, rushing to mop it up, but...

The smell of fresh bread is all through the house and  
A single quince perfumes the kitchen and  
The tea is warm and fragrant and perfect and perfect and perfect.

I must get some of this inside me, spread the jam, sip some hot tea, slice an apple  
A lively child races by, he jogs my elbow, tea goes everywhere  
And I'm about to tell him exactly what I think of him, but...

He's so like his Dad, and like me, and like our parents and  
He seems perfect to me, though a normal child, imperfect and  
Miraculous, once tiny inside me, now running and laughing and bouncing.

There's tea on the carpet and tea on the tablecloth, all down my jersey  
Mess and stain, possibly permanent, signs of a messy life  
And I feel sad and angry because nothing ever lasts, but...

I live in a glorious complex ecosystem of colour and light and  
I have tea and bread and shelter and everything I need and  
I am blessed with family and friends, goodness and mercy,

over and over and over.

Indeed, indeed,  
My cup overflows.

**Abby Smith**  
13 May 2025

*This poem emerged from  
the Lectio session on Psalm 23.*



## Jenny Roxborough

The 2 May issue of *Woman's Weekly* included a touching tribute to his mother by Jenny and John Roxborough's son Tim, probably known to some readers as a Newstalk ZB presenter. He told of family life in New Zealand, Scotland, and Malaysia and wrote warmly of his mother's passions, skills, and adventures and her impact on his life. As Tim says, "So much of what matters most in life are the people we share it with and the memories we make."



Jenny with Tim on his wedding day.

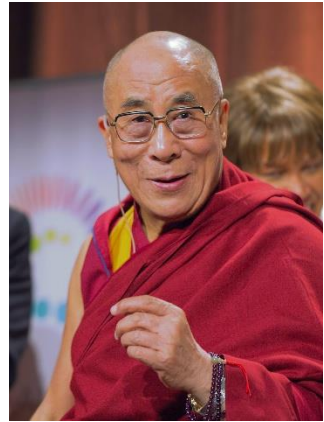


Jenny with Riley (Tim's daughter) in Dunedin



## **Interfaith – Celebrating His Holiness The Dalai Lama’s 90th Birthday**

The June Interfaith meeting was held on the afternoon of Sunday 15 June at the St Kilda Tongan Methodist Church. The discussion topic was Wisdom. In light of the events in early July to celebrate His Holiness The Dalai Lama’s 90th birthday, I shared with the Interfaith group wisdom quotes from His Holiness. He has written a book called *The Little Book of Wisdom*.



*“It is worth remembering that the time of greatest gain in terms of wisdom and strength is often that of greatest difficulty.”*

*“Wisdom and inner peace must be created by yourself.”*

The Director of the Dhargyey Buddhist Centre, Peter Small, says the Centre is offering the Dunedin public the chance to see and hear about various aspects of The Dalai Lama’s life. This is in response to the wishes of the local Tibetan community as well as an international effort to recognise and celebrate the life of His Holiness.

Dhargyey Buddhist Centre owes its existence here to His Holiness. He has given support and guidance to the Centre. The Centre has been instrumental in all his visits to Aotearoa and especially central to his reasons for visiting Ōtepōti, Dunedin three times – in 1992, 1996, and 2011.

**The public celebration will be in the Dunedin City Council Community Gallery, 20 Princes Street, from Saturday 5 July to Wednesday 9 July, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Dhargyey Buddhist Centre monks will construct a sand mandala in the gallery over those five days.

The exhibition will focus on the life of His Holiness and his main areas of interest. His Holiness assumed the temporal and spiritual leadership of Tibet at the tender age of 16. At the age of 25, His Holiness was forced to go into exile in India. Since then, until the devolution of his political authority to a democratically elected leadership in 2011, His Holiness has worked tirelessly to strengthen the Central Tibetan Administration which he established in exile to



advance the just cause of Tibet. At the same time, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has devoted his entire lifetime to promote universal peace and religious harmony as encapsulated in his four principal commitments which are:

1. Promotion of universal and basic compassionate values to create a happier and more peaceful world based on the understanding that all of us are one and the same human beings.
2. Promotion of harmony among the world's diverse religious traditions by emphasising the basic tenets of love, compassion, tolerance, and contentment present in all religious traditions.
3. Preserving the rich spiritual and cultural traditions of Tibet which has its roots in the Nalanda tradition of India and conserving the fragile ecology of the Tibetan plateau that has a direct impact on the ecology of not just Asia but the entire world.
4. Reviving the wisdom and knowledge of ancient India such as the workings of the mind and emotions, and the practice of non-violence and compassion along with the development of modern education among the Indian youth.

During the exhibition, at 12 noon, there will be a variety of speakers. On the Monday and Tuesday there will be a talk from the lamas and monks from the Buddhist Centre, and on the Wednesday there will be a talk from people representing the Interfaith group.

All are welcome to attend the exhibition to honour His Holiness.

*Benjamin Thew*

## **Winter Rosters**

It's heartwarming to see how so many Opoho people continue to faithfully fulfil their turns on chosen rosters, even in the depths of winter. And also to find out how helpful others are when you need to make changes after the rosters are published.

But winter is also a time when some people escape to warmer climes, and others experience a change in their personal circumstances. So those who are on rosters under pressure (particularly door duty and morning tea) may notice turns coming round a little more frequently.

Rosters are coming up for review later in the year, but remember that moving off a roster, or trying out a new one, can be done at any time prior to publication.

*Jenny Bunce*

## Fellowship Group Soup Kitchen – Thursday 12 June

With the miserable wet weather, our Winter Soup Kitchen was just what was required. We had over 40 people from the community attend and the vibe was warm and welcoming. Our soup menu of lentil and ham, minestrone, leek and potato, vegetable, pumpkin, and orange and carrot inspired some excellent haiku. Our sourdough bread makers excelled themselves and we followed up with a range of fruit crumbles. Home deliveries were greatly appreciated.

*Miriam, Chris, and the event crew*









## Soup Kitchen Haiku

### *Community Soup*

Community soup.  
Warm food and warm company  
Feeds body and soul.

*Bridget*

### *The Menu*

In the pouring rain  
Pumpkin, carrot and orange,  
Coffee /tea and mint.

*Theo*

### *Red Lentils and Ham*

Red lentils and ham  
Makes a delicious combo.  
Eaten with gusto.

*Jo, Marion & Sue*

### *Golden Warmth*

Golden warmth in a bowl,  
Carrot meets sweet orange kiss -  
Winter sun in spoon.

*Anon.*

### *Leek and Potato*

Some fell  
for the minestrone.  
My love was the leek and potato.

*Clare*



## Scottish Country Dancing at Opoho



An informal evening of  
Scottish country dancing led by members  
of the Ceilidh Scottish Country Dance Club  
will be held in the hall on

**Friday 15 August beginning at 7 p.m.**

Wear comfortable casual clothes  
(tartan encouraged!) and soft shoes.

You can come alone –  
you don't need to bring a partner.

Non-dancing spectators also welcome.

Admission by foodbank donation  
and/or gold coin.

Tea/coffee and biscuits provided –  
or bring a small plate.

## Keeping in Touch at Ōpoho Church

Opoho Church has a website, [www.opohochurch.org](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/OpohoChurch)

This newsletter is emailed to all who have requested to receive it this way. If you wish to be added to (or deleted from) the email list, or **if you receive an emailed copy and don't need a physical copy as well**, please send an email to the editor, Gregor Macaulay, at [gregor.macaulay@outlook.com](mailto:gregor.macaulay@outlook.com)

## Presbyterian Support Foodbank

You can bring goods (nothing frozen or perishable) to church on any Sunday or you can make a cash donation for the Foodbank via their website [www.psotago.org.nz](http://www.psotago.org.nz)  
Non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.



## Operation Coverup

Warm thanks to all who made squares and garments for the 2024-2025 year. Opoho Church gave 10 blankets and some garments to the Otago-Southland Coordinator on 15 June, for which there was a lot of thanks. The woollen goods are packed into wool bales by farmers and then sent to Auckland where all the woollen goods from throughout New Zealand are put into two containers and shipped to Eastern Europe.



**Blankets in the church,  
15 June**

It costs around \$16,000 per container, so if you are able to make a donation to the shipping cost then the South Island Account is 06 0185 012206 05, or go to [www.mwb.org.nz/donate](http://www.mwb.org.nz/donate). It is a registered New Zealand charity so a receipt can be obtained by emailing [nzadmin@mwb.org](mailto:nzadmin@mwb.org).

### **Some notes for ongoing blanket making:**

Please use wool and garter stitch (these are warmest). Darker colours are best for the homeless. Garments (jumpers, hats, scarves, gloves) for children 4-15. Baby clothes are not required.



**Child in Romania with a donated blanket (source MWB website)**



## Mission Without Borders (MWB)

The project is run by a charity called Mission Without Borders, an international Christian organisation that was set up in the 1960s with an initial aim of smuggling bibles into European Communist countries. Once the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, the plight of the people in countries that had separated from the USSR became evident and the work then became helping people living in poverty or in orphanages and the homeless, in Moldova, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania, Romania, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Other programmes to provide food and education and sponsorship for families and children are also provided. MWB uses church and community groups in those countries to reach people in need, and they work to strengthen churches and distribute Bibles and Christian literature.



*Marian Weaver* [weavermariane@gmail.com](mailto:weavermariane@gmail.com) 027 473 6026



## Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry

The Fundraising and Partnership Manager for Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa (formerly the Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy) has written asking if our church would like to become involved with their work “whether through prayer, financial support, or simply raising awareness within your congregation”. Although the Parish Council has decided against making contributions towards their work from parish funds, individual members of the congregation might wish to consider supporting this work either financially or in other ways. For more information, go to [www.hospitalchaplaincy.org.nz/an-invitation-for-churches](http://www.hospitalchaplaincy.org.nz/an-invitation-for-churches)



### Lectionary for July and August 2025

<b>Sunday 6 July – 4th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
2 Kgs 5: 1-14	Ps 30	Gal 6: (1-6), 7-16	Lk 10: 1-11, 16-20
<b>Sunday 13 July – 5th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Amos 7: 7-17	Ps 82	Col 1: 1-14	Lk 10: 25-37
<b>Sunday 20 July – 6th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Amos 8: 1-12	Ps 52	Col 1: 15-28	Lk 10: 38-42
<b>Sunday 27 July – 7th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Hos 1: 2-10	Ps 85	Col 2:6-15, (16-19)	Lk 11: 1-13
<b>Sunday 3 August – 8th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Hos 11: 1-11	Ps 107: 1-9, 43	Col 3: 1-11	Lk 12: 13-21
<b>Sunday 10 August – 9th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Is 1: 1, 10-20	Ps 33: 12-22	Heb 11: 1-3, 8-16	Lk 12: 32-40
<b>Sunday 17 August – 10th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Is 5: 1-11	Ps 82	Heb 11: 29-12: 2	Lk 12: 49-56
<b>Sunday 24 August – 11th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Jer 1: 4-10	Ps 103: 1-8	Heb 12: 18-29	Lk 13: 10-17
<b>Sunday 31 August – 12th Sunday after Pentecost</b>			
Jer 2: 4-13	Ps 112	Heb 13:1-8, 15-16	Lk 14:1, 7-14



## Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church July and August 2025

6 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
9 July ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
10 July ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Jay Robinson 6-8.30 p.m.: <i>Finding New Favourites</i> , a hymnbook sing-along, in church
20 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind Material due for August <i>Opoho Signal</i>
24 July ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
27 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
3 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
5 August ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
10 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson
13 August ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
14 August ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 August ~ Friday	7 p.m.: informal Scottish country dancing in hall
17 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 August ~ Wednesday	Material due for September <i>Opoho Signal</i>
24 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
28 August ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
31 August ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson

### Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Sunday 20 July

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