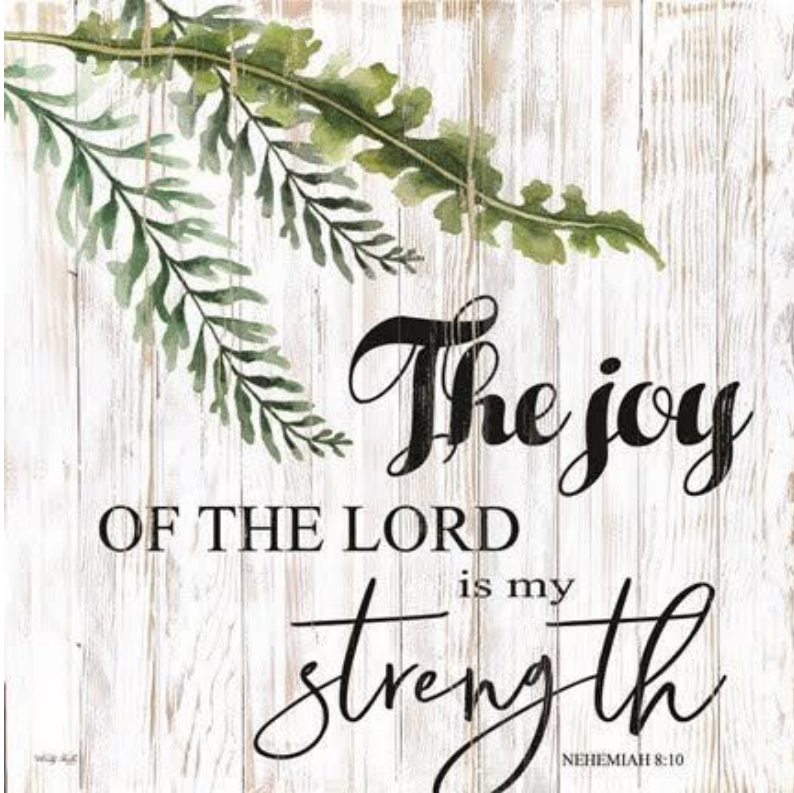


Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



November 2026

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

Editorial

In late June, Hamish and I were navigating the interminable and inscrutable queues of Munich International Airport. As we snaked our way up and down the lines of the security labyrinth, we kept passing the same people over and over again. One lady we noticed was wearing a t-shirt that loudly and largely quoted Nehemiah 8:10 – “The Joy of the Lord Is My Strength”. I had plenty of time to ponder that message, and also to wonder about Nehemiah.

Dr Google tells me that Nehemiah was a Hebrew prophet and a Persian high official, sometime in the 5th century BC. It tells the story of how Nehemiah was notified that the walls of Jerusalem had been destroyed by Babylonians, and that his people, the Israelites, were scattered and displaced. He prayed to God for guidance, then sought assistance from the King of Persia, who agreed to support him. Despite attacks from both outside and within the walls, Nehemiah was determined to rebuild the city. In the process he gathered together and inspired the Jewish community there. The priest Ezra read the Laws of Moses to them, and they wept but he told them to rejoice. Nehemiah spent 12 years in Jerusalem rebuilding, then returned to his home and his king in Persia. Later he visited Jerusalem, discovered the Hebrew community had failed to stick to the rules, and decided to stay as governor to enforce his (and God’s) reforms.

Scholars are divided as to whether the story is truly historical, whether it refers to real people and events, and even whether Nehemiah was a real person. There is some confusion with the book of Ezra; and in some versions the two books are combined. Some scholars think the book is meant as an archetype: this is how you act as a good leader. First you pray, then you lead: provide guidance, work alongside your people, make your expectations very clear, set up administrative processes, enforce the rules fairly.

The last chapter of Nehemiah outlines his achievements and asks that he be remembered for them. He could hardly have guessed (if he was a real person) that his book would be searchable on-line in the Bible Gateway website. He could hardly have guessed that someone searching for a “good Bible quote” would find it in chapter 8, verse 10. He could hardly have guessed that they would lift it out of context and stick it on a t-shirt. And then, 2500 years later, an American lady with the t-shirt would be seen in Munich Airport one Monday in June, spawning a church editorial in Dunedin, New Zealand.

One thing we have learned in this digital age is to watch what you say (and write) because who knows what will resonate. Who knows where your words will end up? Who knows what you’ll be remembered for? You might spend 12 years rebuilding a wall and a nation, but in the end, your legacy could just be eight words you might not even have said, stuck on a t-shirt and reported on the other side of the globe. It’s a funny old world.

Abby Smith (happily retired)

Annual Meeting and Parish Council News

The Annual Meeting was held on 18 October. The usual reports on the life of the parish were received and the budget approved for the year ending 30 June 2027. Judy Rodda, who has stepped down as Treasurer, was thanked for her six years of service and Mark Ranby was thanked for his six years of service as a Parish Councillor (the Ranby family will be moving to Palmerston North in the next few months).

The Parish Council met on 22 October. As well as considering the usual reports, the Council again discussed the Treasurer's role and is investigating ways of outsourcing some of the routine work of the role. Feedback from the café church on 20 September has been collated and circulated to members and will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

It's been a busy month with the fair, carpet installation and budget preparation. Lighting repairs have been completed in church and vestry. We are reviewing our photocopier contract, looking at best value printing options. The Morrison Lounge reroof is to be commenced and completed by November; the heavy rain causing leaks. We are seeking additional quotes for the church and hall reroofing and will update you when these come in. Sound and electrical improvements are being explored for the political candidates' meeting.

We have our regular groups using the hall and three one-off bookings in November and December: Scottish country dancing in the hall, and the Burns Reserve annual meeting and a community solar residential information evening in the church.

Please let us know of any ideas for improvement, health and safety or security concerns.

Miriam Vollweiler (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 Church;

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 (*pro tem.*), 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: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

Fellowship Group Report – Update on the Foodbank

Opoho Church has longstanding relationship with Presbyterian Support and the Foodbank. Two years ago, our Fellowship group decided to have our opening prayer acknowledge this relationship and our monthly meeting and Fellowship community lunches link in to supporting their activities. Opoho Church has a weekly Foodbank item collection as part of our church service and a foodbank collection opportunity is incorporated into our political and electorate community meetings.

- 2023 political candidates' meeting – raised \$638 and 100 items
- 2025 Dunedin City Council candidate meetings – raised \$1308 and collected 113 items
- 2026 political candidates' meeting – planned collection opportunity, 1 November

Our October meeting welcomed Nicole Devereux, Presbyterian Support Family Works General Manager. Nicole looks after the social services side of PSO covering Dunedin, Oamaru and the Waitaki region.



Nicole Devereux at the Fellowship meeting

We asked Nicole about the Foodbank and thank her for her informative discussion.

1. *Where is the foodbank located* – 407 Moray Place, next to First Church. The foodbank has moved into the main reception area of the PSO office – Nicole invites us to call in and visit
2. *What hours is it open* – the PSO Foodbank is open 8-5 p.m., the longest opening hours of the three main foodbanks in Dunedin. The Salvation Army, PSO and St Vincent de Paul all connect through a joint operational group.
3. *How do people find out about the Foodbank* – social media, radio, referrals from professional groups, DCC, dedicated events
4. *Who would people meet if they went into the Foodbank* – at reception they would be welcomed and asked, “how can we help you”. There is a short assessment; what might bring them to the Foodbank, the size of their household, do they have any food allergies, do they have pets. There is a Foodbank manager and volunteers. Nicole outlined opportunities for volunteering with the Foodbank as well as with their specific events and will provide us with more information.
5. *How do you work out what food people are needing when they come in* – there is a stock bundle of items, and they make up a parcel for four days’ supply. Stock items include; tea, coffee, cereal, bread, cans of fruit, beans, fruit, eggs and meat. The stock items are linked into donations – Kiwi Harvest, supermarkets and group and individual donations. They also buy in meat.

6. *Are there common themes that are behind people's needs* – increasingly they are seeing cost of living pressures, particularly due to increased energy and grocery costs. Starting school costs, housing instability, mental health and addiction. They have noticed an increase in single people using the service.
7. *What are the useful items we can donate* – non-perishable basic items. It is helpful if the cans have tabs for ease of opening. They have a guideline list that they send out and at times they have specific shortages. They can send a regular email update on their specific weekly needs which is something they have in place with Knox Church. They accept fresh fruit and vegetables (this could be an opportunity to incorporate into our Opoho Church harvest festival).
Basics: Peanut butter / jam / honey / Marmite, pasta sauce (canned or jarred), ready meal 'just add' style sauces, cooking oil (canola/rice bran) – small bottles, drinking chocolate powder, tomato sauce (ketchup), concentrated soup.
Lunch box goodies: crisps – especially small packs, biscuits, muesli bars.
8. *How many food parcels would go out in a day, week, year* – up to 30 food parcels a day, 85-90 parcels a week and 4,500 parcels a year.
9. *Do they ever run out of food or get low on stock* – yes, they can get low on meat or bread. They have arrangements with meat companies and supermarkets and at times buy in products.
10. *How does the community support the Foodbank* – they have a lot of support from businesses who supply vouchers or hold collection events, from schools, supermarkets, Kiwi Harvest, the annual Octacan and pre-Christmas community-wide collection. Many individuals and churches make donations

At the October Fellowship meeting Val Williams (right) donated a plate to add to our special china collection. Val received this plate from Iris Husband, a former member of Opoho church – Val was her visiting elder. A perfect plate for our afternoon tea cakes.

Chris Young and Miriam Vollweiler



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS FOR YOUR HOME?

LOCAL OPOHO FAMILIES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES



**WHY THEY
INSTALLED SOLAR**



**HOW THEY WENT
ABOUT IT, COSTS**



OUTCOMES

**an opportunity to ask questions &
catch up with others considering
residential solar**

- THREE PRESENTATIONS**
- A PANEL FOR YOUR QUESTIONS
CUPPA & CHAT.**

WHEN: SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER, 7 PM

**WHERE: OPOHO CHURCH,
50 SIGNAL HILL ROAD**



all welcome - free entry



Prayer of Intercession 11 October

God of all creation, you hold the depths of the earth in your hands.

You are closer to us than the air we breathe.

Fill our souls with your wonderful love and light.

Give us strength and courage to reflect that love and light in the world.

Let us never shrink back from who we are in you or hide our light inside ourselves. Renew in us a sense of joy, painting the dark shadows around us with your light, your love and your salvation.

Hear us today as we pray for a world too often darkened by hatred, evil, power and greed.

Within our darkest night, **let your light shine.**

God of power and might, your broken world cries out from the depths, a world dominated by the darkness of war, terror, pain and suffering.

We think of the on-going and deepening conflicts in the world.

We share the pain and anguish of those who have had to flee from their homes, countries and livelihoods, who risk their lives, desperate for a new start free from fear and war.

May they see your light, feel your strength and power and know the truth of your promise that we shall not be overcome by the dark shadows of life or the darkness of human nature.

Within our darkest night, **let your light shine.**

God of compassion and grace, we share with you our love and concern for people in a dark place today.

We have on our hearts the friends and loved ones of the victims of violence and hatred.

We pray that they will find your strength in the compassion and love of those around them.

We pray for tolerance in our society.

Let your light shine through the darkness of all their pain and their suffering.

Within our darkest night, **let your light shine.**

God of life, we ask for your healing power on those who are enduring pain and illness. We pray for all those we name quietly in our hearts ...

We share the grief of people close to us, who have recently lost loved ones.

We remember that as we weep with the grieving, we embrace the joy of new life with Christ.

We know your everlasting light shines with us, in moments of great sadness and great joy.

Within our darkest night, **let your light shine.**

God of love and hope, renew in us a deeper sense of who we are in you.
Help us to be aware of your presence each and every day.
Make us instruments of love and praise.
May our words, actions, and lives be living examples of your forgiving,
healing, life-giving love.
Within our darkest night, **let your light shine.**

Mary Somerville

Jam Palace

The Jam Palace is open every day in the Hall Lobby – you'll find jams, jellies, preserves, and chutneys. Just help yourself and follow the instructions for paying.



Operation Cover Up

Knitted squares continue to be required to make the blankets we send each year. Jumpers, scarves, hats and gloves for ages five and up are also sent. Wool yarn only please. Donations of wool are always appreciated.



Marian Weaver

027 473 6026

Burns Reserve AGM

The Friends of Burns Reserve Trust will be holding a **public meeting/report in the church on the evening of Wednesday 2 December at 7.30 p.m.** The Trust was established to care for the Burns Park Scenic Reserve, an area of around 87 hectares that stretches across Signal Hill | Te Pahure o te Rangipohika and above Dunedin's West Harbour suburbs of Ravensbourne, Maia, Burkes and St Leonards. The bush-clad hillside reserve contains remnants of coastal podocarp forest which once clothed these hills and is an important bird corridor aiding the return of the South Island robin | taruwai to the city. All invited to hear of the group's progress in track development, weed control and botanical and geographical interpretation.

A Visit to Ōhope

Tēnā Koutou Katoa

Nō Kōtirana me Ingarani ōku tīpuna

I tae mai āku tīpuna ki Aotearoa i tau 1847

Ko *David Millar* rāua ko *Marion Millar* ōku kaumatua

I tipu ake au ki Waihopai

E noho ana au ki Ōtepoti

Ko *Andrew* tōku ingoa

Tēnā tatou katoa

When Erin the Assembly Executive Secretary toured the Archives, she asked the staff, “Have you been to the church marae at Ōhope. You must go! We will arrange the budget.” So three of us agreed to go and join with the ministry interns and staff from the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership and other visitors coming from around the country for a weekend in September. Then one of us from the Library and Archives caught a cold and could not fly. Two of us arrived at the airport at dawn and our flight to Auckland was diverted because of an evacuation at Auckland airport – which would have been my first visit. I got to see Lakes Taupō and Rotorua from the air and we met the interns and staff at Tauranga later in the day.

The road to Whakatane is under bright skies, with more Norfolk Island pines and nikau palms, and even more kowhai than we see in Dunedin. It was warmer in early spring and the sun was already light at six o’clock in the morning. The land was rolling hills with clouds resting on them, and flat plains into Whakatane, like arriving in Invercargill. The long whistling notes after dark in the evening would have been kiwi in the bush.

We stayed on the marae at Ōhope for a weekend of teaching with Wayne Te Kaawa and Murray Rae on the Missionary Era, the Presbyterian Story, te Tiriti *the Treaty of Waitangi*, and te Reo Māori in worship. Before the arrival of the Missionaries, Māori prophecy was already expectant of a new god, Ko Tama I rorokutia, *the Son who died*. The Presbyterians arrived as a settler church and were not recognised as a missionary church until Ngati Raukawa invited the Rev. James Duncan to be their missionary. We learned how Bible translation gave te Reo Māori new words like Maungarongo *hold-plural-peace* and Rangimarie *peace from heaven*.

So we can keep practising our vowels a - e - i - o - u, and call on Wayne Te Kaawa for help with language. It would be nice to find a musicians’ copy of the Lord’s Prayer in Māori we sang on the marae so we can be comfortable with it.

The Library and Archives still have one person to go onto the marae in the future so I hope to go again.

Andrew Smith



The Annual Dunedin Interfaith Peace Gathering

We gathered at the Quaker Centre on Wednesday 14 October to prayerfully express our common commitment to working together for peace and justice, everywhere on planet Earth. Contributions following a Māori karakia, were given from all of these groups: Bahai, Brahma Kumari, Buddhist, Christian, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Hare Krishna, Jewish, Muslim and Quaker. Unfortunately Hindu and Sikh representatives were not able to be present. The prayers we had were all very thought-provoking and meaningful. It was a special time.

The evening finished with this Universal Prayer for Peace:

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust;

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.



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

The Foodbank is currently in need of the following items to support local individuals and families in our community: gluten-free items, cooking oil, men's hygiene products (deodorant, body spray, shave foam – not razors), pasta sauce, breakfast spreads, muesli bars and kid's lunch snacks, instant coffee, treats for Christmas parcels. Every donation makes a real difference for someone doing it tough right now.



Jane Millichamp delivers the goods



Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Friday 20 November

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

Lectionary for November and December 2026

Sunday 1 November – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost			
Josh 3: 7-17	Ps 107: 1-7, 33-37	1 Thes 2: 9-13	Mt 23: 1-12
Sunday 8 November – 24th 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 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost			
Judg 4: 1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5: 1-11	Mt 25: 14-30
Sunday 22 November – Reign of Christ			
Ez 34: 11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1: 15-23	Mt 25: 31-46
Advent and Christmas			
Sunday 29 November – 1st Sunday of 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 of 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 of Advent			
Is 61: 1-4, 8-11	Ps 126	1 Thess 5: 16-24	Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28
Sunday 20 December – 4th Sunday in Advent			
2 Sam 7:1-11,16	Ps 89: 1-4, 19-26	Rom 16: 25-27	Lk 1: 26-38
Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve			
Is 9: 2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Lk 2: 1-14, (15-20)
Friday 25 December – Christmas Dawn			
Is 62: 6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3: 4-7	Lk 2: (1-7), 8-20
Friday 25 December – Christmas Day			
Is 52: 7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1: 1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1: 1-14
Sunday 27 December – 1st Sunday after Christmas			
Is 61: 10 - 62: 3	Ps 148	Gal 4: 4-7	Lk 2: 22-40

Coming Events: November and December 2026

1 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Communion 7 p.m.: Political forum in church
8 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith, Remembrance Sunday
10 November ~ Tuesday	7.30 p.m.: Christian Development Committee, Morrison Lounge
11 November ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Minister's Office
12 November ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
15 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
20 November ~ Friday	Material due for December-January <i>Signal</i>
22 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
26 November ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
29 November ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Anne Thomson
6 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
9 December ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Morrison Lounge
10 December ~ Thursday	12.30 p.m.: Fellowship Community Christmas Lunch, church hall
13 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Abby Smith, children's Christmas service
17 December ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, venue TBC
20 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Lessons and Carols
24 December ~ Thursday	11.30 p.m.: Christmas Eve service, the Rev. Clare Lind
25 December ~ Friday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind – Christmas Day
27 December ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, preacher TBA

