

Opoho Signal

November 2020

via email

Opoho Signal

Newsletter of the Opoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Opoho, Dunedin 9010

website: www.opohochurch.org

Facebook: Opoho Presbyterian Church



November 2020

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Editorial



I expect most people with connections to Opoho Presbyterian Church are aware of the monthly meetings of the Fellowship Group. There may, however, be some who are not aware that the Fellowship Group here in Opoho participates in the world-wide Fellowship of the Least Coin.

At a time when most countries around the world are experiencing some forms of constraints on gatherings, it is timely to remember one of the ways we can take part, in prayer, in supporting many grass roots organisations.

I have drawn this information from several websites, which are listed at the end of this editorial. I owe a special thank you to Tui Bevin, who at the beginning of 2020 assembled the list of links.

The *Fellowship of the Least Coin* is a global, ecumenical prayer movement. This movement links prayer and “least coins” in a very significant way, as the least coin of each participant becomes a symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Coins offered from around the world signal our oneness in our common quest for peace, justice and reconciliation. The offering of least coins is used for grants to special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, relief and awareness-building among women throughout the world. In 2019, 23 projects in over 20 countries received support through grants of up to US\$4500. These are very grassroots grants, and I found it impossible to select just one or two projects to highlight!

The idea for the *Fellowship of the Least Coin* came out of the experience of Shanti Solomon of India. In September 1956, she was part of the Pacific Mission Team of seven women from different countries that travelled in Asian countries after World War II. This tour was organised by Dr Margaret Shannon of the National Office of Presbyterian women in the USA. When Shanti Solomon was refused a visa to Korea in the middle of the trip, because Korea did

not have diplomatic relations with India, she went to the Philippines to wait. While there, she reflected on the experiences of their travel in the war-torn countries of Asia and the national and economic barriers that kept women apart.

Upon the return of the team, she suggested that prayer could transcend every national boundary. She challenged the Christian women of Asia and of the Presbyterian Church of the USA to launch a project of Christian prayer and positive action in which every woman could participate, no matter her economic position. Every time a woman prayed she was to set aside a “least coin” of her currency. It was an encouragement to the women of the team to demonstrate their unity, in Christian faith, regardless of their country or economic circumstances. They all accepted it as a way to express their solidarity with suffering humanity and with women of every nation.

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The *Fellowship of the Least Coin* is administered in New Zealand by *Church Women United of Aotearoa New Zealand*, and is a sister organisation of the *World Day of Prayer*.

Until I moved to Methven in 2012, I had not come across the *Fellowship of the Least Coin*, probably because in Wellington I had not been very much involved in *Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand*, or in any of its predecessor organisations. At St John's Methven, I found that the whole congregation participated, with people placing their "least coin" offerings on the communion table before or after (and sometimes during) Sunday morning worship.

Here at Opoho, everyone is welcome to come along to Fellowship Group when they are able, and to add their "least coin" collections each time they attend. You will find more about Fellowship Group later in this issue of the *Signal*.

Andrea Johnston

Fellowship of the Least Coin website: www.flc.net.ph

The *Fellowship of the Least Coin* is administered in New Zealand by *Church Women United of Aotearoa New Zealand*:

www.cinch.org.nz/categories/a-z/w/1064/entries/1669

A link about what the Fellowship does, from the *Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada*:

www.wicc.org/fellowship-of-the-least-coin/

At the foot of this page you can find a link to download the list of grants for 2019:

www.wicc.org/fellowship-of-the-least-coin/how-to-participate/

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I am very happily settled in *tepoti* / Dunedin, 9 years after leaving Wellington for Methven, and 6 years after making the move south, with my husband, across the Holy River (Waitaki River). I certainly recognise the truth of the words of my grandfather, who announced a few months after his retirement: "I don't know how I ever found time to go to work!" Our garden needs more attention (don't they always!), and my roles as Treasurer of two small parishes in North Dunedin certainly keep me busy.

**Andrea Johnston**

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Parish Council and Church News

The Parish Council is delighted that Julie Mander (once her Ministry Settlement Board responsibilities, helping choose a new minister for us, are complete) and Mark Ranby are joining the Council - their nominations were confirmed at the annual meeting on Sunday 18 October.

The terms of office of Mark Bevin, Andrew Smith, Hamish Spencer, and Philip Somerville were expiring. Mark has stepped down and the other three of us were reappointed.

The Parish Council is also looking at adjusting the length of terms of members to achieve a balanced cycle of retirements. The Council's recommendation will come back to the congregation for consideration.

The Council wholeheartedly and enthusiastically agreed to a formal minute of appreciation to mark the immeasurable work over more than 30 years of Tui and Mark Bevin on the Council and various committees, as Parish Clerk and music co-ordinator respectively, and in numerous other ways; they have both stepped down from their positions of responsibility within the church. The congregation, at the annual meeting, also agreed unanimously to adopt the minute.

The Council agreed at its October meeting that it would like to find out more about the *Eco Church NZ* and *Zero Waste for Churches* programmes. This came up through Abby Smith's contact with *A Rocha Aotearoa NZ*, a Christian environmental conservation organisation that has an active local group in Dunedin. Abby will be the liaison person with this to see what might be applicable to us in Opoho.

Our budget for the coming year has us with a surplus of about \$23,000. This assumes an 80% minister for the final three months of the financial year, April to June 2021. Of course, it is during this time without a minister that we need surpluses to help cushion us for the expected substantial deficits when we have someone with us for the full year.

Julie Mander and Mark Ranby have been asked for some

information about themselves for those who don't know them very well. Julie's material is here, and we plan to include something on Mark next month:

"Some members of the congregation have known me a long time. My parents were married at Opoho Church and I was baptised there. In more recent years, Harriet and Ted were baptised at Opoho Church. I am currently the Senior Solicitor at Trustees Executors Limited. I am married to Hamish and we are the proud and busy parents of Harriet and Ted. I don't get a lot of time for hobbies, but I enjoy trekking, dancing, gardening, and word games. Mark and I know each other from when we attended Knox Church in Christchurch."

And I shall add that it will be an honour to serve with Julie, particularly having worked with her grandfather, Dick Calvert, on the Session (which merged with the Deacons' Court to become the Parish Council) and the Parish Council. Julie is part of the Calvert clan which has been a huge part of the life and work of this church for many, many decades.

Hamish Spencer will soon be updating that extremely handy reference, the Parish Directory, so keep an eye out for that.

Various ideas are being looked at as we proceed with music options. David Murray is leading this.

Philip Somerville



Abby's Jam Stall



As the summer season approaches, Abby Smith will be bringing jam to sell once a month, with all money raised going to the church. If you need jam or preserves, or you have a particular favourite, please feel free to give her a call: 027 606 3552.



Fellowship Group



Above is the group that gathered on Thursday 8 October (photo by Meegan Cloughley).

Our focus last month was, once again, on sharing our recent stories, experiences, and concerns. On the day we met, approximately 20% of eligible voters in New Zealand had already voted early. Of our group, one third had already voted, and two or three people intended to vote within the following days. Fellowship Group leading the way, once again!

Fay Grant has offered Chris Young a roof over her head, while Chris's old house makes way for her new house. All of us – especially Chris! – say a huge thank you to Fay.

We decided to meet in November and December, with the possibility of a Christmas picnic for the December meeting. There may be a gathering in January too. Watch this space!

Afternoon tea was delicious, as always – thank you to Miriam Vollweiler and Chris for the catering! The most challenging part of Fellowship Group is always finishing the various conversations and heading home – last month was no different.

We are always delighted to see both familiar and new faces, so do come along if you're free, to the Morrison Lounge at 2 p.m. on Thursday 12 November.

We each make a small contribution, as we are able, to the *Fellowship of the Least Coin*. I have written about this inspiring group in this month's editorial.

Andrea Johnston



Opportunities for Service, November - December 2020

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

Sunday	Morning Tea	Door Duty	Readers	Prayers	Music	Flowers	Hall Cleaning	Church Cleaning
November 2020								
1 Nov	Rodda / Hamilton	Gregor Macaulay Andrew Smith	Benjamin Thew Julie-Ann Fleming	—	Music Group	Jane Bloore	Shona & Philip Somerville	Jane Bloore
8 Nov	Bronwen Strang Marian Weaver	Benjamin Thew Jane Bloore	Gaynor Haig	John Roxborough	David Murray	Judy Rodda	Benjamin Thew	Rodda / Hamilton
15 Nov	Shona & Philip Somerville	Shona & Philip Somerville	Hamish Spencer	Abby Smith	Gaynor Haig	Judy Rodda	Benjamin Thew	Rodda / Hamilton
22 Nov	Smith / Spencer	Mary and John Somerville	Gregor Macaulay	Daniel Larsen	David Murray	Jenny Roxborough	Andrew Smith	Meegan Cloughley
29 Nov	Jane Bloore Bronwen Strang	Mark Ranby Michael Ovens	Jane Anderson	Benjamin Thew	Music Group	Jenny Roxborough	Andrew Smith	Meegan Cloughley
December 2020								
6 Dec	Rodda / Hamilton	Smith / Spencer	Andrea Johnston	—	David Murray	Shona Somerville	Michael Ovens	Shona and Philip Somerville
13 Dec	Smith / Spencer	Jane Bloore Gregor Macaulay	Maurice Andrew	—	David Murray	Shona Somerville	Michael Ovens	Shona and Philip Somerville
20 Dec	Bronwen Strang Shona Somerville	Marian Weaver] Jenny Bunce	TBA	Mark Ranby	Gaynor Haig	Jane Bloore	Bronwen Strang	Jane Bloore

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.

Come and Sing for Joy!



Think about joining the Advent Choir this year. You don't have to be a musician or a sight-reader or a trained singer. You don't have to be a regular at church. It's just so much more fun to sing with many voices.

We will practise some Christmas carols in parts and sing them as part of worship in December. If you're keen, please make sure that Abby Smith, a.k.a. Choir Leader, knows. I usually arrange rehearsals by email. Just send a quick note to abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com, or ring 027 606 3552.



Family and Children's Service for Advent

Opoho Church's family and children's evening Advent service and meal will be on Sunday 29 November at 5 p.m.

There will be craft, service, singing and a kid-friendly meal to finish our evening. Invite other families you know to come along and join us in hearing and celebrating the Advent story.

Anyone who can help, including, but not limited to, providing and serving the meal on the day, please contact me at marysomer@gmail.com

Mary Somerville



Community Advent Service

We will gather in the church for our Community Advent Service on Wednesday 25 November at 2 p.m. Following the service, we will share afternoon tea in the Hall. All are welcome.



Interfaith Matters



Thank you Opoho congregation, I felt very supported by the presence of some of you at the monthly meeting in Morrison Lounge of the Dunedin Interfaith Council on 11 October, with apologies from others. Simon Rae fascinated us with his solid handle on interfaith issues from his time working at a secular university in Yogyakarta, Indonesia – to the extent that he

has been asked to contribute again to an Interfaith gathering. This will be the Harmony Week gathering on Wednesday 3 February 2021. Thank you, Simon. And I will remind you all late January about this time.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to get to the celebration at the Quaker Meeting House during the Week of Prayer for World Peace. I do hope some of you may have been there. During that week a statement by St Francis of Assisi really struck me: "As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that greater peace is in your hearts...".

If you are a newspaper reader you may be aware of discussions that are "in the air" about the planned chapel for the new hospital. It is important to read about and understand the decisions the SDHB is coming to. You can either access these from the agenda for the October meeting on the SDHB home page i.e. www.southernhealth.nz/about-us/about-southern-dhb/southern-dhb-board (Section 10, pp113-127) or get back in touch with me and I can send you the file 2020-10-06 SDHB Board Agenda_public.pdf

The next meeting of Dunedin Interfaith is Sunday 8 November at 2 p.m., at the Jewish Synagogue, corner of George and Dundas Streets.

Bronwen Strang



From Presbyterian Support Otago

Pack it up, Pass it on

Is your house overflowing, drawers bursting with unworn clothing, shelves stacked with forgotten about knick-knacks and books? Then it's time to pack it up and pass it on! Your pre-loved goods can do great things; pack them up in one of our donation bags and pass it on. 100% of your donation goes to supporting our community through Presbyterian Support Otago services.

What you can donate

Clean, re-usable and unbroken: clothing, shoes, collectables, bric-a-brac, fabric, household items, jewellery, books, puzzles, or antiques. Just ask yourself 'can someone else can get use from this?'

At this stage, unfortunately, we are unable to accept donations of household furniture, electrical goods and bedding (unless new) due to lack of storage – thank you for understanding.

How to get started

Pack it up – phone us on 477 7115 during business hours to order yellow donation bags for you, your friends, or family and we'll deliver them to your letter box.

Pass it on – drop your bags to:

Shop on Carroll

10 Carroll Street, Dunedin, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Op Shop on St Andrew

59 St Andrew St, Dunedin, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bulk donations

If you have bulk donation, large items or can't make it to one of our donation locations, please book a free collection by giving us a call to arrange a free pick up, 477 7115

We can deliver lots of bags if you want to make this an event!

Why not get your church or workplace to take part and host a 'Pack it up, Pass it on' day? The more you give the more you help!

What happens to your items?

100% of your donation goes to supporting our community. Your donated goods will be given to families in need, or sold through one of our two Shop On charity op shops. All proceeds help support our welfare and social services in Otago.

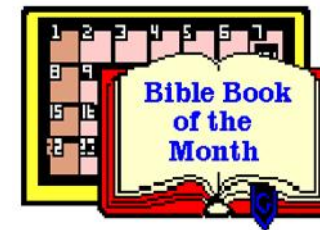


Operation Cover Up

It's never too early to start knitting for next year's blankets. There is a wool bag at the back of the church. Any donations of wool (double knit) gratefully accepted.

Marian Weaver

weavermariane@gmail.com or 027 473 6026



This month we will be looking at *Philemon*, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 5 November at 129 Signal Hill Road. Ideally people should have read the book beforehand, but it isn't essential. For more information please contact John Stenhouse at john.stenhouse@otago.ac.nz or Tui Bevin at 473 8677 or email mark.bevin@gmail.com

Tui Bevin

<i>Don't Forget!</i>	
<i>November</i>	
Wednesday 25 November	2 p.m. Community Advent Service, followed by afternoon tea
Sunday 29 November	5 p.m. Family And Children's Advent Service, followed by tea
<i>December</i>	
Sunday 13 December	10 a.m. Family Service
Thursday 24 December	11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
Friday 25 December	10 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Keeping in Touch

Do you know...

Opoho 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

Copies of the Parish Directory, with contact details of parishioners, are available on the back pew in the church.

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



Lectionary readings			
1 - 22 November 2020			
in Year A, the Year of Matthew			
Sunday 1 November - All Saints			
Rev 7: 9-17	Ps 34: 1-10, 22	1 Jn 3: 1-3	Mt 5: 1-12
Sunday 8 November - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost			
Josh 24: 1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78: 1-7	1 Thes 4: 13-18	Mt 25: 1-13
Sunday 15 November - 24th Sunday after Pentecost			
Judg 4: 1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5: 1-11	Mt 25: 14-30
Sunday 22 November - 25th Sunday after Pentecost - Reign of Christ			
Ez 34: 11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1: 15-23	Mt 25: 31-46
29 November - 13 December 2020			
in Year B, the Year of Mark			
Sunday 29 November - 1st Sunday in Advent			
Is 64: 1-9	Ps 80: 1-7, 17-19	1 Cor 1: 3-9	Mk 13: 24-37
Sunday 6 December - 2nd Sunday in Advent			
Is 40: 1-11	Ps 85: 1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3: 8-15a	Mk 1: 1-8
Sunday 13 December—3rd Sunday in Advent			
Is 61: 1-4, 8-11	Ps 126	1 Thess 5: 16-24	Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

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

Deadline for next *Opoho Signal* - Friday 20 November

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



**Coming up @ Opoho Presbyterian Church in
November and December 2020**

November 2020	
1 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship with Holy Communion, the Rev. Graeme Munro
4 November ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Ministry Settlement Board, Morrison Lounge
5 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Philemon</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
8 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Peter Wishart
12 November ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith
19 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
20 November ~ Friday	Deadline for December-January <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
25 November ~ Wednesday	2 p.m.: Community Advent Service, Mary Somerville, followed by afternoon tea
29 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver and John Roxborough 5 p.m. Family and Children's Advent Service, Mary Somerville
December 2020	
3 December ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Bible Book of the Month, <i>Hebrews</i> , 129 Signal Hill Road
6 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Graeme Munro, Quarterly Communion
10 December ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Family Service, Mary Somerville
17 December ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, venue TBA
20 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Nine Lessons and Carols, Gregor Macaulay
24 December ~ Thursday	11.30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service, the Rev. Anne Thomson
25 December ~ Friday	10 a.m.: Christmas Day service, the Rev. Jordan Redding
27 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson

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