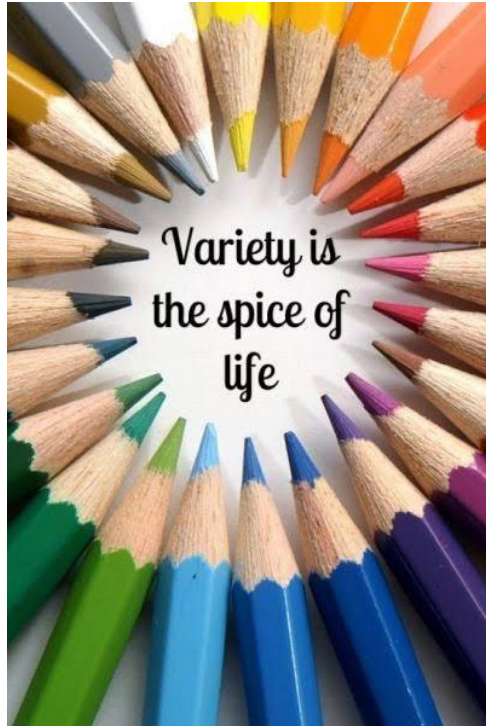


Ōpoho Signal

The newsletter of Ōpoho Presbyterian Church

50 Signal Hill Road, Ōpoho, Dunedin 9010



September 2026

Minister: The Rev. Clare Lind

cellphone: 021 0276 1962 email: opohominister@gmail.com

Parish Clerk: Hamish Spencer

cellphone: 021 279 7986 email: opohoclerk@gmail.com

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

Editorial

I am writing this editorial in Georgetown, Maine, in the northeast corner of the United States. In all sorts of ways, Georgetown is different from Ōpoho. It is summer here, not winter; the trees I can see out the window are oaks, spruces and birches, not gums, rimu and beeches; the birds I can spot are phoebes, chickadees and hummingbirds, not tūī, korimako and silvereyes. And, of course, most importantly, the people are different, generally speaking with a different accent.

In spite of these contrasts, however, there are also many similarities. Most of the weather comes from the west, the trees are various shades of green and the birds all have distinctive songs and calls. People respond with a smile and a greeting when you say hello. And, I would point out, a few Ōpohovians have visited Georgetown and some Maine locals have ventured south to visit us in Dunedin

I find myself enjoying both the differences and the similarities. A world where there were no differences as one travelled would be, in my view, rather boring. But, equally, if nothing were the same, it would be completely disorienting and rather scary.

In today's political landscape, a number of commentators (mostly on the political right, it seems to me) deprecate the value of diversity. I think many of these politicians miss the point. Diversity is not about everything being different. And surely, they do not want everything the same, a kind of lukewarm social and intellectual monotony.

More reasonably, as the saying goes, variety is the spice of life, and I am fortunate enough to experience some of it through travel. I love the fried clams for which Maine is famous and which are like nothing I have eaten in Aotearoa New Zealand. But I am also a fan of our green mussels, which are, to my way of thinking, the best in the world.

Of course, the politicians are not talking about culinary diversity (although sometimes I do wonder). They are talking about human diversity: racial, ethnic, religious, gender, social and political. And, presumably, they are happy with diversity so long as it is far away.

But the same sort of delight that we feel when we discover a new food we like can arise when we talk with others about something we had never thought about before. It is, perhaps, a little more challenging when we encounter a novel

viewpoint about something we thought we understood. Although I admit this doesn't always happen, the resulting discussions can be enlightening and lead to a richer and deeper understanding.

Critically, this human diversity doesn't mean that everything is different. The underlying humanity remains the same; we all require food and shelter and companionship. Building on these constants is the way to appreciate and understand the differences that matter. I think it is no accident that many of the different ethnic groups in Dunedin share their traditional foods with the wider community. Doing so builds on the universal need for food and introduces us to those relatively trivial flavour differences as a first step on a path to learning about the more substantive social differences that can enrich our lives.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I am off to sip a glass of French wine as I nibble on some Mexican corn chips and try to spot the American blue jay that I have been hearing as I type.

Hamish Spencer



Parish Council News

The Parish Council met on 27 August. The most important matters agreed on were to authorise the Property and Finance Committee to proceed with having the roof of the Morrison Lounge repaired to deal with recurring leaks and also to accept the quotation from Flooring Xtra for carpeting the church.

You will see from a notice elsewhere in this issue that we are exploring how our finances might be dealt with once Judy Rodda steps down as Treasurer at the Annual Meeting.

Gregor Macaulay on behalf of the Parish Council

Property and Finance Committee Update

Another busy meeting on 12 August. Thank you to our carpet project group (David, Marian and Fiona) who reviewed options, colours, and costs and reported back with a recommendation to the meeting. We have accepted a quote and are sorting out installation dates. Final fixes to the vestry and church doors are completed which increases security and ease of opening and locking. Drainage work continues and we are waiting for a quote to come in for the roofing project. Budget preparation plans are under way. Please let us know if you have any ideas or issues – talk to any of us.

Miriam, John, Benjamin, Clare, Meegan, Judy

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 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

Jam Palace

The Jam Palace is open every day in the Hall Lobby – it will be operating as normal this winter, even though Abby is away. Just spread it on your toast and send the money to her!



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

Volunteer Work – Estimation of Hours

For our Annual Report, we need to include an estimate of the number of hours that people spend on voluntary work to keep the Church and its activities ticking over for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. Here are some ideas: administration (preparing and/or printing agendas, minutes, weekly emails), banking, gardening, setting up, packing up, setting up/clearing up communion, preparing food (Fellowship group, other events), attending committee meetings, correspondence, preparing and printing the Signal, painting, digging ditches, maintenance work – anything else?

Please note that you do not need to send through information on the time spent on the various *rostered* tasks (morning tea duty, door duty, hall and church cleaning, etc.) as that can be readily calculated. Would you please email me an estimate of what other volunteer hours you do; either regularly or as a one-off for irregular events. Please email to me weavermariane@gmail.com by **15 September**. A best guess is fine.

Marian Weaver

Treasurer

After six years, our hardworking Treasurer Judy Rodda is stepping away from that role in October. The financial information is in Xero. At present options to reduce the activities in the role by sharing them with a wee team are being looked at (such as banking, data entry, Charities Commission reporting). A discussion about the role does not commit you to taking it on, if you just want more information. If you are interested in or want to discuss this important role, please let the Parish Clerk or Minister know.

Presbyterian Support Foodbank



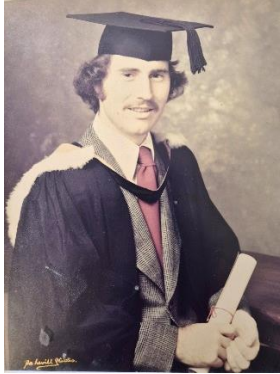
You can bring goods (nothing frozen or perishable) to church on any Sunday or you can make a cash donation for the Foodbank via their website www.psotago.org.nz

Here is a photo of the latest delivery of goods, taken in front of the mural in the reception area at Presbyterian Support, which sends thanks for all the donations.



Fellowship Report

On 13 August Brian Cunningham shared his interesting life story accompanied by a display of photographs. Born in Dunedin, one of three siblings, Brian has all his family, children and a great grandchild still living in Dunedin. Every year they share Christmas with a Woodhaugh Gardens gathering and a midwinter gathering at the church hall. Brian grew up in Marne Street, attended local schools and went to the University of Otago, completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree (we all remarked on his handsome graduation photo and head of hair). Brian shared his lifelong love of adventure and sport; squash, clay target shooting, hunting, diving, mountain biking and racing, motorcycle touring, astronomy. Most recently Kate and Brian went skydiving,



We are reminded at Fellowship group how sharing our life stories gives us a deeper appreciation of how unique and interesting we all are. As usual, our afternoon tea was sumptuous.

Chris and Miriam

Church Fair Saturday 19 September, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

How can you help?

You can sort out some things to donate (drop off after 7 September).

You can bake (a little closer to the time perhaps).

You can put up posters and distribute leaflets (in August).

You can tell all your friends.

You can volunteer to work at a stall, to set up, or to tidy up (email Abby at abigailmarionsmith@gmail.com)



**Dunedin Abrahamic
Interfaith Group with
the Otago Chaplaincy
present the
23rd Annual Peace Lecture**



**University
of Otago**
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

*Love, courage and hope in an age of global
turbulence: Responding to power politics
and force from the bottom up*

Professor Kevin P Clements

**Honorary Director and Distinguished Fellow,
Toda Peace Institute**



Join us for the 23rd Annual Peace Lecture, featuring a conversation with Professor Clements and a panel of representatives from Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths.

Professor Kevin P Clements was the Foundation Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Otago from 2008 to 2017. His career has combined academic analysis and practice in the areas of peacebuilding and conflict transformation, spanning roles as Secretary-General for International Alert; Director of the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University; President of the European Peace Building Liaison Office; Director of the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva; and advisor to the New Zealand, Australian, British, Swedish, German and Dutch governments on conflict prevention, peace, defence and security issues.

This presentation will take the form of an autobiographical overview of Professor Clements's development as a peacemaker and international peace educator. He will reflect on the early influences and motivations that led him to dedicate his life to advancing an alternative narrative to conflict and violence. The presentation will conclude with reflections on what it has taken, and what it will take, to respond to power from the bottom up.

**Monday 14 September
6.45 p.m. – 8.45 p.m.
St David Lecture Theatre
Refreshments provided**

All are welcome



Lectionary for September and October 2026

Season of Creation 1-27 September			
Sunday 6 September – 15th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 12: 1-14	Ps 149	Rom 13: 8-14	Mt 18: 15-20
Sunday 13 September – 16th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 14: 19-31	Ps 114 <i>or</i> Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21	Rom 14: 1-12	Mt 18: 21-35
Sunday 20 September – 17th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 16: 2-15	Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45	Phil* 1: 21-30	Mt 20: 1-16
Sunday 27 September – 18th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16	Phil 2: 1-13	Mt 21: 23-32
Sunday 4 October – 19th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3: 4b-14	Mt 21: 33-46
Sunday 11 October – 20th Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 32: 1-14	Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23	Phil 4: 1-9	Mt 22: 1-14
Sunday 18 October – 21st Sunday after Pentecost			
Ex 33: 12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1: 1-10	Mt 22: 15-22
Sunday 25 October – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost			
Deut 34: 1-12	Ps 90: 1-6, 13-17	1 Thes 2: 1-8	Mt 22: 34-46

Deadline for next *Ōpoho Signal* – Sunday 20 September

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

Coming Events: September and October 2026

6 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Mary Somerville and the Rev. Clare Lind, Quarterly Communion
9 September ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Minister's Office
10 September ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
13 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, Marian Weaver
19 September ~ Saturday	Church Fair
20 September ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Café church, the Rev. Clare Lind Material due for October <i>Opoho Signal</i>
24 September ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
27 September ~ Sunday	Daylight saving begins – clocks go <i>forward</i> one hour 10 a.m.: Worship (pet service), the Rev. Clare Lind, followed by a shared lunch
4 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind, World Communion Sunday
7 October ~ Wednesday	7.30 p.m.: Property and Finance Committee, Minister's Office
8 October ~ Thursday	2 p.m.: Fellowship Group, Morrison Lounge
11 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Jay Robinson
18 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind followed by Annual Meeting
20 October ~ Tuesday	Material due for November <i>Opoho Signal</i>
22 October ~ Thursday	7.30 p.m.: Parish Council, Morrison Lounge
25 October ~ Sunday	10 a.m.: Worship, the Rev. Clare Lind
26 October ~ Monday	Labour Day – public holiday

