

Opoho Signal

June 2022

via email

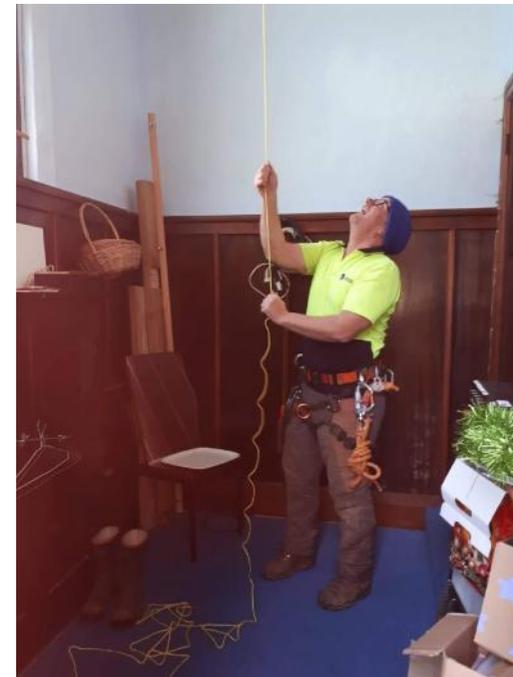
poho Signal

Newsletter of the poho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, poho , Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



Brett Ransom ringing the church bell after he had fixed the bell rope.

June 2022

Minister: The Rev. Clare Lind

cell phone 021 0276 1962

email: opohominister@gmail.com

Parish Clerk: Hamish Spencer

cell phone: 021 279 7986

email: opohoclerk@gmail.com

Editorial

It was on Sunday 12 June 2006 that I finally gave in and got baptised.

Quite a lot of church-folk were baptised when they were so young they didn't know what was going on. We didn't do that in the church where I grew up. There were times, as I grew, when I was able to share my thoughts about faith, or celebrate a milestone, but we did not have a moment of commitment, a sacrament like baptism. I think the closest we got was when I signed the membership book, aged 16.

Characteristically, I was already chairing a church committee.

When Hamish and I moved south and chose poho to be our church community, I was quite resistant to being more than a friend of the church. It wasn't that I didn't want to help out – I was quite happy to run the fair or lead the choir.

It was baptism that scared me. I thought of baptism in the same

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context as evangelism, extremism, intolerance, exclusion. I wanted nothing to do with that part of church. The PCANZ furore over ordaining gay ministers was occurring at this time, and I was angry about how it was turning out. This was not the kind of Christian I wanted to be.

Gradually I came to find myself at home in the congregation at poho and, finally, after a mere fourteen years of dithering, and quite a lot of long conversations with the minister, I agreed that I wanted to be baptised. I decided to accept the call to a new way of life, to acknowledge God's grace in my life, to commit myself, in front of and accompanied by my church family. I wanted to join the loving and good people here at poho in their journeys.

It's been sixteen years since then, years of prayer and singing, Sunday school and youth, blankets and jam, fairs and festivals. Years in which we lost some of our church family, even as we gained others. Years and years of coming, almost every week, to be with you. To wrestle with the big questions, to find hope in an increasingly hopeless world, to find ways to make a difference, and to just be together: kind and loving and warm. This is, in fact, the kind of Christian I want to be.

Amen.

Abby Smith



Sixteen years ago... Abby with her family.



Parish Council and Church News

Parish Council met in person this month.

It was reported that the Parish Statistics for 2021 have been submitted.

Haiku continue to come in, and photos to accompany them to go on display. Remember haiku are 17 syllables long in three lines of 5-7-5. More haiku are welcome.

Our Finance and Property Committee continue to do a great job. Our treasurer reported that our finances are doing okay. The church bell has been restored, and a key to the door beneath the church has turned up after being lost for some years. We can be happy.

It is nearly winter, and on Sunday 19 June we will be dedicating the Operation Cover Up blankets to go to Ukraine.

Parish Council gives thanks for the years of music in worship that Gaynor Haig has given us, as she withdraws from playing regularly.

Two decisions have been sent down to presbyteries and parishes to consider after the 2022 Special Assembly, under the Special Legislation Procedure. One made it clear that when a Presbytery consults with a parish that is being dissolved, that the congregation's views on property would be heard as part of that consultation. The second simplified and updated the circumstances that would trigger a Presbytery Commission to a parish. Parish Council has approved both decisions.

We have had another case where a person may have been infectious with Covid while at church on a Sunday, so we will stick to our Covid policy for another month: No morning teas; wear your mask; and respect physical distancing. Please monitor yourselves for symptoms.

Parish Council will meet again on 16 June 2022. Two of our parish councillors will be away. Judy Rodda is travelling to see her parents in America; and Philip and Shona Somerville will be in Palmerston North. We wish them safe travels and family time.

Andrew Smith on behalf of the Parish Council



Church Bell Repair

For some time now, our church bell has hung silently. The bell rope had broken and its repair was beyond the reach of someone on a ladder. It was, however, not beyond the skills of the chair of the poho Church Property and Finance Committee, Miriam Vollweiler, who engaged in some creative lateral thinking.

While walking her dog around the streets of poho, she noticed the signage of Brett Ransom, who works as an arborist (see www.absolutetreecare.co.nz), and she realised that his work involved doing tricky things at heights. Maybe bell repairs fell under the rubric of arboriculture?

An email exchange followed and Brett agreed that he would have a go at fixing our bell rope. Below is a picture of Brett on the church roof, reconnecting our bell.



And we know it worked, as Brett was the first to ring it out - see this month's cover picture.

Thank you very much, Brett!



Interfaith Matters



Recently, in the Independent Catholic Magazine, *Tui Motu*, I read an article “Source of Hope” about responses to Covid-19 and how spirituality can assist. The author was Zain Ali, scholar of Islamic studies at Auckland University. I would like to share his final paragraph:

“I offer a reflection from the Sufi poet Rumi, who imagines a person as a guesthouse, where guests such as joy, sorrow and sadness, arrive often unannounced:

*Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honourably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.”*

Zain Ali in *Tui Motu Interislands*, Issue 255, December 2020

I do realise we might be talking about some very heavy things, but worth reflecting on – perhaps concentrate on lesser changes coming to yourself.

Bronwen Strang



Fellowship Group



No meeting in June

Fellowship Group will not meet this month, in light of Covid, and now influenza, circulating.

We miss seeing everybody, and we hope to meet again in July, with the focus on getting to know each other.

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. You are all very welcome to come along, when we are able to meet again.

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. The lotus symbol (above) of the Fellowship of the Least Coin depicts praying hands from all around the world.

Andrea Johnston and Miriam Vollweiler



Poems Prayers Psalms Prose - a friendly writing group



For writers of all kinds from poho and beyond
Wednesday 15 June at 7 p.m.
Zoom link 92395184583
Password 403627
For more information, please contact
Abby Smith: 027 606 3552, abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com



Operation Cover Up



10 a.m. Sunday 19 June

Dedication of the eight blankets we have made up to send to Ukraine.

A huge thanks to everyone who has donated wool or cash or has knitted squares for the blankets over the last year. We have eight blankets made up which is a really good result. As this is an ongoing project please keep finding wool and making the squares. Any donations for the freight will be gratefully received. Any questions please email or call me.

Marian Weaver

027 473 6026 or weavermariane@gmail.com



Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy (ICHC)
Te Kaunihera Whakawhanaunga o nga Minita Hōhipera, Hauora



ICHC offers spiritual care to all within Aotearoa New Zealand's Healthcare environment. We show compassion that fuels hope, healing, and peace amid suffering.
Feedback from a patient/Whanau "my heart lightened each time I saw the Chaplain walk down the corridor". Patient quote "The visits to my bedside to share prayer and the Word blessed me and I believe helped my recovery."
ICHC are a registered charitable organisation, formed by our 9 partner churches, who provide Chaplains of a high very standard to the Hospital Communities. Whether it be holding a hand and giving comfort, praying for someone, or serving communion our chaplains are passionate about caring for the sick and those who need comfort.
For many, being a Hospital Chaplain is a calling, and they approach it with reverence, insight, and a high standard of professionalism.
We need your support to continue this important work in the hospitals, whether it be through **prayer, giving** regularly, a one-off donation, or as a **volunteer** your support will make all the difference!

Donate now by clicking the Giv2 QR Code or by bank deposit:

Account Name: Interchurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy or ICHC
Account Number: 06-0561-0086166-21

Find out more about our ministry please visit our website: www.ichc.org.nz

Scan to Donate



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





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

Keeping in Touch

Do you know...

poho 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

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

Deadline for next *poho Signal* - Monday 20 June 2022

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

Lectionary readings, 5 June to 31 July 2022 in Year C, the Year of Luke			
Sunday 5 June - Pentecost			
Gen 11: 1-9	Ps 104: 24-34, 35b	Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 14: 8-17 (25-27)
Sunday 12 June - Trinity			
Prov 8: 1-4, 22-31	Ps 8	Rom 5: 1-5	Jn 16: 12-15
Sunday 19 June - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost			
1 Kgs 19: 1-4, (5-7), 8-15a	Ps 42 & 43	Gal 3: 23-29	Lk 8: 26-39
Sunday 26 June - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Kgs 2: 1-2, 6-14	Ps 77: 1-2, 11-20	Gal 5: 1, 13-25	Lk 9: 51-62
Sunday 3 July - 4th Sunday after Pentecost			
2 Kgs 5: 1-14	Ps 30	Gal 6: (1-6), 7-16	Lk 10: 1-11, 16-20
Sunday 10 July - 5th Sunday after Pentecost			
Amos 7: 7-17	Ps 82	Col 1: 1-14	Lk 10: 25-37
Sunday 17 July - 6th Sunday after Pentecost			
Amos 8: 1-12	Ps 52	Col 1: 15-28	Lk 10: 38-42
Sunday 24 July - 7th Sunday after Pentecost			
Hos 1: 2-10	Ps 85	Col 2: 6-15, (16-19)	Lk 11: 1-13
Sunday 31 July - 8th Sunday after Pentecost			
Hos 11: 1-11	Ps 107: 1-9, 43	Col 3: 1-11	Lk 12: 13-21

Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church

Physical gatherings may be subject to Covid alert level restrictions.

June	
5 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
6 June ~ Monday	Queen's Birthday observance – public holiday
8 June ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
9 June ~ Thursday	Fellowship Group will not meet this month.
12 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Christian Development Committee
15 June ~ Wednesday	7 p.m.: Poems Prayers Psalms Prose - a friendly writing group, via Zoom. Details on Page 8.
16 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
19 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 June ~ Monday	Material due for July <i>Opoho Signal</i>
24 June ~ Friday	Matariki – public holiday
26 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
July	
3 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
10 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, preacher TBC
13 July ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
14 July ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
17 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 July ~ Wednesday	Material due for August <i>Opoho Signal</i>
21 July ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
24 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
31 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, preacher TBC

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Opportunities for Service 5 June - 24 July 2022

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

	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Sound and Data Projector	Music	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
June								
5 June	—	Jenny Bunce Marian Weaver	Jenny Bunce	--	Abby Smith	David Murray Choir	Michael Ovens	Chris Young
12 June	—	Andrew Smith Jane Bloore	Jane Bloore	Marian Weaver	Sanel Tomlinson	David Murray	Jane Bloore	Andrew Smith
19 June	—	Mary and John Somerville	Daniel Larsen	Meegan Cloughley	Kieran Somerville	Singers and Guitarists	Jane Bloore	Andrew Smith
26 June	—	Gregor Macaulay Abby Smith	Maurice Andrew	Andrew Smith	Daniel Larsen	Music Group	Bronwen Strang	Fiona Stirling
July								
3 July	Sanel and Rudie Tomlinson	Michael Ovens Mark Ranby	Meegan Cloughley	--	John Roxborough	David Murray	Bronwen Strang	Fiona Stirling
10 July	Meegan and Pam Cloughley	Rudie Tomlinson Daniel Larsen	Bronwen Strang	Daniel Larsen	Benjamin Thew	David Murray	Benjamin Thew	Jane Bloore
17 July	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton	Shona and Philip Somerville	Hamish Spencer	Mary Somerville	Sanel Tomlinson	Singers and Guitarists	Benjamin Thew	Jane Bloore
24 July	Marian Weaver Jane Bloore	Benjamin Thew Abby Smith	Marian Weaver	Joh Roxborough	Abby Smith	David Murray	Shona and Philip Somerville	Judy Rodda Kirk Hamilton

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.