

Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



June 2023

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

Editorial – The Shortest Day

Winter is a-coming in, and we can certainly feel it. Daylight is disappearing and the sun, when it does shine, has little warmth in it. We become disinclined to go out – especially at night. Some mornings are frosty and slippery underfoot. Inside is where we want to be.

Yet the wintry outdoors has its appeal. The sparkly cold air is invigorating. The trees who dropped their leaves in autumn are now bare branches etched against a white sky. And sometimes among the skeletal silhouette we can see a surprising clump of greenery.

That's mistletoe.

Mistletoe is a semi-parasitic plant that inserts a tap into its host tree and helps itself to water and nutrients, while still doing its own photosynthesis. The plants are there all year long, but we see them best when the leaves of the host trees are gone.

New Zealand mistletoes (of which there are eight species now) only barely resemble their UK kin. Several kinds have bright showy flowers and pretty berries. Some of them are very attractive to birds (and possums). Our native mistletoes grow very slowly and are generally considered not to cause any harm to their host plants.

Look up! As soon as you've noticed one mistletoe, they suddenly appear all around you. They were there all the time – green and thriving in plain sight – but we missed them till winter came and removed some of the distracting foliage.

Is there a metaphor here? Could we use winter's quiet nights by the fire to look at our lives and see what important things we have overlooked? Here in the temperate realm, where seasons are strong and winter is cold, we are given a time of contemplation. What will we do with it?

Abby Smith

- *Who also photographed the Winter Tree on the cover of this edition*

Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on Thursday, 18 May. During the meeting we discussed various upcoming events for the Church and the wider community this year including a kite making afternoon for the Ōpoho Kids Group (and for all those who enjoy kites) at the Church at 3pm on the 28th of May to celebrate Pentecost.



There was a discussion about the annual insurance renewal which is also noted in the report for the Property and Finance Committee below. This was preliminary discussion pending further advice.

Marian Weaver was appointed as our Privacy Officer.

The Parish Council also considered whether the media policy should be updated and whether the media policy should include references to various methods for advertising church events and specify any expectations. A copy of the current media policy can be found on our Ōpoho Church website under the “gallery” page and is also displayed in the Morrison Lounge.

It was decided that we will continue to encourage mask usage in the Church as Covid-19 continues to circulate in Dunedin.

Julie Mander

Property and Finance Committee Update

There was a lot to work through in this meeting and we did it in record time.

Our 2023 budget is tracking well and we have on our calendar to allocate July for 2024 budget planning ready for the AGM.

We have received a letter from the Presbyterian Insurance Advisory Group re-insurance new cover options (cost increases for sure) and Ōpoho Church will need to make a decision on their cover level by 23 June. This will be the focus of our June meeting.

On a more cheering note, a garden tap has been installed on the back wall of the church, additional electrical plugs are in the minister’s office. You may have

noticed half the paths are water blasted (work in progress), the back hedge has been trimmed, some new garden plantings and the noticeboard is under repair.

We plan to replace perished window opening cords around the building. We are trailing a new spreadsheet to capture hall. Please let us know if you have ideas or issues that we need to consider.

On our wish list: - a garden hose wall mount and garden hose for the back wall

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, 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

Plant of the Month - Mexican Orange Blossom (*Choisya ternata* “Aztec Pearl”)



This new addition to the back garden (behind the children’s room) has a bit of history. Given to me, Miriam, as a gift. It lost its name tag and was perilously close to being unloved at my back door. As a last lifesaving resort, it was planted over at the church in a plot that our neighbour Michael had offered to care for. Michael spotted it immediately and, on a dog walk, commented to me it was a *Choisya ternata* “Aztec Pearl” that was

perfect for the spot but just needed to be moved slightly to maximise the space available.

Michael shifted the plant and emailed me a link with the following information:

How to grow Mexican Orange Blossom (*Choisya ternata* “Aztec Pearl”)

“Aztec Pearl” is an evergreen shrub grown for its attractive foliage and pleasant flowers. The foliage comprises lush and glossy, dark green leaves which release a mild fragrance when crushed. The foliage is complemented with showy clusters of fragrant, white flowers through spring and summer. It grows compactly with a rounded shape to about 1.5 m tall and the same wide, performing best when planted in full sun or partial shade on a well-drained, sheltered site. It is tolerant of dry periods and moderate frost once established. This popular and low maintenance plant is commonly included in mixed plantings and borders, planted around outdoor living areas, grown as an informal hedge, or used to brighten up a bland area. It also makes for a lovely accent to entranceways.

I look forward to giving updates on its progress. You can check it out with a walk around the back.

Miriam Vollweiler

If you know anything about the plants in the Ōpoho Church Garden you may wish to submit an account of the history or of any known botanical information for a future “Plant of the Month”.

Arts-Based Contemplation Series

On Sunday 21st May we concluded this short contemplation series with a visit to the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. This provided those that were able to attend an opportunity to observe both the works of art that we had been contemplating over the previous four weeks as well as our own personal responses to them.



Some of the participants contemplate Welch's Te Awa Kairangi (The Feast of the Open Sky)

The personal response was the focus of the series. Participants were invited to slow down and notice what emerged as they looked and observed a selected piece for a sustained period in silence. People were encouraged to quieten their critical or intellectual faculties and notice any feelings, memories or sensations that became apparent in response to the image.

People commented how they both enjoyed and were challenged by the experience of calming their mind through the intentional focus of observing an

image and their response to it. This response was often enlarged when it came time to share what people had observed and noticed within themselves. At the gallery I commented how intriguing the contemplative relationship between the image and what emerges within is - an active and alive process with a static image.

Some reflections from participants in the group included:

“Loved the slow down and just looking. The group focus helped me hold my attention, then everyone’s sharing opened up aspects I had not seen and also the sharing told us much about each other.”

“The contrasts between the different images we looked at was striking. [The] suggestion to be still and observe our feelings about the image was extremely helpful and rewarding.”



“An alternative form of contemplation offering a different way to gather together - very enjoyable.”

It has been a wonderful experience putting this series together from a simple idea of how observing art might encourage reflection. I thank my sister, Philippa, for generously gifting me the contemplative process that formed the structure for the series. Thanks also to all those that came along and added to the experience by entering into the kaupapa and sharing so freely. Coming together for lunch at a local cafe following the gallery visit was a fitting way to mark the completion of the series.

Creator God we give thanks for your creative spirit infusing all things, quietly encouraging us to engage with the light within.

Mark Ranby

Interfaith Matters

I felt richly blessed when 8 of us from our congregation came to the Interfaith meeting last month held in the Morrison Lounge. Very wise things were shared by participants under the spiritual theme of God. All comments really are worth sharing but room would be a problem, so I have chosen to pass on what Simon Rae shared with us...

“Our ways of thinking about God and expressing our faith change over our lifetime. I have come to a point, after years of study and teaching, where I find the simple Jewish affirmation of God, as 'The One who is/is becoming' 'The One who will be what this One will be', is sufficient to hold together the sense of God as living presence (which I have had all my life) and the immense mystery of God. This is much more helpful than the western philosophical references to a (static) 'One Who Is', or an 'unmoved-mover' and the like. Islam warns us not to go too far in our religious expression - centuries of speculation have left Christians with 'dogma' about many things that have no foundation - I mentioned the recent Papal retraction of the status of 'Limbo' as an example. Perhaps it is a sign of my age that I am comfortable now with a more minimalist theology.

Thank you Simon.”

Bronwen Strang

Fellowship Group

Fiona Hyland, an Ōpoho resident and heritage rose enthusiast, joined us to share her passion and knowledge of the Northern cemetery. We learnt about plantings,

the layout history of the cemetery and some fascinating snippets of people's lives.

Marion was able to find out the names of the roses planted on her relatives' graves and Fiona spoilt us by giving us her homemade lavender bags filled with central Otago lavender.



The group surprised Miriam with an early celebration of her forthcoming May birthday giving some sage advice as to what they thought was important when you turn 65. As usual, Chris Young provided a wonderful afternoon tea spread. All are welcome to join us at our monthly gathering on the second Thursday at 2pm in the Morrison Lounge.



Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler

Poems Prayers Psalms & Prose – Opoho Writers’ Group

Thursday, 13 July 2023, 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

Pentecost Blessing

Exuberant Spirit of God, whom we know
As Breath of God who blows on us
As Ground of our being from whom life comes
As Water of Life that refreshes us
As Fire of God that warms us
Be with us so that the world comes
To know your presence among us. Amen.

Supplied by Clare Lind

Lectionary for June and July

Sunday 4 June - Trinity Sunday			
Gen 1: 1-2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13: 11-13	Mt 28: 16-20
Sunday 11 June - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 12: 1-9	Ps 33: 1-12	Rom 4: 13-25	Mt 9: 9-13, 18-26
Sunday 18 June – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 18: 1-15 (21: 1-7)	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	Rom 5: 1-8	Mt 9: 35-10:8 (9-23)
Sunday 25 June – 4th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 21: 8-21	Ps 86: 1-10, 16-17	Rom 6: 1b-11	Mt 10: 24-39
Sunday 2 July – 5th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 22: 1-14	Ps 13	Rom 6: 12-23	Mt 10: 40-42
Sunday 9 July – 6th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45: 10-17 <i>or</i> Song Sol 2: 8-13	Rom 7: 15-25a	Mt 11: 16-19, 25- 30
Sunday 16 July - 7th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 25: 19-34	Ps 119: 105-112	Rom 8: 1-11	Mt 13: 1-9, 18-23
Sunday 23 July - 8th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 28: 10- 19a	Ps 139: 1-12, 23-24	Rom 8: 12-25	Mt 13: 24-30, 36-43
Sunday 30 July - 9th Sunday after Pentecost			
Gen 29: 15-28	Ps 105: 1-11, 45b <i>or</i> Ps 128	Rom 8: 26-39	Mt 13: 31-33, 44-52



Coming Events at Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

4 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
5 June ~ Monday	King's Birthday – public holiday
7 June ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
8 June ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
11 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Paul Ranby
15 June ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
18 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 June ~ Tuesday	Material due for July <i>Ōpoho Signal</i>
25 June ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Olivia Dawson
2 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion
9 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
12 July ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
13 July ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 July ~ Thursday	7 p.m. Writing Group, Marine Science tearoom, first floor, 310 Castle Street.
14 July ~ Friday	Matariki – public holiday
16 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 July ~ Thursday	Material due for August <i>Ōpoho Signal</i> 7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
23 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
30 July ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver
30 July ~ Sunday	After Church: Jam Palace

Presbyterian Support Food Bank



You can bring goods (nothing frozen or perishable) to church on any Sunday, or you can make a cash donation for the PSO Food Bank via

their website www.psotago.org.nz. And non-food items such as toiletries are also acceptable.

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

Pathways – Empowering the People in the Pew

Moderator, Hamish Galloway, has advised of a programme offered in conjunction with Alpine Presbytery. This is a full training day which allows people to explore their faith. More information can be found at the following web address or on a flyer at the back of the Church:

<https://www.southernpresbyterians.nz/event/Pathways-10-Jun-2023>

Abby's Jam Palace



Sadly, the Jam Palace will be unavailable in June.

Happily, the Jam Palace will be available on 28 May and 30 July 2023.

Abby Smith abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com 027 606 3552

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Tuesday 20 June

Please send all submissions for the “Plant of the Month”
and any other material for the next *Ōpoho Signal* to
Gregor Macaulay, 88 Forfar Street, Mornington, Dunedin 9011,
email gregor.macaulay@outlook.com

Keeping in Touch at Ōpoho Church

Ōpoho 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

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